MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

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FINAL SHOW

Randy Rogers plays tonight at Dos Amigos. Check out a Q&A with him inside.

Weekender

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MRT.com

No more two-way frontage roads for I-20?

I-20 Corridor Study update suggests one-way conversion to increase safety

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Interstate 20 has problems. Planners in the 1950s and '60s didn't predict that industry and populations would surge in Midland-Odessa, yielding the high traffic volumes, a worn out roadway and the spike in accidents and fatalities seen today.

There is hope, however.

The Permian Basin Metropolitan Planning Organization is conducting the I-20 Corridor Study, the first full-out analytical effort of its kind since 1999. Will Barresi of engineering firm CH2M Hill gave a packed conference room at MPO headquarters an update Monday during the MPO's monthly public policy board meeting.

Attendees had a lot to say, particularly about the idea of converting all frontage roads from bidirectional to one-way.

One-way frontage roads

"I can tell you right now that in Ector County, you're not going to switch them to one-way. Politically, you just can't do it," Odessa Mayor and MPO policy board Vice-chairman David Turner said. "With the heavy-hitters on the interstate, it's just not going to happen."

Those "heavy-hitters" include major businesses built on the service roads that use the roadway for ingress and egress to their facilities.

According to a draft handout used as part of Barresi's presentation, the change — when taking into consideration the impacts of other one-way conversions — could mean safer travels in the 43-mile corridor that stretches from Farm-to-Market Road 1208 in Midland County to FM 866 in West Odessa:

- Serious head-on and angle crashes might be reduced between 83 percent and 94 percent.
- Rear-end crashes could go down 73 percent.
- Intersection crashes are estimated to fall between 77 percent and 85 percent.
- Fatal and injurious crashes could drop by 57 percent.

Please see **ROADS**/4A

SHOP (AND SNACK) WITH A COP

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Steven Ramirez, a jailer with the Midland County Sheriff's Office, talks with 4-year-old Ismael DeSantiago after loading up a cart with toys during the 14th annual Shop With a Cop event organized by the Midland Deputy Sheriff's Association on Wednesday at the north Wal-Mart.

Counseling organizations increase collaboration

■ Agape donates unneeded play therapy toys to High Sky

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

When Agape Counseling Services of West Texas eliminated therapy for children, it wanted to give the resources to another organization in need. As Agape switches its focus to adult and adolescent clients, it has strengthened partnerships with other counseling centers.

Executive director Michael Ballard said his staff has long interacted with local organizations, including Centers for Children and Families and Samaritan Counseling Center. He said they all work to serve community members.

"We don't see ourselves in competition," Ballard said. "With mental health, there are too many people in need."

Recently, Agape changed its emphasis to counseling adults and adolescents. So the organization decided

Please see **AGAPE**/4A

Painter: President's commutations are 'slap in the face'

By Stewart Doreen
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Earlier this week, President Barack Obama offered more sentence commutations to those currently in prison, including another three from Midland County.

The latest round of prison sentence adjustments brings the total to six commutations for Midlanders in the last couple of months. All six had been found guilty or pleaded to distribution-related drug offenses.

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter called the Obama commutations "a slap in the face of good law enforcement and the citizens of the county."

The White House website has a section dedicated to "clemency," which it titles "A Nation of Second Chances ... President Obama's record on clemency." It includes the following quote from the president: "The power to grant pardons and commutations ... embodies the basic belief in our democracy that people deserve a second chance after having made a mistake in their lives that led to a conviction under our laws."

Total acts of clemency under the Obama administration reached 1,324 people, according to the New York Times. In his eight years as president, Obama commuted the sentences of more than 1,000 people, which the Times reported was more than 50 times the number of people whose sentences were commuted by President George W. Bush and more than the past 11 presidents combined.

Painter said the president is undoing the work being done by law enforcement and those who seek justice.

Please see **PAINTER**/4A

Weather
Mostly cloudy
50/37
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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$52.49	▼ $0.51
WTI Posted	$49.00	▲ $0.25
WTS Posted	$48.10	▲ $0.25
Natural Gas	$3.542	▲ $0.279
Gasoline	$2.120	▲ $0.036

The big number
The holiday season,
32 people were killed
nationwide over the past 2 years because of accidental shootings. Page 5A

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

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Dc', $2, Sunday $3

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AP file photo

This Sept. 21, 2010, file photo shows the death chamber of the new lethal injection facility at San Quentin State Prison in San Quentin, Calif. Only 30 people were sentenced to death in the United States in 2016, the lowest number since the early 1970s and a further sign of the steady decline in use of the death penalty.

2016 marks low point for death sentences since 1970s

By Sam Hananel
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Only 30 people were sentenced to death in the United States this year, the lowest number since the early 1970s and a further sign of the steady decline in use of the death penalty.

The number is a sharp drop from the 49 death sentences last year and just a fraction of the peak of 315 in 1996, according to a report from the Death Penalty Information Center, a nonprofit organization that opposes capital punishment and tracks the issue.

"I think we are watching a major political climate change concerning capital punishment and it's reflected among reduced death sentences across the country," said Robert Dunham, the group's executive director.

The growing reluctance of juries to sentence defendants to death is one of several factors contributing to the overall drop in executions. Twenty people were executed this year, the fewest since 1991, when 14 people were put to death. The high-water mark was in 1999, when there were 98 executions.

Other factors leading to a drop in executions include shortages of the drugs needed to carry out lethal injection and more robust legal challenges by defendants in capital cases.

About half of Americans still support the death penalty according to a Pew Research Center poll earlier this year, but that is the lowest level in more than four decades. Public support for capital punishment peaked in the mid-1990s, when 80 percent of Americans favored it.

Yet, the issue still causes deep divisions. Voters in California and Nebraska declined to abolish the death penalty in their states when they considered referendums last month. And states like Ohio and Oklahoma that have halted executions over problems with lethal injection drugs are trying to figure out how to resume.

Capital punishment remains legal in 31 states.

Only five states conducted executions this year, the fewest number of states to do so since 1983. Georgia led the way with nine, followed by Texas with seven, two in Alabama and one each in Missouri and Florida.

And just five states sentenced more than one person to death in 2016. California imposed nine death sentences, followed by five in Ohio, four in Texas, three in Alabama and two in Florida. But California hasn't executed any of the 741 inmates on its death row since 2006 because of legal challenges over its lethal injection method.

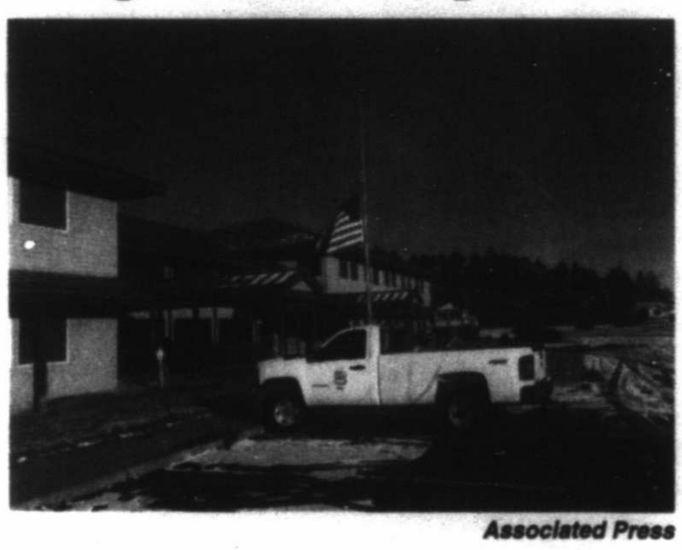
"As fewer states use the death penalty and as it's used more sparingly in the states that do, we can expect long-term numbers to remain low and perhaps continue to drop," Dunham said.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer last week renewed his call for the high court to consider whether the death penalty is unconstitutional. Breyer dissented from the court's refusal to take up a Florida death row inmate's appeal. He said defendants who face death sentences are not society's worst criminals but are "chosen at random, on the basis, perhaps of geography, perhaps of the views of the individual prosecutors, or still worse on the basis of race."

So far, only Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has joined Breyer in questioning the constitutionality of the death penalty.

1 year after refuge takeover, quieter battle unfolds

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press



Associated Press

This Dec. 7 shows the US Forest Service offices are shown in John Day, Ore. The forest service manages a lot of land in Grant County, sometimes putting it in opposition with some local residents.

JOHN DAY, Ore. — On a recent wintry evening, members of the Grant County Publ . Forest Commission walked into the warmth of a rustic diner and took seats at their customary table for their bimonthly meeting.

They voiced anger and frustration. At this meeting, they were officially a non-entity.

A judge this fall dissolved the commission at the behest of a former county supervisor who worried it was becoming a risk, citing the takeover of a federal wildlife refuge in a neighboring county.

Although the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge grabbed the world's attention, a quieter struggle over federal lands is being waged by those trying to use elections and the levers of government. Their grandparents and great-grandparents wrested a living from the West's rugged landscape.

But now, the forest commissioners say, the government is tightening access to the same natural resources by closing roads and curtailing logging and other industries that allowed previous generations to be self-sufficient.

The commissioners feel they lost, by the stroke of a judge's pen, a tool voters gave them to fight back.

Kim McKrola, a local, voiced the concern of many: "I would think we should have more say, because what does the federal government know about what's going on around here?"

With 1,700 residents, John Day is Grant County's biggest town, named for a fur trapper who in the early 1800s survived being robbed of everything by American Indians but trekked with a compatriot to safety. The second longest free-flowing river in the continental United States also bears Day's name.

Created by voters in a ballot measure 14 years ago, the forest commission was tasked with determining the fate of public lands, which comprise 66 percent of the county's 4,529 square miles.

Hours before the meeting at the Squeeze-In Restaurant & Deck, forest commissioner Jim Sproul drove his pickup up a canyon and into the Malheur National Forest.

"My great-grandfather came here in the 1870s. He started the Humboldt Mine," the 64-year-old said. A pin on his cap proclaimed support for Sheriff Glenn Palmer, a sympathizer of the refuge occupiers' cause.

Sproul looked at skeletal trees killed by a 2015 fire that burned 43 homes and more than 172 square miles. He blamed the U.S. Forest Service, saying it let the forest grow too thick, allowing the blaze to crown and become a "huge fireball." Sproul wants the agency to open more burned areas for loggers to salvage trees.

At the Squeeze-In, commission members voiced more complaints.

"You're missing the point," growled Commissioner Mike Smith from beneath the brim of his cowboy hat. "The point is, they want to make it so you can't make a living in rural Oregon, so you have to leave."

Others nodded assent.

Commissioner Dave Traylor said he suspects the government and environmentalists want to create a 200-mile-wide corridor from Canada to Mexico, with only animals present and no humans.

Federal officials say no such plots exist.

District Ranger Dave Halemeier noted the Forest Service has increased its transparency.

"We meet with the public before we even have an idea of what we want to do in an area," Halemeier said in an interview. "Historically, we'd come up with a plan and then present that plan, and now the public's involved in developing that plan."

Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin said he had productive talks with a forest commissioner about modifying rules for gathering firewood, but faced hostility at commission meetings.

"It was difficult to engage because they wouldn't share information," Beverlin said

Mark Webb, whose petition for judicial review led to the commission's dissolution, said he felt it was growing too close to Palmer and his "increasing belligerence toward federal government."

The leaders of the wildlife refuge takeover were planning to meet with Palmer when officers intercepted them on Jan. 26. State police shot and killed LaVoy Finicum as he appeared to reach for a pistol.

Sproul said he had invited takeover leaders Ammon and Ryan Bundy to speak to residents about the Constitution and states' rights, with no ulterior motives.

"Anyone who says there's a militia here is a liar," Sproul said. "But are there patriotic citizens here? Hell yes."

Forest commissioners say no one informed them of the petition.

Judge W.D. Cramer ruled Sept. 14 that the ballot measure that created the commission violated the U.S. and state constitutions and federal statutes. In explaining his ruling, Cramer said he "may have personal views that align with many on how public lands are managed (or not), and views on how those who live close to the land should be heard." But "facts and the law" dictate a decision.

Webb heads another organization, Blue Mountains Forest Partners, which describes itself as a diverse group of stakeholders who work to improve local forests and communities. He said his group and the forest commission have similar goals but "radically different" approaches.

Obituaries

Eleanor Mary (Mueller) Poitevint

Eleanor Mary (Mueller) Poitevint, 92, of Midland, Texas, passed away on December 20, 2016 in Odessa.

Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m., Friday, December 23, 2016 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 23, 2016 at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Gary Redwine officiating.

Eleanor was born April 20, 1924 to William Frank Mueller Jr. and Mary Cecilia (Jonietz) Mueller in San Antonio, Texas. She was raised in San Antonio where she met and married Warren K. Poitevint on July 2, 1942 while he was stationed at the United States Airforce Base in San Antonio. They moved to Pecos, Texas in 1945 and lived there until 1960 when they moved to Odessa, Texas.

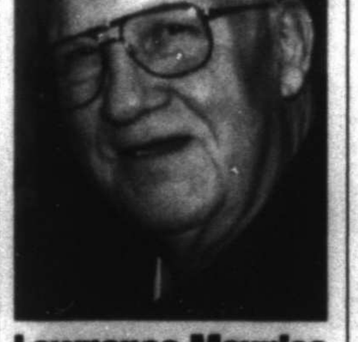
She went to work for the ECISD in the cafeteria. She retired from there in 1987 with 22 years of service. She loved children and took pride in cooking and taking care of her family. She was always ready to go places, deer hunting, camping, and visiting friends. She was a member of Alamo Heights Baptist Church.

Eleanor is preceded in death by her loving husband, Warren K. Poitevint; one son, Walter A. Poitevint; her parents, William and Mary Mueller; and one sister, Evelyn Silvers.

She is survived by her daughter, Becky Bragg of Midland; three grandsons, Jason Bragg, Lee Bragg, both of Midland, and Michael Bragg of Odessa; two great-grandsons, Eden Bragg and Christian Bragg both of Odessa; two brothers, Walter F. Mueller of Weatherford, Texas and Bill Mueller of San Antonio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home. To send family condolences please sign the guestbook at *www.sunsetodessa.com* .

SUNSET MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME



Lawrence Maurice Hock

Lawrence Maurice Hock, 81, of Midland, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, December 19, 2016.

Larry was born on February 19, 1935 in Maydelle, Texas to Henry and Evelyn Hock. He grew up in the Port Arthur-Beaumont area and graduated high school in Port Acres, Texas in 1953. At age 18, he joined the Air Force and served and lived in various places, including Turkey, Germany, and the Philippines. He was transferred to Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring in 1964 and became a Midland resident shortly thereafter.

Following his separation from the Air Force, he worked for Motorola Communications and Grainger, Inc. After retirement, he became an avid amateur genealogist and traveled many miles checking records and walking cemeteries to locate family members. He also loved traveling, football, and singing in the choir at Alamo Heights Baptist Church, where he was a long-time member.

Those left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 52 years, Gay Hock of Midland; sons, Stephen Hock and wife Alison of New Braunfels and Tony Hock and wife Denise of Stockbridge, Georgia; grandchildren, Stephanie Winnett and husband Jace, Andy Hock, Matthew Hock and wife Rachel, Michael Hock, Marcus Hock, Lacey Radla, and Brooks Radla and wife Valerie; great-grandchildren, Jonah Winnett, Katy Hock, Ashton Hock, Abigail Hock, and Grayden Radla; and sister, Sharon Hock of Thompson, Georgia.

He was preceded in death by his daughters, Merry Dianne Hock and Angelia Michelle Hock; his parents; and by four brothers.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 23, 2016 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Robert Murphy officiating.

A private family graveside service will be held at Resthaven Memorial Park.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Alamo Heights Baptist Church, 1301 N Midland DR, Midland, TX 79707, Christmas in Action, P.O. Box 3744, Midland, TX 79702, or a charity of your choice.

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

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

Paula Sherril Sinclair Nix

Paula Sherril Sinclair Nix, 60, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, December 19, 2016 in Midland, Texas.

She was born April 1, 1956 in Hobbs, New Mexico to Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Sinclair. She will be remembered as a loving mother, daughter, sister and aunt.

Paula grew up in Midland where she attended Lee High School. Paula had worked for Texas Instruments after graduating and later in life, she was a caregiver. She will be best remembered for taking the kids on treasure hunts, nature walks, and climbing dirt piles. In her younger years, she played softball. She loved to draw and she loved having a garden.

Paula was preceded in death by her father, Harry Sinclair, and a brother, Garry Sinclair.

She leaves behind to cherish her memories; her mother, Luava Sinclair; her children, Michael Wallace and Jon Nix, all from Midland; her brother, Ken Sinclair from Ft. Worth, Texas; her sister, Linda Stoner of Midland; and several nephews and nieces.

The family will be gathering this evening to share great memories of Paula at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

A funeral service is set for Friday, December 23, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., also at the funeral home chapel, with Pastor Danny Bisbee officiating. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Pallbearers for the service will be Sean Stoner, Jason Stoner, Chris Sinclair, Travis Parker, Jordan Sinclair, and Collin Sinclair.

Honorary pallbearers are Terrance Ennis and Johnny Williams.

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

WORD OF THE DAY
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sacerdotal
1. of priests; priestly.

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Things to know as Texas tells Planned Parenthood cuts coming

By Paul J. Weber
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Planned Parenthood is poised to end 2016 in a familiar place: in court, asking a judge to stop a Republican-controlled state from blocking Medicaid dollars. Here's how the nation's largest abortion provider got there and what's next:

Texas latest state to cut off dollars

Texas health officials told Planned Parenthood this week that they will boot the organization from the state's Medicaid program come January. At stake is about $4 million to Planned Parenthood affiliates in Texas that serve nearly 11,000 low-income women each year, according to the group. No public funding in Texas is used for abortion, while Medicaid reimbursements cover services that include well-women exams, screenings for sexually transmitted diseases and birth control. Planned Parenthood said late Tuesday it will ask a federal court to block the defunding.

Planned Parenthood has prevailed elsewhere

Federal judges have already stopped other states — including Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, Arizona, Indiana and Utah — from suspending Medicaid dollars as Texas plans. U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan III noted in an October ruling against the state of Mississippi that every court to consider similar laws has found they violate the "free-choice-of-provider" provision of federal law.

Secretly recorded videos continue driving gop efforts

Texas health officials noted in letters Tuesday that their decision was based on an anti-abortion group's secretly recorded videos in 2015 that claimed to show Planned Parenthood officials profiting from sales of fetal tissue for medical research. Investigations by 13 states into those videos have been concluded without criminal charges, although a congressional panel is still investigating. Planned Parenthood has denied allegations of wrongdoing but has stopped accepting reimbursement for the costs involved in providing fetal tissue to researchers.

Potential defunding also looms in congress

The GOP-controlled Congress is pushing a defunding measure that would strip roughly $400 million in Medicaid money from Planned Parenthood, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and would result in roughly 400,000 women losing access to care. President-elect Donald Trump said during his campaign that Planned Parenthood helped "millions of women" but has also endorsed calls for defunding. Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards, the daughter of former Democratic Texas Gov. Ann Richards, says "if the nation goes the way of Texas, it will be nothing less than a national health care disaster."

Texas booted Planned Parenthood before

Texas has been aggressive in its efforts to weaken Planned Parenthood, including kicking the organization out of a state women's health program in 2013. Earlier this year, a top Texas health official who co-authored a study suggesting that cuts to Planned Parenthood restricted access to women's health care resigned under pressure from state leaders who disputed the findings. A revamped women's health program, which state officials say will triple the number of providers from five years ago, gave one contract to the nonprofit of a prominent anti-abortion activist.

The oilman who brought Trump and the Bush world together

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Throughout the presidential campaign, the Bush family and many of its Republican allies turned their backs on Donald Trump. Now, they're finding common cause with Trump over his pick to lead the State Department: Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, who has long orbited their same political, philanthropic and business worlds.

Former President George W. Bush, who has largely avoided politics since leaving office in 2009, heaped praise on Tillerson in a recent phone call to Sen. Bob Corker, the Tennessee lawmaker who will oversee the secretary of state confirmation hearings. Jeb Bush, Tillerson's preferred candidate in the 2016 race, called the Exxon executive a "good man and accomplished leader."

Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice and Robert Gates — Bush's vice president, secretary of state and secretary of defense — have all offered glowing endorsements. Gates, who runs a consulting firm with Rice that represents Exxon, first put Tillerson on Trump's radar when the president-elect was dissatisfied with his more conventional options.

Despite the high-level backing, Tillerson faces obstacles in his path to Foggy Bottom. He has no government experience, having spent his whole career at Exxon. Senators in both parties have raised questions about his ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, a relationship that's particularly eye-catching given uncertainty about Trump's own connections to Russia.

Corker said that although the support from the highest levels of the Republican national security establishment won't wipe away senators' questions about Tillerson, it could ease anxieties.

"Most people will look at that and understand that he's not outside the mainstream," said Corker, adding that George W. Bush was "effusive" in his praise for Tillerson when they spoke last week.

Although Trump was never fully embraced by more tradicional Republicans, his rejection by the Bush family and its national security apparatus was particularly glaring. The family produced the last two Republican presidents and had hoped for a third in 2016. The two Bush presidencies also defined the GOP's foreign policy philosophy as one that saw overseas military intervention as a means to pre-empt attacks on the U.S. and promote democracy abroad.

Trump has vowed to take the Republican Party in a new direction both in style and substance. He showed no reverence for the Bush family during the campaign, blasting George W. Bush over the Iraq war and deriding his administration's focus on nation building abroad. He was particularly hard on former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who ran against Trump in the GOP primaries.

Trump transition officials say the Bush family has not coordinated its support for Tillerson with the president-elect, though Gates and Rice did directly offer their support to Trump's team.

Like the Bush family, Tillerson has strong ties to Texas and its vast oil industry. Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush ran oil companies before going into politics. Tillerson, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, joined Exxon out of college as a production engineer before moving through the oil giant's executive ranks on his way to becoming CEO.

The bonds between Texas oilmen can run as deep as their wells. They share the same politics, bankroll the same politicians, attend the same charity balls, and, often, talk business with the same twang. It's a club of wealth, but also a culture.

"If you're a prominent family in Texas, you probably are friends with the oil business," said Peter Feaver, who worked on the National Security Council in the Bush administration and did not support Trump during the campaign. "And if you're in the oil business, you're probably friends with prominent families in Texas."

Tillerson's relationship with the Bush family dates back at least to President George W. Bush's years as Texas governor, according to people who know both men. The ties have moved beyond the political realm and into philanthropy, with some of Exxon's efforts overlapping with Bush's foundation, including on women's empowerment issues.

Susan Combs, Sid Miller at center of ag secretary speculation

By Patrick Svitek
Texas Tribune

The race to be President-elect Donald Trump's agriculture secretary is heating up, and two Texans appear to be at the center of it.

Signs are emerging that Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and former Comptroller Susan Combs are in play for the job, one of the few Cabinet posts Trump has yet to fill. Combs, who was the state's agriculture commissioner from 1998 to 2007, met with Vice President-elect Mike Pence on Tuesday in Washington, and Miller is preparing for a trip to Trump Tower in the coming days.

"Commissioner Miller has had multiple conversations, telephone conversations, with Chairman Priebus and is planning a trip to the Trump Tower to visit with Chairman Priebus and members of the transition team between Christmas and New Year's," Miller spokesman Todd Smith said Wednesday, referring to Reince Priebus, the outgoing chairman of the Republican National Committee whom Trump has appointed as his chief of staff.

Word of Miller's trip came hours after Combs earned a valuable endorsement for the job — that of U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway, the Midland Republican who chairs the House Agriculture Committee.

"She's certainly capable and well-qualified for the job," Conaway told the Texas Tribune on Wednesday. The position is one "that we on the Ag committee work the closest with, and she's someone I'm comfortable I could work with her in her role as secretary and in my role as chairman."

Trump's transition team indicated Wednesday he has not yet made a decision on agriculture secretary or another Cabinet post, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"I don't know how imminent any announcement will be," Trump aide Jason Miller told reporters, adding that he has not received any indication Trump has officially made up his mind on those positions.

Conaway said he has not spoken with Trump or Pence about Combs, emphasizing that decision is ultimately up to the president-elect.

"All these Cabinet folks will be direct reports to the president, for the most part, and it's important that it's people he's comfortable with," Conaway said. "It doesn't matter if I'm comfortable or Mike Pence is comfortable — it's got to be the president."

Asked about Miller, Conaway said the current agriculture commissioner is "well-versed" on the issues. "It's up to Mr. Trump to decide who he believes would do the job that he wants done," Conaway said.

In Combs and Miller, Trump would have two candidates who differed in the extent of their support during the campaign. Combs, who backed two of Trump's primary rivals, was not an enthusiastic supporter during the general election, though she said she would vote for him and participated in at least one of his Texas fundraisers. Miller, meanwhile, served on Trump's agriculture advisory committee — Combs did not — and emerged as one of his most loyal Texas surrogates in the closing days of the race.

In weighing the two Texans, Trump's camp will see stark contrasts in style and substance.

Combs, a budget wonk, recently served as a visiting fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and plans to launch a nonprofit platform aiming to foster career ambitions in women.

Miller is a rodeo cowboy who relishes being seen as an enemy or political correctness. He would no doubt be a more controversial pick for Trump. He became engulfed in controversy days before the election, when a tweet appeared on his Twitter account calling Trump's Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, an obscene term. Miller apologized and blamed the tweet on a staffer.

In 2015, Miller irked Combs when he lifted a decade-old ban on deep fryers and soda machines in Texas public schools that she had introduced while she was agriculture commissioner. He said the move was geared at granting schools more freedom.

Combs called it "unimaginable" that Miller would repeal her effort.

"I don't think there is any way he could have studied the issue or he never would have done this," she said in 2015. "I am actually baffled and sorry that Commissioner Miller did what was not good for kids. If you give children bad choices, they will make them."

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ROLEX
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TODAY IN MIDLAND

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Stores

H-E-B
- Saturday, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Sunday, closed

Albertsons
- Saturday 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday, closed

Wal-Mart
- Saturday, 12 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Sunday, Closed
- Monday, opens at 6 a.m.

Super Mercado
- Saturday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sunday, Closed

Restaurants

(does not represent all restaurants in Midland)

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

Note: Those restaurants wishing to have their Christmas Day hours listed in Friday's, Saturday's and/or Sunday's edition, can email news@mrt.com.

Holiday events

- The Twelve Night Flights of Christmas, High Sky Wing, 9600 Wright Drive. $75-$145. Fly in vintage aircraft while seeing the Christmas lights of Midland and Odessa from the sky. Flights are every 30 minutes. To book a flight, email rides@highskywing.org or call 432-703-3142. Highskywing.org.
- Visit Merry Midland: Walking in a Winter Wonderland in downtown Midland will feature a walking tour of holiday window displays, hot chocolate, a giant snow globe and more. goyourcity.us/wonderland.

Mail deadlines

- Send-by dates for expected delivery before Dec. 25: Priority Mail Express, Friday.

Source: U.S. Postal Service

Things to do

(schedule could change due to the holiday week)

- 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.
- Bingo Nights, 7 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 432-682-5511.
- Randy Rogers - acoustic, 7 p.m., Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave., Odessa. $17 advance, $20 door. Dosamigos.com.
- #Hangovertodays, 7 p.m., Atrium Lounge, 3904 W. Wall St.
- Karaoke, 9 p.m., The Detour Bar. 1708 Rankin Highway. thedetourbar.com.

Midland County libraries

The Midland County Public Libraries will close at 6 p.m. today and remain closed until Tuesday (Dec. 27).

Stay connected

- Web: mrt.com
- Twitter: @mwtnews
- Facebook: facebook.com/TheReporterTelegram

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 3-8-4
Pick 3 day: 4-3-1
Pick 3 evening: 5-6-9
Pick 3 night: 5-0-6
Daily 4 morning: 0-4-3-5
Daily 4 day: 5-5-3-8
Daily 4 evening: 4-1-4-9
Daily 4 night: 6-2-4-4
Cash Five: 2-3-15-22-33
Lotto Texas: 7-16-22-24-28-54
Powerball: 25-33-40-54-68 PB: 3 Power Play: 5
Texas Triple Chance: 2-7-9-29-31-41-43-45-50-54
All or Nothing morning: 5-6-7-9-10-11-13-18-20-21-22-23
All or Nothing day: 1-2-3-4-6-8-9-10-14-19-21-24
All or Nothing evening: 1-3-4-8-9-11-15-16-19-20-23-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-4-5-9-10-13-14-15-17-18-19

Today in history

Today is Thursday, Dec. 22, the 357th day of 2016. There are nine days left in the year.

On this date:

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Ten years ago: Rape charges were dropped against three Duke University lacrosse players, but kidnapping and sexual offense charges remained. (Those charges were later dropped as well.)

Today's Birthdays: Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 71. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 58. Sen. Ted Cruz is 46.

MRT file photo

Lauren Baker of Mission Agape leads an interactive activity with children Jan. 15, 2014, at Renaissance Apartments. The children played a game of Twister and made cool-aid to demonstrate the importance of following directions.

AGAPE

From 1A

to donate used toys from its play therapy program to High Sky Children's Ranch.

JaLynn Hogan, executive director of High Sky, welcomed the donation and said the toys will help during sessions with children who have experienced trauma.

"Play therapy toys may not seem like a very big deal," Hogan said. "For children, playing out things that happen in life is a big deal. They may not be able to speak about them, but they can play."

The shift in Agape's services gave local organizations another reason to work together, according to Kristi Edwards, clinical director at Centers.

"We're all here in this small town," Edwards said. "We're trying to make sure clients go to the appropriate place. Right now, Agape doesn't have counseling for small children, so they refer them to us. We're in training together, so they know they can trust us with their clients."

Counselors at Samaritan also don't want to compete, according to Teresa Alexander, director of business administration. She said the center does what it can to fulfill needs within the community.

"We support agencies that offer the same services as we do," Alexander said. "There are lots of clients to go around. We try to take care of the clients that seek us."

Agape, located in Midland Shared Spaces, already formed partnerships with some nonprofits in the building. But the organization saw an opportunity for further collaboration when employees toured the new facility for Centers.

Sue Daniel, assistant executive director of Agape, said people within her organization realized they didn't need to duplicate services offered at Centers.

"For play therapy, instead of copying the space, they can do it better for who really needs it," Daniel said. "We're going to focus on adolescent help. We're trying to move into a niche that isn't well-covered."

Agape used a grant from Ecolab to start a new adolescent program this semester at Midland ISD's Midland Alternative Program. The organization's employees went to the school to lead students in small group discussions about life skills.

Kristine Blankendaal, licensed professional counselor intern at Agape, helped facilitate the discussions. She said the sessions gave students support and information about opportunities.

"The purpose of being there is just to help develop identity — strengthen both external and internal resources students can use," Blankendaal said. "It's really just planting seeds."

In addition to the alternative school program, Agape offers counseling appointments for teenagers at it office.

Edwards said the relationships among counseling centers has value for all Midlanders.

"There's no secrecy," Edwards said. "We worked together so long and so much to do the best we can for the community. Healthy people make a healthy community. Holding somebody on a waiting list or not sending them to someone else is a disservice."

Help is available

Agape Counseling Services of West Texas
- 3500 N. "A" St.
- 550-5683

Centers for Children and Families
- 3701 Andrews Highway
- 570-1084

Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas
- 10008 Pilot Ave.
- 563-4144

ROADS

From 1A

The one-way conversions won't happen before other work has been finished, such as the construction of "Texas turnarounds," which connect frontage roads to each other either above or below highways. One example is already familiar to Midlanders using service roads on Loop 250. Intersections feature 180-degree free left turns that connect service roads.

The turnarounds are necessary because some intersections on I-20 are upward of 5 miles apart — and that's only in one direction.

Backage roads

Another option to alleviate interstate traffic is the creation of backage roads. City of Midland Engineering Director Jose Ortiz said backage roads give businesses extra access to their sites and they provide capacity to complement what is attempting to be accomplished in the I-20 corridor.

Backage roads aren't an easily implemented solution, however.

Turner noted that cities and counties have to fund backage roads.

"Unfortunately, over the past few years we've been blessed with the economy, but we've worn out a ton of roads," he said. "I know both cities are strapped with it, and I know both counties are strapped with it. Planning has got to be the key."

Paying for all that's involved in backage roads, including right of way, could possibly come from a private-public partnership, but Turner said that private contributions might depend on where the road is being built.

"Backage roads are a great idea, but in some areas, that's the older part of town," he said. "How do you get a backage road through the neighborhood, especially when we're already dealing with truck traffic in those areas?"

Securing right of way is "where the rubber hits the road," policy board member Ector County Judge Ron Eckert said. "If you can't secure the right of way, the whole thing is just a theory and never put into practice. Ector County has no money. And to the mayor's point, if this is going through an older segment of Ector County, we're less apt to have an affluent funder, so it will devolve back to the city or the county."

Policy board member Midland County Commissioner Robin Donnelly cited other issues.

"I don't disagree with backage roads. Our problem is implementing them," he said. "My (concern) is practicality. What are we going to do with areas we can't get through, like the wildlife preserve north of I-20? How do I get beyond that? How do I show people there is a backage road that can be used?"

There have been successes, however. Donnelly noted the positive traffic flow impact seen after a two-lane backage road near the Parks Legado retail area was constructed.

"I wish we had landowners and people who would cooperate with us like that all over the counties," he said.

Continuity

The I-20 Corridor Study is analyzing nine segments of the highway, and the top four priority areas are not contiguous, leaving two gaps. Stakeholders did not rank one segment in Ector County high enough, and a second was omitted despite its high ranking because Texas Department of Transportation is already working on the area.

When asked to comment on the study update, Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance President James Beauchamp noted that the priority areas should be contiguous because continuity will make for a much safer interstate.

Beauchamp also said that people elsewhere in the state who have fought against one-way frontage road conversions have lost, but getting everything done "is a matter of having a full plan together."

TxDOT corridor planner Roger Bell of Austin said the state's transportation agency is "looking at the whole 43 miles, but you have to start somewhere" — that "somewhere" being the highest priority segments.

Policy board member TxDOT Odessa District engineer John Speed added that the agency is looking for funding to study the whole corridor, not just parts of it.

Funding priorities

Future funding is prompting a reanalysis of project priorities.

Category 2 funding will tally $167 million over the next 10 years, and it's the task of the MPO to program that funding. In addition, there is $76 million slated in Category 4 funding for the TxDOT Odessa District to program.

Because TxDOT will use Category 4 funding on I-20, interstate projects on the master transportation plan's (MTP) "fiscally constrained" and unfunded lists can be rearranged top push higher other projects subject to Category 2 funding.

MPO Executive Director Cameron Walker told the Reporter-Telegram on Wednesday that the planning organization's technical advisory committee is going to reprioritize at all future projects on the MTP lists.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @HowdyHawgs

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AUSTIN

Man fatally stabs stepmom gloating about Cowboys' win

Austin authorities say a woman's exuberance over the Dallas Cowboys winning their football game Sunday night led her stepson to fatally stab her.

Court documents reviewed by Austin television station KEYE show Magdalena Ruiz was "gloating" about the Cowboys' victory over Tampa Bay after watching the game on TV with her husband. Detectives say her stepson, 20-year-old Pontrey O'Neal Jones, believed she was disrespecting his father so he walked behind a couch, lunged at his stepmother and stabbed her several times.

Jones fled after the woman's husband stepped in. Police later found him nearby. Ruiz was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Jones is held on a $500,000 bond and charged with murder.

EL PASO

Ex-soldier to be retried in death of West Texas constable

The El Paso District Attorney's Office says it will retry a former soldier accused in the death of an off-duty constable working security at a Halloween haunted house after a mistrial was declared.

The El Paso Times reported a jury was deadlocked in the trial of 21-year-old Devon Huerta-Person in the 2014 death of Constable Robert White. Huerta-Person was charged with aggravated assault on a public servant. A mistrial was declared Friday.

Authorities say White had been working at the haunted house when he was punched in the face following a confrontation with a group and fell to the ground. The 45-year-old died at a hospital. According to court documents and trial testimony, the assault may have triggered a fatal heart attack.

PAINTER

From 1A

"We are tying to clean up the community," Painter said. "It is almost impossible when you have an idiot like this who comes down and says, 'Drugs are not bad. I will let you out, no big deal.'"

Painter said he supports the idea that people deserve second chances. He wants a correctional system in which people can come out and live the "straight and narrow." He also says right now that isn't the case.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports a recidivism rate of 22.6 percent (those reincarcerated within three years of release). In commuting the sentences of the three people from Midland, the president knocked off a total of about 35 years of prison time.

"I pray they don't start killing people because they have gotten out of the penitentiary," Painter said. "I think the impact of law enforcement has been lessened by the president, and that is atrocious."

"I pray they don't start killing people because they have gotten out of the penitentiary. I think the impact of law enforcement has been lessened by the president, and that is atrocious."

Sheriff Gary Painter, commenting on the President's commutations of 6 Midlanders who have been found or pleaded guilty to distribution-related drug offenses

AP file photo

Stephanie Rowell and her daughter Sydney, 5, shop at Toys R Us - Town Center in Kennesaw, Ga., on Nov. 24. Holiday shopping procrastinators can breathe easy. Yes, most online shipping deadlines have passed. But many retailers are offering other ways to get gifts at the last minute, whether it's staying open through the wee hours of the night like Toys R Us, or offering Christmas Eve store pickup like Wal-Mart.

Still need to buy gifts? Here are some last-minute options

By Joseph Pilani
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Holiday shopping procrastinators can breathe easy. Yes, most online shipping deadlines have passed. But many retailers are offering other ways to get gifts at the last minute, whether it's staying open through the wee hours of the night like Toys R Us, or offering Christmas Eve store pickup like Wal-Mart.

Here are some options for those still scrambling to buy presents:

Midnight runs

Many stores are extending their hours in the days leading up to Christmas.

Toys R Us will stay open from 6 a.m. on Dec. 23 straight to 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve, while department store Kohl's will stay open from Dec. 20 until Christmas Eve. Certain Macy's department stores will be open all night between Dec. 22 and Dec. 23. Sears will close at midnight through Dec. 23 and close at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. And Target will be open from 7 a.m. to midnight through Dec. 23 and stay open until at least 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Shop the unexpected

If you can't make it to the mall, a quick stop at a drug or specialty store might work. CVS, Walgreens and Rite Aid are increasingly stocking their shelves with more toys for the little ones. And those three drugstores also have a big selection of plastic gift cards for use at other stores, such as video game retailer GameStop or bookseller Barnes & Noble. Meanwhile, office supplies store Staples sells flying drones and adult coloring books. And Dick's Sporting Goods has Apple Watches, headphones and GoPro cameras.

Store pickup

If you want to avoid searching for items in the store, you're in luck. Many retailers let you buy items online and pick them up at a store the same day. After ordering and paying online, walk to a special section of the store with the confirmation email and ID and that's it. Macy's, Target and Best Buy are just some of the stores that offer store pickup. Wal-Mart says customers who order items before 6 p.m. on Dec. 23 can pick them up on Christmas Eve and even launched a website with the items that qualify at walmart.com/lastminutegifts. And at Sears.com, those who opt for store pickup between now and Christmas Eve can get 20 percent off clothing, jewelry and home goods if they type in a special promo code.

Send an e-gift

The websites of some major stores are offering a way to give an instant gift, called an e-gift. It's similar to a gift card, but is supposed to be a little more personal: You choose the item you want to buy — say sneakers or a sweater — click the "E-Gift" or "GiftNow" button, pay, and then the recipient gets an email telling them you bought them a gift. The gift receiver accepts it and can make adjustments, such as changing the color or size, before it ships. Or they can just get something else entirely from the store.

The service carries no extra charges to the gift giver or receiver and is available on several websites, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom and Ralph Lauren.

Same-day delivery

It will cost you more, but if you're desperate, you can get some items delivered the same day you order them online. Macy's offers same-day delivery in some cities and so does Nordstrom. But be aware, some may not deliver on Christmas Eve, like Nordstrom. If you're an Amazon.com Prime member paying the annual fee, the online retailer is lets shoppers in Miami, New York and other cities order toys, electronics and other gifts as late as 9:45 p.m. on Christmas Eve for delivery in two hours, meaning you'll get it before midnight.

Or just wait

Procrastination may work in your favor if you end up not seeing a person you're shopping for until after Christmas. That's when after-holiday sales kick in, says Sara Skirboll, a shopping and trends expert at shopping deal app RetailMeNot. If the timing works, you'll likely pay less for a gift than you would if you had bought it before the holidays, says Skirboll.

Accidental shootings spike over the holidays

By Ryan J. Foley and Meghan Hoyer
Associated Press

The happiest of seasons is also among the deadliest: Unintentional shootings spike in the U.S. during the holidays, and are more likely to occur than any other time of the year, according to an analysis by The Associated Press and the USA TODAY Network.

In all, 32 people were killed nationwide and 59 injured over the past two years from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day, which the analysis identified as the most likely day for accidental shootings each year. The victims were mostly male and young, with a median age of 19. Nearly half the shootings were self-inflicted, and most occurred in their own homes.

The victims are people like Tezlar Wayne Ross, a 20-year-old from Gaffney, South Carolina, who killed himself while playing with a handgun at his home last New Year's Eve. His girlfriend and two other friends witnessed the accident in Ross' bedroom, Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said. Alcohol was not involved.

"They were absolutely clowning around," Fowler said. "And sometimes that innocent fun, especially with a gun, can get you in trouble. A weapon like that is not a toy."

Several factors contribute to the increase:

- Children and teenagers are out of school for the holidays and have access to unsecured guns at their homes and those of relatives and friends.
- Adults are drinking alcohol and inattentive to gun safety or their children.
- New guns are given and received as gifts in the tens of thousands.
- It's a popular time of year for hunting.

The count does not include three deaths and 16 injuries involving guns fired into the air to celebrate the New Year.

The AP and USA TODAY Network looked at holiday shootings after an earlier investigation found that accidental shootings involving children happen far more often than federal government statistics show. Based on incidents compiled by the Gun Violence Archive, they found that more than 320 minors were killed by unintentional shootings over a 2 1/2 year period that ended June 30.

For those who have lost loved ones in holiday shootings, the season is never again the same. In recent interviews, the mothers of two teenage victims urged families to be aware of the heightened seasonal risk and take precautions to prevent unnecessary gun deaths.

"Alcohol and guns don't mix," warned Teka Russell, 43, of Frankfort, Kentucky, whose 16-year-old son, D'nomyar "Denom" Russell, was shot during a family Christmas gathering in 2014.

Denom's older brother, who was 21 at the time, had received a handgun as a gift earlier in the day for self-protection. After a family dinner, the adults were drinking while Denom played a video game, and one relative shot the gun into a couch to see if it was loaded, Russell said.

Denom's brother "freaked out" and started taking bullets out of the gun, which accidentally discharged as Denom walked around the corner to see what was happening, she said.

The death was ruled an accident and no charges were filed. The family is still struggling without Denom, who was remembered as a happy-go-lucky high school freshman who helped lift up struggling classmates.

The family didn't get together last year for Christmas; Russell said she will try to celebrate the holiday this year for her children.

"I don't want it to always be remembered as a bad day," she said.

FBI data show guns are popular gifts for the holidays: The agency conducted more than 185,700 background checks requested by firearms dealers on Nov. 25, the shopping day known as Black Friday this year. That was a single-day record in the program's 18-year history.

The AP-USA TODAY Network analysis found that the rate of accidental shootings spikes by about 50 percent during the nine days studied compared to the rest of the year.

Gun violence researcher Garen Wintemute of the University of California, Davis said he was unaware of any studies showing an increase in unintentional shootings around the holidays, so the news outlets' findings "might be breaking new ground."

"Lots of people get new firearms over the holidays and might be unfamiliar with them — and not applying the basic rules of good conduct with firearms," he said. Alcohol, too, may play a role, he added.

Researchers said the AP-USA TODAY Network research was the type of study that should be conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but the agency is hamstrung under a 1996 law that blocked funding for research that could be used to advocate gun control.

"There's much research that could help target prevention efforts. This is one example among hundreds," said David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center.

Ashlyn Melton of Plaquemine, Louisiana, needs no proof of the dangers of the holiday season. Dec. 30 will be the fifth anniversary of the death of her 13-year-old son, Noah Daigle, who was accidentally shot by his best friend while staying the night at the boy's home.

Melton said she had no idea that the parents of Noah's friend allowed the teen to have several guns in his bedroom. The boy was playing with one that he thought was unloaded when he shot and killed Noah while they were speaking with two girls over an internet video. He was convicted of negligent homicide in juvenile court and is expected to complete his five-year probation in February.

Melton urges parents to be "extra careful" to secure guns from visiting children and to ask others about their gun safety practices. The last picture she has of Noah, an eighth-grader who liked hunting and wrestling, was from Christmas morning.

"Every year, when the time changes, it starts to reminds me that five days after Christmas, my child was killed," she said. "The holidays are supposed to be a good time and a fun time, but it's about me cringing because I know what Dec. 30 means to me."

US cities with Nativity scenes ignore takedown demands

By Russell Contreras
Associated Press

BELEN, N.M. — A historic Hispanic city in New Mexico has one in the center of town on public property. A small farming community in Colorado has another outside of a public park. A Pennsylvania city refused to take its display down despite a legal threat.

Across the county, annual disputes over displays celebrating the birth of Jesus on public land have pitted local residents against advocacy groups pushing separation of church and state. But after years of complaints, communities continue to resist demands that they remove public display celebrating the birth of Jesus from public property.

The moves come after town residents have rallied around the displays or conservative groups have offered legal assistance to keep displays up amid legal threats.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's a dead issue," said Jerah Cordova, the mayor of Belen, New Mexico, where a Nativity scene artwork sits year-round and was not taken down following threats of legal action last year. "The Nativity scene not only represents the history of our town, it represents our culture."

Belen — Spanish for Bethlehem — is a small city of 7,000 people and nearly 70 percent Hispanic. Last year, residents raised $50,000 for a festival in support of the display following a letter threatening legal action.

In Franklin, Pennsylvania, a city of 6,500, councilors last month voted to keep a decades-old Nativity scene in a city park after receiving an email from the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation. That foundation has sent similar letters warning municipalities that public Nativity scenes violated the separation of church and state.

Franklin's city councilors consulted lawyers and resolve the issue by agreeing to allow other secular Christmas decoration s in the park.

Officials in St. Bernard, Ohio, a suburban of Cincinnati, ignored a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation and opted to keep in place nativity scene displayed in front of City Hall.

In Bethlehem, Pennsylvania tourists visit to see miniature replicas depict various settings of the Nativity story. That display is run by the nonprofit, Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites and is not connected to the city government.

In previous years, some municipalities pulled Nativity scenes after receiving complaints from the foundation. For example, officials in Wadena, Minnesota removed its decades-old traditional Nativity scene off public property following a letter from the foundation.

Supporters and opponents of the Nativity scenes agree that municipalities are fighting harder to protect the displays.

OPINION

Podesta deflects blame from Clinton failures

■ "Mr. Fix It" was more of a problem for the Democrats

RUBEN NAVARRETTE
Washington Post Writers Group

This holiday, I'd like to give John Podesta a present he could really use: a mirror. Because it's obvious that the person who has long been considered the Democratic Party's version of Mr. Fix It doesn't have one.

Podesta is simply incapable of admitting his own mistakes, even when they are splattered all over the internet in the form of personal emails released by WikiLeaks. The missives show disdain for Democratic constituencies such as those "needy Latinos" and ghoulish speculation about whether Vice President Joe Biden would be pushed into running for the party's nomination by the memory of his dead son, Beau. As the chairman of the Clinton campaign, Podesta also can't acknowledge that he was blindsided by a crucial group of voters: working-class whites.

Now Podesta, the Democratic Party insider, has penned an op-ed in The Washington Post where he blames Hillary Clinton's defeat on the FBI.

The way Podesta sees it, federal investigators spent too much time obsessing over Clinton's emails and not enough on what he describes as "the Russian plot to sabotage Hillary Clinton's campaign and elect Donald Trump" by hacking into the email trove of the Democratic National Committee. Podesta also blasts the bureau, and Director James Comey, for failing to warn DNC officials that their emails were being hacked when the security breach was first discovered in September 2015.

This isn't exactly a novel tactic. In a call with donors just days after the election, Clinton herself blamed Comey for "raising doubts that were groundless [and] baseless" and which "stopped our momentum." Nor is it easy to keep track of all the bullets flying now that Democrats are engaged in a circular firing squad, blaming one another for Clinton's loss but always failing to admit their own wrongdoing.

A couple of weeks ago, Bill Clinton had a lot to say during an impromptu question-and-answer session outside a New York bookstore. Clinton blamed his wife's defeat on everything from Comey and the FBI to "angry white men" who got whipped into a frenzy by Donald Trump. The former president could just as easily put some of the blame on Podesta, his former chief of staff, who ignored Clinton's pleas for the campaign to focus more attention on working-class whites in the final weeks.

In politics, ignorance mixed with arrogance is a lethal combination. Podesta illustrates the point beautifully.

As the blame game rages on, no one is safe — not even the person who is often called Hillary Clinton's most trusted aide and who Clinton herself has described as a "second daughter." According to a recent feature in Vanity Fair, Hillaryland is imploding amid a flurry of finger-pointing that extends all the way to Huma Abedin.

"The real anger is toward Hillary's inner circle," a Clinton insider told the magazine. "They reinforced all the bad habits."

Those bad habits include retreating to their bubble, and only talking to one another. Better known as the estranged wife of disgraced ex-Congressman Anthony Weiner, Abedin was a top aide to Clinton and had a say on many strategic decisions.

In addition to Abedin, Hillary Clinton's inner circle also includes campaign manager Robbie Mook, communications director Jennifer Palmieri, and campaign adviser Cheryl Mills.

At a recent forum at Harvard, Palmieri continued the Clintonistas' tradition of refusing to take any ownership of defeat by crediting Trump's victory to "white supremacists."

But Podesta is a special case. When he blames others, it's especially surreal — and pathetic. Thanks to a combination of leaks and reporting, we now know just how poorly run the Clinton campaign was, how top campaign staffers dismissed the importance of working-class white voters, how Democratic leaders had contempt for their own supporters, and how the coziness between the news media and campaign officials turned to collusion and created a backlash.

And virtually all those storms have something in common: Podesta. In short, the campaign chairman was at the center of just about everything that went wrong with Hillary Clinton's bid for the White House.

No wonder Podesta wants to distract us. By blaming the FBI for ruining what he seems to think was an otherwise perfectly fine presidential campaign, he is trying to deflect attention away from himself. Because if you take a look at the job he did, you'll see that — this time around — Mr. Fix It was more like Mr. Broke It.

GUEST VIEW

State tax cuts must come after priorities

Beaumont Enterprise

It's the December before an odd-numbered year, so that means the Republican governor of Texas is talking about cutting taxes in the upcoming regular session of the Legislature.

Gov. Greg Abbott listed his priorities for the session last week, and he put tax cuts at the top of the list. He wants to see the business franchise tax and the energy margins tax reduced "by as much as I can get" along with a review of property taxes.

We all love tax cuts, and our state's low-tax rate has contributed to much of its economic growth in recent years.

But there can be too much of a good thing, and state leaders must make sure that all necessary state obligations are funded properly before reducing tax revenues any more.

That list is a long one for this session:

■ The Department of Family Services has finally been promised the additional funding it needs to protect vulnerable children and keep experienced case-workers on the job.

■ The DPS wants even more money for border security, about a billion dollars in the next two-year budget after previous spending was doubled to $800 million in the last session.

■ Public schools always need more money, and this time an artificial cap on enrollment of students in special education has been lifted. That will mean more kids in special ed, and that curriculum is costly.

■ Highway funding covers maintenance but allows for few new roads.

■ Oh, and the oil business, which is crucial to the state's well-being, is still limping along. It may perk up in 2017 and 2018, but there's no guarantee of that as a worldwide glut of oil continues to exceed consumption.

When all these factors are added up, cutting taxes will not be easy. In fact, it may not be possible without harming our long-term future.

The Legislature should pay the bills first — in a prudent and logical manner. If there's any money left over, then lawmakers can start discussing tax cuts.

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There's logic to Electoral College

■ System makes sense to lesser-populated states such as North Dakkota

KEN HERMAN
Austin American-Statesman

Despite the attendant noise and protests, the Electoral College Monday picked Donald J. Trump as the next president of the United States. So far, two of our three 21st-century presidents initially got the gig after running second in the popular vote.

And we like it that way — at least some of us do.

"It's amazing the winner always seems to like it and the losers always seem to not like it very much," U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said Monday before the meeting of Texas electors in the state House chamber. "But that's our system."

To put a finer point on it, the complaining often comes from candidates who win the popular vote but lose the Electoral College vote. So that was the backdrop Monday at state capitols around the nation as we wrapped up a political year that gave us our first president who had a reality TV show.

Outside the Texas Capitol, a guy often seen there yelling his God-based message to nobody in particular had, thanks to an anti-Trump rally, a sizable, if unfriendly, audience. I'm not sure of this guy's politics, other than pro-God and anti-same-sex marriage.

He slalomed through the anti-Trump crowd and, with great volume and certainty, challenged folks on various topics. What ensued were brief, high-decibel, tense discussions of politics, sin and the existence of a force or being behind the fact that it was a wonderfully bright, sunshiney day.

My apologies to any anti-Trump folks with whom I got a little curt as they put signs in front of my camera in an effort to prevent me from videoing the guy. Anti-Trumpsters seemed torn between ignoring or engaging him. Many initially opted for trying to drown him out with a "Love trumps hate" chant.

There was no deterring this guy, so the chant morphed into, "Ignore him. Ignore him." Things calmed down a bit, though I don't think a crowd unified in an "Ignore him" chant is actually ignoring him.

The anti-Trump rally included what's become the routine complaints about him. The best sign said, "I know signs. I make the best signs. They're terrific. Everyone agrees."

Inside the Capitol, in a House chamber festooned with a tall Christmas tree, the quadrennial Electoral College session dragged on for a few hours.

"Lift them above the cacophony in politics," the Rev. Gregory Scott Davidson asked God in the invocation.

Good luck with that on this day of coast-to-coast cacophony.

The session produced 36 votes for Trump and one each for John Kasich and Ron Paul. (Paul, though he didn't run this year, got more electoral votes than his son Rand, who did.) Mike Pence got 37 votes for veep; Carly Fiorina got one.

All in all, nationwide, it was a day of heightened attention to what's usually mere formality. As expected, and with more noise than usual, the Electoral College rubber-stamped the election of the presidential candidate who got the most electoral votes.

Many folks are ruminating about the system. A good argument in favor if it has to do with the fact that states like North Dakota, which has fewer voters than some Manhattan apartment buildings (exaggerating here for emphasis) would be totally ignored if not for its potentially important three electoral votes.

So there's defensible logic in the system. No voters should be ignored just because they live where not many people live.

But if that makes sense in picking our president, would it make sense in picking our governor? We've got lots of lesser-populated counties that pretty much get ignored by gubernatorial candidates.

So let's pick our Texas governors the way we pick our U.S. presidents — via a system that protects the lesser-populated places. Maybe we'll call is the Electoral Community College, because it will protect small communities.

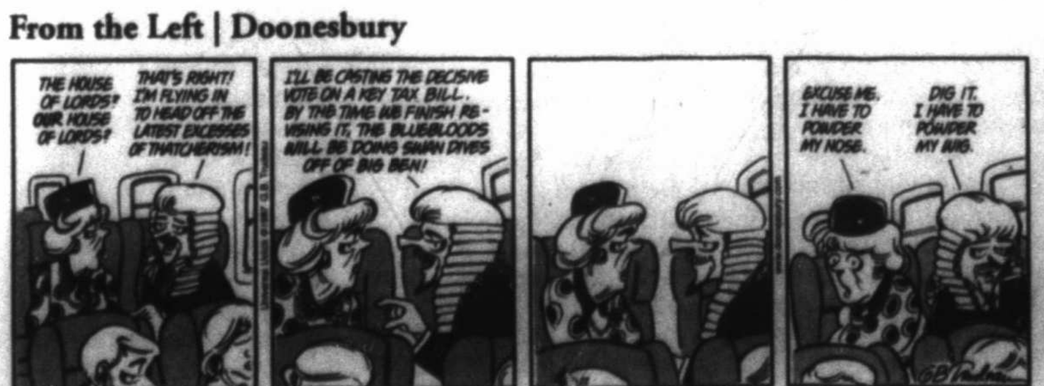
Each of our 254 counties will have Electoral Community College votes, doled out based on representation in the Texas Legislature, the same way Electoral College votes are doled out based on representation in Congress. This, of course, will get a little messy because many legislative districts cover more than one county. There will be some math to do. We can figure it out. We're Texas.

The Electoral Community College will function by giving all of a county's electoral votes to whoever gets the most popular voters in that county. Our governor will be whoever gets the most electoral votes.

Ridiculous? Most probably. The gubernatorial candidate with the most popular votes should win, right? But if my Electoral Community College system is ridiculous, what's the best defense for the Electoral College system we saw put a man in office who got 2.8 million fewer votes than another candidate?

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

Economy healed under Obama, but voters chose Trump

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

AP file photo

Vice President Joe Biden watches as President Barack Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act during a ceremony at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Denver in 2009.

WASHINGTON — He was a first-term senator-turned-president, a former law professor with little experience in economics or management. When he entered the White House he had one essential task: piece together the shards of a shattered U.S. economy.

It wasn't smooth and it wasn't fast. But President Barack Obama will leave behind, by most measures, an economy far stronger than the one he inherited. Unemployment is 4.6 percent, a nine-year low. Stocks keep setting highs. An additional 20 million Americans have health insurance coverage. The nation has shifted toward cleaner energy sources: natural gas, wind and solar.

Yet, it's also an economy that left many people feeling neglected. Polling after the November election found that nearly two-thirds of voters described the economy as "not so good" or "poor."

The costs of housing, college and prescription drugs kept outpacing paychecks. Job options had been dwindling for workers with only high school diplomas even before Obama took office, but the downturn and slow recovery magnified the pain of that trend. Many people gave up looking for work. Struggling rural towns never enjoyed the uplift that benefited major cities.

Fueled in part by such challenges, voters chose to pass the presidency to Donald Trump, a Republican who had railed against a weak economy and promised to undo many of Obama's policies.

The gap between the economy's overall health and Americans' lingering anxieties cuts to the heart of Obama's legacy. The president and his team took historic actions to pull the economy back from the brink. But those very steps failed to help swaths of America and turned many people against his policies, setting the stage for Trump's nationalist platform.

Economic problems that had been simmering for decades started to boil with the Great Recession of 2007-09. It suddenly became Obama's responsibility to address problems that were both immediate and generations in the making.

Building on measures taken by George W. Bush's administration, Obama pumped $412 billion into teetering banks, troubled financial firms and the struggling automakers General Motors and Chrysler. The infusion was stigmatized for being a government bailout, though the money was ultimately repaid.

Then there was the Recovery Act, known as the "stimulus," enacted less than a month after Obama took the oath of office in 2009. Administration estimates initially suggested that the $836 billion stimulus — a mix of tax cuts, public investments and direct aid — would prevent unemployment from rising above 8 percent.

Those projections were faulty, based on economic figures that were later downgraded. The 8 percent unemployment projection ultimately became a political albatross as the rate peaked at 10 percent that October — proof to some Republicans that the stimulus had failed.

Even more polarizing was the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a major extension of the federal social safety net. It expanded Medicaid while imposing new regulations designed to support the middle class that allowed young adults to stay on parents' plans and created marketplaces for purchasing health insurance.

Just 8.9 percent of Americans now lack health insurance — a historic low, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. But critics complain that Obama's health care law brought bureaucratic headaches and burdensome costs. The average premium for plans under the health care law next year jumped 22 percent, an increase that will be offset somewhat by federal subsidies.

Trump: Deadly violence in Germany is 'attack on humanity'

By Jonathan Lemire and Julie Pace
Associated Press

Trump

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President-elect Donald Trump declared Wednesday that the deadly truck attack on a Christmas market in Germany was "an attack on humanity and it's got to be stopped." He also suggested he might go forward with his campaign pledge to temporarily ban Muslim immigrants from coming to the United States.

"All along, I've been proven to be right, 100 percent correct," Trump said when asked if the attack in Berlin had caused him to reevaluate the proposal. "What's happening is disgraceful."

Trump proposed the Muslim ban during the Republican primary campaign, prompting criticism from both parties. He shifted his rhetoric during the general election to focus on temporarily halting immigration from an unspecified list of countries with ties to terrorism, though he did not disavow the Muslim ban.

Trump addressed reporters for less than two minutes before a meeting with incoming White House national security adviser Michael Flynn. Transition officials did not respond to questions Wednesday seeking clarification about Trump's positions.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for Monday's attack in Berlin that left 12 people dead and 48 injured. On Wednesday, German officials launched a Europe-wide manhunt for a "violent and armed" Tunisian man suspected in the killings.

Trump was spending the final days of 2016 huddling with advisers at his private estate in South Florida. He also met Wednesday with the heads of Boeing and Lockheed Martin, companies with high-dollar government contracts that Trump has criticized. Boeing has a contract to build two new Air Force One planes and Lockheed Martin builds the F-35 fighter jet.

Trump said of his meeting with Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson, "It's a little bit of a dance. We're trying to get costs down."

Dennis Muilenburg, CEO of Boeing, said his company was committed to working with Trump to lower costs on the Air Force One project.

The president-elect was also finalizing his senior White House team, wrapping up a decision-making process that has been dogged by infighting among rival factions within Trump's organization. Some of Trump's original campaign aides have expressed concern to the president-elect himself that they are getting boxed out in favor of those more closely aligned with incoming chief of staff Reince Priebus, former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Among the early advisers who will not be joining Trump at the White House is Corey Lewandowski, his combative first campaign manager. But the operative won't be far away — Lewandowski announced plans to start a political consulting firm with offices just a block away from the White House.

Lewandowski oversaw Trump's campaign through the Republican primaries, but he clashed with the candidate's family and was fired. Still, he remained close to Trump, talking with him frequently and showing up occasionally at the president-elect's offices during the transition.

Lewandowski said he was offered "multiple opportunities" to join the administration, though people with knowledge of the process said those opportunities did not include senior positions in the West Wing.

The president-elect announced plans to hire economist Peter Navarro to run a new National Trade Council that will be housed in the White House. Navarro, author of "Death By China," has endorsed a hard line approach toward relations with Beijing.

In a statement, the Trump transition team said the creation of the council "demonstrates the president-elect's determination to make American manufacturing great again."

Trump also named billionaire investor Carl Icahn as an adviser on regulatory reform, though the transition team said Icahn would not be serving as a federal government employee.

Transition officials said additional announcements on White House jobs were expected this week.

Trump opened his day by boasting anew about his Nov. 8 election victory, tweeting that his win in the Electoral College was more difficult to pull off than winning the popular vote would have been if he had tried. Democrat Hillary Clinton won at least 2.6 million more votes than Trump, an apparent sore point for the president-elect.

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Habitat offices, construction sites and the Habitat ReStore will be closed December 24 - January 2 for the holidays.
We will resume normal business hours on January 3.

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Christmas Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, December 26th, 2016

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Fri., Dec 23, 11am
Sun., Dec 25th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 5pm
Mon., Dec 26th	Fri., Dec 23rd, 5pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Fri., Dec 23rd, 5pm

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Sun., Dec 25th	Wed., Dec 21st, 2pm
Mon., Dec. 26th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Thurs., Dec. 22nd, 4pm

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Sun., Dec 25th	Wed., Dec 21st, 2pm
Mon., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 4pm
Sun., Dec 25th (Oil Report, Culture)	Tues., Dec. 20th, 2pm

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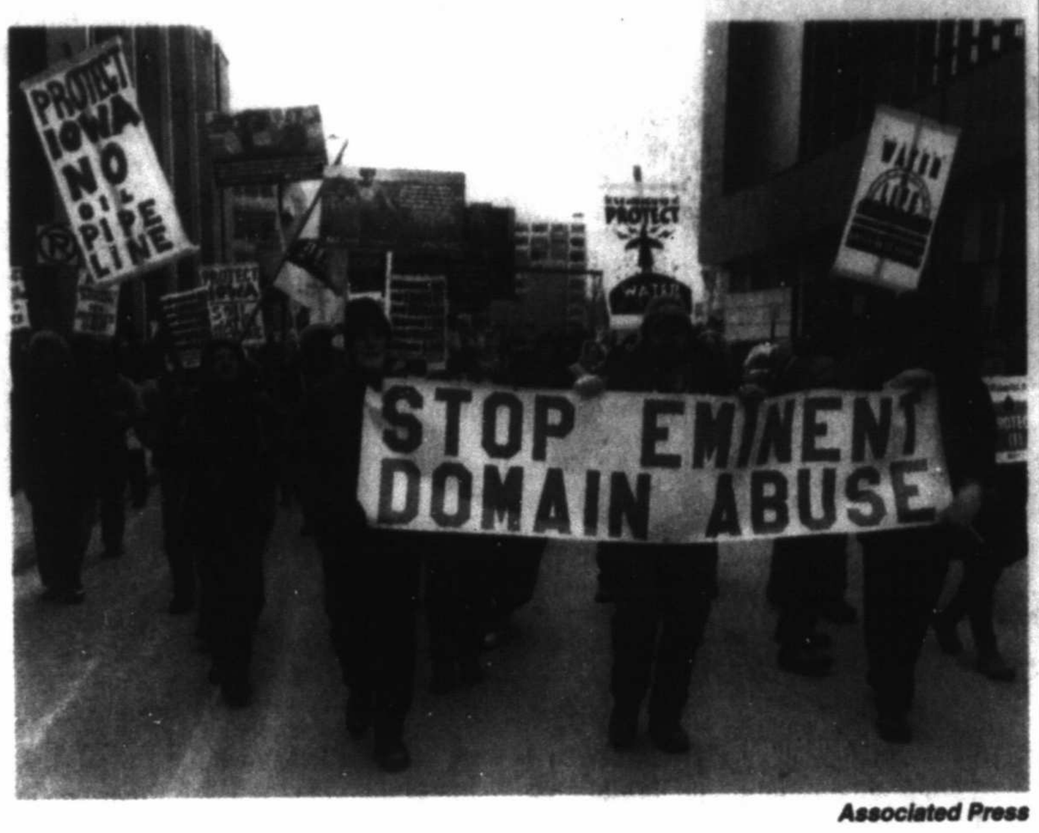
Obama oil pipeline rules face uncertain future under Trump

By Matthew Brown and James MacPherson
Associated Press



Associated Press

Dakota Access pipeline protesters march from the Polk County Courthouse to a public meeting space to hold a rally Dec. 15 in Des Moines, Iowa. The protests came after a judge heard arguments in a lawsuit filed by several Iowa landowners who challenge forceful taking of their land for the pipeline and challenge the state's permit process.

BILLINGS, Mont. — President Barack Obama's administration is expected to push through long-delayed safety measures for the nation's sprawling network of oil pipelines in its final days, despite resistance from industry and concern that incoming president Donald Trump may scuttle them.

The measures are aimed at preventing increasingly frequent accidents such as a 176,000-gallon spill that fouled a North Dakota creek earlier this month. Thousands more accidents over the past decade caused $2.5 billion in damages nationwide and dumped almost 38 million gallons of fuels.

Fights over pipelines have intensified in recent years, illustrated by the dispute over TransCanada's Keystone XL plan and efforts by American Indians to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline from crossing beneath the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

The U.S. Department of Transportation proposal covers roughly 200,000 miles of lines that criss-cross the country and carry crude, gasoline and other hazardous liquids.

Environmental and safety advocates have criticized the agency's commitment to tightening oversight of that network after a key safety feature — automatic valves that quickly shut down ruptured lines — was omitted from a draft rule published in 2015.

Further revisions sought by the petroleum industry could make the rule largely ineffective, said Carl Weimer with the Pipeline Safety Trust. But keeping the proposal intact would expose it to a legal challenge or reversal by a Republican-controlled Congress and Trump, an enthusiastic advocate for fossil fuels whose administration would enforce the new safety provisions, Weimer added.

Regulators began crafting the new rule after a 2010 Michigan pipeline break released almost 1 million gallons of crude into the Kalamazoo River. It's languished amid industry criticisms, interventions from Congress and the bureaucratic inertia of the federal regulatory process.

A recent boom in domestic drilling saw accident rates for pipelines increase by roughly a third. The number of hazardous liquid pipeline accidents in the U.S. increased from 350 in 2010 to 462 in 2015.

The Transportation Department proposal calls for tougher inspection and repair criteria, leak detection systems on more lines and other measures to cut risk. Companies also would be required to inspect lines after flooding or other extreme events, a provision adopted after a 2011 ExxonMobil pipeline break spilled 63,000 gallons of crude into Montana's Yellowstone River.

It's currently under review by the White House Office of Management and Budget. Final adoption is anticipated in late December, said Allie Aguilera, government affairs director of the Transportation Department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Industry representatives argue it would cost companies $600 million a year and almost $5 billion over the next decade. That's almost 30 times the government's estimate of $22.5 million annually.

Association of Oil Pipe Lines Vice President John Stoody said the rule would force pipeline owners to immediately repair lines with microscopic cracks or traces of corrosion. Currently, the industry is allowed to monitor smaller defects and schedule repairs later.

Advocates say the rule is particularly important for rural areas. Current regulations apply primarily to lines in "high consequence areas" with large populations or environmentally sensitive features such as drinking water supplies.

Lines outside those areas are not required to be inspected with mechanical devices known as "pipeline pigs," which travel inside lines looking for flaws.

The Bellingham, Washington-based safety trust was formed after three children were killed when a gasoline pipeline broke in 1999, leaking fuel for 1 1/2 hours before it exploded.

The recent 176,000-gallon pipeline spill near Belfield, North Dakota occurred outside a high consequence area.

Federal investigators said Wednesday that a leak detection system on the Belle Fourche Pipeline Co. line had failed to detect any problems before a rancher discovered the spill on Dec. 5. The company was ordered by the Transportation Department to make improvements to that detection system before re-starting the line.

It's unclear how long it had been leaking. The oil travelled 4 1/2 miles down a tributary of the Little Missouri River, investigators said. About 76,000 gallons had been recovered as of Tuesday, according to company spokeswoman Wendy Owen.

NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WISCONSIN

Cop does speeding college student a favor by tying necktie

MENOMONIE — A Wisconsin police officer who stopped a speeding college student who was late for a presentation ended up tying his necktie for him.

WBAY-TV reports the Menomonie Police Department posted dash cam video of the Nov. 30 traffic stop exchange on its Facebook page Tuesday.

The video shows Officer Martin Folczyk pulling up behind the University of Wisconsin-Stout student in a parking lot. The student explained he was speeding because he was late to give a presentation and was trying to find a friend who could tie his necktie.

Folczyk asked for the tie and made a knot for the student. He even adjusted it after the student put it on.

The officer sent the student on his way with a warning to slow down.

WASHINGTON

Oh, deer: 1,300 pounds of venison donated to DC shelters

For people staying in homeless shelters in the District of Columbia, deer meat is what's for dinner.

The National Park Service says it has donated 1,300 pounds of venison to the DC Central Kitchen, a nonprofit that prepares meals for shelters and transitional housing. The meat comes from 36 animals that were killed as part of a deer management plan in northwest Washington's Rock Creek Park.

Officials say managing the number of deer is necessary for a healthy, diverse forest that supports native vegetation and wildlife.

"On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, ten lords-a-leaping..."

The ten lords-a-leaping represent the Ten Commandments

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Rudolph was actually conceived by a department store, Montgomery Ward, as a marketing gimmick to get kids to buy holiday coloring books.

"Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history, with over 733 different versions copyrighted since 1978.

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as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at

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HOLY EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday, December 24, 2016

5:00 P.M. Children's Christmas Mass with Children/Youth Choirs (Doors open at 4:00 P.M.)

8:00 P.M. Vigil Mass of Christmas Preceded by Carols at 7:30 P.M.

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

CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday, December 25, 2016
Masses for Christmas Day
8:30 A.M., 10:45 A.M., 1:00 P.M. Spanish
No 5:00 P.M. Mass

Who Wants To Party?

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

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

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

WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

BEST BETS

TODAY

NIGHT LIGHTS You have two more days to experience High Sky Wing's 12 Night Flights of Christmas. See the lights of Midland from a vintage aircraft. Visit highskywing.org for more information.

COFFEE TUNES Sip some warm java and watch violinist Ryan Lee performs at Ellen Noel Art museum's free Kaffee Haus. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

WHITE CHRISTMAS Visit Very Merry Midland at the Bank of America Plaza in downtown. Skate on the "ice" rink, hang out in a snow globe and warm up with hot chocolate. 2-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

POST-HOLIDAY CHEER The Moscow Ballet returns with their "Great Russian Nutcracker" performance at the Wagner Noel. 7 p.m.

ONLINE

Read about Midland singer Abi Ann's new video for her holiday single "Put a Bow On It" on mrt.com.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

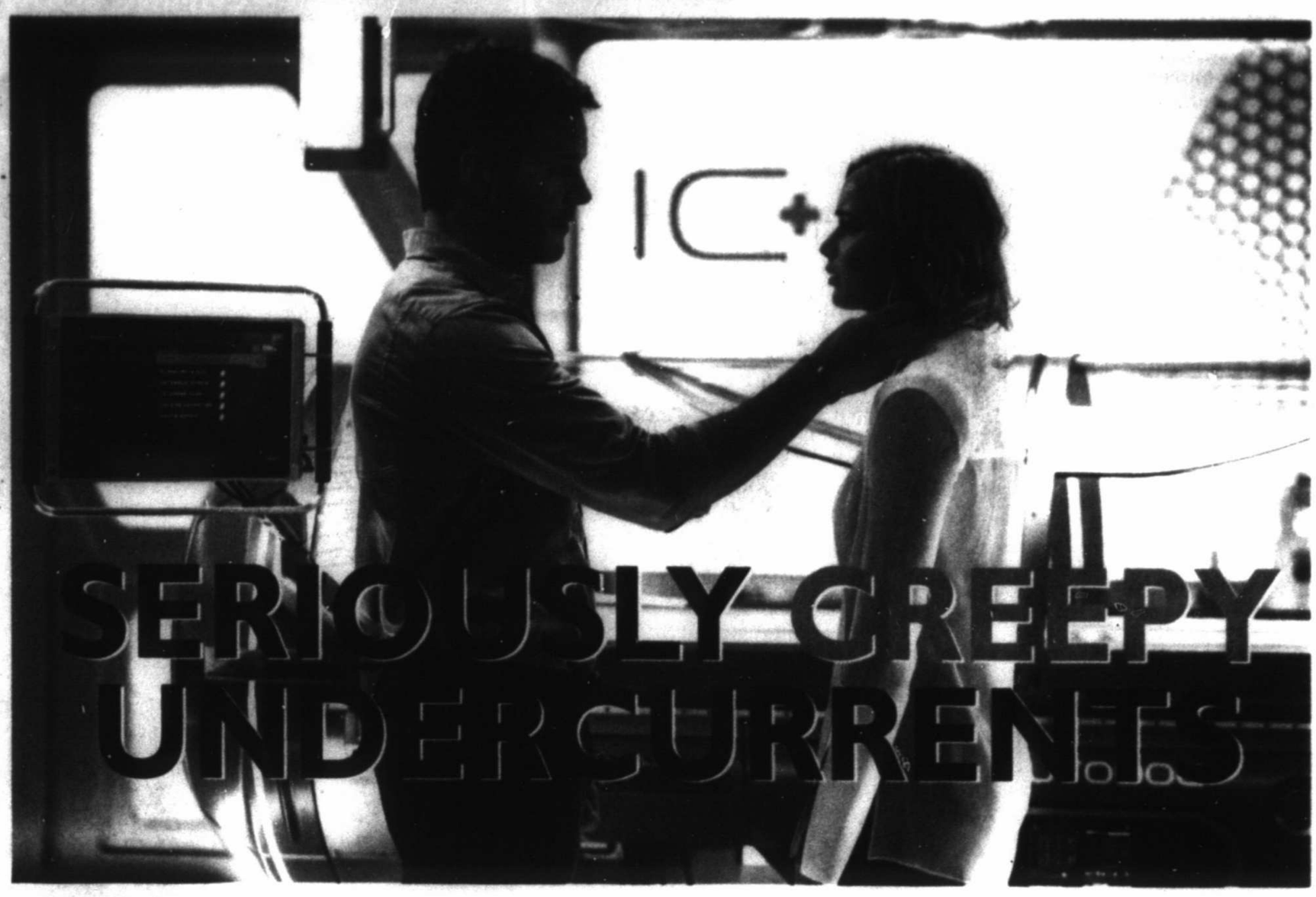
TALL CITY 14
Opening: "Assassin's Creed," "Passengers," "Sing."
Closing: "Hacksaw Ridge," "Incarnate," "Miss Sloane," "Trolls."

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "Assassin's Creed," "Passengers," "Sing."
Closing: "Bad Santa 2," "Doctor Strange," "Hacksaw Ridge."

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

COMING SOON

Motley Crue frontman Vince Neil goes solo in his concert with Great White at the Wagner Noel on Jan. 7.



'Passengers' could have been much more

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Imagine being trapped on a spaceship with only your lover and a robot bartender for nearly a century — there isn't a spaceship big enough or a bar that well-stocked to make that sound appealing. This is the issue at the center of the ostensibly "romantic" sci-fi drama "Passengers," directed by Morten Tyldum from a script by Jon Spaihts.

While romance is the intended effect, the film's real premise — concealed by the glossy trailers — is imbued with some seriously creepy undercurrents about bodily autonomy, consent and stalking. Instead of turning it into a horror movie, these issues are all breezily glossed over with the sex appeal of stars Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt.

The spaceship is the Avalon, 30 years into a 120-year autopilot journey to the planet colony Homestead II with 5,000 passengers on board, encased in pods that keep them in a state of suspended animation. The pod of Jim Preston (Pratt) malfunctions after a meteor hits, and he wakes up a full 90 years early. The ship remains frustratingly on autopilot, and no amount of helpful robots can put Jim back into suspended animation. The pods never fail, they claim.

Unable to engineer himself back into suspended animation, Jim partakes of the lavish accommodations the ship has to offer, which all grow tiresome after a year. He descends into a drunken, pants-less, suicidal depression, until he spots the lithe figure of Aurora Lane (Lawrence) in her pod, and develops a crush.

He checks out her profile, reads her writing (she's a journalist), eats cereal next to her. Though he wrestles with the decision, he ultimately decides to wake up his dream girl, effectively dooming her to a life and death aboard this spaceship. But before then, he's the only available guy around to date, and they fall in love. Until Aurora finds out about what Jim did, and is justifiably enraged

The quandary of being stuck on a spaceship with only your ex-and a robot bartender (Michael Sheen) is quickly tossed aside for the high stakes action as the ship starts to malfunction. As they try to troubleshoot the ship, the film takes on the tenor of a very high-stakes version of yelling at an iPad or trying to bypass an automated phone menu.

Ultimately, what's a rather intriguing premise, replete with meaty themes to chew on — time as a prison, class, colonialism, artificial intelligence — eschews all that to focus on sexy space fun times, turning Jim's morally reprehensible choice into a meet cute, and a love story for the ages. The problem is that one can't help but think of better, more interesting movies based on this premise. Most glaringly, what if Aurora were the subject, not the object? This is Jim's story, not hers; we're to sympathize with nice guy Jim, who fell in love with her mind, he claims. But the film could have been more intriguing if it were from her perspective, or even if it were more balanced.

Tyldum and Spaihts could have steered into the inherently problematic issues at hand, creating something far darker and more complex. Instead, it's all French robot waiters and champagne cocktails and sex in the cafeteria. "Hell of a life," Aurora admits, conceding that the space pool is pretty awesome if she has to be trapped here.

'PASSENGERS'

2 out of 4 stars
Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Chris Pratt, Michael Sheen, Lawrence Fishburne, Andy Garcia
Directed by Morten Tyldum
Running time: 1 hour, 56 minutes
Rated PG-13 for sexuality, nudity and action/peril.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

A big year wraps up nicely for singer Randy Rogers

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

If Texas country artist Randy Rogers could, he'd tour all the time with his namesake band. However, the holidays will beckon him to his relatives in Plainview. But he cuts it close. His final show before Christmas will be tonight at Dos Amigos.

Before the show, Rogers talked about the band's new independent status, the intimacy of his solo shows and what he wants for Christmas.

MRT: Three days out from Christmas and you're still touring. Is it hard to balance work and the holiday season?

Rogers: I love this time of year. I always try to do this Christmas acoustic tour. I like being part of people's lives at this time, and I have a lot of friends and people I consider family in West Texas.

MRT: But the tour isn't necessarily a Christmas show, right?

Rogers: We may have a Christmas song or two, but it's just a way for us to hang out.

MRT: Being an acoustic show, will it be you solo onstage?

Rogers: It's Brady (Black), who plays fiddle, and me. We've done it for a long time and really enjoy it. We cut up and play music. I think we got it down by now.

MRT: What do you like about these shows?

IF YOU GO

Randy Rogers - acoustic, 7 p.m. Dec. 22 at Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave., Odessa. $17 advance, $20 door. Dosamigos.com.

Rogers: I enjoy them quite a bit. It's a little bit more intimate. People come and listen intently but they'll also start dancing, as well. You can see people really enjoy themselves. When it's the full band, we can get up to 23 to 24 songs but with these acoustic shows, I can pack in a few more.

MRT: Do you venture into deep cuts that you might not play with the band?

Rogers: Yeah, I do, and I get really proud after that. After nine albums, it's good to remember some of those old songs. I'll do songs we haven't done in years and some we've never done and even try out some new stuff.

MRT: "Nothing Shines Like Neon" has received critical acclaim and made some end-of-year lists, including Rolling Stone's Top 40 Country Albums of 2016. How do you reflect on this year?

Rogers: This was our first attempt to put out a decently budgeted album on our own. We were with Universal for so long that going back to being an independent band, we had to have laser-focus. The reception we got from the album was strong.

MRT: What did you learn from it?

Rogers: It's more that we

Please see ROGERS/Page 3

Best Christmas shows available via streaming

By Diane Werts
Newsday

Can't wait to see "A Christmas Story" again? Then don't. Watch it on TV right now.

Same with Christmas music specials across the years, from Mariah Carey, Pee-wee Herman, Andy Williams or Bing Crosby. Ditto holiday episodes of rarely aired shows like "Veronica Mars," "Ally McBeal," "Roswell," "NewsRadio" or "Blackadder." They're available anytime you want to watch.

Streaming is the answer. Find 'em on popular services like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon Prime — and watch for free once you've paid your monthly/yearly subscription fees. Services like Amazon may also offer add-on subscriptions to serve special interests — Acorn for British TV, Seeso for comedy, Lifetime Movie Club, Urban Movie Channel, UP Faith and Family, and more.

These add-ons (and Hallmark's Feeln service devoted to sentiment) can also be found as apps on many of the streaming devices through which you watch — Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Chromecast or your web-connected smart-TV set or Blu-ray player. Check for access, too, via computer, tablet and smartphones.

And let's not forget your TV provider's video-on-demand menu, chock-full of its own holiday choices. That's where you'll find the perennial "A Christmas Story," available anytime (through Saturday) under the TNT channel's cable-on-demand menu.

Here's a peek at holiday viewing on your own schedule:

NETFLIX

Choose the "Browse" menu to find

Please see STREAMING/Page 3

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Editor's note: Because of the holidays, regular events may be postponed.

ART & DANCE

Adult Paint and Sip: "Holy One," 6:30 p.m. today at Brew St. Bakery, 4601 N. Garfield St. $30. kiddsandcanvasparties.com.

Works by artists Cynna Guerrero, Callie Deming and Andrea Valencia. Fridays throughout December at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

"Visions of Santa" by Billy Keen on display through Jan. Jan. 8 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

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

EVENTS

Starlight Village is a walk or drive experience to see more than 75 displays of holiday lights. Nightly through Jan. 1 at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa.

The Twelve Night Flights of Christmas. Fly in vintage aircraft while seeing the Christmas lights of Midland and Odessa from the sky. Flights are every 30 minutes. Riders must be 5 years or older; all children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Passengers must be able to enter and exit the aircraft under their own mobility. Arrive 30 minutes before your flight and dress warm. Complimentary refreshments will be offered. 6:30-9:30 p.m. through Friday. To book your flight, email rides@highskywing.org or call 432-703-3142. High Sky Wing, 9600 Wright Drive. $75-$145. Highskywing.org.

Very Merry Midland: Walking in a Winter Wonderland will feature a walking tour of holiday window displays, hot chocolate, a giant snow globe and more. Through Friday in downtown Midland. goyourcity.us/wonderland.

FAMILY FUN

Pretend and Play provides a structured environment for caregivers and their children. For ages 2-6. 10:30 a.m. Mondays 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.

BOWLING

FOOD AND DRINK

Kaffee Haus is a night of acoustic performances and coffee. Violinist Ryan Lee is the featured entertainer. 6 p.m. today at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. Free. Noelartmuseum.org.

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. 432-682-5511.

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.

Tabletop players group at Astral Castle, 10 Meta Drive. 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

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.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Basin Burger House.

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

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Torino's. challengeentertainment.com.

MUSIC

COUNTRY

Randy Rogers - acoustic, 7 p.m. today at Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave., Odessa. $17 advance, $20 door. Dosamigos.com.

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.

ROCK

Darren Welch Group, 5 p.m. Friday at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

OUTDOORS, SPORTS & FITNESS

Adult Kickball, 2 p.m. Saturdays. Visit facebook.com/groups/Midlandkickball for more information.

Free skateboarding lessons, noon-1:30 p.m. Saturdays at RTD Skatepark. rtdskatepark.com.

Family Nite roller skating, Sundays from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 A Andrews Highway. kcsnuttyroller.com.

Yoga at the Museum for museum members. 8 a.m. Wednesdays at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E University Blvd, Odessa. Free. noelartmuseum.org.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

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

COMING SOON

DECEMBER

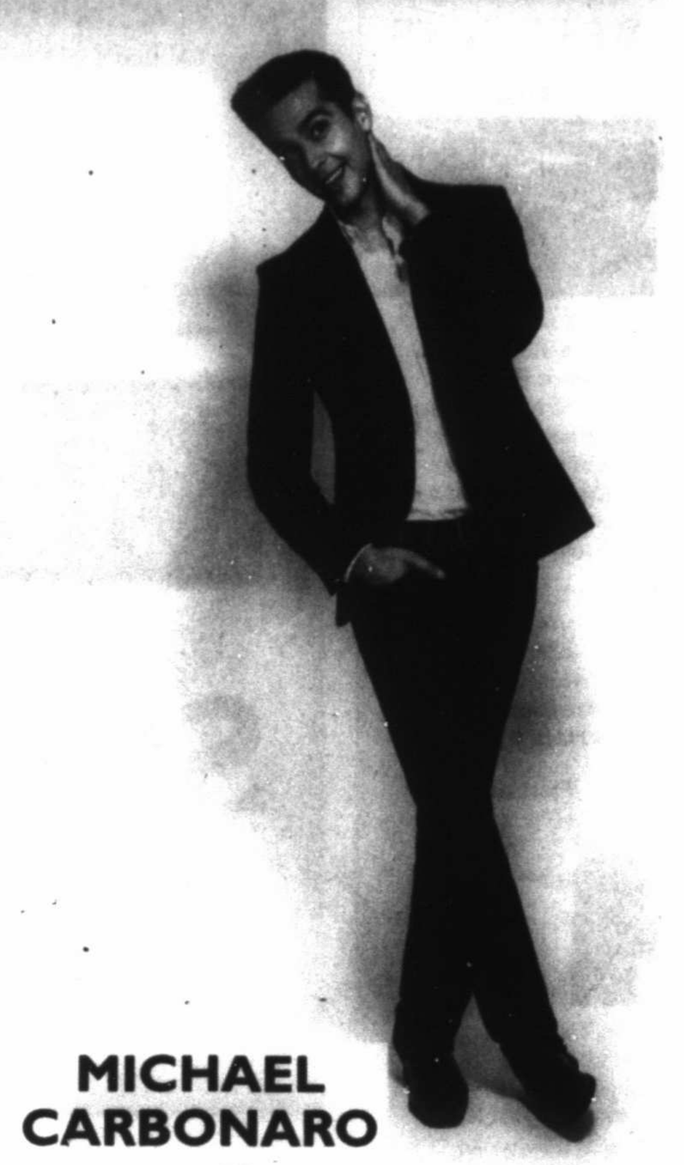
Funky Munky, 5 p.m. Dec. 31 at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

New Year's Eve dinner will feature a five-course meal and live DJ. Doors at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 at Steak 42, 911 S. Big Spring St. $150 per couple which includes a bottle of wine. For reservations, call 528-8769 or 704-5242.

Black and White New Year's Eve is a family-friendly event that will feature live music by Donnie Diaz, photo booths, board games and the release of a new tapas menu. 6 p.m. Dec. 31 at Brew St. Bakery, 4610 N. Garfield St.

Toasting for Tails New Year's party and casino night. This is the inaugural event by the Midland Humane Coalition. The night features dinner, dessert, casino games and a complimentary champagne toast. Dress to impress. 7 p.m. Dec. 31 at Doubletree Hotel, 117 W. Wall St. $140. 21 and older. Midlandhumane.org.

~Dos Amigos New Year's Eve Bash with Mark McKinney. 8 p.m. Dec. 31 at Dos Amigos, 4700 Golder Ave., Odessa. $20 individual, $30 couple. Dosamigos.com.



MICHAEL CARBONARO

JANUARY

Andrew Pudewa Writing Workshops for students and teachers. Jan. 4-6 at Midland Bible Church, 5900 Whitman St. $25-$891 iew.com.

Brian Regan, 7:30 p.m. Jan 5 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. Wagnernoel.com.

Hogg Maulies, Jan. 5-6 at The Bar, 606 W. Missouri Ave.

First Friday featuring works by Katie Pack, 6 p.m. Jan. 6 at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

Michael Carbonaro Livel, 7:30 p.m. Jan 6 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. Wagnernoel.com.

Beginner 3D Print Class will introduce the basics of 3D printing from designing and sketching to getting it printed. 11 a.m., Jan 7 at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Vince Neil, Great White, 8 p.m. Jan 7 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $55-$75. Wagnernoel.com.

Auditions: "Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile," 6 p.m. Jan. 8 and 9 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. mctmidland.org.

Travis Tritt, Little Texas, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $43-$63. Wagnernoel.com.

Granger Smith, 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave., Odessa. $17 advance, $20 door. dosamigos.com.

The Temptations and The Four Tops, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $39-$109. wagnernoel.com.

Tenore, 7 p.m. January 16 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. Liveonstage-pb.com.

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

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.

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

Indie Lens: "The Bad Kids" screening by Basin PBS. 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. wagnernoel.com.

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

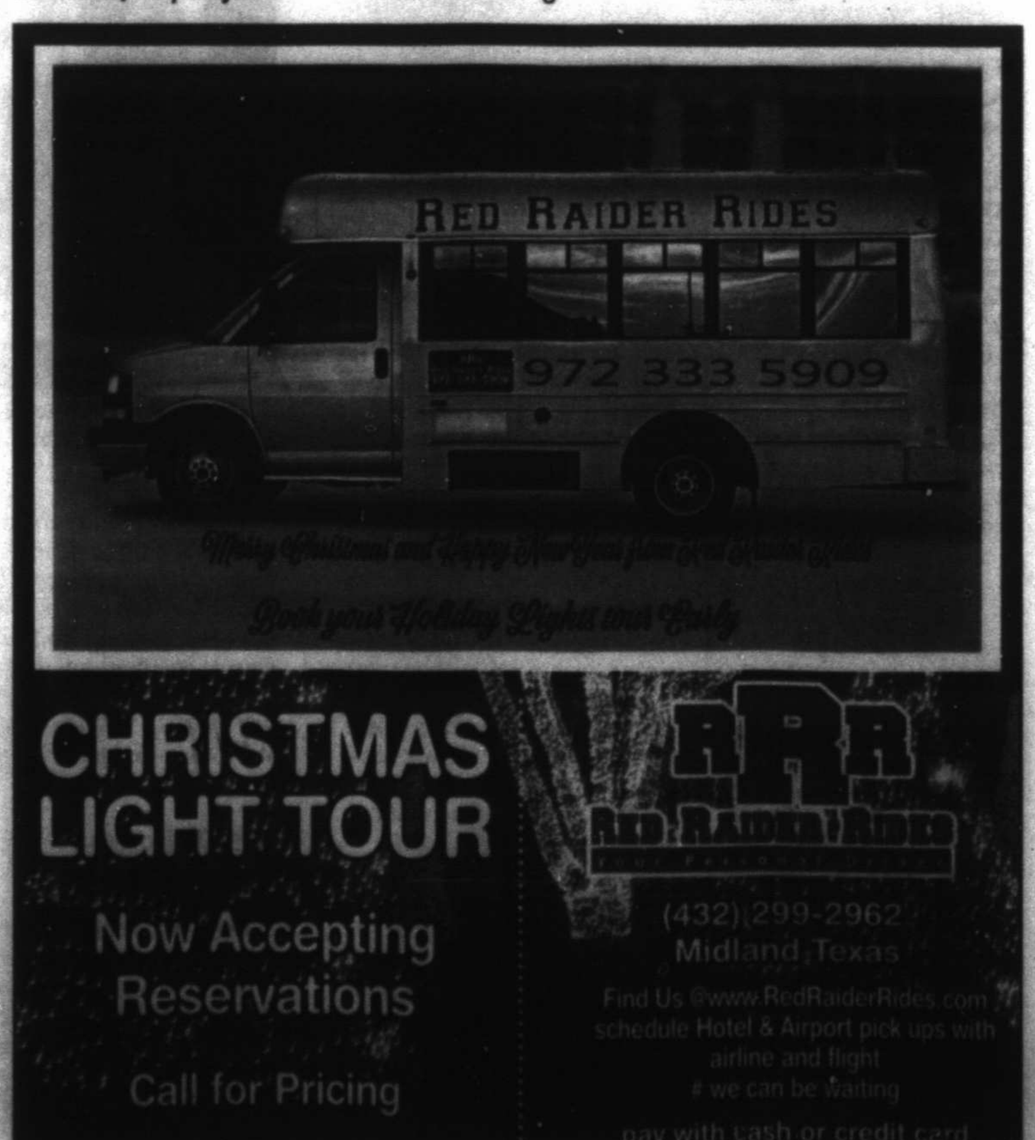
An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth: Celebrating the Art of Elegance, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. FM Road 1788. $59-$125. wagnernoel.com.

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.

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

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



ON STAGE & SCREEN

'SING'

'Sing' is an addictive combo of cute animals, pop music

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Illumination Entertainment, the team behind the Minions, branch out into the world of all talking, dancing, singing creatures great and small, mashing that up with the wildly popular phenomenon of singing competition reality shows. The result, "Sing," is an amusing riff on genres, a "Zootopia Idol," if you will, and it comes as a surprise that someone hadn't thought of this combination already.

But while the film takes its introductory cues from shows like "American Idol," "The Voice" and "X Factor," with an all-too-brief audition montage that is jam-packed with truly wonderful moments (A water buffalo crooning Crazy Town's "Butterfly"? Twerking bunnies? All that and more), it transforms into an old school backstage musical that celebrates the magic of putting on a show.

Matthew McConaughey voices shyster theater owner Buster Moon, a koala with a passion for the art of the stage and some seriously overdue bills on the mortgage for his beloved Moon Theater. He's a scrappy, lovable, ever-optimistic guy — and eternal salesman — who believes that when you hit rock bottom, the only way to go is up. His buddy Eddie (John C. Reilly), a slacker rich kid llama, is a soft touch, but even he is done investing his parents' money in Buster's misguided productions.

Buster lands on the idea of putting on a singing competition, and soon fliers are picked up by every aspiring vocalist in town, lured by the promise of a $100,000 prize (which Buster doesn't have). But Buster is thrilled by the crop of talent he turns up, including mother of 25 piglets Rosita (Reese Witherspoon), who belts Katy Perry with the best; mouthy mouse Mike (Seth MacFarlane), styled straight out of the Rat Pack; porcupine rocker chick Ash (Scarlett Johansson); British gorilla crooner Johnny (Taron Egerton); and German techno-rave pig Gunter (Nick Kroll).

Each singer has his or her own personal story and obstacles to overcome, and so the plot feels overly busy, frantic even, as we zip all over town, checking in on Rosita's struggle to balance raising her kids and following her dreams, Ash's relationship problems, Johnny's desire to break free of his father's robbery gang, etc., etc., on and on. There's even the story of painfully shy elephant Meena (Tori Kelly), who's helping out the show until she can muster up the courage to show off her remarkable pipes. It's a lot to take in, but writer/director Garth Jennings keeps it all on the surface.

As the competition starts to crumble, bearing the pressure of too many dreams and not enough resources, the singers start to realize it's not about the prize money but about their tight-knit group getting together to show off their talents for whoever will watch, wherever they can. They learn that the most important lesson is to share their gifts and find their voices.

The soundtrack is full of well-known crowd-pleasers, deep cuts and a truly catchy original song, the pop-rock number "Set it All Free" sung by Johansson as Ash. The combination of pop music and cuddly animals will prove to be an addictive combination for children and adults alike — kids were up and dancing in the theater as the credits rolled. It's a cute movie with genuinely funny moments (keep an eye out for the koala car wash), and some great tunes to boot.

'SING'

2.5 out of 4 stars
Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Taron Egerton, Scarlett Johansson, Nick Kroll, Seth MacFarlane, John C. Reilly
Directed by Garth Jennings
Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes
Rated PG for some rude humor and mild peril.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

STREAMING

From Page 1

Holiday Favorites. Then take your pick of movies, from comedies like "Scrooged" and "The Santa Clause" to musicals like "White Christmas." Lots of TV specials, too: "Mariah Carey's Merriest Christmas," "Pee-wee's Playhouse Christmas Special," "Radio City Christmas Spectacular," "Merry Madagascar." And holiday episodes from "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" to "Trailer Park Boys."

Originals now being big for Netflix, they're represented in yule offerings with the laid-back tunes of "A Very Murray Christmas," the comedy "Ricardo O'Farrill: Abrazo Navideño," holiday episodes of "Orange Is the New Black," "Black Mirror" and "Bojack Horseman," even a new yule edition of the sci-fi series "Sense8" (premieres Dec. 23).

HULU

Scroll down for the Classic Holiday Episodes menu, a cornucopia of TV favorites new and old. Recent festivities include "Family Guy," "The Simpsons," "black-ish," "The Mindy Project," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" and "South Park." Flashbacks include "Happy Endings," "Ally McBeal," "The O.C.," "My So-Called Life," "The X-Files," "Roswell," "Wings" and "Seinfeld." Older shows, too: "Saved by the Bell," "Mork & Mindy," "Alfred Hitchcock," "Dragnet" and "The Addams Family."

Yule TV ranges far and wide here, with the original comedy of "Deadbeat" giving way to the '60s homey music highlights of "Andy Williams: Best of Christmas." British shows include "Blackadder" and Ricky Gervais' "The Office." Adult Swim animation features "Robot Chicken" and "Rick and Morty." There's a kids section, too.

AMAZON PRIME

Click on the Happy Holidays section, or better yet, search the word "Christmas" for hundreds of hits. Vintage variety pops up here, with '50s and '60s TV specials featuring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Liberace, Lawrence Welk, even the Mantovani Orchestra. Animation perennials include "The Year Without a Santa," while movies include "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians." Try the Kids section for more.

Christmas TV episodes come as modern as "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "The Sopranos" and "Glee," and as period-set as early TV's "Robin Hood" and "Yancy Derringer." In between come hard-to-find shows "Veronica Mars," "Hearts Afire," "Highway to Heaven" and even Heather Locklear's "Christmas Carol" night on "Melrose Place."

MORE STREAMING SERVICE

(Some by paid subscription, some ad-supported)

Acorn (British favorites): "Upstairs Downstairs," "Poirot," "Midsomer Murders," "Doc Martin."

Crackle (Sony-owned): "Seinfeld," "NewsRadio," original special "Super-Mansion: War on Christmas."

Feeln (sentiment): 100 holiday TV movies, "Hallmark Hall of Fame."

Seeso (comedy): "Saturday Night Live," "Parks and Recreation."

Shout Factory TV (vintage TV): "Car 54," "Dennis the Menace."

CABLE'S HOLIDAYS ON DEMAND

Optimum offers plenty of free (and paid) holiday video-on-demand options, as do providers like Verizon FiOS. Search with your remote for specific titles/networks, or check your on-screen menus for Movies and Events & Specials. You'll even find an anytime yule log — and from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, a flickering menorah.

Some on-demand options include:

ABC: "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (through Dec. 23).

TBS: "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" cartoon (through Dec. 23).

TNT: "A Christmas Story" (through Dec. 24).

BET: Holiday episodes of "Family Matters," "Fresh Prince," "Martin."

Disney: "Full Court Miracle" Hanukkah film.

Freeform: "The Nightmare Before Christmas," 20 other holiday films.

FXX: Christmas with "The Simpsons."

Nickelodeon: "Albert Christmas," plus holidays with "iCarly," "Victorious."

HBO: "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947), "Home Alone," "Muppet Christmas Carol."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

ROGERS

From Page 1

learned what not to do, but that's more on the business side. Taking back control of the business side has been fun and challenging. We see how money was wasted before, so we make sure how everything benefits the band. Calling our own shots is awesome.

MRT: "Neon" came out in January and you've been on the road throughout the year. What's next?

Rogers: We'll be touring the first part of the year and have Musicfest in January. But I think in July or August of next year, we'll have a new single out.

MRT: And what does Randy Rogers want for Christmas?

Rogers: Socks and underwear.

mrt★com

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www.bushchildhoodhome.org

fan us on facebook & twitter

Merry Christmas

We will be open on Christmas Eve from 10AM-2 PM

Closed Christmas Day

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

ON SCREEN

FILM CAPS

"Allied" (R) Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard team up in this World War II romance, set in Nazi-occupied Morocco and blitzed Britain, and rife with espionage, intrigue, dubious French accents (Pitt's, as a Québécois intelligence officer) and tips of the beret to Casablanca. Robert Zemeckis directs.

Assassin's Creed" (PG-13) Michael Fassbender plays a man who accesses his genetic memories via a new technology, learns he is descended from a secret society, the Assassins, and must battle their centuries-long adversaries, the Templar organization. With Marion Cotillard, Jeremy Irons, Brendan Gleeson, Charlotte Rampling, Michael K. Williams, Khalid Abdalla. Written by Michael Lesslie & Adam Cooper & Bill Collage, based on the game series. Directed by Justin Kurzel.

"Collateral Beauty" (PG-13) The friends of a New York ad executive intervene to halt his descent following a tragedy. With Edward Norton, Keira Knightley, Michael Pena, Naomie Harris, Jacob Latimore, Kate Winslet and Helen Mirren. Written by Allan Loeb. Directed by David Frankel.

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" (PG-13) Eddie Redmayne stars as Magizoologist Newt Scamander, whose misadventures in New York City include the escape of recently collected creatures. With Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, Ezra Miller, Samantha Morton, Jon Voight, Ron Perlman, Carmen Ejogo and Colin Farrell. Written by J.K. Rowling. Directed by David Yates.

"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.

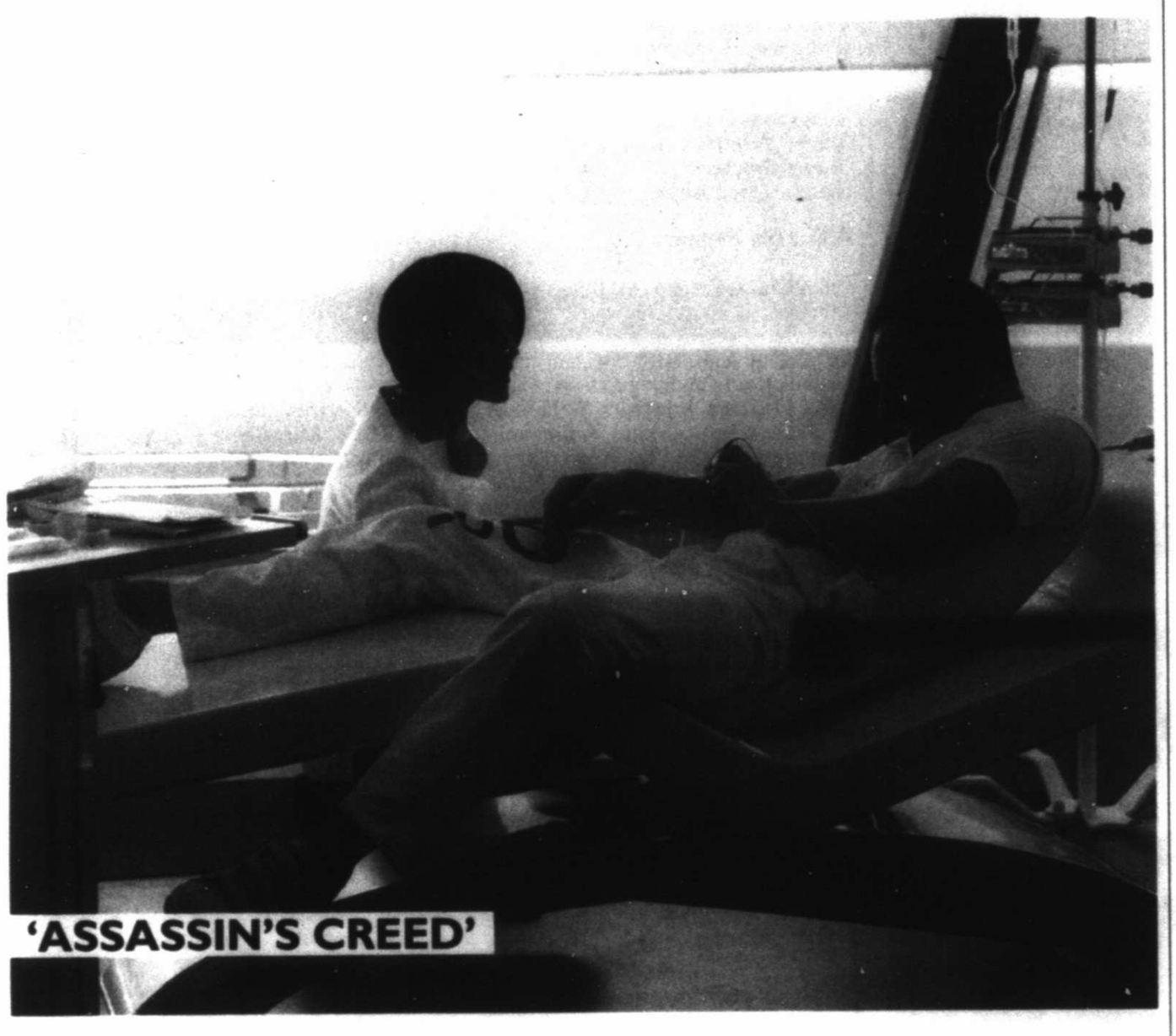
"Office Christmas Party" (R) The brother of a CEO plans an epic holiday celebration to land an important client and prevent his sister from closing his branch. With Jason Bateman, Olivia Munn, T.J. Miller, Jillian Bell, Courtney B. Vance, Kate McKinnon and Jennifer Aniston. Written by Justin Malen and Laura Solon, story by Jon Lucas & Scott Moore and Dan Mazer. Directed by Will Speck & Josh Gordon.

"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.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency



'ASSASSIN'S CREED'

'Assassin's Creed' is an exciting, if strange, ride

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

In 2015, director Justin Kurzel and actors Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard teamed up for a prestigious cinematic adaptation, a bloody, mad take on "Macbeth." In 2016, the trio moved from Shakespeare to... a video game? Taking on the popular "Assassin's Creed" game seems like quite the left turn, and while the results aren't as striking as the previous outing — it's pretty uneven — the film is thoroughly stamped with Kurzel's unique visual style, which makes for an exciting, if strange ride.

There is a complicated and deep mythology behind the game, and the film follows it mostly faithfully. Callum Lynch (Fassbender) is a death row inmate with a violent childhood. He is put to death by lethal injection, but wakes up in a clinic at the shadowy Abstergo corporation. The lead scientist there, Dr. Sofia Rikkin (Cotillard) claims she's researching "the cure to violence."

For his part in that, Cal is harnessed up to a giant mechanical arm called the animus and forced to regress to 15th century Spain, where he fights the Spanish Inquisition as his hooded assassin ancestor, Aguilar. Like a video game! And Abstergo? They're just a front for the Knights Templar, the eternal mortal enemies of the assassins. Both groups want to get their hands on "the Apple of Eden," which has the genetic code for free will (man's first disobedience). The Knights Templar want to bow people into peace through mental obedience, while the assassins are all about free will, violence and all.

If this story sounds hokey, it is, and somehow writers Michael Lesslie, Adam Cooper and Bill Collage have managed to write a script that is at once far too complicated and extremely shallow. There are a few lines that elicit giggles, and some plot points that feel ripped from "National Treasure."

But despite the tortured writing, Kurzel shoots the heck out of the film, especially the flashbacks, when Aguilar and his assassin companion Maria (Ariane Labed) parkour around ancient Andalusia, kicking some serious Templar butt. We know from "Macbeth" just how well Kurzel and cinematographer Adam Arkapaw shoot grimy, dusty, bloody Medieval times, and these scenes, with vertiginous aerial shots, prove to be a new accomplishment in that vein. You spend the film waiting for Cal to get back in the animus so we can soar around Seville again.

The scenes set at the Abstergo facility aren't as visually exciting, but the sound design and score are tremendous, combining ancient Arabic music with droning drums and whispers to create a hallucinatory aural experience.

Though sometimes confounding, there are some interesting themes lying just below the surface of "Assassin's Creed," particularly with regard to Cal as a prisoner who goes from one supermax to another. The scientists claim that modernity has no outlet for aggression, resulting in an elaborate system that pathologizes violence and contains it within a surveillance driven prison panopticon. The Apple would let them pre-empt all of that by containing humanity in a mental prison.

"Assassin's Creed" will be polarizing, but as an entry in Kurzel's oeuvre, it's fascinating for the ways that it doesn't fit and the ways that it does. It is so singularly his film — both in the style and the fascination with hubris, power and violence. It's his mark on the studio blockbuster that make the brilliant parts of "Assassin's Creed" worthwhile.

'ASSASSIN'S CREED'

2.5 out of 4 stars

Cast: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard, Michael K. Williams, Jeremy Irons, Brendan Gleeson, Ariane Laped

Directed by: Justin Kurzel

Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, thematic elements and brief strong language.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

'FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS'

Reeler & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

Streep's warble is unforgettable in 'Florence Foster Jenkins'

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Florence Foster Jenkins" (PG-13) There is nothing that can prepare you for the spectacular moment when Meryl Streep opens her mouth and begins to sing in this wonderful film. The laugh-out-loud moments are some of the best of the year in this twist on "The Emperor's New Clothes." **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Ben-Hur" (PG-13) This year's most unnecessary remake is a muddled mess, ranking a distant fourth in the four attempts — including an animated version — to tell the tale. **F**

REDBOX'S TOP 10 DVD RENTALS

The Top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks for the week of Dec. 12:

1. Ben-Hur — Paramount
2. Bad Moms — Universal
3. Mechanic: Resurrection: Lionsgate
4. Finding Dory — Disney
5. Pete's Dragon (2016) — Disney
6. Don't Breathe — Sony
7. Nine Lives — Fox
8. Sausage Party — Sony
9. Central Intelligence — Warner
10. Florence Foster Jenkins — Paramount

Distributed by TribuneContent Agency

MORE REVIEWS

"Barney Thomson" (unrated) Wicked but fun tale of barber-turned-killer has one major defect for us Yanks: The heavy British accents are sometimes impossible to interpret, and subtitles aren't offered on the DVD. There's still enough to revel in the mirth, though. **B**

"Bridget Jones's Baby" (R) Though not quite as jolly as the first two films in the series, fans will not want to miss this one. **B**

"Brother Nature" (R) A lot of current and former "Saturday Night Live" cast members contributed to this film that, like the series, has moments of comedic genius parked inside long spells of utter wasteland. **C**

"End of a Gun" (R) The movie was already tacky and tasteless but the split-screen format — reminiscent of a bad 1970s TV detective series — sinks it even deeper into the abyss. **F**

"Equity" (R) The low-key approach coupled with the stylistic art direction border on pretense yet the subtlety does a great job of setting things up for the ending. **B**

"Green is Gold" (R) Is it just a story about two sons of an incarcerated man trying to survive by growing marijuana or a scathing editorial about the system and the man's plan to keep everyone down? Hard to tell. It's as though the filmmakers smoked the film's props and forgot where they wanted to take the story. **C**

"Little Men" (PG) Themes of friendship, family and racism are deftly explored in this underrated drama. **B**

"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (PG-13) Although delightful in almost every way, as is nearly every film helmed by Tim Burton, it never quite lives up to the expectations brought by its title. **B-**

"Morgan" (R) The artificial intelligence genre's latest entry flashes shades of "Blade Runner." Ridley Scott's involvement might have something to do with that. The upcoming release of "Blade Runner 2045" might also play a role. But "Morgan" is decidedly not "Blade Runner," nor is it as good as last year's "Ex Machina." **C+**

"Southside With You" (PG-13) Dialogue-driven tale based on the first date between Barack Obama and Michelle Robinson does not presume anything, which is what makes it so enjoyable. **B+**

"Suicide Squad" (PG-13) Despite its outstanding soundtrack, the film in no way lives up to the hype. **C**

"The Swan Princess: Princess Tomorrow, Pirate Today!" (PG) Forgettable installment in the popular franchise. **C-**

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BEETLE BAILEY

ZITS

CLASSIC PEANUTS

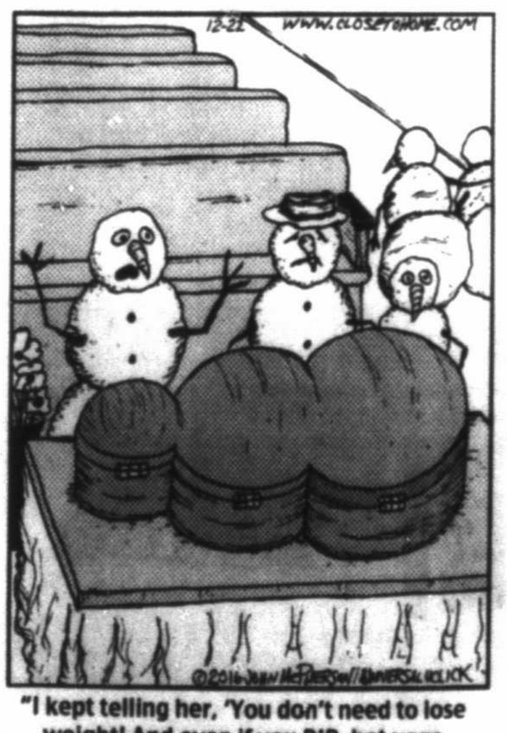
BABY BLUES

SHOE

MUTTS

GARFIELD

CLOSE TO HOME

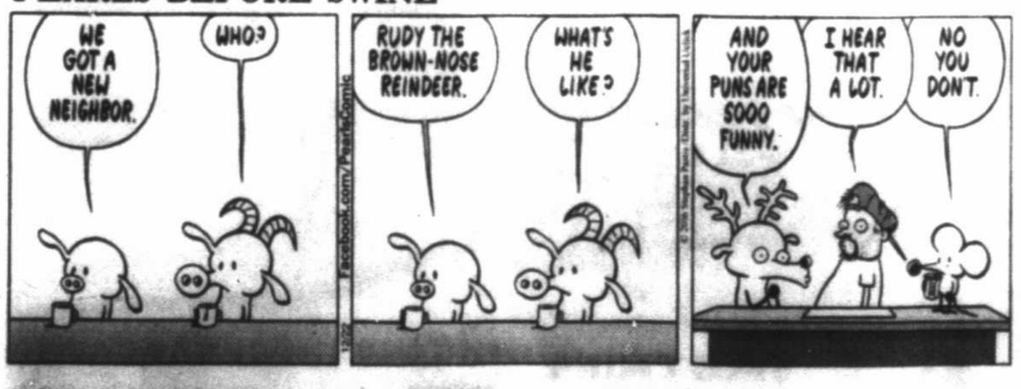


"I kept telling her, 'You don't need to lose weight! And even if you DID, hot yoga is NOT the way to do it!'"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"SANTA MUST REALLY BE BUSY IF HE'S GOT YOU HELPING HIM WRAP PRESENTS."

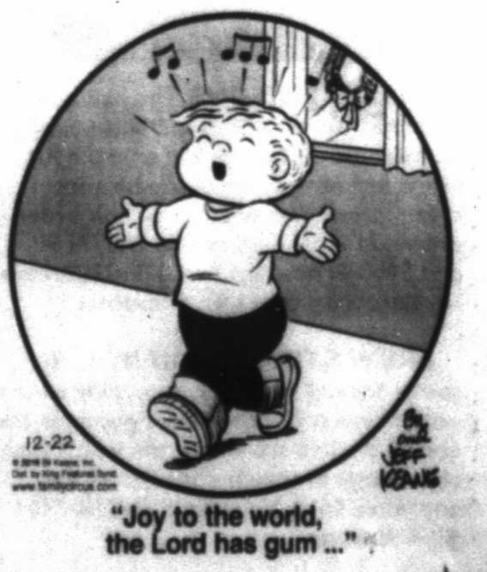
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



LOCKHORNS

"CRAM YOUR FOOT INTO SOMETHING TOO SMALL AND LET'S GO."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Joy to the world, the Lord has gum ..."

WIZARD OF ID

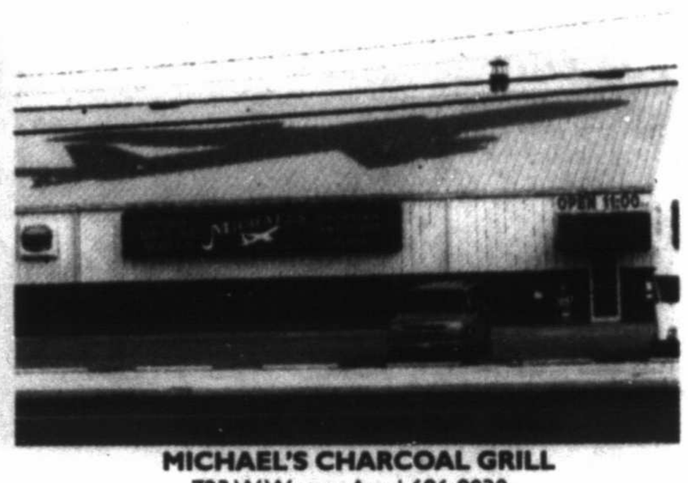
DILBERT

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.

SCOTTY'S SOUL FOOD
2907 N. BIG SPRING ST. | 695-6511

KD'S BAR-B-QUE
3113 GARDEN CITY HIGHWAY | 683-4013



MICHAEL'S CHARCOAL GRILL
723 W. WADLEY AVE. | 686-9030

BURGERS & BARBECUE

BASIN BURGER HOUSE With buns made in-house and creative combinations this isn't your typical burger joint. Try the black & blue burger and follow it with the Nutella & banana milkshake. Opens at 6 a.m. for breakfast. 607 N. Colorado St. 687-5696 www.basinburgerhouse.com | $$ | 4 spoons

BOB'S BETTER BURGER Step back in time as you stand outside the screen window to order some of the best burgers, fries and onion rings in town. 3417 Thomason Drive 694-1561 | $ | 4 spoons

BROOKS BAR B-Q The barbecue is great but it's hard not to order the fat burger. Whatever you decide be sure to save room for pie. Order it first — the kitchen tends to run out during the lunch rush. 501 E. Texas Ave. 685-5079 | $ | 4 spoons

DICKEY'S BARBECUE PIT Texas-based barbecue marketed as fast food. Try the pulled pork sandwich and the baked potato casserole. 5210 W. Wadley Ave. 689-4500 www.dickeys.com | $ | 4 spoons

FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES The menu is fairly small, keeping things limited to burgers — with or without the bun — hot dogs and a few more sandwich options. Order a shake with your burger and try some of the numerous flavor options. 2816 W. Loop 250 N. Unit 300 699-2036 | $ | 4 spoons

FUDDRUCKERS Choose your burger size and add whatever toppings you want. If you're feeling adventurous, try the ostrich or bison. Located inside the mall. 4511 N. Midkiff Road 689-0448 | $ | 3 spoons

GRUB BURGER BAR The fast-casual College Station-based restaurant offers gourmet burger selections, milkshakes and a full bar. 4400 N. Midland Drive, Suite 500 789-1855 www.grubburgerbar.com | $ | 4 spoons

HOG PIT PUB & GRUB This out-of-the-way bar and barbecue joint offers all the traditional favorites plus unexpected menu items like fried sausage. Go hungry and relish the oversized portions of Texas goodness. 7400 West County Road 116 | 561-9301 | 3 spoons

JOHNNY'S BAR B-Q & DINER Downtown barbecue joint. Try the chopped beef sandwich for lunch. Look for the pig on the roof. 316 N. Big Spring St. 683-4581 | $ | 3 spoons

K-D'S BAR B-Q Pick your meat from the grill then add sides like potato salad, beans and peach cobbler. Try the sausage. Or the brisket. Or the chicken. It's all good. 3113 Garden City Highway 683-4013 | $ | 5 spoons

MAC'S B-B-Q AND CATERING Generous servings and hearty flavors are the hallmark of this local restaurant that now features live music on the weekends. Opens at 7 a.m. for breakfast. 2400 W/ Indiana Ave 247-5654 | $ | 4 spoons

MICHAEL'S CHARCOAL GRILL Great barbecue and great burgers, including the King Kong burger. Michael's also has a great salad bar. Something for everyone. 723 W. Wadley Ave. 686-9030 | $$ | 4 spoons

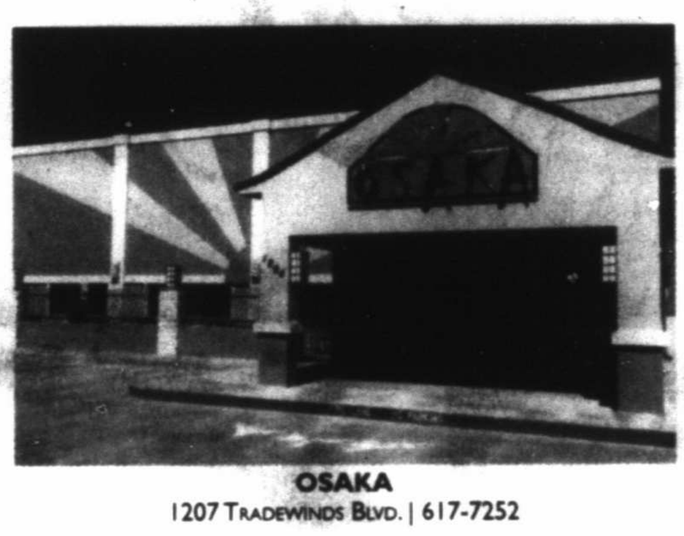
SAM'S BAR-B-QUE You can smell the smoke before you get into the parking lot at this longtime Midland establishment. Whether you go for ribs, brisket or sausage be sure to save room for the peach cobbler. 1113 E. Scharbauer Drive | 570-1082 | 3 spoons

SCOTTY'S SOUL FOOD Tucked in a hole-in-the-wall location on North Big Spring Street, Scotty's offers everything comfort food. Try the ribs or the chicken fried steak. Don't leave without a helping of cornbread. 2907 N. Big Spring St. | 695-6511 | $ | 4 spoons

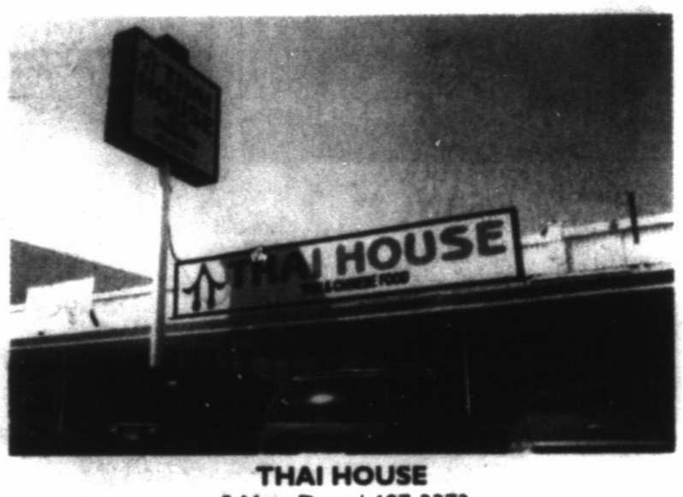
TANK'S BAR-B-QUE AND CATERING Stop by Tank's for lunch and get a full plate of barbecue with all the sides to take back to the office or enjoy at a nearby picnic table. Don't skip the potato salad. 401 East Scharbauer Drive 684-0006 | $ | 4 spoons

TEXAS BURGER Fast-food burgers with more of a local — or regional feel — than the national chains. Try the jalapeno burger and spicy fries. Don't forget the ice cream. 3306 W. Loop 250 West, 522-2177 and 500 W. Wadley Ave. 620-9838 | $ | 3 spoons

KUO'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
3303 N. MIDKIFF ROAD, SUITE 152 | 697-8888



OSAKA
1207 TRADEWINDS BLVD. | 617-7252



THAI HOUSE
9 META DRIVE | 687-3373

ASIAN

CHINESE KITCHEN Eat-in or take-out Chinese food. Choose combination meals with one, two or three choices. 4200 W. Illinois Ave. 694-3922 | $ | 3 spoons

FUJIYAMA SUSHI & MORE Offerring an array of fresh seafood many West Texans don't normally have access to, this Japanese restaurant offers exotic fare such as tempura soft shell crab for an appetizer and traditional dishes including fried rice and teppanyaki. Desserts include fried ice cream. A variety of Japanese beers, wines and, of course, sake are also on the menu. 4410 N. Midkiff Road, Suite A-1 727-469-7693 www.fujiyamasushi.net | $ | 4 spoons

GENGHIS GRILL With a buffet that consists of countless raw ingredients to pile into a bowl and hand over for a chef to cook, the food at Genghis Grill is as good as you can make it. If you're knowledgeable in what spices complement what meats, veggies and sauces — or if you're just lucky — count on a great meal. For the not-so-confident, the restaurant offers recipe cards to guide your selections. 4517 Midkiff Road 520-5426 www.genghisgrill.com | $$ | 3 spoons

GRAND BUFFET Extensive "all-you-can-eat" Asian buffet includes hodgepodge of options including Chinese dishes, salads, seafood, jell-o, fried okra, sushi and a Mongolian grill station. 2510 W. Louisiana Ave. 688-8881 | $ | 2 spoons

THE GREAT WALL Chinese takeout restaurant offers large portions from extensive menu. Try the General Tso's chicken with sesame shrimp and add an order of egg rolls or spring rolls. 2215 N. Midland Drive 694-5555 | $ | 3 spoons

KING & I Authentic Thai food served at in the heart of Midland. Try the basil fried rice or Popcorn's special with angel hair pasta, green onions, white onions, tomatoes, broccoli, garlic and jalapenos. There's a reason the lunch crowd is often standing-room-only at the original location near downtown. It's worth the wait. 801 N. Big Spring St. | $ | 4 spoons

KUO'S CHINESE RESTAURANT Friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. Try the cashew chicken or Mongolian steak with a fried cream cheese wonton. 3303 N. Midkiff Rd., Suite 152 697-8888 | $ | 4 spoons

MOON GARDEN Try one of the lunch specials like broccoli with garlic sauce or kung pao shrimp. The Chinese restaurant is housed in what used to be a Red Lobster — just in case you were wondering about the nautical decor. 2319 W. Loop 250 N. 570-1165 or 685-3012 | $ | 2 spoons

OSAKA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SEAFOOD Try steak, chicken or seafood grilled at Teppan Yaki tables or sushi with fresh seafood. Locations in Midland and Odessa. 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 617-7252 www.my-osaka.com | $$ | 4 spoons.

SHOGUN RESTAURANT Japanese steak house that's been serving Midlanders for more than 20 years. Watch your food being cooked on the Teppan Yaki tables after you enjoy cucumber and shrimp salad and soup. Lunch prices are very reasonable, be prepared to splurge for dinner. 4610 N. Garfield St. 570-8888 | $$ | 4 spoons

TASTE OF CHINA SUPER BUFFET All-you-can-eat buffet or order from menu. Senior citizen discount and children 3 and younger eat free. 4400 N. Big Spring St., #53. 684-5288 | $ | 2 spoons

THAI HOUSE Strip-center kitchen offering classic Thai and Chinese dishes in a modest, straightforward setting. 9 Meta Dr. 687-3373 | $ | 2 spoons

MARTINEZ BAKERY
206 W. FLORIDA AVE. | 683-3100

TONY'S BAKERY
1108 N. BIG SPRING ST. | 570-4166

DESSERT, BAKERY & SPECIALTIES

BASKIN ROBBINS The national chain has two locations in Midland with its patented 32 flavors and a whole lot more, including some of the best ice cream cakes ever, whuch you can order online. 2101 W. Wadley Ave. 682-7131 and 5400 Briarwood Ave. 679-0789 www.baskinrobbins.com | $ | 4 spoons

BREW STREET BAKERY Customer service is lagging, according to one online review but the baked goods at the end of the line are worth the wait. Menu also boasts premium coffee, craft beer and wine. 4610 N Garfield St. 218-7334 | $ | 4 spoons

CABIN CREEK COFFEE & TEA The former Tea2Go has changed its name but is still under the same ownership, offering most of the same loose leaf tea drinks and adding specialty coffee drinks using beans from the Big Bend Roasting Company and a variety of fruit smoothies. 2900 W. Loop 250 N., Ste 60 | 689-5451 | $ | 4 spoons

MARTINEZ BAKERY Walls lined with self-serve bakery cases filled with cookies. Also serves "super tortas" (Mexican sandwiches) with chicken, brisket or ham. 206 E. Florida Ave. 683-3100; 683-2278 | $ | 4 spoons

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES Choose from 10 flavors and 40 unique cake designs while you browse thier unique gifts, charming cards and inspired decorator items. 3211 W. Wadley Ave., #22 A. 689-0060. | $$$ | 5 spoons

SWENSEN'S One menu for sandwiches, burgers, patty melts and salads and an entirely separate full menu for ice cream. Try the sourdough cheeseburger for a meal and an outrageous sundae such as the hot fudge banana split for dessert. If you're too full for dessert, get a pint to go. Friendly service and a clean atmosphere. 900 W. Loop 250 N. 570-7271 www.swensons.com | $ | 4 spoons

TCBY One of the nation's biggest frozen yogurt chains has long been a Midland favorite. Everything's good, but we recommend the peanut butter cup and bananas foster flavors. 5115 W. Wadley Ave. 520-8597 www.tcby.com/ | $ | 4 spoons

TONY'S BAKERY Order petit fours or a cake for your next party or stop to browse the bakery items for a quick snack. Also try the sandwiches for breakfast or lunch. 1108 N. Big Spring St. 570-4166 | $ | 4 spoons

No. 10 Louisville outlasts No. 6 Kentucky 73-70

By Gary B. Graves
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Quentin Snider scored a career-high 22 points, including a key drive with 1:44 remaining, and Jaylen Johnson and Donovan Mitchell combined for four points in the final 16 seconds to help No. 10 Louisville beat No. 6 Kentucky 73-70 on Wednesday night in the 50th battle for Bluegrass bragging rights.

After managing just two rebounds in 28 minutes last year in Lexington, Snider rebounded with 10-of-19 shooting to help the Cardinals earn a signature win against their in-state rival. But he needed help down the stretch with Johnson's layup with 16 seconds left and Mitchell's two free throws with 8 seconds left for a three-point edge that helped end a four-game losing streak in the series.

Malik Monk's 3-point attempt to tie for Kentucky bounced off the front of the rim with 3 seconds left, and Deng Adel grabbed the rebound to seal the win for Louisville (11-1).

The tense ending was fitting in a thriller that featured 10 ties and nine lead changes between foes located about 80 miles apart.

De'Aaron Fox led Kentucky (10-2) with 21 points while Monk had 16 a game after scoring a freshman-record 47 against North Carolina.

The big picture

Kentucky: The Wildcats played their normal fast pace and got needed contributions from Derek Willis to weather the final 8:52 of the first half with Monk sidelined by two fouls.

Louisville: Snider and Adel (season-best 18 points) provided big first-half lifts for Louisville, which shot 47 percent from the field while holding Kentucky to 39 percent.

Poll implications

Kentucky: The Wildcats remain a Top 10 team but could drop a couple of spots with the loss. Louisville followed up Top 10 status with the signature victory it sought against a rival that had owned the series and could move up in the Top 10.

Up next

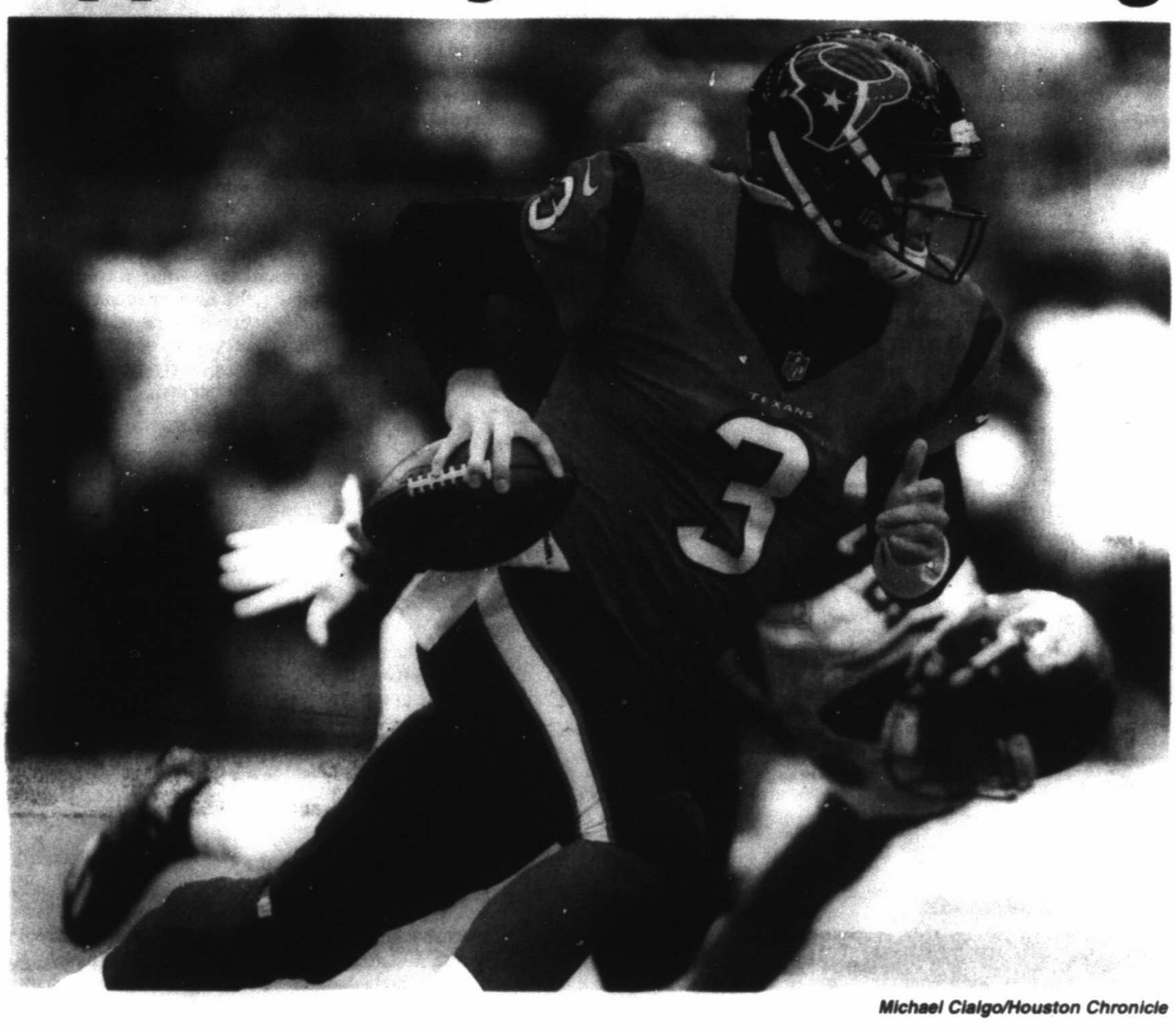
Kentucky: Begins defense of its SEC championship on Dec. 29 at Mississippi.

Louisville: Hosts No. 12 Virginia on Dec. 28 in the ACC opener for both schools.

Associated Press

Kentucky's De'Aaron Fox (0) puts up a shot over the defense of Louisville's Jaylen Johnson (10) during the first half of a game, Wednesday in Louisville, KY.

Opportunity comes rushing



Michael Ciaglo/Houston Chronicle

Houston Texans quarterback Tom Savage (3) runs out of the pocket during the second quarter at NRG Stadium on Sunday in Houston.

Savage gets another shot when Texans host Bengals

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tom Savage has been waiting for another chance with the Houston Texans after struggling when he got a shot as a rookie in 2014.

On Saturday, he'll get it when he makes his first NFL start against the Cincinnati Bengals after the Texans decided to relegate Brock Osweiler to a backup .

Savage had appeared in just one game when Ryan Fitzpatrick broke his leg in the second quarter of a game against the Indianapolis Colts on Dec. 14, 2014.

He finished 10 of 19 for 127 yards, but botched a handoff which led to a fumble and threw an interception in the 17-10 loss.

Although that game was more than two years ago, he was still thinking about it when he came in for Osweiler in the second quarter Sunday against the Jaguars.

"No doubt," he said. "Because, as a competitor, you want to go out there and that's what those guys deserved. And they deserved it that year when I went in as a rookie to go in there and be prepared. And I wasn't going to make that mistake again."

That game was his last regular-season appearance after a knee injury in it ended his 2014 season and he spent all of 2015 on the injured reserve with a shoulder injury.

So when he took the field with Houston trailing 13-0, he was determined to atone for how he performed the previous time he played a game that mattered.

He was able to do that, throwing for 260 yards to help the Texans rally for a 21-20 victory that kept them in the driver's seat in the AFC South with two games left.

"I think he took advantage of his year last year when he was on injured reserve," coach Bill O'Brien said. "He prepped every week ... like he was going to play, even though he was on injured reserve. When he was able to get back to throwing, he did a lot of those things on his own. He worked on footwork. He's a much improved player, relative to that time when he played as a rookie."

Savage also discussed how much he's grown since he was thrown into action as a rookie and is looking forward to proving what he can do in his first full NFL game.

"Absolutely, because at a young time in my career, I learned that this opportunity can be taken away from you pretty quick," he said. "Injuries happen, so that's why this week, I'm just going to enjoy this opportunity and go out there and have some fun with the guys and just let it rip and see what happens."

He's glad that he has last week's experience under his belt and believes getting all of the snaps in practice this week will help him be better prepared on Saturday.

The Texans are hoping that Savage helps revive a passing game which struggled under the direction of Osweiler .

The former Denver quarterback failed to live up to expectations in 14 starts this season after signing a $72 million contract in the offseason. Houston's passing game ranks 30th in the NFL by

Please see SAVAGE/2C

McLemore hired as Big Spring coach, athletic director

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Big Spring ISD on Wednesday officially hired Mitch McLemore as its new head football coach and athletic director.

McLemore is replacing Clint Finley, who parted ways with the Steers' program after going 0-9 in 2016, his only season in Big Spring.

McLemore

McLemore served the previous three seasons as the head football coach and athletic director at Class 2A Division I Junction High School, where he went 18-17 overall and 10-6 in district play during that span.

Big Spring is McLemore's second head coaching job. Prior to his stint in Junction, he served as defensive coordinator at Stamford — about 45 miles directly north of Abilene — from 2005-13. There, he helped coach the Bulldogs to back-to-back Class 1A Division I state titles in 2012 and 2013.

McLemore told the Reporter-Telegram on Wednesday that he had interviewed for the Big Spring vacancy left by former head coach Phillip Ritchey prior to the start of last season. Finley was hired instead and McLemore returned to Junction for what would be his final year with the Eagles.

A year later, he said Big Spring was still both a logical and comfortable choice for he and his family. He added that he was drawn to the Steers for their history of success, the general fervor for football in the area, as well as the friendly community.

"I grew up in North Central Texas as a coach's son and we've been around in some places that could be considered West Texas," McLemore said. "The people and the passion for football in West Texas is phenomenal. Big Spring has had a lot of success in past years. They've got some good kids coming up, I've heard. It was just right.

"It reminds me of Stamford. (Big Spring) just feels like home. Once we touched base again this year, it just fell into place."

McLemore is set to take over a young Steers' program that went winless for the first time since 2011. Big Spring played in a difficult District 3-4A Division I that includes Class 4A state finalist Abilene Wylie, Brownwood and a usually competitive Stephenville.

But McLemore carries with him a

Please see MCLEMORE/2C

Stoops: RB Mixon would be off Sooners had punch been in 2016

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said Wednesday that Joe Mixon would be off the team if he had punched a woman now instead of 2 1/2 years ago, when he suspended the star running back for a year in a move that has drawn sharp criticism.

Mixon

Mixon was suspended after punching Oklahoma student Amelia Molitor in 2014. Mixon returned last year and helped the Sooners reach the College Football Playoff, and he has been a standout again this year for No. 7 Oklahoma.

In reversing course, Stoops said he believed that the then-18-year-old Mixon could redeem himself. He said times have changed, and society now has a no-tolerance policy on domestic violence incidents. He said that's a good thing.

"Two-and-a-half-years later, dismissal is really the only thing that is possible," Stoops said. "A young guy having an opportunity to rehabilitate and to have some kind of discipline and come back from it is really not there anymore. Hopefully, that message goes down even to the high school level, that these things are just unacceptable to any degree."

Mixon entered an Alford plea at the time, acknowledging there was likely enough evidence to convict him of misdemeanor assault while still asserting his innocence. He did not serve jail time and was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and undergo counseling.

In video released Tuesday, Mixon sat stone-faced as he, his mother and police officers watched footage of him knocking out Molitor with a punch, breaking her jaw and cheekbone, at a local restaurant.

The video of Mixon telling his side of the story three days after the July 2014 incident was released by Norman police. His mother, members of his legal team, Detective David Freudiger and Sgt. Gary Schmidt were in the room. The department released the video less than a week after Mixon's attorneys released video showing the attack.

Stoops said he was shaken by the video of the punch.

"It was horrible," he said. "I hated it. Disliked it as — I hated it as much as anybody did. Absolutely."

Stoops said the length of time it took for the video of the punch to come out created problems.

"We expected that video to be released within a week or two or three weeks or within that month," he said. "We had no idea it would go this long, and that is out of our hands, as well. The timeline of it all has not worked

Please see MIXON/2C

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Colorado State vs. Idaho, 6 p.m., ESPN

CRICKET

Big Bash: Sydney Sixers vs. Hobart Hurricanes, 1 a.m., NBCSN

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at Oklahoma State, Noon, FSN (FSSW, FSSW+)

Central Arkansas at Arizona State, 1 p.m., P12, P12 AZ

Tulsa vs. Stephen F. Austin, 3:30 p.m., ESPNU

UNC Greensboro at Georgetown, 5:30 p.m., FS1

San Diego State vs. Southern Miss, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Yale at Temple, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Morehead State at Mississippi State, 6 p.m., SEC

Furman at Michigan, 6 p.m., BTN

Marshall at Cincinnati, 6 p.m., CBSSN

La Salle at Mercer, 6 p.m., SNY

Winthrop at St. Louis, 7 p.m., FCSA

DePaul vs. Wyoming, 7:30 p.m., FS1

Eastern Washington at Colorado, 7:30 p.m., P12, P12 Mtn

UNC Asheville at Ohio State, 8 p.m., ESPN2

LSU at Wake Forest, 8 p.m., ESPNU

South Alabama at Ole Miss, 8 p.m., SEC

Delaware State at Iowa, 8 p.m., BTN

Kansas at UNLV, 8 p.m., CBSSN

Cal State Bakersfield at BYU, 8 p.m., BYUtv

Idaho at Stanford, 9:30 p.m., P12, P12 BAY

USC vs. Missouri State, 10 p.m., FS1

Utah vs. San Francisco, 10 p.m., ESPNU

Illinois State vs. Hawaii, 12:30 a.m., ESPN2

MEN'S SOCCER

Italian Serie A: AS Roma vs. AC ChievoVerona, 1:40 p.m., beIN

Copa del Rey: Athletic vs. Racing Santander, 1:50 p.m., beIN2

Superliga Portuguesa: Belenenses vs. Sporting CP, 2:50 p.m., UDN

Liga MX- La Gran Final, Leg 1: Club America vs. Tigres UANL, 8:20 p.m., UNIV, UDN

National Basketball Association

LA Lakers at Miami, 7 p.m., TNT

San Antonio at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

NFL

NY Giants at Philadelphia, 7:25 p.m., NBC, NBCU, NFL

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Washington at BYU, 3 p.m., BYUtv

ON RADIO

NBA

San Antonio at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lubbock Trinity at Midland Christian, 5:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

MINNESOTA TWINS — Named Jeff Smith first base coach and Jeff Pickler major league coach and coordinator of major league development.

TEXAS RANGERS — Claimed LHP David Rollins off waivers from Philadelphia. Designated RHP Yyrail Jenkins for assignment.

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Named Dr. Gary M Lourie team physician and Jordan Wolf performance therapist. Promoted Bradford Scott sports performance coach.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Named Jeremy Rodriguez manager and Connor McGuiness pitching coach for Great Lakes (MWL); Mark Kertamian manager for Ogden (Pioneer) and Keyter Collado and Austin Chubb managers for the Dominican Summer League teams.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Designated RHP Brady Dragmire for assignment.

American Association

ST PAUL SAINTS — Signed INF Nate Hanson.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed OL Cornelius Edison to the practice squad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed DB Trey Caldwell from the practice squad. Waived DB Tree Elston.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Activated QB Jacoby Brissett from injured reserve. Released DL Woodrow Hamilton.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed OL Andrew Gardner to a one-year contract. Waived OL Josh Allen.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed WR Bernard Reedy from the practice squad. Placed WR Dontera Dye on injured reserve. Signed WR Kendrick Ings to the practice squad.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed CB D'Joun Smith from the practice squad. Placed DL Karl Klug on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

DETROIT RED WINGS — Placed G Jimmy Howard on the seven-day injured reserve list. Called up G Jared Coreau from Grand Rapids (AHL).

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Signed F Stephen Gionta to a one-year contract and recalled him from Bridgeport (AHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled G Kristers Gudlevskis from Syracuse (AHL).

American Hockey League

GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS — Called up G Cal Heeter from Toledo (ECHL).

ECHL

READING ROYALS — Activated F Johnny McInnis. Announced G Martin Ouellette was recalled by Lehigh Valley (AHL).

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

ATLANTA UNITED — Signed M Jacob Peterson to a multiyear contract.

National Women's Soccer League

WASHINGTON SPIRIT — Signed M Havana Solaun to a one-year contract.

COLLEGE

NCAA — Fined Baylor $5,000 and banned two assistant football coaches from off-campus recruiting for a 12-week period after the assistant coaches committed recruiting and other NCAA violations in 2015.

ELON — Announced the resignation of football coach Rich Skrosky to assume a position on the football staff at Florida International.

EMORY & HENRY — Announced the resignation of assistant football coach Timmy Chang to assume a position on the football staff at Nevada.

IOWA — Announced WR Matt VandeBerg was granted an extra year of eligibility through a medical hardship waiver.

JAMES MADISON — Suspended WR Terrence Alls and LB Brandon Hereford indefinitely for violating the school's standards of conduct.

NOTRE DAME — Named Mike Elko defensive coordinator.

OHIO STATE — Named Bill Davis defensive assistant football coach.

ST PETER'S — Fired athletic director Belinda Pearman. Named David Bryngo interim athletic director.

TEXAS A&M — Suspended WR Speedy Noil after he was charged with misdemeanor drug possession.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
Montreal	32	21	7	4	46	101	70
Ottawa	33	19	11	3	41	86	88
Boston	34	17	14	3	37	80	83
Tampa Bay	33	16	14	3	35	95	92
Florida	33	15	13	5	35	81	90
Buffalo	31	12	11	8	32	69	83
Detroit	33	14	15	4	32	73	93
Toronto	31	12	12	7	31	87	94
Metropolitan Division							
Pittsburgh	33	21	7	5	47	116	92
N.Y. Rangers	35	23	11	1	47	115	82
Columbus	30	21	5	4	46	101	63
Philadelphia	35	20	11	4	44	110	104
Washington	31	19	8	4	42	83	69
Carolina	31	13	11	7	33	82	87
New Jersey	32	12	13	7	31	75	98
N.Y. Islanders	32	12	14	6	30	85	101
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	35	22	9	4	48	101	84
Minnesota	31	19	8	4	42	91	60
St. Louis	34	18	11	5	41	96	98
Nashville	32	15	12	5	35	94	90
Dallas	34	13	14	7	33	86	104
Winnipeg	35	15	17	3	33	91	104
Colorado	31	11	19	1	23	65	99
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	33	20	12	1	41	84	73
Edmonton	34	17	12	5	39	100	92
Anaheim	34	17	12	5	39	95	97
Calgary	35	17	16	2	36	90	102
Los Angeles	32	16	13	3	35	81	81
Vancouver	33	14	16	3	31	84	101
Arizona	32	11	16	5	27	72	101

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

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Scores

Philadelphia 3, Washington 2, SO

Edmonton at Arizona, late

Today's Games

Pittsburgh at Columbus, 6 p.m.

Carolina at Buffalo, 6 p.m.

Philadelphia at New Jersey, 6 p.m.

Anaheim at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.

Boston at Florida, 6:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.

St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles at Nashville, 7 p.m.

Toronto at Colorado, 8 p.m.

Winnipeg at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

NFL GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
y-New England	12	2	0	.857	366	233
Miami	9	5	0	.643	315	314
Buffalo	7	7	0	.500	356	314
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0	.286	242	358
South						
Houston	8	6	0	.571	250	294
Tennessee	8	6	0	.571	340	323
Indianapolis	7	7	0	.500	362	339
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	260	359
North						
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	.643	341	276
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	306	283
Cincinnati	5	8	1	.393	288	293
Cleveland	0	14	0	.000	220	408
West						
x-Oakland	11	3	0	.786	377	336
Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	319	274
Denver	8	6	0	.571	299	258
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	366	366
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
x-Dallas	12	2	0	.857	366	258
N.Y. Giants	10	4	0	.714	272	250
Washington	7	6	1	.536	345	343
Philadelphia	5	9	0	.357	316	299
South						
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	469	359
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	313	322
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	406	392
Carolina	6	8	0	.429	337	352
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	301	285
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	363	339
Minnesota	7	7	0	.500	264	259
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	248	320
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Seattle	9	4	1	.679	298	235
Arizona	5	8	1	.393	340	325
Los Angeles	4	10	0	.286	197	328
San Francisco	1	13	0	.071	264	434

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Scores and schedules

Monday's Score

Carolina 26, Washington 15

Today's Game

N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 7:25 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Atlanta at Carolina, noon

Washington at Chicago, noon

N.Y. Jets at New England, noon

San Diego at Cleveland, noon

Miami at Buffalo, noon

Tennessee at Jacksonville, noon

Minnesota at Green Bay, noon

Indianapolis at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.

Arizona at Seattle, 3:25 p.m.

Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 3:25 p.m.

San Francisco at Los Angeles, 3:25 p.m.

Cincinnati at Houston, 7:25 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 3:30 p.m.

Denver at Kansas City, 7:30 p.m.

SKI REPORT

New Mexico

Angel Fire — Wed 5:58 am MG machine groomed 16 - 21 base 13 of 78 trails 17% open, 5 of 7 lifts, Mon-Thu: 9a-4p; Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Pajarito — Wed 5:41 am MG machine groomed 15 - 20 base 3 of 44 trails, 7% open 2 of 7 lifts, am Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Dec 25-27: 9a-4p Jan 02: 9a-4p;

Red River — Tue 10:55 am variable machine groomed 24 - 24 base 27 of 58 trails 47% open, 5 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Sandia Peak — Plan to Open 12/23

Sipapu — Wed 6:09 am MG machine groomed 12 - 24 base 15 of 42 trails, 36% open 4 of 6 lifts, am Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Ski Apache — Tue 12:36 pm MG machine groomed 31 - 31 base 2 of 53 trails

Eagles standing in way of Giants' clinching playoff berth

By Rob Maadi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — All the New York Giants have to do to secure a playoff berth is beat a struggling division rival headed nowhere.

Manning

That's no simple task in front of a hostile crowd and a national audience.

There's plenty at stake when the Giants (10-4) visit Philadelphia (5-9) on Thursday night. A victory would secure New York's first playoff berth since 2011 and also keep pressure on NFC East-leading Dallas (12-2).

But prime-time games in Philly have been tough on the Giants lately. They lost 27-0 on a Sunday night in 2014, and 27-7 on a Monday night in 2015.

"I've been called every name in the book in Philly, but you have to embrace it," wide receiver Odell Beckham, Jr. said. "They don't want to see you win. It is a pretty ruthless place down there."

The Eagles have lost five straight games and they're 2-9 since a 3-0 start, but six of those losses were one-score games. Among them was a 28-23 loss to the Giants on Nov. 6.

Eli Manning nearly gave that game away. The Eagles had four chances to score the winning touchdown from the Giants 17 in the final minutes after Jordan Hicks made an acrobatic interception of Manning's pass. However, Carson Wentz threw four straight incomplete passes .

"We're in all these close games," Wentz said. "To come up short time and time again, that (stinks). It's tough and there are things we keep saying we have to learn from. At the end of the day, we have to find a way to win these ballgames."

They also want to prevent the Giants from celebrating in their house. Last year, the Cardinals and Redskins clinched playoff berths in consecutive games at the Linc.

"There is motivation to definitely make sure that that playoff spot isn't clinched here in Philly if we can control it," safety Malcolm Jenkins said.

More things to watch for when the Eagles try to spoil things for the Giants:

BACK IN THE LANE: Eagles right tackle Lane Johnson returns after serving a 10-game suspension for violating the league's performance enhancing drugs policy. The team was 2-8 without him and used four guys to fill his spot. Halapoulivaati Vaitai, Matt Tobin, Allen Barbre and Isaac Seumalo each had a turn.

"I feel like a lot of things could have happened differently with the season," Johnson said. "I'm not saying one player could do that much, but I feel like I could have helped the team in a lot of different ways."

ON JOB TRAINING: The Giants have some rookies playing important roles on offense. Wide receivers Sterling Shepard and Roger Lewis and running back Paul Perkins are gaining valuable experience and making an impact.

"We prepare for these situations and they'll step up and make plays when we need them to," Manning said. "When you get into the second half of the season, you need those rookies to step up and have a greater role. They're not really rookies anymore. You can't have the mistakes. They know what they're doing and they have to play well.

NCAA: Baylor penalized for recruiting violations

Associated Press

WACO — Baylor has been fined $5,000 for NCAA football recruiting violations, the latest blow for a program trying to pick up the pieces from a sexual assault scandal and struggles on the field.

The NCAA announced the punishment Wednesday after an investigation found that assistant football coaches violated NCAA rules in spring 2015. The penalties were not severe, with the NCAA accepting most of the school's self-imposed punishments, including banning two assistants from off-campus recruiting for 12 weeks and game suspensions that have already been served.

Two assistants had been advised of recruiting rules but still tried to find loopholes that would allow them more interaction with football prospects, according to the NCAA.

In one instance, a coach asked at a campus compliance session if the football staff could attend a track meet but turn their backs when a prospect they were evaluating was competing so they could avoid having to log an evaluation of the athlete, the NCAA said. The school's compliance office said this was permissible but the NCAA panel that investigated the infractions found the counsel was "ill-advised at best."

"It is disappointing that the university's coaching staff was more interested in finding loopholes to exploit the rules instead of trying to follow the rules," said Greg Christopher, chief hearing officer for the infractions panel and athletic director at Xavier. "After we reviewed facts of the case, we determined a fine plus the self-imposed recruiting penalties appropriately addressed the violations."

McLEMORE

From 1C

recent track record of success as a head coach.

Junction made the playoffs in each of McLemore's three seasons as head coach. The Eagles fell, 77-12 in the area round of this year's playoffs to eventual Class 2A Division I state champion Refugio. They also advanced to the area round in 2015 and lost in the bi-district round in 2014.

McLemore said his goal is to come into the Steers' program and not only gain the trust of the coaches and players, but also to provide some fresh energy. He said he wants to find that balance of working hard with truly loving the game.

"The biggest thing is you've got to have a great offseason to compete at any level," McLemore said. "But you've also got to have fun. We've got to enjoy what we're doing and feed off that energy. The kids feed off that energy. When they see that you're interested they'll give you a shot and that's when you've got to grab the bull by the horns."

Mclemore said he plans on running a spread offense and a multiple stack '3-3' defense with the Steers. He hasn't yet made any decisions on the state of Big Spring's remaining coaching staff and said he wasn't sure if he would bring any of his assistants from Junction with him.

Calls to BISD Superintendent Chris Wigington went unreturned Wednesday.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT

MIXON

From 1C

out very well for anybody."

In the video released by police on Tuesday, Mixon said a friend of Molitor's blew smoke in his face unintentionally, and Mixon stood to avoid the smoke. He then said Molitor walked up and intentionally blew smoke in his face. He told teammate Michiah Quick that Molitor was being "hella disrespectful" for blowing the smoke in his face.

According to Mixon, Molitor was rude to several of Mixon's teammates, including tight end Mark Andrews.

Later, Mixon said the male with Molitor called him a racial slur, and Mixon responded with a homosexual slur. Mixon said Molitor dropped her purse and hit him. He then said he lunged at her and said "Watch out." He said she hit him again, hard enough for his face to start ringing, and he slugged her.

"I was shocked because she hit me so hard," he said. "It felt like a dude hit me."

Mixon admitted to police he should have left the situation alone before it escalated, but once the racial slur was used, he lost focus. He said after he punched her, his thought was, "What I got myself into?" and said he thought about how he got himself into a "stupid situation" and started thinking about his future. Video shows him leaving the restaurant quickly after the punch.

Stoops said Mixon has been struggling since video of the punch was released as the Sooners prepared for the Jan. 2 Sugar Bowl against Auburn.

"He's been really down, for sure," Stoops said. "He's deeply affected by it. Knew he would be. But his teammates are picking him up, and he's been a great teammate to them, and they're giving it back to him."

SAVAGE

From 1C

averaging just 198.4 yards a game.

There's reason to believe that things will be better under Savage after his 260 yards in 2 1/2 quarters on Sunday were better than all but two of Osweiler's starts this season.

Osweiler had also failed to take care of the ball and the two interceptions that precipitated his benching on Sunday gave him 16 this season with just 14 touchdowns.

Offensive coordinator George Godsey had plenty of praise for Savage on Wednesday.

"He's a real good thrower of the football, in layman's terms," Godsey said.

"Does a good job of really practicing with his core fundamentals and technique. If he's throwing with defenders in his face, we don't really want to do that every play, but if it does present itself, he's still got to be an accurate passer."

O'Brien has loved what he's seen from Savage this week since giving him the news that he would start as the Texans look to clinch their second consecutive AFC South title, and the coach can't wait to see what his new quarterback can do.

"He's a confident guy. I think he has good poise," O'Brien said. "He's the same guy every day ... he's got the personality for the spot that he's in right now and we're all looking forward to seeing him play and take advantage of his opportunity."

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION'S
UPCOMING EVENTS

Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Party
Dec. 31st at DoubleTree 7-1
Casino games, dinner, dancing, prizes, and a complimentary champagne toast to ring in 2017

PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG/EVENTS FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION

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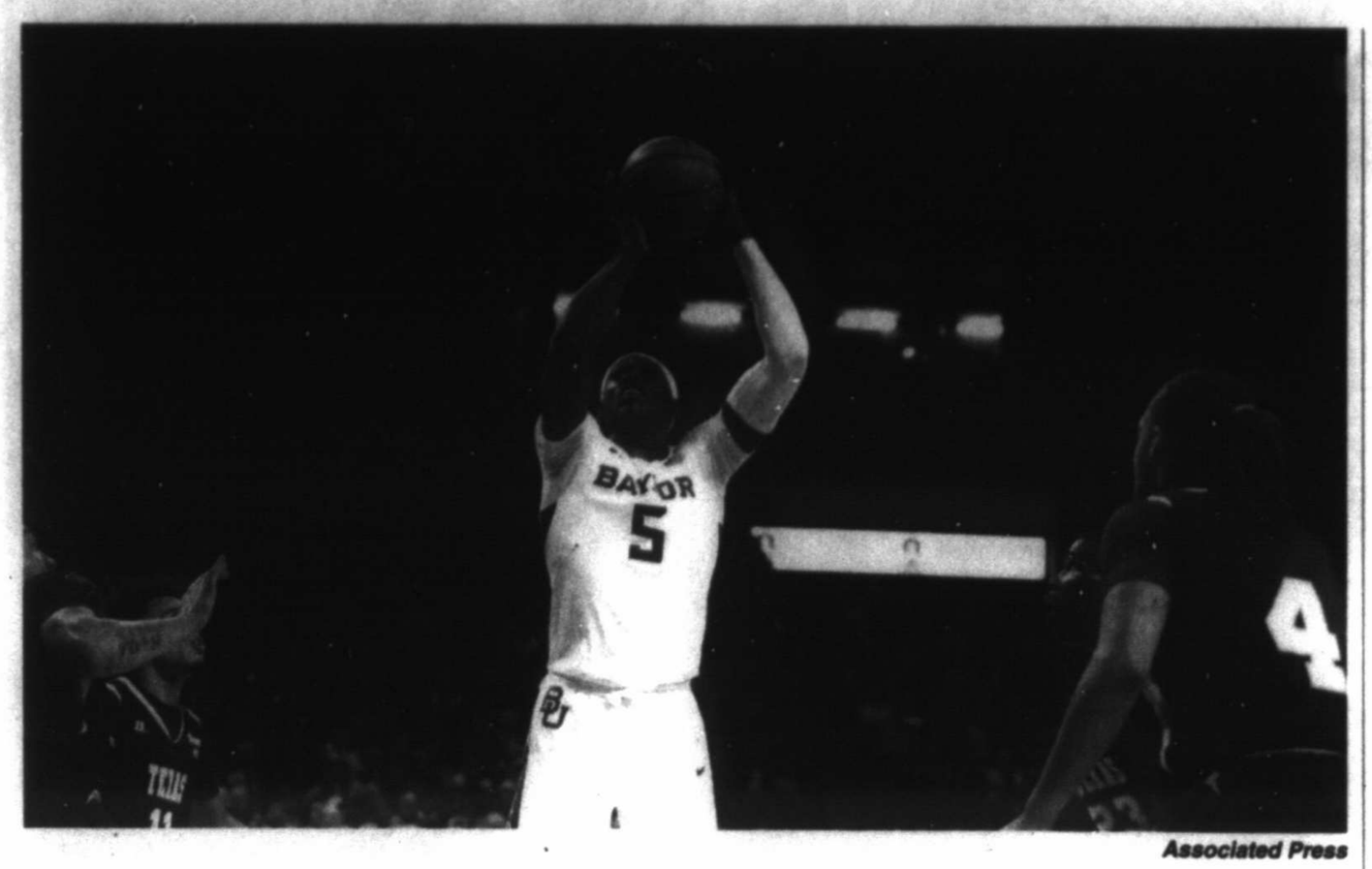
Chato is a calm 8 yo Pit Mix who came to us when his owner had to move out of the country. He is available for our Senior to Senior Program which offers waived adoption fees on pets 5+ years old to approved senior citizens.



Associated Press

Baylor forward Johnathan Motley (5) shoots a free throw during the first half of a game against Texas Southern Wednesday in Waco.

No. 4 Baylor cruises by Texas Southern

Associated Press

WACO — Johnathan Motley had 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead five double-digit scorers, and No: 4 Baylor finished its perfect run through nonconference play with a 89-63 victory over Texas Southern on Wednesday night.

The Bears (12-0) shot 59 percent from the field, including 8 for 14 from 3-point range.

Kevin Scott was 7 for 8 for 15 points to lead the Tigers (4-9), who have dropped eight straight. Their last win was a 67-56 decision against James Madison on Nov. 21.

Jo Lual-Acuil had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Baylor, while Manu Lecomte added 14 points and a team-best seven assists. Terry Maston and Al Freeman put in 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Baylor used an 18-1 run in the first half to take control at 25-7, and Texas Southern never got back within single digits.

Big picture

Texas Southern: The Tigers have four players averaging double figures for the season in Demontrae Jefferson, Zach Lofton, Derrick Griffin and Dulani Robinson. Only Jefferson managed double figures with 10 points, but he was held scoreless in the first half and was 4 for 18 from the field.

Baylor: The Bears have played a soft schedule since a 76-61 win over then-No. 7 Xavier on Dec. 3, but they haven't let that affect their focus. Their 21 assists and balanced scoring showed their willingness to share the ball, and their length on defense frustrated Texas Southern shooters on the perimeter to a 5-for-20 effort from beyond the arc.

Texas Tech beats Longwood for 11-1 start

By Phil Terrigno
Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Anthony Livingston led Texas Tech with 19 points and six assists in a 91-60 romp over Longwood Wednesday, helping the Red Raiders surge to their second consecutive 11-1 start.

Zach Smith added 15 points and 12 rebounds for Texas Tech (11-1). Aaron Ross finished with 14 points and Keenan Evans had 11. The Red Raiders shot 55 percent from the floor and outrebounded the Lancers 42-18.

Chris Shields paced Longwood with 15 points. Khris Lane scored 12 points and Isaiah Walton added 11.

Longwood (3-8), which has not beaten a Big 12 team since a 2013 win over Texas Christian, endued a scoreless stretch of more than four minutes late in the first half and trailed 43-25 at halftime.

By intermission, Longwood hadn't attempted a free throw and it committed 10 turnovers to Texas Tech's three.

This season, Texas Tech has consistently won the points off turnover margin and bested Longwood in that area, 20-3.

Big picture

Longwood: The Lancers, who have won once in December, dressed eight scholarship players. Damarion Geter, Jahleem Montague and Juan Munoz were out with injuries and Kendrick Thompson was out due to non-disciplinary personal reasons.

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders frontcourt is back to full strength. At some point this season, forwards Smith, Norense Odiase and Ross were all out with injury.

TEXASCOLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

TEXAS A&M 81
SAINT FRANCIS 58

COLLEGE STATION — D.J. Hogg scored 15 points and fellow sophomore Tyler Davis added 14 as Texas A&M defeated Saint Francis (Pa.) 81-58 on Wednesday night.

The Aggies (8-3) led 46-19 at halftime and kept their overwhelmed opponent from Loretto, Pennsylvania, at bay the rest of the way in cruising to the 23-point victory. Five A&M players scored in double digits, with Admon Gilder, J.C. Hampton and Robert Williams adding 10 points each.

TEXAS 96
UAB 60

AUSTIN — Tevin Mack scored 18 points, helping Texas defeat Alabama-Birmingham 96-60 on Wednesday night.

Freshmen Jarrett Allen and Andrew Jones scored 16 apiece for Texas (6-5), and Kendal Yancy added 14.

Dirk Williams led UAB (6-6) with 13 points.

Texas converted 12 of 29 3-point attempts and all 12 of its free throws.

HOUSTON 77
LIBERTY 54

HOUSTON — Damyean Dotson and Rob Gray scored 22 points each and Houston pulled away from Liberty in the second half to beat the Flames 77-54 on Wednesday night.

Dotson added 10 rebounds for his fourth double-double this season and 10th of his career. Gray turned in his seventh 20-point game this season and 14th in his career.

Wes Van Beck added 13 points and Danrad Knowles 10 for the Cougars (9-2), who have won three straight and four of their last five.

Houston, which led by one at halftime, used a 20-2 run over 6 1/2 minutes to break the game open, 72-52, with four minutes to go. Dotson had nine of his second-half points in the run.

Liberty did not have a field goal over the final 10:58 of the game, scoring only on a pair of free throws.

Ryan Kemrite had 15 points and Lovell Cabbil 14 for the Flames (5-8).

Women

TEXAS A&M 105
NO. 19 SYRACUSE 84

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Danni Williams scored 30 points, Khaalia Hillsman added 25 and Texas A&M beat No. 19 Syracuse 105-84 on Wednesday in the Florida Sunshine Tournament.

It was Texas A&M's first 100-plus-point game against a ranked opponent in school history.

TOP25ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

NO. 5 DUKE 72
ELON 61

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Luke Kennard scored 21 points while Duke star Grayson Allen received a technical foul for his third tripping incident in a year.

Duke (12-1) trailed 35-34 at halftime before rallying for its 10th straight win in its final game before starting Atlantic Coast Conference play.

Allen was whistled with 4:15 left in the first half after getting tangled with a driving Steven Santa Ana, sending Santa Ana to the floor. Officials reviewed replays that showed Allen kicking his right leg up and catching the back of Santa Ana's left knee.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski pulled Allen for the rest of the half. Allen finished with three points on 1-of-8 shooting.

NO. 8 NORTH CAROLINA 85
NORTHERN IOWA 42

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Kennedy Meeks scored 10 of his 18 points during North Carolina's dominant second half.

Justin Jackson added 12 points while Joel Berry II and Isaiah Hicks finished with 11 apiece for the Tar Heels (11-2).

Women

NO. 8 LOUISVILLE 78
VANDERBILT 66

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Myisha Hines-Allen had a double-double by halftime and finished with 24 points and a career-high 15 rebounds as Louisville beat Vanderbilt

Hines-Allen had 12 rebounds and hit six of her first eight shots in helping Louisville (12-2) win its sixth straight. The Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year last season and preseason pick to repeat notched her third double-double in the past seven games.

Asia Durr added 16 points for the Cardinals.

Rachel Bell scored 21 points as Vanderbilt (10-2) saw its nine-game winning streak end.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

Men

SOUTHWEST
Akron 88, UC Irvine 80
Baylor 89, Texas Southern 63
Houston 77, Liberty 54
Texas 96, UAB 60
Texas A&M 81, St. Francis (Pa.) 58
Texas Tech 91, Longwood 60
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 88, Hampton 67
Chattanooga 73, Jacksonville St. 57
Davidson 75, Jacksonville 60
Duke 72, Elon 61
Earlham 84, Centre 60
FIU 78, North Florida 54
Florida 94, UALR 71
Furman 77, Webber 57
Georgia St. 84, Middle Tennessee 56
Louisville 73, Kentucky 70
Memphis 95, Incarnate Word 71
N. Kentucky 97, Brescia 73
New Orleans 91, Williams Baptist 74
North Carolina 85, N. Iowa 42
Transylvania 86, Ohio Northern 84
UCF 71, Bethune-Cookman 41
FAR WEST
Iona 73, UC Santa Barbara 57
Nevada 81, Towson 72
MIDWEST
Butler 81, Vermont 69
Calvin 89, Anderson (Ind.) 66
Dayton 68, Vanderbilt 63
Illinois 75, Missouri 68
Indiana St. 85, E. Illinois 68, 2OT
Kalamazoo 76, Lawrence Tech 74
Michigan St. 77, Oakland 65
North Park 84, Albion 65
Purdue 91, Norfolk St. 45
Rio Grande 86, Wayland Baptist 55
Wis.-Whitewater 109, Ripon 96
EAST
Army 71, Binghamton 60
Drexel 91, Quinnipiac 74
Fairfield 89, Boston College 83
Fordham 83, CCSU 60
Holy Cross 73, Sacred Heart 67
Mass.-Lowell 77, Boston U. 75
New Hampshire 69, Daniel Webster 26
Niagara 75, LIU Brooklyn 66
Penn St. 96, Morgan St. 55
Pittsburgh 94, Omaha 75
Robert Morris 74, Buffalo 71
St. John's 93, Syracuse 60
Villanova 90, American U. 48

Women

SOUTHWEST
Ark.-Pine Bluff 53, Morgan St. 44
Incarnate Word 106, LSU-Alexandria 79
Louisiana-Monroe 77, Houston Baptist 65
Oral Roberts 70, Arkansas 60
Rice 96, Huston-Tillotson 62
SMU 77, Seattle 43
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 81, UNC Asheville 51
Charlotte 93, Davidson 79
Clemson 69, Jacksonville St. 53
Dayton 77, Old Dominion 69
Duke 68, Villanova 50
Elon 65, Akron 62
Emory & Henry 56, Mass. College 13
Florida 78, Florida A&M 65
Florida Gulf Coast 71, St. Thomas (Fla.) 48
Florida St. 83, Mercer 40
Fort Wayne 68, E. Kentucky 59
Grambling St. 87, SE Louisiana 71
Kentucky 89, Washington St. 67
LSU 69, UALR 49
Lipscomb 71, Tennessee Tech 69
Louisville 78, Vanderbilt 66
Memphis 73, Nicholls 62
Murray St. 80, MVSU 62
N. Kentucky 58, Southern Miss. 53
Randolph-Macon 77, Wheaton (Mass.) 67
South Carolina 70, Savannah St. 30
Tennessee 110, Troy 84
Texas Southern 70, FIU 62
Tulane 63, E. Washington 51
UAB 66, South Alabama 41
UNC-Greensboro 59, Norfolk St. 52
Virginia 60, Md.-Eastern Shore 50
Virginia Tech 71, Radford 52
W. Carolina 73, High Point 64
W. Kentucky 68, Bell St. 61
Wake Forest 60, VCU 54
FAR WEST
Arizona 61, Utah St. 57
Arizona St. 83, Holy Cross 33
North Dakota 65, San Diego 61
Pacific 103, William Jessup 65
S. Utah 77, CS Northridge 71
Santa Clara 60, New Mexico St. 46
South Florida 77, UNLV 42
Southern Cal 93, UC Irvine 45
UC Davis 78, San Francisco 58
Utah 78, N. Arizona 45
MIDWEST
Auburn 85, Drake 80
Cincinnati 76, E. Illinois 34
Cleveland St. 64, Bowling Green 56
E. Michigan 65, Air Force 44
Evansville 63, Alabama A&M 54
Hope 76, Albion 71
IUPUI 67, Purdue 62
Indiana St. 72, Tulsa 68
Iowa St. 76, Sacred Heart 56
Marquette 62, New Mexico 52
Michigan-Dearborn 62, Concordia (Mich.) 60
Ohio St. 88, Winthrop 46
S. Dakota St. 78, Wichita St. 58
Saint Louis 72, Missouri 61
Toledo 72, Detroit 66
W. Michigan 64, Chicago St. 51
Wright St. 65, Miami (Ohio) 57
Xavier 75, Kennesaw St. 52
Youngstown St. 84, Point Park 71
EAST
Boston College 65, Dartmouth 53
Bryant 73, Mass.-Lowell 62
Buffalo 68, St. Bonaventure 47
Creighton 72, Marist 50
Drexel 81, Lafayette 39
Hartford 67, Delaware 66
Harvard 65, Siena 58
Indiana 74, Stony Brook 60
La Salle 78, Delaware St. 38
Maryland 77, Duquesne 57
New Hampshire 68, CCSU 52
Princeton 107, Wagner 44
Providence 62, Monmouth (NJ) 58
Rider 77, St. Francis Brooklyn 60
St. John's 74, James Madison 63
Stanford 71, George Washington 52
Texas A&M 105, Syracuse 84
UMBC 57, LIU Brooklyn 45
West Virginia 77, Mount St. Mary's 45

AP Sources: Owners pass new labor deal, players next

By Jon Krawczynski and Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

A new labor deal in the NBA is on the verge of being finalized, after owners voted Wednesday to approve a proposed seven-year collective bargaining agreement that was tentatively agreed to last week.

The owners' vote was unanimous and players are expected to finish casting their ballots in the coming days, two people with direct knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because neither the NBA nor the National Basketball Players Association has revealed specifics about the voting process publicly.

Teams met by teleconference on Wednesday to discuss and approve the proposed deal. Players were recently emailed information about the CBA from the union and were intending to have their ratification vote completed electronically by Friday, one of the people involved told AP.

In both cases, the voting processes are no more than formality. When the sides agreed last week, there was no question the required votes to ratify would come from both sides. And if the player vote gets done as planned, the league's showcase day — Christmas, with five games Sunday — could be even a bigger celebration than usual.

"This deal was a partnership, for both sides and is about the game overall, what it was, what it is now and its future," Chicago guard Dwyane Wade told AP on Wednesday.

The league and the union spent months working on a new deal, one that ensures labor peace for at least the next six seasons and ends any fear of a work stoppage next summer. Either side will have the ability to opt-out after the 2022-23 season, though the deal will technically extend through 2023-24.

The votes won't actually conclude the work on the new CBA, which takes effect after this season. What the sides agreed to was a term sheet, essentially the framework from which the massive document — which will likely exceed 400 pages when completed — will be drawn. Some of the language involved will be existing from the current deal, some of it changed slightly and some of it either very different or new altogether.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROCKETS 125
SUNS 111

PHOENIX — James Harden had 27 points and 14 assists, propelling the Houston Rockets to a 125-111 win over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night for their 11th victory in 12 games.

Eric Gordon added 24 points off the Rockets' bench, shooting 7 of 13 on 3-pointers. Patrick Beverley finished with 18 points, nine assists and nine rebounds.

Houston made 18 of 38 attempts from 3-point range.

Harden's biggest shot came with 4:19 left, a 3-pointer for a 120-100 Rockets lead. He bent down and moved his arms in a swimming motion in celebration as he ran back to the bench.

TIMBERWOLVES 92
HAWKS 84

ATLANTA — When the Minnesota Timberwolves won on Dec. 13 at Chicago, Karl-Anthony Towns sensed a change in the team's confidence.

"I think after the game in Chicago, we have a different swagger to us, a different walk, a different talk," he said. "And that's a sign that we're growing."

Andrew Wiggins scored 19 points, Towns had 17 points and 18 rebounds and Minnesota beat the Atlanta Hawks 92-84 on Wednesday night.

Zach LaVine added 18 points for the Timberwolves, who earned consecutive wins for the first time since April 5-9 and have won three of four overall.

CAVALIERS 113
BUCKS 102

CLEVELAND — Kyrie Irving didn't get tired of seeing the Milwaukee Bucks on consecutive days in December.

In fact, he wouldn't mind playing them a few more times in late April, May or June when it really matters.

"I hope," he said.

Irving had 31 points and a career-high 13 assists, and LeBron James scored 29 as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their second game in 24 hours over the young Bucks, 113-102 on Wednesday despite being without two starters.

The NBA champions were not at full strength as Kevin Love didn't dress for the second straight game with a bruised left knee, and J.R Smith sat out after breaking his right thumb Tuesday at Milwaukee.

BULLS 107
WIZARDS 97

CHICAGO — John Wall had 23 points and nine assists, and the Washington Wizards rallied past the Chicago Bulls 107-97 on Wednesday night for their third road victory of the season.

Trey Burke and Marcus Thornton came off the Washington bench to spark a decisive fourth-quarter burst. After the teams entered the period tied at 77, Burke and Thornton combined for 10 points to give the Wizards a 91-85 lead.

Chicago closed to 97-93 with less than 3 minutes left, but Bradley Beal, Marcin Gortat and Wall followed with baskets to seal it.

THUNDER 121
PELICANS 110

NEW ORLEANS — Russell Westbrook had 42 points and 10 rebounds, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the New Orleans Pelicans 121-110 on Wednesday night.

Alex Abrines scored nine of his 18 points during a pivotal 11-0 run early in the fourth quarter. The surge gave the Thunder a 100-87 lead with 9:18 left and New Orleans never got within eight points after that.

Enes Kanter, who hit a hook shot during that spurt, finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

GRIZZLIES 98
PISTONS 86

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Marc Gasol matched a career high with 38 points on 14-of-17 shooting, and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Detroit Pistons 98-86 on Wednesday night in a matchup of slumping teams.

The Grizzlies ended their three-game losing streak, while Detroit dropped its fourth straight.

Memphis was boosted by the return of Chandler Parsons, who missed the previous 17 games with a bone bruise on his left knee. He had two points and two rebounds in 15 minutes.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	8	.714	—
Boston	16	12	.571	4
New York	15	13	.536	5
Brooklyn	7	20	.259	12½
Philadelphia	7	21	.250	13

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	16	13	.552	—
Atlanta	14	15	.483	2
Washington	13	15	.464	2½
Orlando	13	17	.433	3½
Miami	9	20	.310	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	21	6	.778	—
Indiana	15	15	.500	7½
Chicago	14	14	.500	7½
Milwaukee	13	14	.481	8
Detroit	14	17	.452	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	23	5	.821	—
Houston	22	8	.733	2
Memphis	19	12	.613	5½
New Orleans	10	21	.323	14½
Dallas	7	21	.250	16

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	18	12	.600	—
Oklahoma City	17	12	.586	½
Portland	13	17	.433	5
Denver	12	17	.414	5½
Minnesota	9	19	.321	8

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	25	4	.862	—
L.A. Clippers	21	8	.724	4
Sacramento	11	17	.393	13½
L.A. Lakers	11	20	.355	15
Phoenix	8	20	.286	16½

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Scores

Cleveland 113, Milwaukee 102
Memphis 98, Detroit 86
Minnesota 92, Atlanta 84
Oklahoma City 121, New Orleans 110
Washington 107, Chicago 97
Houston 125, Phoenix 111
Sacramento 94, Utah 93
Dallas at Portland, late

Today's Games

Boston at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Miami, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 8:30 p.m.

Idaho looks to cap special season in Idaho Potato Bowl

By Jason Chatraw
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — After receiving only their third bowl bid in program history, the Idaho Vandals could be content with simply playing in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl on Thursday against Colorado State.

But Idaho (8-4) still has a milestone within reach — matching the school record for victories in a season and winning what could be the last bowl game in program history. The Vandals are dropping down to the FCS level after next season.

"Our guys are really excited to be here, and I think they're going to go out and play their best," Idaho coach Paul Petrino said. "I've been saying it since the season ended how proud I am of the players and the assistant coaches. We had a lot of work we had to do and a lot of stuff we had to overcome to get here. But we did it."

Meanwhile, Colorado State (7-5) is returning to the place where the Rams discovered new life in a waning season.

Trailing 28-3 against Boise State on Oct. 15, the Rams nearly pulled off an amazing comeback, scoring 20 points in the final five minutes with the help of two recovered onside kicks. When the Rams couldn't recover a third, Boise State ran out the clock to escape with a 28-23 victory.

But what transpired after the loss proved to be a seminal moment in the Rams' season.

"That Boise State game gave us a little confidence," Colorado State coach Mike Bobo said. "We sat in that locker room and said we weren't going to lose again. We weren't able to do that . but we've been playing with the mindset that when we step on the field because of the work we do during the week, we should expect to win. And the guys are starting to play like that." .

Other things to watch for in the 20th Potato Bowl:

FAMILIAR FOES: While Colorado State and Idaho haven't met on the field since 2010, the head coaches are well acquainted with each other after having squared off as assistants in the SEC.

"(Bobo) is a-guy that I've studied for a long time," Petrino said. "They run the same two-back offense that he ran at Georgia, which was similar to what we ran at Arkansas."

"When he was at Arkansas, we always had Arkansas plays on film against the opponent we were playing because of the stuff they did offensively," Bobo said.

However, most of the familiarity is on film. The only time the pair was across from each other on the sidelines was in 2009 when Georgia beat Arkansar 52-41.

AIR IT OUT: While Idaho has been more balanced offensively over the last half of the season, it will likely have to rely more heavily on its passing attack to beat Colorado State.

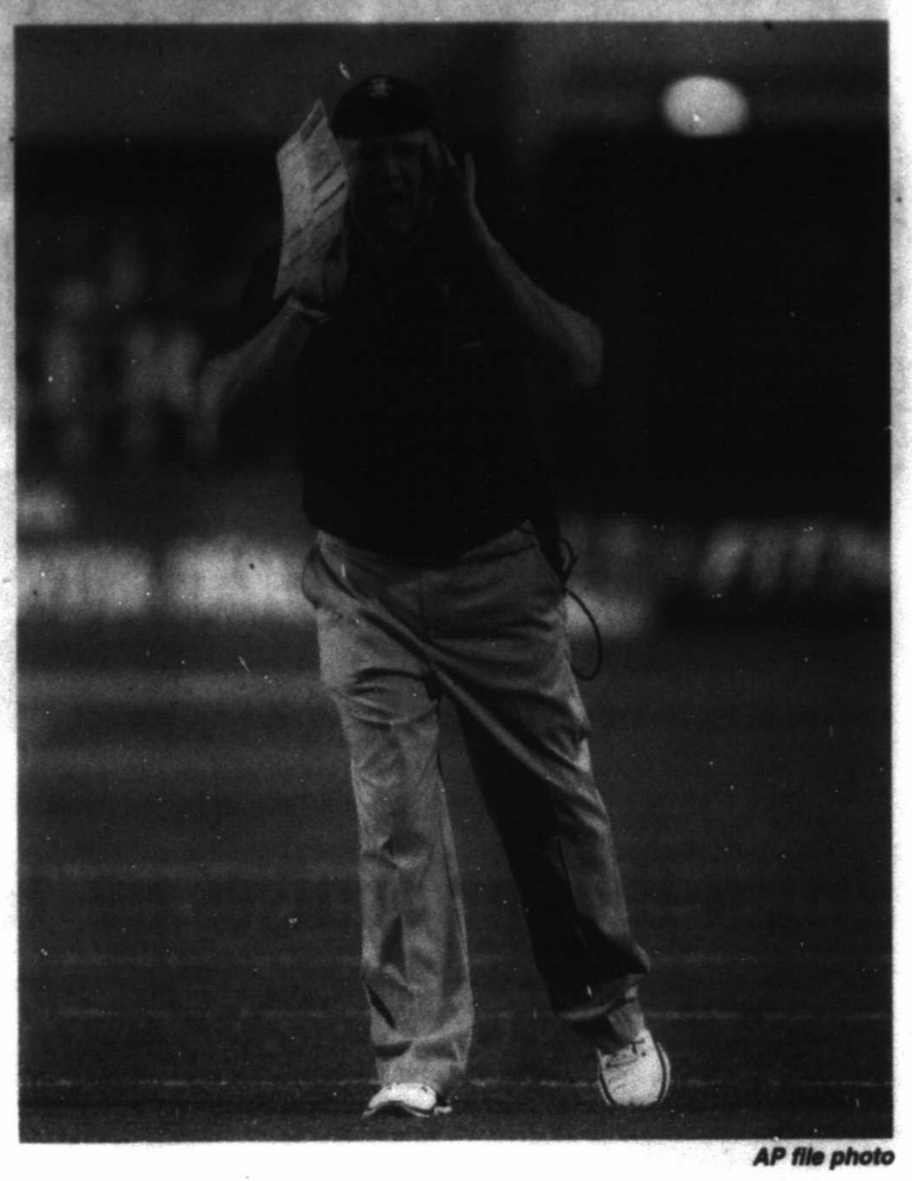
The Rams faced the top three rushing offenses this season and had some success stopping the run. Against San Diego State, Colorado State held the NCAA's all-time career rushing leading Donnel Pumphrey to 53 yards, his lowest effort since his freshman year.

But Idaho quarterback Matt Linehan, son of Dallas Cowboys offensive coordinator Scott Linehan, should be up for the task. The junior threw for over 2,800 yards this season with 15 TDs and 10 interceptions.

PROTECTING THE BALL: Colorado State has made big strides in protecting the football, committing only 12 turnovers this season compared to 27 last year, good enough for eighth-best in the nation.

"This year, we're taking care of the football and starting to get more turnovers on defense," Bobo said. "And the team that wins the turnover battle usually wins the game."

Idaho has also excelled in the turnover department this season, entering the game tied for 13th in turnover margin.



AP file photo

Idaho head coach Paul Petrino instructs his players during the first half of a game against UNLV on Sept. 24 in Las Vegas. Idaho and Colorado State had great finishes to their season after sluggish starts.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 17
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
Grambling State 10, NC Central 9
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
New Mexico 23, UTSA 20
Las Vegas Bowl
San Diego State 34, Houston 10
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Appalachian State 31, Toledo 28
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Arkansas State 31, UCF 13
New Orleans Bowl
Southern Miss. 28, Louisiana-Lafayette 21

Monday
Miami Beach Bowl
Tulsa 55, Central Michigan 10

Tuesday
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Western Kentucky 51, Memphis 31

Wednesday
Poinsettia Bowl
San Diego
BYU (8-4) vs. Wyoming (8-5), late

Today
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Idaho (8-4) vs. Colorado State (7-5), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 23
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Eastern Michigan (7-5) vs. Old Dominion (8-4), Noon (ESPN)

Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth
Navy (9-3) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Ohio (8-5) vs. Troy (9-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Hawaii (6-7), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 26
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
Mississippi State (5-7) vs. Miami (Ohio) (6-6), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Boston College (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
NC State (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6), 4 p.m. (ESPN2)

Tuesday, Dec. 27
Heart of Dallas Bowl
Army (6-5) vs. North Texas (5-7), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Temple (10-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Washington State (8-4), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Cactus Bowl
Phoenix
Boise State (10-2) vs. Baylor (6-6), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Northwestern (6-6) vs. Pittsburgh (8-4), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Russell Athletic Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Miami (8-4) vs. West Virginia (10-2), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Indiana (6-6) vs. Utah (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)

Texas Bowl
Houston
Kansas State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 29
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
AAC vs. SEC, 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Virginia Tech (9-4) vs. Arkansas (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Colorado (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 30
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Georgia (8-4) vs. TCU (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Sun Bowl
El Paso
North Carolina (8-4) vs. Stanford (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS)

Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Tennessee (8-4) vs. Nebraska (9-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Air Force (9-3) vs. South Alabama (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ASN)

Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Florida State (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2), Miami Gardens, Fla., 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 31
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
LSU (7-4) vs. Louisville (9-3), 10 a.m. (ABC)

TaxSlayer Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (8-4), 10 a.m. (ESPN)

CFP Semifinals Peach Bowl
Atlanta
Alabama (13-0) vs. Washington (12-1), 2 p.m. (ESPN)

Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
Clemson (12-1) vs. Ohio State (11-1), 6 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 2
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Florida (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4), Noon (ABC)

Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington
Western Michigan (13-0) vs. Wisconsin (10-3), Noon (ESPN)

Rose Bowl Game
Pasadena, Calif.
Penn State (11-2) vs. Southern Cal (9-3), 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Oklahoma (10-2) vs. Auburn (8-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 9
College Football Championship
Tampa, Fla.
Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 21
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
West vs. East, 2 p.m. (NFL)

NFLPA Collegiate Bowl
At Carson, Calif.
National vs. American, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
South vs. North, 1:30 p.m. (NFL)

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Midland, Texas 79703
432.570.1084
www.centerstx.org

52 FACES OF COMMUNITY

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

PRESENTED BY THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 22, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	C	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	A Charlie Brown Christmas		Baking Show "Chocolate Week" (N)		Baking "Custard and Meringue Week" (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	Indoor "Pilot"	Mom	Life in Pieces	Life in Pieces	Life in Pieces	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 "Hollfire"	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett:	Mason "The Case of the Misguided Missile"		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell's Kitchen "Don't Tell My Fiance"		Kitchen "Dancing With the Chefs"		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	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	Football Night	(:20) NFL Football New York Giants at Philadelphia Eagles Site: Lincoln Financial Field -- Philadelphia, Pa.							(:35) News	(:05) The Tonight Show	
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Holiday at Murray State		A Chef's Life Holiday Special		Eamonn McCrystal		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 Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	X-Files "Paper Clip"		The X-Files "D.P.O."		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
FLIX	340	575			165	(5:25) ★ Hidden in A...				★★ The Presidio		(:45) ★★★ Dressed to Kill			★★★ Battle Royale		
HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	Vice News	★ My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2		(:45) ★ Joy ('15, Com/Dra) Jennifer Lawrence.				(:50) Risky Drinking			
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(:15) ★★★ The Fantastic Four Miles Teller.				★ How to Be Single			(:50) ★ Midnight Special Michael Shannon.				PHolmes
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:00) ★ Brooklyn ('15, Dra) Saoirse Ronan.				★ The NeverEnd...g Story		Making		★★★ The Aviator Leonardo DiCaprio.			
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:45) ★ Search Party		(:20) ★★ What Happens in Vegas				★★ American Pie Chris Klein.			(:35) ★★★ Trainwreck		
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(5:40) ★★ Proof of Life ('01, Act) Meg Ryan.				★★ Insomnia ('02, Thril) Al Pacino.				★ Legend ('15, Thril) Tom Hardy.			
PLEX			96			(5:25) ★★ Destry		★★ Desolation Canyon			(:25) ★★ Purgatory			★★★ In Harm's Way John Wayne.			
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	Shameless		★★★ The Passion of the Christ				(:05) The Affair		Gigolos	Gigolos	(:05) Shameless	
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	★★ Wonder Boys Michael Douglas.				★★ Pride ('07, Dra) Terrance Howard.				★★ Calendar Girls Helen Mirren.			
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "The Invitation"		The First 48 (N)		Nightwatch "We Give Thanks" (N)		Gangland Under. "Mongol Nation"		(:05) The First 48 "Killer Contact"		(:05) The First 48	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) ★ A Christmas...		★★ Deck the Halls Danny de Vito.				★★★★ The Goonies ('85, Adv) Sean Astin.					Movie
BET	58	-		40		(4:00) ★ Gridiron Ga...		★ Pride (2007, Drama) Bernie Mac, Kimberly Elise, Terrence Howard.						★ Think Like a Man ('12, Com) Chris Brown.			
BRAVO	65	76		41		Million Dollar List		Listing "Surf vs. Turf"		Million Listing (N)		Top Chef (N)		Beverly Hills		Million Dollar List	
CNBC	46	52		39	72	American Greed		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed		American Greed	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		CNN Special Report		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		CNN Special Report	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Call Style	Call Style	★ Home Alone: The Holiday...			(:40) Bunk'd	(:05) Walk	Bizaard.	Underc.	Friends	Girl M.	Austin
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Football Potato Bowl Idaho vs. Colorado State Site: Bronco Stadium (L)							SportsCenter			SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Diamond Head Classic (L)				NCAA Basketball UNC - Ash. vs Ohio State (L)				Sports	Drone Racing		Drone
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 "Swai Not?"		Chopped		Chopped (N)		BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Chopped	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:45) ★★★ Elf ('03, Com) Will Ferrell.				(:45) ★★ Jingle All the Way				The 700 Club		★ A Christmas Carol	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	TexansH-uddle (N)	Cowboys Insider (N)	H.S. Football UIL State Championship 6A Division I						SportsD-ay OnAir	Cowboys Insider	Bull Riding Championship	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(5:00) ★ Cloudy With...		★★ Despicable Me 2 Steve Carell.				★★ Despicable Me 2 Steve Carell.				★ The Sitter	
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(5:00) ★ On the Twel...		★ My Christmas Love ('16) Meredith Hagner.				★ A Nutcracker Christmas Amy Acker.				★ Christmas Inco...	
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunt	House	H.Hunt	House	FlipFlop	FlipFlop
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Alone "First Blood"		Alone (N)		(:05) The Selection (N)		(:05) Alone		(:05) Alone	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	(5:00) Project Runway "Finale, Part 1" 1/2		Project Runway "Finale, Part 2" (SF) 2/2 from Dec 15 (N)				Runway "Welcome to New York" (SP) (N)		Runway "Welcome to New York"		Project Runway "Finale, Part 2" 2/2	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				Journey Hammers (N)		Journey to Hammers		Hammers	Hammers	Journey to Hammers		Drive	Drive	Drive	Drive
NICK	55		39	34	37	Thunder	Thunder	★★★ Ice Age Ray Romano.			F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	(5:00) ★ Jurassic Pa...		★★★ Jurassic Park ('93, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Sam Neill.						★★★ The Lost World: Jurassic Park			
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:30) ★★ Push ('09, Thril) Chris Evans.				★★★★ Raiders of the Lost Ark Harrison Ford.				(:330) ★★ Surrogates			
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		Billy on the Street	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:15) ★ Strangers ...		★★★ Holiday Affair			(:45) ★	★★ Remember the Night				★★★★ A Christmas Carol	
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 "June's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Donald's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Susan's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Nikki's Story"		My 600-lb Life "June's Story"		My 600-lb Life "Donald's Story"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Bones "The Prince in the Plastic"		NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Miami Heat Site: American Airlines Arena -- Miami, Fla. (L)					NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, 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	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Her Negotiation"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Surrender Benson"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Townhouse Incident"		Water "Circular Time" (SF) (N)		(:05) Law&Order: SVU "Presumed Guilty"		(:05) Shooter "Killing Zone"	
WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	★ Miami Vice ('06, Act) Jamie Foxx, Colin Farrell. Two agents work undercover transporting drugs to seek out a group of murderers.						★★ Troy (2004, Action) Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana, Brad Pitt.			

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Petra Kvitova could return to tennis in about 6 months

By Karel Janicek
Associated Press

PRAGUE — Petra Kvitova could return to tennis in about six months, the surgeon who operated on the two-time Wimbledon champion's left hand said Wednesday.

Kvitova

Kvitova was injured Tuesday when a knife-wielding intruder attacked her at her home in the town of Prostejov. The attacker is still at large and police have asked the public for help.

Kvitova underwent nearly four hours of surgery on Tuesday at a specialized clinic in the northern town of Vysoke nad Jizerou.

"When we talk about (playing tennis), it will take about six months," said surgeon Radek Kebrle of the Hand and Plastic Surgery Institute. "It's a serious injury and we have to deal with that accordingly.

"She's young and healthy and has long, slim fingers," he said. "That's a good prognosis."

Earlier Wednesday, Kvitova's spokesman, Karel Tejkal, said the surgery was successful and the Czech player was feeling good.

Kvitova sustained damage to the tendons in her left hand, along with injuries to all five fingers and two nerves.

She was taken to the clinic in Vysoke nad Jizerou, an elite institution in the country, after initial treatment at a hospital in Prostejov. Doctors decided to operate on her hand immediately.

Shortly after the attack, Kvitova wrote on Twitter that she expected to recover and get back to playing tennis, saying "if you know anything about me I am strong and I will fight this."

Kvitova won the Wimbledon title in 2011 and 2014. She reached a career-high ranking of No. 2 in 2011, but finished the 2016 season as No. 11.

In April 1993, Monica Seles was at the height of her success when she was stabbed in the back during a changeover at a tournament in Hamburg. A man reached over a courtside railing and knifed her, leaving an inch-deep slit between her shoulder blades.

Seles returned to the game 27 months later and reached the 1995 U.S. Open final.

Jagr on Gretzky: 'I don't think he was from this planet'

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jaromir Jagr knows No. 2 is as high as he'll go on the NHL career scoring list.

In his mind, that's a record in itself.

Jagr's next point will be the 1,888th of his career and give him outright possession of second place on the all-time NHL points list, breaking a tie with Mark Messier. Only Wayne Gretzky's total of 2,857 is better than that, and Jagr — the 44-year-old Florida Panthers forward who has said he can see himself playing until he's 50 — knows the top spot is going to stay far from his reach.

"For me, it's like No. 1," Jagr said recently when asked what passing Messier would mean. "I don't really count Wayne Gretzky. He was from another planet. I don't think he was from this planet. Whatever he did, it's unbreakable."

Jagr caught Messier on Tuesday with a three-assist effort in Florida's shootout win over Buffalo. His next chance for the tiebreaker is Thursday, when the Panthers play host to the Boston Bruins.

Jagr would have been No. 2 long ago if not for his leaving the NHL to play in Russia from 2008 through 2011. Jagr collected 146 points in those three seasons, deciding to play there in part because of the proximity to his parents in the Czech Republic. But he missed the NHL, returned to play with Philadelphia in 2011-12 — and has been collecting jerseys since, also logging time with Dallas, Boston, New Jersey and now Florida since coming back to North America.

Including playoffs, Tuesday's three-point game was the 215th of Jagr's career.

He's reached seven points in an NHL game twice, and that's not even close to his career best. He played one game in a German league in 1994-95 during an NHL work stoppage and racked up 11 points — one goal and 10 assists.

His first NHL point was a goal on Oct. 7, 1990, when he was the youngest player in the league at 18. The goalie who gave that one up was Chris Terreri, who was just in his second full NHL season and a relatively young player at 25.

Terreri had a fine, full career and his last NHL game was 16 years ago. Jagr is still going, with no end in sight.

The NHL is made up of two conferences, six divisions and 30 arenas. And to illustrate how long Jagr has been in that league, consider that he's played in four conferences, 11 divisions and 57 different arenas.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Each set of 12 tiles below contains two common six-letter words. The letters of the first six-letter word are adjacent, but not in order. Find and rearrange them to spell a word. Rearrange the six remaining letters to spell the second word.

L A P L O A P P R O G L

N U A O O T T P M E I M

E A R R T M O N G E T A

Yesterday's Answer: MOTION, TRIAL, WITNESS

12.22

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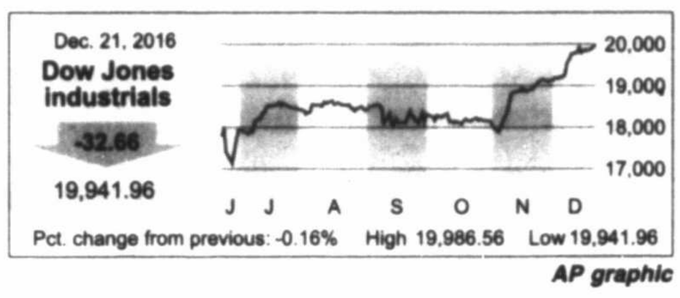
A DAY ON WALL STREET



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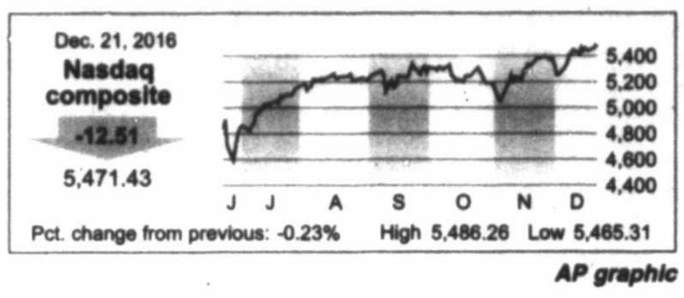

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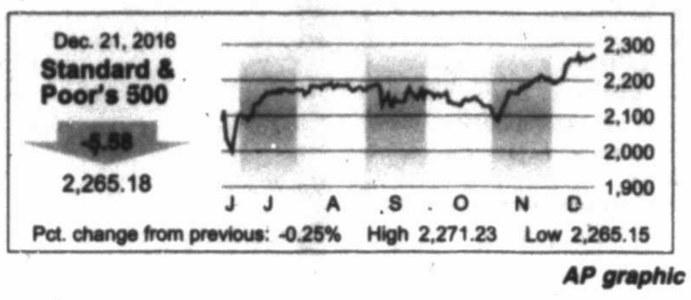


AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Wednesday: $52.49
Previous: $52.23

POSTED

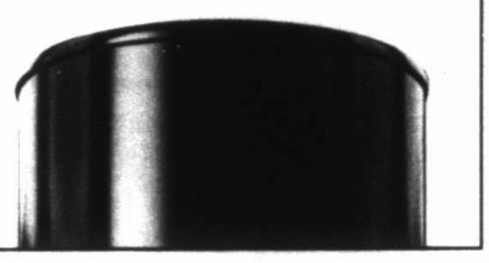
Wednesday: $49.00
Previous: $48.75

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday: $45.10
Previous: $44.85

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday: $3.542
Previous: $3.263



NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CSVInvNG	764747	3.47	-1.13
BkofAm	574885	22.63	-.06
S&P500ETF	561377	225.77	-.63
VanEGold	533417	19.09	-.04
iShEMkts	476672	34.49	-.54

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Kadmon n	5.65	+1.22	+27.5
InvenSense	12.75	+1.91	+17.6
Twilio n	34.59	+4.67	+15.6
PetroArg	5.68	+.67	+13.4
GranaMon	7.55	+.80	+11.9

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
iShsJMinV	28.83	-17.34	-37.6
CSVInvNG	3.47	-1.13	-24.6
ProHgsJpn	29.00	-5.60	-16.2
StoneEng rs	9.33	-1.79	-16.1
PrUltShN s	25.04	-4.21	-14.4

Diary

Advanced	1,395
Declined	1,588
Unchanged	114
Total issues	3,097
New Highs	138
New Lows	21
Volume	2,771,628,039

AMEX

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Globalstar	117871	1.47	+.04
GastarExp	54483	1.60	+.08
NwGold g	44291	3.16	+.09
CheniereEn	31886	41.37	+.52
TherapMD	23650	5.68	-.21

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AttisrcAst	51.50	+6.25	+13.8
Hc2 Hldgs	5.66	+.43	+8.2
NobleIrl n	2.00	+.10	+5.3
eMagin	2.10	+.10	+5.0
InfuSystem	2.35	+.10	+4.4

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
TelinstEl	3.85	-.55	-12.5
BovieMed	3.86	-.26	-6.3
Richmnt g	5.60	-.35	-5.9
LadThalFn	2.65	-.16	-5.7
Contango	9.50	-.47	-4.7

Diary

Advanced	167
Declined	190
Unchanged	24
Total issues	381
New Highs	10
New Lows	5
Volume	95,202,930

NASDAQ

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
FrontierCm	314435	3.29	-.16
MicronT	239928	20.58	-.07
Apple Inc	224260	117.06	+.11
Microsoft	167614	63.54	
SiriusXM	149576	4.53	

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
xG Tch wt rs	3.99	+2.14	+115.7
Lpath rs	3.75	+1.52	+68.0
Menus n	20.22	+6.07	+42.9
Maritex	6.75	+1.22	+22.1
ImprimisP	2.01	+.35	+21.1

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PacSpAc un	10.92	-2.71	-19.9
MerrimkP	4.38	-.99	-18.4
VanNR pfA	3.18	-.46	-12.6
GTx Inc rs	5.68	-.81	-12.5
OptimB rs	4.08	-.57	-12.2

Diary

Advanced	1,079
Declined	1,739
Unchanged	227
Total issues	3,045
New Highs	188
New Lows	48
Volume	1,442,635,593

Energy Dept. offers $2B loan to La. carbon-storage project

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Energy Department said Wednesday it is offering a conditional, $2 billion loan guarantee to capture and store carbon dioxide at a planned Louisiana methanol plant, the latest element of President Barack Obama's strategy to slow global warming.

The Lake Charles Methanol plant will use petroleum coke, a byproduct of oil refining, to make methanol, a chemical used in products such as paint, glue, plastics and formaldehyde.

The captured carbon dioxide will be piped to oil fields in Texas, where it will be used to speed up oil production.

The loan guarantee is the first to be offered under an advanced energy program to help promising technologies that are unable to secure private investors.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz called the loan commitment a milestone in federal efforts to capture and store carbon pollution, a key driver of global warming.

Moniz called the Lake Charles project "a big step forward" for economic development and carbon capture, an emerging technology that has so far failed to live up to its promise.

The loan guarantee is among a number of steps the administration has taken in recent weeks as Obama seeks to protect his environmental legacy before President-elect Donald Trump takes office next month.

Obama on Tuesday designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing. The administration also has completed regulations clamping down on oil companies that burn off natural gas on public lands and preventing coal-mining debris from being dumped into nearby streams.

Meanwhile, the Army has delayed a decision on an oil pipeline to cross under a reservoir in North Dakota, saying it wants more study and tribal input.

The loan guarantee is likely to be more warmly received by Trump than previous actions by Obama. Carbon capture is a key component of so-called clean coal, a concept that has been embraced by Obama and Trump both.

The practice entails catching the carbon emissions from a coal plant or other source and injecting the gas underground for permanent storage or use in speeding oil production. If successful, carbon storage could allow continued burning of coal and other fossil fuels while releasing little of the heat-trapping gas that scientists say is the main cause of global warming.

Lake Charles Methanol expects to break ground next year on a $3.8 billion plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana, 140 miles east of Houston.

Don Maley, the company's president and CEO, said in a statement that the Energy Department's expected loan guarantee "represents the commitment of the federal government to promote innovative, clean fossil-energy technologies" and allow the project to be completed.

The project is expected to create about 1,000 construction jobs and 500 permanent jobs. The plant will produce methanol, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and other chemicals from petcoke, a waste product from the refining of heavy crude oil.

Moniz said on a conference call Wednesday that he has had "cordial" conversations with former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Trump's nominee for energy secretary, but did not discuss the Lake Charles plant or other projects under consideration for Energy Department loans.

Existing US home sales reach highest since February 2007

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans bought homes in November in the fastest pace in nearly a decade. But rising mortgage rates, a deepening shortage of houses and higher prices are likely to weigh on the market next year.

The National Association of Realtors said Wednesday that sales of existing homes rose 0.7 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.61 million. That was up from a downwardly revised 5.57 million in October and the highest since sales hit a 5.79 million pace in February 2007. Sales were up 15 percent from a year earlier.

Sales rose 8 percent in the Northeast and 1.4 percent in the South, but fell in the West and Midwest.

Fewer than 1.9 million homes were on the market, down 9 percent from a year earlier. The tight supply pushed the median price to $234,900 last month, up 6.8 percent from a year ago.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that housing starts fell 18.7 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted 1.09 million.

"We have a housing shortage," said Lawrence Yun, the Realtors' chief economist. "We are not building enough housing."

Dow still short of 20,000

Stocks finished slightly lower Wednesday as health care companies continued to struggle. Energy companies rose as the price of natural gas surged on the first day of winter.

Some traders aren't sticking around to see if the Dow Jones industrial average reaches the 20,000-point milestone: trading volume has fallen sharply this week as the year-end holidays draw near.

After a mixed open, stocks finished at their lowest prices of the day. Health care companies continued to lag the market, as they've done throughout 2016. Industrial companies, which have surged since the presidential election, also eased lower. A jump of almost 9 percent in the price of natural gas helped gas and pipeline companies move higher.

"It looks like we're going to see another cold blast," said Jim Ritterbusch, an analyst who advises oil traders. He said weather forecasts suggest temperatures will drop later next week.

The Dow dipped 32.66 points, or 0.2 percent, to 19,941.96. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 5.58 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,265.18. The Nasdaq composite fell 12.51 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,471.43.

Gold and silver fall

Gold fell 40 cents to $1,133.20 an ounce. Silver sank 14 cents to $15.98 an ounce. Copper remained at $2.50 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $120.61 Up 2.35

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $136.60 Down 0.24

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $8.42 Down 0.50

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $101.45 Down 1.21

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $2.20 Down 0.13

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.01 Down 0.06

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $32.80 Down 0.45

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $44.85 Down 0.35

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $12.75 Down 0.30

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.16 Up 0.06

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AK Steel	...	32	10.89	-.06	+386.2
AT&T Inc	1.96f	16	42.36	-.11	+23.1
Abraxas	...	...	2.63	+.06	+148.1
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	12.87	-.03	+.3
AMD	...	...	11.47	-.04	+299.7
AlonUSA	.60	...	11.60	+.23	-21.8
AlpAlerMLP	1.20e	...	12.50	+.05	+3.7
Ambev	.06e	...	4.84	+.01	+8.5
Amgen	4.60f	13	146.17	-1.05	-10.0
Anadarko	.20	...	70.75	-.22	+45.6
Apache	1.00	...	66.64	-.11	+49.5
Apple Inc	2.28	14	117.06	+.11	+11.2
ApldMatl	.40	20	32.58	-.03	+74.5
ArcelorMit	...	27	7.59	+.01	+136.1
Archrock	.4Rf	...	13.35	-.25	+77.5
AstraZen s	1.40e	11	27.06	+.04	-20.3
ATMOS	1.68	22	74.27	-.15	+17.8
AutoData	2.28f	28	102.47	+.14	+21.0
BP PLC	2.40e	...	36.78	+.26	+17.7
BakrHu	.68	...	64.89	-.26	+40.6
BkofAm	.30f	18	22.63	-.08	+34.5
B iPVxST rs	...	...	23.83	-.42	...
BaringsCp s	1.20	...	15.11	+.59	-12.4
BarrickG	.06	32	14.16	-.18	+91.9
BasicEnSv	...	...	.42	+.01	-84.3
BerkHa A	...	...	162485o1.03	-410.00	+25.7
BlkHillsCp	1.68	22	62.11	-.15	+33.8
BrllySq	1.56f	41	58.69	-.43	-14.7
BrownFA s	...	29	46.91	-.21	...
BrownFB s	...	...	45.34	...	-10.0
CVS Health	1.70f	14	79.85	+.01	-18.3
Caterpillar	3.08	25	93.82	-.52	+38.1
Celestic g	...	10	12.01	-.15	+8.9
CntryLink	2.16	10	23.77	-.36	-5.5
Chemours n	.12	...	23.43	-1.63	+337.1
ChesEng	...	...	7.43	+.14	+65.1
Chevron	4.28	...	117.91	-.04	+31.1
Chicos	.32	34	15.67	-.19	+48.9
Cimarex	.32	...	135.93	-.22	+52.1
Cisco	1.04	14	30.42	-.14	+12.9
Citigroup	.54	17	60.75	-.05	+17.4
ClayEng	...	...	120.61	+2.35	+307.9
CocaCola	1.40	25	41.57	-.09	-3.2
ColgPalm	1.56	24	66.05	-.34	-.9
ConAgra	.80m	22	38.00	-.23	+15.8
ConchoRes	...	...	136.60	-.24	+47.1
ConocoPhil	1.00	...	51.48	-.07	+10.3
CrackerB	4.60	23	171.70	-1.60	+35.4
CSVInvNG	...	...	3.47	-1.13	-72.3
CrosTim	1.00e	13	18.20	-.60	+39.9
DCP Mid	3.12	17	37.64	+.36	+52.6
DTE	2.92	22	98.21	-.41	+22.5
Dataram rs	...	...	1.62	+.21	-18.2
DevonE	.24	...	46.57	-.09	+45.5
DrGMBil s	...	...	4.13	-.15	...
DxGBull s	...	...	6.01	...	-97.4
Disney	1.56f	18	105.56	+.10	+.5
DowChm	1.84	19	59.08	+.28	+14.8
EOG Resc	.67	...	102.55	-.61	+44.9
EmpDist	1.04	23	34.08	...	+21.4
Energen	.08	...	58.46	-.33	+42.6
EngyTsfr	4.22	...	35.39	+.44	+4.9
EnPro	.84	52	68.54	+.01	+56.3
EnteroM rs	...	...	.05	...	-97.4
EntProdPt	1.62f	21	26.93	+.67	+5.3
Ericsson	.46e	...	5.78	-.03	-39.9
ExxonMbl	3.00	36	90.28	-.15	+15.8
Facebook	...	33	119.04	-.05	+13.7
FinLine	.40	58	21.00	-2.01	+16.2
Fitbit n	...	10	7.36	-.08	-75.1
FordM	.60a	6	12.64	-.14	-10.3
FrptMcM	...	...	14.05	-.11	+107.5
FrontierCm	.42	...	3.29	-.16	-29.6
GATX	1.60	9	63.24	-.93	+48.6
GabMultT	.94e	...	7.38	-.06	-1.6
GAInv	1.15e	...	31.57	-.17	+10.0
GenElec	.96f	28	32.13	-.12	+3.1
Gerdau	.02e	...	3.19	+.01	+165.8
Globalstar	...	13	1.47	+.04	+2.1
GlPlainEn	1.10f	16	27.74	-.06	+1.6
Groupon	...	...	3.61	-.03	+17.6
HstMrtn	.72	...	54.96	+1.63	+61.5
HaclaM	.01e	29	5.26	-.05	+179.4
Hilton	.28	19	27.73	-.01	+29.6
HostHotls	.80a	15	19.17	+.05	+25.0
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	31.30	-.23	+51.4
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	35.11	-.12	-.5
iShEMkts	.84e	...	34.49	-.54	+7.1
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	57.66	-.58	-1.8
iShIBxHYB	5.09	...	86.54	+.15	+7.4
iShR2K	1.77e	...	137.06	-.90	+21.7
Intel	1.04	17	36.98	-.23	+7.3
InterDig	1.20	16	91.60	-.55	+86.8
Internap	...	...	1.62	+.49	-74.7
InvenSense	...	...	12.75	+1.91	+24.6
JPMorgCh	1.92	15	86.75	+.22	+32.3
JohnJn	3.20	18	115.31	-.35	+12.3
KimbClk	3.68	19	114.61	+.19	-10.0
KindMorg	.50	48	21.17	+.40	+41.9
LegacyRes	.60m	...	2.20	-.13	+25.7
Lubys	...	...	4.33	-.03	-3.1
McDnlds	3.76f	23	123.18	-.15	+4.3
Merck	1.88f	16	59.43	-1.07	+12.5
MeritMed	...	35	26.50	-.15	+42.5
MerrimkP	...	...	4.38	-.99	-44.6
MexcoEn	...	...	5.01	-.06	+55.1
MicronT	...	...	20.58	-.07	+45.3
Microsoft	1.56f	26	63.54	...	+14.5
Nabors	.24	...	16.71	+.13	+96.4
NatGrid	3.35e	...	57.90	-.32	-16.7
NOVWarco	.20	21	38.85	+.05	+16.0
NY CmtyB	.68	14	15.93	-.82	-2.4
NikeB s	.84f	23	52.30	+.51	-16.3
NobleCorp	.08	...	6.23	-.23	-40.9
NokiaCp	.30e	...	4.76	-.14	-32.2
NSTFI3	.55e	...	13.93	+.06	-4.2
NTXQI	.65	...	13.74	-.00	-4.6
Nvidia	.56f	64	105.83	+.66	+221.1
OasisPet	...	...	15.94	-.61	+116.3
OcciPet	3.04f	...	72.16	-.22	+6.7
Oracle	.60	19	38.83	-.17	+6.7
PerTech	...	16	5.35	-.02	-20.5
ParkDrl	...	...	2.75	+.20	+51.1
PetroTI	.08	6	26.01	+.09	+78.4
Penney	...	...	9.05	+.02	+35.9
PennaRE	.84	60	19.31	-.40	-11.7
Prmian	.41e	23	8.28	+.22	+63.6
Petrobras	...	...	9.93	+.02	+130.9
Pfizer	1.28f	13	32.40	-.45	+.4
PioNtrl	.08	...	184.64	-.84	+47.4
PlainsAAP	2.20m	30	32.81	+.57	+42.0
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	120.46	-.09	+7.7
Praxair	3.00	23	118.53	+.14	+15.8
PrmEgy	...	...	49.50	...	-6.6
PUVixST rs	...	...	7.67	-.24	...
ProctGam	2.68	23	84.28	-.29	+6.1
RangeRs	.08	...	34.21	+.97	+39.0
RealG rs rs	...	...	.35	+.13	-97.2
RegionsFn	.28f	19	14.53	-.05	+51.4
RiteAid	...	56	8.47	-.14	+8.0
Rowan	.40	7	19.78	-.56	+16.7
RoyDShllA	3.76	82	54.12	-.04	+18.2
SpdrDJIA	3.98e	...	199.16	-.26	+14.5
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	225.77	-.63	+10.7
SabnR	1.93e	17	35.55	-.20	+35.4
SandvrFm	.98f	11	93.88	-.27	+20.8
Schlmbrg	2.00	56	86.16	+.88	+23.5
SiriusXM	.01p	38	4.53	...	+11.3
Smucker	3.00f	16	128.55	-.65	+4.2
SwstnEngy	...	...	10.98	+.60	+54.4
Spher3D gh	...	...	.36	+.16	-76.2
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	23.60	-.06	+22.0
SunocoLog	2.04f	51	23.96	+.31	-6.8
TeleflEsp	1.03e	...	9.17	-.06	-17.1
Tesoro	2.20	11	89.67	+.90	-14.9
3M Co	4.44	22	178.43	-.22	+18.4
Torchmark	.56	17	74.88	+.03	+31.2
TriContl	.52e	...	22.10	-.01	+10.4
Twilio n	...	...	34.59	+4.67	+20.1
Twitter	...	...	17.08	-.84	-26.2
TylerTech	...	52	145.26	-2.49	-16.7
UBSI	1.32	24	46.20	-.40	+24.9
US NGas	...	...	9.00	+.68	+3.8
US OilFd	...	...	11.44	-.18	+4.0
USSteel	.20	...	36.47	-.34	+357.0
Vale SA	.29e	...	7.91	+.01	+140.4
ValeantPh	...	16	14.20	-.45	-66.0
ValeroE	2.40	14	67.93	+.36	-3.9
VanEGold	.12e	...	19.09	-.04	+39.1
VanE JrGld	...	...	26.18	-.33	+46.7
VangEmg	1.10e	...	35.19	-.11	+7.8
VangFTSE	1.10e	...	36.78	...	+.2
VerizonCm	2.31f	15	52.97	-.15	+14.6
VulcanM	.80	43	126.19	+.24	+32.9
WEC Engy	2.08f	20	58.46	+.01	+13.9
WalgBoots	1.50	19	85.85	-.43	+.8
WeathfInt	...	...	4.96	-.11	-40.9
WellsFargo	1.52	14	55.71	-.39	+2.5
WstnRefin	1.52	27	38.79	+.36	+8.9
WhitingPet	...	...	12.12	-.24	+28.4
WmsCos	.80	71	30.62	+.27	+19.1
XcelEngy	1.36	19	40.91	-.07	+13.9
Xerox	.31	12	9.09	-.14	-14.5
Yamana g	.02m	85	2.56	-.02	+37.6

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
19,987.83	15,450.56	Dow Jones Industrials	19,941.96	-32.66	-.16	+14.44	+13.29
9,490.20	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	9,229.44	-80.23	-.86	+22.92	+21.27
723.83	563.91	Dow Jones Utilities	658.35	-2.38	-.36	+13.94	+13.31
11,256.07	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	11,142.57	-29.62	-.27	+9.85	+8.43
5,469.47	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	5,471.43	-12.51	-.23	+9.27	+8.43
2,277.53	1,810.10	S&P 500	2,265.18	-5.58	-.25	+10.82	+9.73
1,608.70	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,679.82	-7.41	-.44	+20.09	+18.66
23,602.01	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	23,700.75	-55.59	-.23	+11.97	+10.86
1,392.71	943.09	Russell 2000	1,375.19	-6.77	-.63	+21.07	+19.29

TODAY: Mostly cloudy — High: 50 Low: 37

FRIDAY: Mostly cloudy — High: 61 Low: 41

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 67 Low: 52

SUNDAY: Sunny — High: 64 Low: 36

MONDAY: Sunny — High: 58 Low: 37

TUESDAY: Partly sunny — High: 67 Low: 42

Local forecast

There is a 20 percent chance of showers tonight and Friday, according to the National Weather Service. However, the NWS doesn't expect temperatures to reach the freezing mark for the next week.

The record high for Dec. 21 is 81, set in 1981 and equaled in 2010. The record low is 8, set in 1989. On Dec. 21 of last year, the high was 68 and the low was 33.

Environment brief

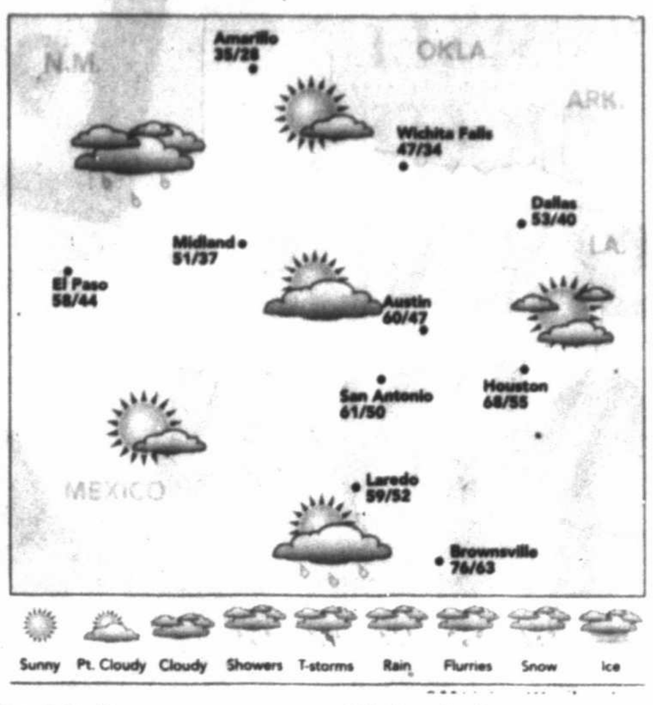
California ups water allocations as drought eases

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Water agencies that serve nearly two-thirds of Californians will get more water, thanks to rain that's helping ease a six-year drought.

California's Department of Water Resources said Wednesday it expected to give 29 water agencies 45 percent of their requested water allotments in 2017.

That compares to just 5 percent of their allocations in 2014.

This year has brought twice the normal rainfall to parts of Northern California, leading the state to ease many water restrictions.



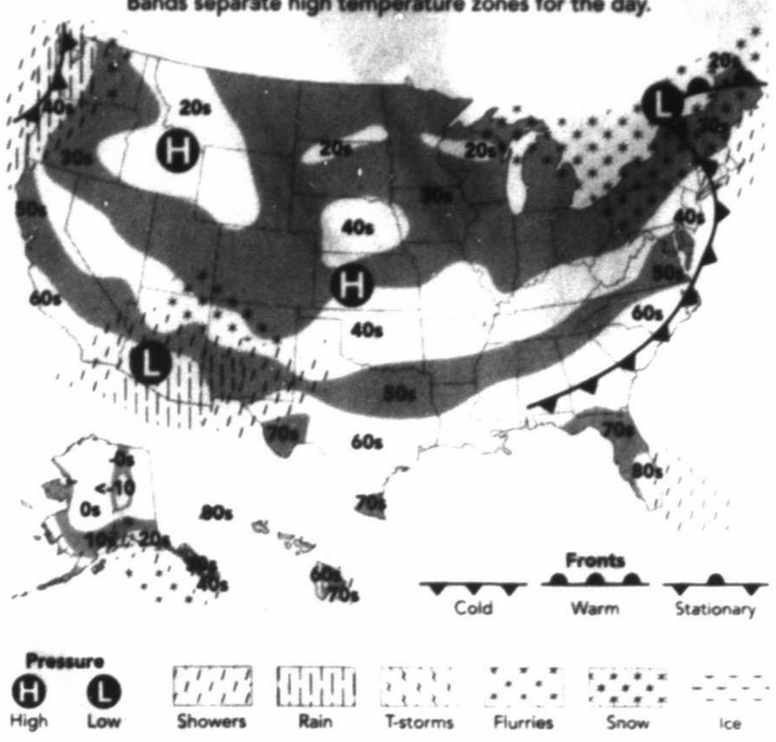
Precipitation	
Tuesday	0.00 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.35 in.
Year total	15.12 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.42 in.

Wednesday's temperatures	
High	73
Low	39
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:46 a.m.
Sunset	5:49 p.m.

National weather AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Thursday, December 22, 2016

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.



Young teen acting out needs to find new role

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: I am writing regarding my almost 13-year-old daughter. She's a sweet girl but lately has been involved in a lot of drama. Recently, my husband and I saw what we believe to be two hickeys on her neck, one on each side. She has denied, denied, denied it, but we know what we know.

I'm worried because a few months ago she was called into her counselor's office for "roasting." She was asked to roast two specific girls, and the information got back to them and back to the counselor. Our daughter is not allowed to date, and although she has friends who started dating at 10 or 11, I don't allow her to go to their homes. I do allow them to come to our home instead.

I just need to know how to handle this situation before it gets out of control. I have tried talking calmly and patiently with her, but it doesn't work. She believes she knows it all and I know nothing. — UNSURE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR UNSURE: Girls who mock others and say cruel things are less "nice" than you would like to believe. It's a form of bullying. You need to nip this in the bud. A way to handle your daughter's misbehavior would be to institute consequences for getting called to the counselor's office and/or lying to you and your husband. By consequences, I mean the removal of privileges — cellphone, television, internet, or having friends over for a period of time.

Also, if your daughter is coming home with hickeys, she may have too much unsupervised time on her hands. So if you haven't already, involve her in SUPERVISED activities such as church youth groups, sports and special-interest clubs if her school offers them. If she's going to a friend's house, be sure an adult will be there.

Parenting is a full-time job. In time your daughter will mature and this, too, will pass. But for now she needs watching.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend — who is 19 — was concerned that she might be pregnant because her period was late. She told me that she and her husband (yes, she's married) have been having unprotected sex. Lo and behold, she took multiple tests and she is pregnant.

I know they are not ready to have a baby, even though she says she's excited. They are currently living in a hotel, and she doesn't have a job. Her husband's mom doesn't even know they're married. I feel bad, but it makes me not want to be her friend anymore because of the choices she's made and where she has ended up. Any advice? — DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

DEAR DON'T KNOW: Yes. If you prefer not to be part of her drama — and it doesn't take a crystal ball to see that there is likely to be plenty — back off. And tell her honestly that you are not equipped to handle her problems right now.

DEAR ABBY: I sent out save-the-date notices for my wedding in November. One couple has stopped talking to me and refuses to tell me why. Must I send them an invitation to my wedding? — WEDDING BLUES

DEAR WEDDING BLUES: According to Emily Post, the rules of etiquette dictate that "EVERYONE WHO RECEIVES A SAVE-THE-DATE CARD MUST RECEIVE AN INVITATION." However, because the couple has stopped speaking to you, do not be surprised if you hear nothing from them.

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, Dec. 22, 2016:

This year you find that others count on you and want you to take the lead. Though you might need to adjust to handling what they ask of you, you will make it your pleasure to take on the responsibility. If you are single, romance will knock on your door. The person you meet through your work or a community commitment could become a long-term relationship. If you are attached, the two of you move to a new level of understanding. Both of you enjoy going out on the town together. LIBRA appreciates your leadership skills and would like to learn from you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Confusion arises when dealing with someone who holds sway over you. Be open and share more of yourself. A loved one knows how to charm you into doing whatever he or she wants. Observe this person, and you might pick up a thing or two. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Understand that someone you see often around the holidays could be unusually demanding of your time. Fortunately, you have a lot of flexibility in your schedule. Understand that a partner might have bouts of jealousy. Be flattered rather than annoyed. Tonight: Play it easy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You like surprises, which is why you don't make rigid plans. A partner could get too territorial for your taste. Stay centered, and know that this moment will pass. Be more open-minded, and be willing to be impulsive more often. Tonight: Fun under the mistletoe.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You feel best close to home, where you have more time to yourself. A loved one might feel the need to be unusually controlling. Don't allow this person to push you or try to control you. You are your own person. Support yourself. Tonight: Get through an important project.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Take the time to verbalize your thoughts and gain a sense of what is happening. You might want to avoid a difficult situation, but it needs to be handled. A powerful conversation has benefits. A surprise involves someone at a distance. Tonight: Squeeze in some extra zzz's.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Last-minute shopping, whether it be for gifts or groceries, could be more costly than you originally had thought. Be aware of how much you enjoy splurging, as you might need to rein in your spending. A partner or close loved one will be full of surprises. Tonight: In the limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You are on a roll, and you might be hard to stop. You could be taken aback by a family member or roommate who becomes too controlling for your taste. Expect the unexpected, and you will not be disappointed. Anything is possible today. Tonight: You call the shots.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You'll want to head in a new direction. You might want to reach an agreement or at least get the support of someone who is likely to be affected by this choice. Reach out to a trusted friend or loved one for some feedback, and you'll be glad you did. Tonight: Keep a secret.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ You might want to consider the different options that surround a meeting and/or get-together. Somehow, you can't resist one of your friends; just being with this person makes you feel good. Let go of a need to be so serious. Tonight: Wherever you can have the most fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You might want to relax with some work friends after you complete what you feel is important. You are likely to switch from a stance that you have held on to for quite some time. Others will be delighted by the change, but give them time to adjust. Tonight: Out late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Take advantage of the moment. Sit down and make some key calls when you find a quiet place. Read between the lines with a loved one. This person might be thrilled just being with you, but he or she also could have something important to share. Tonight: Confirm plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You find it more meaningful to relate to others on a one-on-one level. Someone at a distance, perhaps an in-law, might want to change plans, but he or she doesn't want to upset you. Encourage openness, and avoid being overly serious. Tonight: Be a duo.

BORN TODAY

Singer/songwriter Meghan Trainor (1993), singer/songwriter Jordin Sparks (1989), former U.S. first lady Lady Bird Johnson (1912)

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Never stop trying

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ 7
♡ 9 5 3
◇ A 10 8 5 4
♣ J 8 7 5

WEST
♠ A 9 6 5 2
♡ Q 7 6
◇ 2
♣ 9 6 4 2

EAST
♠ 10 4
♡ K 8 2
◇ Q 9 7 6 3
♣ Q 10 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 8 3
♡ A J 10 4
◇ K J
♣ A K

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2◇	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Many would have opened the South hand with one spade, which might have ended the auction on this layout. We see a lot of merit in South's chosen sequence.

The opening spade lead went to the 10 and king. Eyeing the nine of hearts as a potential dummy entry, South exited with the jack of hearts to East's king. East shifted to a low diamond, won by South with the jack. Next came the 10 of hearts, but West won the queen of hearts and returned his last heart before South had a chance to unblock the king of diamonds. An early unblock would have left South vulnerable to club leads.

Declarer won this in his hand, cashed the long heart, and led the queen of spades. West captured this with the ace and shifted to a club — low, 10, king.

NORTH
♠ Void
♡ Void
◇ A 10
♣ J 8 7

WEST
♠ 9 6 2
♡ Void
◇ Void
♣ 9 4

EAST
♠ Void
♡ Void
◇ Q 9 7
♣ Q 3

SOUTH
♠ J 8 3
♡ Void
◇ K
♣ A

It looked desperate for declarer, but things came to life when South cashed the king of diamonds. West could not let go of a spade, so he shed a club. South seized the moment by cashing the ace of clubs and exiting with a low spade. West was forced to lead a spade back into declarer's jack-eight and the result was a magical nine tricks!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Beginning of space?
5 With 71-Across, event for today's puzzle's circles
10 Sea that's a shrinking lake
14 Jazz Age toon
15 Comes (from)
16 Roast, in Rouen
17 __ about
18 "Miss __ Playhouse": jazz CD for kids
19 Fishing, perhaps
20 Outlaw Belle
22 PBS funder
24 Tally
25 Prize for today's puzzle's circles
29 Org. with a snake in its logo
31 Detestable sort
32 Late 19th-century presidential monogram
33 Family babysitter
35 Cut
40 Dignify
42 Fireworks reaction
43 Starters
44 Curaçao's capital
47 Conclusion preceder
48 Andean tuber
49 Turkmenistan neighbor
51 Want-ad letters
52 Introductory words for each set of puzzle circles
56 Titled rapper
57 Radical '70s org.
58 Teen superhero's family
60 Pupil's place
62 "You __ one!"
65 Nantes nothing
67 Disencumbers
68 Sacks
69 Conductor Klemperer or an emperor
70 Reformed demon on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
71 See 5-Across
72 Place to find bullets

DOWN

1 Blood system letters
2 Ages
3 Ordeal at the dentist's office
4 Oxygen network co-founder
5 Soup container
6 Proverb ending?
7 Up to, commercially
8 Southwestern plain
9 Perfume
10 Altar in the sky
11 Mantegna's "Criminal Minds" role
12 Really enjoyed
13 Singer Payne of One Direction
21 Proverbial deserter
23 Grilled, in Mexican fare
26 California's __ Verdes Peninsula
27 Beyond silly
28 Golfe de la Gonâve country
29 From the top
30 Modest skirt
34 Mete out
36 "Cuchi-cuchi" celebrity
37 Akhenaten's queen
38 Subdue, perhaps
39 Melville novel
41 Staffers of Apple's Genius Bar
45 Send
46 Least lit
50 Butte-to-Helena dir.
52 NFL Network analyst Michael __
53 Unable to make ends meet
54 Slasher film sequel of 2005
55 Become a member, in Manchester
56 Commercial prefix meaning "long-lasting"
59 Places
61 Hard-rock link
63 Unit of work
64 Verbal shrug
66 "Tricked you!"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	R	O	M	A		D	E	L	L		S	P	A	T
C	A	R	A	T		E	B	A	Y		A	L	B	A
T	R	A	D	E	B	A	R	B	S		G	A	L	S
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A	T	L	A	S	T		R	A	T	E	C	U	T	S
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		F	L	O	R	A		R	U	E	S			
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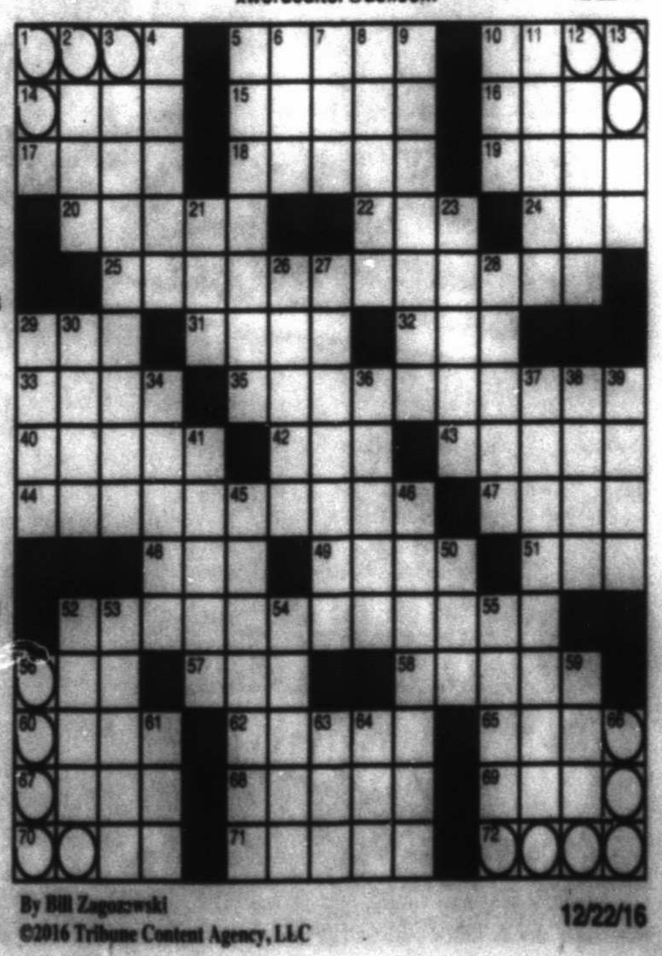
P	A	I	N		T	R	I	A	L	O	F	F	E	R
D	A	R	E		H	O	L	M		R	E	A	D	E
O	N	E	S		E	L	S	E		E	E	R	I	E

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/22/16



By Bill Zagozewski
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12/22/16

MUSIC CITY MALL
SIGHTS
SOUNDS
SAVINGS

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS
9AM - 10PM

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AMAZING DECORATIONS | ONLINE GAMES
COME VISIT SANTA AT THE DILLARD'S COURTYARD! EVERY CHILD RECEIVES A FREE GIFT. WITH OVER 100 MERCHANTS TO CHOOSE FROM, YOU'LL FIND THE PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST. CHECKOUT OUR WEBSITE FOR FUN NEW INTERACTIVE CHILDREN'S GAMES.
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FOLLOW US

MUSIC CITY MALL

Burlington Dillard's JCPenney sears

mrt★com/jobs

Employment ads by:
432.682.6999
432.682.6222
mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

CRMWD
Colorado River Municipal Water District

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for the following position:

Electrician - Responsible for maintaining the District's control panels, motors, electric substations and power lines. Intermediate level position, good understanding of electricity required.

For additional information visit www.crmwd.org

WEST TEXAS GAS, INC.
GIS / Compliance Specialist

WTG is seeking a GIS / Compliance Specialist for our Amarillo office. The qualified candidate will be responsible for the maintenance devlopment of WTG's GIS systems. **Qualifications include**

- 3+ years GIS experience
- ESRI ArcGIS for Desktop / ESRI ArcGIS Server
- Knowledge of DOT pipeline regulations
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word / Excel
- Must be able to travel

Contact Ray Reed at 806-358-1321 rreed@westtexasgas.com

HEALTHCARE

LCDC/LPC/Intern
LCDC/LPC/Intern needed for Addiction medical clinic part time Monday-Friday, 6am-10:30am. Tx planning, case mgmt and therapy. Paid holidays, paid sick days, no health benefits. Midland positions. Please fax resume to 800-671-8364.

Medical Assistant
Must be bilingual, available to work M-F & some Saturdays. Please call 432-699-5111 for more information.

Surgery Coordinator & Phlebotomist
Immediate opening for **Surgery Coordinator & Phlebotomist**, experience preferred. FT. Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to: **jodyclinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn: Jody Bulls, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.**

OTHER JOBS

Delivery Driver
Delivery Driver needed full-time. Heavy lifting required. Must be able to pass a drug test. Apply in person at 2101 W. Wadley, Midland, TX 79706

CARTER'S

SALES JOBS

Delivery Driver
Delivery driver with some warehouse and light maintenance duties needed. Benefits available. Clean driving record required. Apply in person at Basin Engine & Pump, 1914 S. County Rd., Midland, TX.

Electronic Billing Specialist
Local service company is looking for an experienced electronic billing specialist for a fast paced office has an opening for experienced electronic billing specialist. Must be organized, have accurate data entry skills and an attention to detail. Must have the ability to multi-task with distractions while still meeting strict goals. This candidate will have the skills listed above while being self-motivated and a team player. We offer an excellent work environment with good salary and benefits package for the right person. Send your resume to P-111 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701

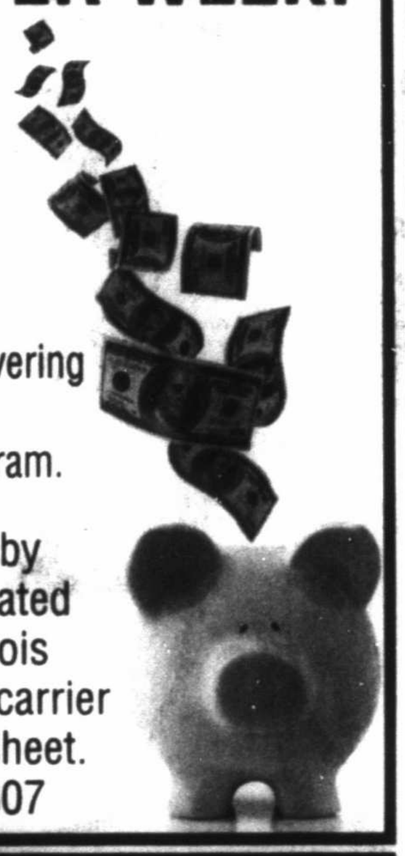
SKILLED LABOR

Heavy Equipment Operators
Hiring experienced heavy equipment operators for oilfield dirt work and rock crushing. 1-2 years operator experience required. Dozer experience a plus. Pay DOE. Health, vision, and dental insurance 100% paid! Apply in person: 9400 S. Service Rd., Coahoma, TX. or call 432-394-4604 for more information.

OTHER JOBS

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

SKILLED LABOR

Available Position
Eagle Automation in Midland, TX is hiring for the following position: **Licensed Journeyman Electrician** - candidates must be a TX Licensed Journeyman with oil field and industrial experience and have the ability to interpret the NEC Code book.

Apprentice Electrician - 1+ years Electrician Apprentice preferred. Must be able to travel and work out of town Monday - Friday.

Automation Technician - Required experience includes RTU/EFM (Fisher ROC 107, 827, Totalflow UFlo, XRC, AutoPilots etc.)

Measurement & Controls Technician - 1+ year measurement/ Instrument calibration experience required. We offer competitive hourly rates and affordable benefits including health, dental, vision, life, and 401-K.

If you meet these requirements and would like to be considered for a position, please email your resume to Ashley McGinley (ashley.mcginley@poscl.net) or call 405-608-5342.

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 toTodd@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706

Salesman
Salesman needed: South Environmental Services is looking to hire an experienced salesperson. Oilfield experience a must. Please send resume to joanna@southenv.com or apply in person at 2400 S. loop 250W Midland Texas. Across the loop from the DPS.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

CDL Drivers & Owner Operators
Local trucking company Now hiring Class A CDL Drivers & Owner Operators, clean driving record is required. Must pass a criminal background check and DOT drug test. Apply in person at 3913 FM 715, Midland, Texas 79706

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Driver Tractor Trailer - Crude Oil
HIRING DRIVERS IN BIG LAKE, MIDLAND, GARDEN CITY, BIG SPRING, STANTON AND STERLING CITY AREAS! MISSION PETROLEUM CARRIERS is currently HIRING CDL drivers for LOCAL RUNS hauling crude oil.
++Must live close enough to travel to the site daily; Must have valid Class A CDL with X Endorsement; Minimum 24 months previous driving experience in tanker or tractor-trailer is required++
Apply today Or call Marissa at 361/288-7367 for more info
MISSION PETROLEUM CARRIERS OFFERS:

- Local Hauling-Home Daily • Weekly Pay • Training/Orientation Pay
- Shift Differential For Night Drivers
- Quarterly Safety and Performance Bonus
- Paid Orientation/Training

Benefits Package Includes Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance
401K Plan With Company Match Available
New/Well Maintained Equipment
Qualcomm System For HOS Logs and DVIR --
Less Paperwork For Drivers

--Mission Petroleum does not reimburse or pay for relocation expenses--

GLOBE Energy Services
Now Hiring CDL Drivers
With Tanker Endorsement
Pump Truck Operators
Vacuum Truck Operators
Hot Oil Operators
Competitive pay, Health Insurance, Vacation and Retirement Benefits available!

Please apply at the following, Main Office location
2905 East I-20, Midland, Texas

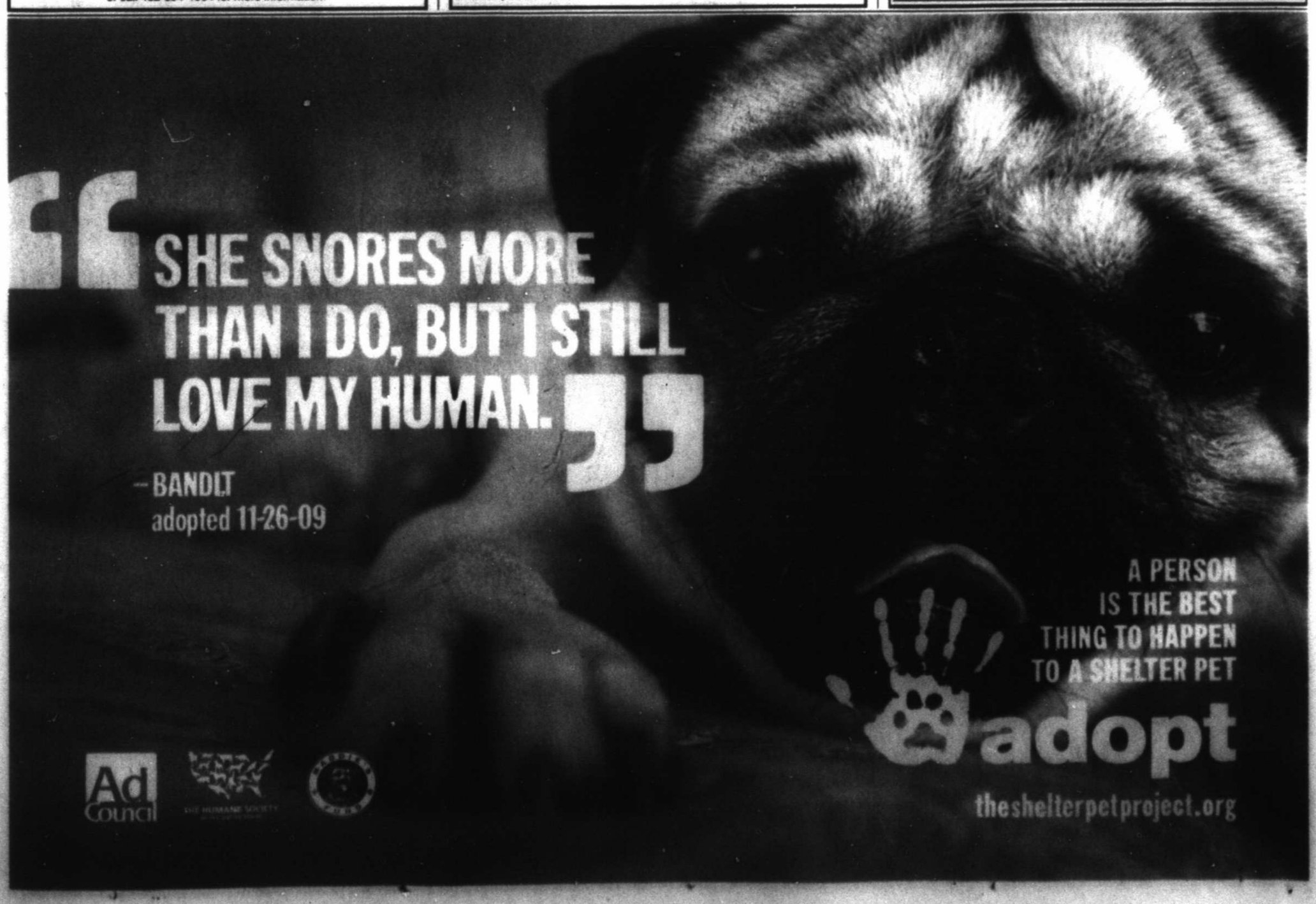
Now Hiring Route Drivers
No CDL required must have clean driving record and strong work ethic must be detailed oriented and physically able. Call to schedule interview 432-563-0299 ask for Moses or Bryan

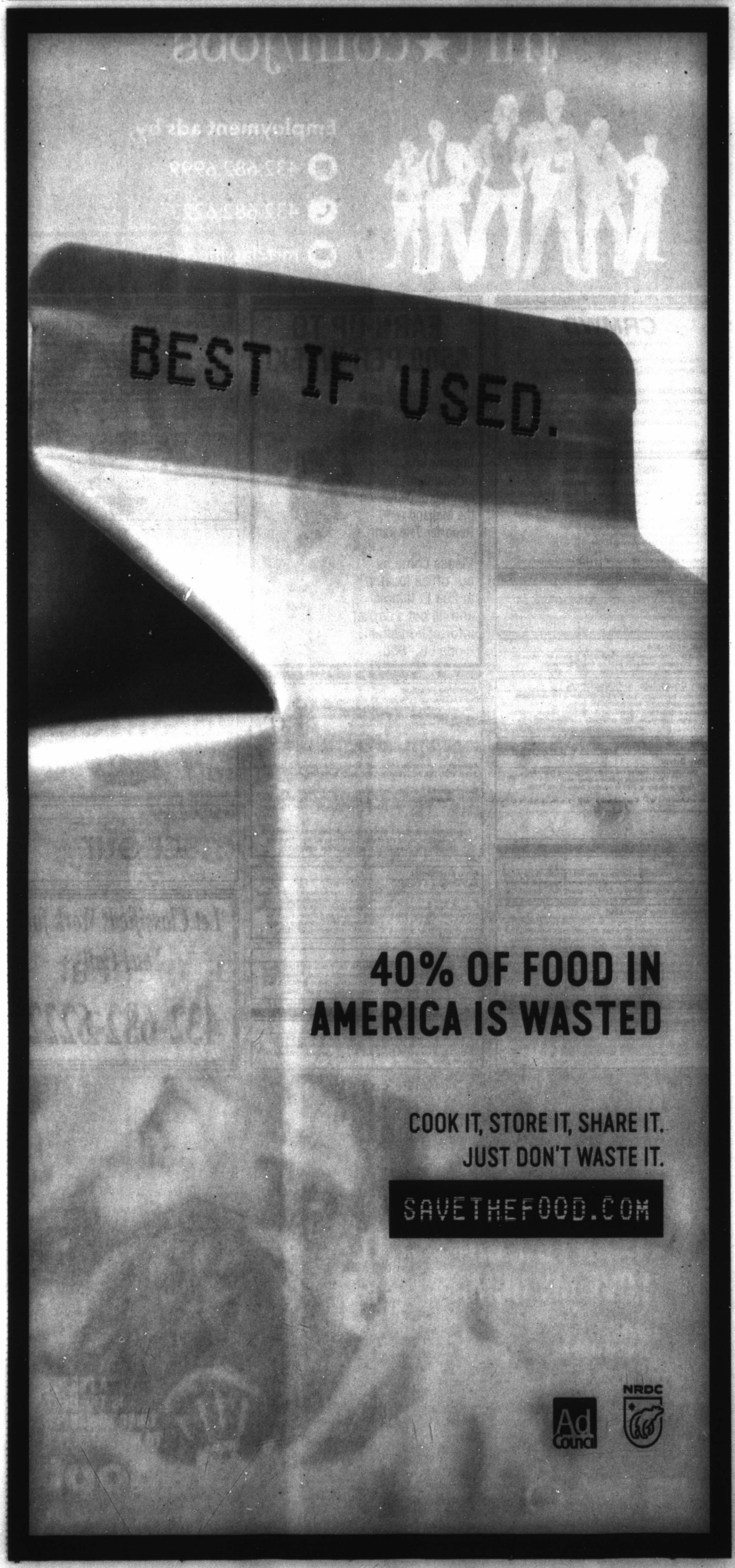
INTERSTATE BATTERIES

Oilfield Water Haulers
Experienced Oilfield Water Haulers
HOME DAILY!
•Paid Orientation • $16.74 /Hr. Avg. 55 - 70 Hours per Week
• Day/Night Shift - Must be available for both
• Dispatched to and from terminal daily
Current CDL w/tank and Hazmat required
888-467-1191 EEOE/AAP

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222




BEST IF USED.
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COOK IT, STORE IT, SHARE IT.
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Ad Council
NRDC

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is Tuesday January 10, 2017 11:30am at 3420 Thomason Drive - Midland, TX. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash; immediate removal is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes the contents of the following delinquent tenants: Heather Martinez, Household Goods; Jose Benitez, Household Goods; Bernice Menchaca, Household Goods; Erica Cortez, Household Goods; Lacarlton Hooper, Household Goods; Cheryl Wadley , Household Goods; Josh Brown, Household Goods; Cordia Lewis, Household Goods; Reynaldo Garza III, Household Goods; , Household Goods; Cheryl Wadley, Household Goods; Penny Stroud, Household Goods; Steven Griffin, Household Goods. Property from the above listed delinquent tenants will be sold as individual units. For further information, contact Affordable Self Storage at 432-694-4444.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that Metro Self Storage Midland at 315 N. Midland Dr. Midland, Texas 79703 will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien (pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Statutes-Property Code). The sale will take place at the website StorageStuff.Bid on January 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm. The sale will be conducted under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (#16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale at StorageStuff.Bid. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is as described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. Property includes the storage unit contents belonging to the following tenants:

B001-Andrew Saxton (Car Parts & Misc)
E001-Roy Stockton (Tires, Rims & Misc)
Y07-Hollie Dennis (Totes & Misc)

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost and Found

DID YOU lose some money 12-21-16. Call me and tell me where & how much money it was and I'll return it. 432-813-4590

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

NICE CLEAN BMW 2003 model 325, must see. New tune up, clutch & fuel pump. Asking $5,000. 432-349-0041

Fax It... 682-6999

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Statements of Qualifications will be received until 2:00 PM, December 28, 2016, in the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following:

Request for Qualifications 17000838: The City of Midland, Texas invites the submittal of responses to this RFQ from qualified firms or teams interested in providing Design/Build services in connection with the design and construction of shoring for the Midland Civic Center Building.

The RFQ is now available. To receive a copy of the RFQ, please call 432-685-7234 or e-mail: purchasing@midlandtexas.gov

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code.

City of Midland, Texas

Passenger Cars

TO SETTLE ESTATE: 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950k. $59,000 Firm. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4076

Pickup Trucks

FORD 350, 1999, 7.3 Diesel Hotshot Welder; 220,000 miles refurbished; good condition. Asking $10,000.00, make an offer. Come see at 1209 W. Illinois, Midland, TX.

FORD F150 Lariat, 2007. 75,000 Miles. GREAT CONDITION! $9,000 OBO. 432-210-6561.

4WD and SUV

CHEVROLET 2000 Suburban 227K miles $2,900. 432-634-0950 Text or leave message.

LIKE NEW 2008 Yamaha Raptor ATV. Garage kepted, only ridden 4 times. $5,000. 432-349-0041.

Classified CAN 682-6222

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

		1	6			8		
2			3					
8						9		6
	9		2		5	4		1
	2						5	
1		5	9				8	
9		4						2
					8			7
		6			2	3		

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit ***www.sudoku.org.uk***

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

9	7	4	6	5	3	2	1	8
1	3	5	2	8	4	9	6	7
6	2	8	1	9	7	5	4	3
8	9	2	5	6	1	7	3	4
3	1	7	9	4	2	8	5	6
5	4	6	7	3	8	1	9	2
2	6	9	3	7	5	4	8	1
7	8	3	4	1	9	6	2	5
4	5	1	8	2	6	3	7	9

12/22/16

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Attention Readers

In observance of

Christmas Day

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed

Monday, December 26th, 2016

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Fri., Dec 23, 11am
Sun., Dec 25th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 5pm
Mon., Dec 26th	Fri., Dec 23rd, 5pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Fri., Dec 23rd, 5pm

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Sun., Dec 25th	Wed., Dec 21st, 2pm
Mon., Dec. 26th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Thurs., Dec. 22nd, 4pm

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Sat., Dec 24th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Sun., Dec 25th	Wed., Dec 21st, 2pm
Mon., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 2pm
Tues., Dec 27th	Thurs., Dec 22nd, 4pm
Sun., Dec 25th (Oil Report, Culture)	Tues., Dec. 20th, 2pm

CIRCULATION HOURS

Customer Service calls will be taken Monday, December 26th from 7 AM-10 AM only.

We will re-open Tuesday, Dec. 27th for regular business hours.

To advertise in Classified

Contact our Classified Department at 432-682-6222

email mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

fax 432-682-3793

Midland Reporter-Telegram

mrt.com

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AND DRIVERS
HATE TEXTERS
AND DRIVERS.

STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG

Ad Council NHTSA

Who's Who For Service

You can advertise your business for as little as $47.00 monthly.

Call 682-6222 for details.

Svcs-Professionals

Accounting-Financial

APPLIANCE REPAIR
REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers.
Free Service Call with Repair. Free Removal.
Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices.
M&M Appliances
1007 N Midkiff, Midland Call 432-570-8278

Cleaning Services

Home Cleaning

HONEST, Dependable housekeeping. References available. Call Wendy 432-894-4279!

Window Cleaning

WINDOWS PLUS + Serving Midlanders since 1994. Residential, Commercial. 432-682-9322.

Computer Services

Repair-Replacement

A+ COMPUTER Tutor! Overcome Your Fear of Computers! ✔Your PLACE at Your PACE. ★Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg).

Hauling

CLEANOUTS & TRASH HAULING. FAST SERVICE 432-254-3501.

HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1316

Home Services & Home Improvement

Brick-Block-Stone

ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair. All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

BRICK, BLOCK & Stone Work. 45 years experience. References. Max 432-661-8899

Concrete

ALPHA MASONRY and Concrete wcrk. Free Estimates. Small Jobs Welcome 432-813-8552.

Computer Services

Repair-Replacement

Hate Windows 10? We can Help. We'll tell you how, in plain English. Design, Repair, Virus Removal. At Home & On the Job. If It's Technology, We Handle it. Refurbished PC's & Training too. (432) 631-7202

Home Services & Home Improvement

Concrete

AMH FENCING Quick response. All types! No job to big or small. Foundation, driveways, patios, sidewalks, footing, and flowerbeds. Free estimates. 432-661-7627.

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, wood fences. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

JS Concrete
Slabs, curbs, driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

Contractors-Builders

CLEARAWAY
FOR all your REMOVAL needs and light construction, trash, & tree limbs, residential & commercial cleanout. Tired of higher prices? Give us a call for affordable prices. 432-235-9999

Home Services & Home Improvement

Electrical

ALL YOUR electrical needs mst. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0659. Tecl # 22541

LAING ELECTRIC. Licensed and insured. TECL 18544. 432-413-5880. Always appreciated!

Fences

AMH FENCING A rating on Angie's List. Residential fence, builder and repair. Reliable, professional, and quick response. 432-661-7627

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, wood fences Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

HANDYMAN SERVICES, We do it all! 432-254-3501

STABILITY FENCING & WELDING. Repair or rebuild. Any size job big or small. Wood, sheet metal, block, brick & iron. Call 432-978-9990

Fax Your Ad 24-7 682-6999

Home Services & Home Improvement

Fireplaces-Firewood

ERIC'S FIREWOOD Oak/Mesquite or Mix 1/4-$100, 1/2 $200, Full $400. Call 432-258-9636. Thank you!

FIREWOOD BY Midland Fireman. Oak, Pinon, Mesquite firewood. Full, half and quarter cords. Free delivery. Also, Tree Trimming services and firewood racks for sale. Call 432-557-2897, 209-1131.

FIREWOOD FOR sale, Oak $350 cord, $200 1/2 cord, Mixed $250 cord, $175 1/2 cord plus tax. Delivered/stacked. Williams Tree. 432-638-6163 or 432-561-8802.

Handyman Services

HANDYMAN SERVICES, We do it all! 432-254-3501.

Heat-Air Condition

At your service actionairplumbing.com (432) 620-8900

ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TALCB005482.

Painting-Wallpaper

24 HR Handyman. For any type of job, big or small. Repair or rebuild. 432-978-9990.

24 HR Maid & Janitorial service. Cleaning errands, or 1 time mess, clean up. 432-978-9990.

Cabinetry-Finishing

CABINETS OF ALL TYPES
Bathroom and Kitchen renovation specialists.
Native Midlanders
Michael Friday 432-770-1048
Lance Friday 432-638-7495.

Contractors-Builders

SPECIALTIES: Small building projects. Hobby shops, efficiencies, storage building, additions, garages, etc. By native Midlander Manny Ribera est. 1981, class of 1974-76 MHS. www.mRiberaConstructin.com (Three month waiting list)

Fences

For all your fencing needs, Midland Alamo Fence. Free estimates. 432-689-2700.

Plumbing-Home Service

★ SUPERIOR PLUMBING ★
Call us on all your plumbing repairs, new construction, and remodels. M39721. For superior service at reasonable rates. Please call 432-687-5905.

Home Services & Home Improvement

Painting-Wallpaper

CALL BILL TEMPLE PAINTING
Exterior Specials paint down to 35 degrees, Interior Specials too. Proudly using Sherwin Williams A+ BBB 432-349-1563

CRC Interior and Exterior. Remodeling, painting, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-6595. 1st ESTIMATE FREE

DOUBLE TT PAINTING Interior and Exterior Texture, tape & bed also auto paint & body. Christmas/New Years Special. Work guaateed 432-288-7849 or 352-4633.

FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/exterior, residential/commercial very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4643

Painting-Wallpaper

NO LIMIT PAINTING any type of job big or small. Interior/Exterior. Texture, sheetrock. 432-978-9990

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Perman Maintenance 432-697-5417

Plumbing Home Svc

At your service actionairplumbing.com (432) 620-8900

HANDYMAN SERVICES, We do it all! 432-254-3501.

Septic Installation
actionairplumbing.com 432-620-8900

Remodeling-Repair

COMPLETE REMODELS, specialize in kitchen & baths, Handyman services. 14 Years experience. 889-8387

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

EL JARDIN - Trees, Landscape, Irrigation. Experienced Professionals From Start to Finish. New Landscape Design & Installation, Relandscaping, New Lawns & Lawn Restoration. Tree Pruning, Planting, Removal & Health Care. Sprinkler Repair, Modification, New Design & Installation. Drip Irrigation Specialists! 24 Years in the Permian Basin. We accept major credit cards. Please call Bruce at 432-770-2399 eljardintx@icloud.com

JOJO'S BEE LAWN & TREE SERVICE
TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, GRINDING. BUCKET TRUCK AVAILABLE. FREE ESTIMATES. INSURED. CALL JOSE RUEDAS 432-664-6745 OR 432-352-7435 JOJOSBEELAWN@YAHOO.COM

Miscellaneous Services

city ~ rural ~ off-grid
HIGH SPEED INTERNET
contact us for best plan in your area nationwide - residential - commercial 800-409-4525

Home Services & Home Improvement

Remodeling-Repair

ALPHA GENERAL Construction, remodeling additions, metal and wood fencing, cabinets, stucco, roofing, painting, tile, showers, counter tops, masonry work, landscaping and hardscaping. Small jobs welcome. Call 432-813-8552.

PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath. Perman Maintenance 432-697-5417

Roofing

J&J ROOFING
All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs. Metal roofs 25 years experience. Free Estimates Call Juan. 432-631-6861

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802. 638-6163.

Arbor Solutions
Irrigation services. Residential. Commercial. Designs, installations & repairs. TECQ LI0020921 (432) 557-1340

EL JARDIN
Keep your Trees strong & healthy this year with our professional level services. Tree healthcare, pruning, planting & removal. 24yrs exp. in Permian Basin. Call now to schedule fall pruning. We accept major credit cards. 432-770-2399 eljardintx@icloud.com

FALL CLEANUP! Trees, shurbs, trimming & removal, stump grinding, flowerbeds hauling, bucket truck. Free estimates. 30 years experience. Ryan 432-693-3870 or Ann 432-296-2023

Miscellaneous Services

WATER TREATMENT
Culligan of West Texas
Residential & Commercial
FREE WATER ANALYSIS
563-2690

We buy homes in any area in any condition.
Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors
432-689-7770.

Personal Services

♥ MASSAGE BY HENRY ♥
DEEP TISSUE, PAIN RELIEF. $50/HR. MIDLAND /ODESSA. 432-349-7811

Wrought Iron-Welding

WELDING
DFC, LLC
Custom Steel Fabrication & Welding
We can build or repair it!
432-352-9203

Landscape and Tree Maintenance

Lawn and Garden

LEYVA LAWN CARE
Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient 432-250-9470

MURPHY'S LAWN CARE
Mowing, edging, trimming, Hedge/ shrub trimming, clean-ups. Bill or Maryann: (432)687-2131

RETIRED MIDLAND fireman trimming trees, hedges, flower beds, cleaned and mowing. Call 697-2030 for free estimates!

STRACENER IRRIGATION
Sprinkler Systems
Repairs & Installations
License #4933
Call (432) 561-9525

WILL TRIM, prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424.

SynTurf Solutions
Synthetic Turf. Designs, Sales, Service, Installation. Landscape Playgrounds, Putting Greens, Athletic, Pet grasses. www.synturfsolutions.com (432) 557-1340

Moving and Storage

A-1 FURNITURE MOVING at A-1 Prices. Moving, load, unload, pack, and unpack. Local and long distance. Over 20 years experience. We do Deliveries. Free on site estimates. Call 432-425-3738

Personal Services

PRIVATE CARE GIVER AVAILABLE 20+ years caring for elders. References available per request. Private home care personal shopping, meal preparation, all transportation needs. 432-816-2011.

Recreation Vehicles

31' RV/ Motor home for sale. Great condition - less than 50K miles. 2001 Fleetwood Jamboree/ Ford 10 cylinder. $20,000. See & drive by appointment. Henry K Hermann - 432-684-8813

REDUCED
HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $8,000 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Yard - Garage Sales

79705

MOVING ESTATE SALE. 2513 HUMBLE. Thur. & Fri. 8am-12pm. Bar stools, paintings, clothes, lawn mower & other household items.

OAK, PECAN, hickory, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0416 or 325-762-4262

Pets-Animals

Other Pets

TWO MALE, Applehead, brindle chihuahua puppies. Have had their first shots. Good Christmas present! $200 each. 432-212-0316.

Merchandise

Musical Instruments

OLD PLAYER Piano with a LARGE number of rolls, can also be played as a regular paino. Makes a nice Christmas present! 432-682-9146, 432-212-2590.

Classified CAN 682-6222

Dogs

"CHRISTMAS PUPPIES"
AKC German Shepherd puppies
5 females & 3 males. Ready to got this weekend, 12/18. $500. 432-634-4618.

Lots and Land

47.75 AC. W. TX. HUNTING, N OF COMSTOCK. DEER, JAVELINA, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. $2,375 DN-$394/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 866-286-0199 ranchenterprises/td.com

Lots and Land

Acreage

21.23 AC. N. OF SAN ANGELO. LEVEL WITH NICE MESQUITE TREE COVER. DEER, HOGS, TURKEY, QUAIL & DOVE. NEAR LAKE E. V. SPENCE. $2,926 DN-$485/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 800-879-9720 ranchenterprises/td.com

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

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To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1800-669-9777

Residential Rentals

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

DUPLEX FOR RENT 4813 A Cuthbert. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath tile floors. $900.00 per month. 900.00 Deposit. 432-894-1030

FAIRGATE TOWNHOME $1,300 month $1,000 deposit. Small pets welcome with pet deposit. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. 432-686-2800

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call
432-682-6222

Commercial

LEASING OFFICE SPACE
4,000 sq. ft. office suites close to downtown 700 S. Marienfeld.
3,795 sq. ft. building for sale on 2606 W. Front St.
Call 432-684-5933 or 432-816-8051 for details.

Commercial

READY-RANCH
WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.READY-RANCH.COM

* Kent County
*11,155 ac. h. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
*4,212 ac. Maveric Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
* Nolan County
*646 ac. over 1 mile creek, blinds, feeders, elevators 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, creeks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
* Martin County
*135 ac. Sulphur Springs deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal shop $1,150/ac
SOLD
(432) 664-7764 or (432) 934-7777
No Realtors - Buy Direct!!!
Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

Commercial

NNN Leased Commercial Investment Property 1.39+/- acre, 9,026 SF Dollar General (Fortune 500 Company, S & P Rated BBB-) tenented property. Initial 15 Year NNN Lease commenced June 2014 with 10% increases at each option period. Ideally located with excellent frontage along University Blvd in Odessa, TX. NOI $93,932, List Price $1,456,000. Call Ed Routzong 281-872-3411 or visit 10x.com/texasdollargeneral for more information

Residential Rentals

Condo Thome Rent Unfurn

GREAT GUY SPACE
2 bedroom apartment with all utilities paid. Inside of a security fence with an electric gate. Located on the east side of Midland inside of Loop 250. $850 per month. For more information call Terry at 432-689-6073

House Rent Unfurn

1 BEDROOM house. $500/mo. $200 deposit. No kids. Call Sandra 432-230-1444.

2613 Haynes B
Midland, TX. $1,800
3 Bedroom, 3 Baths
2,400 sq. ft.
Storage & Carport.
Berkshire Hathaway HS Cooper Realty
Call 432-689-7700 or 432-230-1331

3BD/2BTH lg bk yard. No pets/no smoking. 6301 Shawnee across from MCC. $1200/mo. & $1200 deposit. Now available, call for appt! 432-683-2243

402A WEST PINE. 3 bedroom 2 bath duplex. All tile floors. $1,075 month $1,075 deposit. Pets permitted with deposit. Background & credit check required. 12 month lease minimum. 432-557-0018.

4512 PARKDALE 3 bedroom 2 bath, single carport, recently remodeled. Non smoker. 600 credit score required. $25 application on anyone over 18. $1,500 month, $1,500 deposit. 1 year lease. 432-940-0920.

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

930 N. Weatherford, 3 bedroom 2 bath, large yard. $1,300 month, $800.00 deposit. Call 432-269-9715

Clean and pretty 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex near the new HEB. 4806 Harvard, A side. Lots of information posted at the front door. Rent $950. deposit $800.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

HOME FOR sale in Midland. 3 bedroom, 2 baths with den. Nice cabinets. 5 rooms with hardwood floors. Well priced call 903-783-0259

Vacation Resort

LAKE LEON, Eastland TX. Waterfront home, 2 BD, 2 full BA, fireplace, peer fishing dock, concrete boat ramp, 2 storage buildings, 2 carports - 1 for RV or pontoon size SB, long back southern style porch, beautiful yard and sunsets. Built in 2009. $225,000 price negotiable. 254-647-5399. Cell- 432-270-3506 leave message.

Lots and Land

Ranches

RANCH FOR SALE
4,212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing $795/ Acre (432) 664-7764.

Commercial

5 ACRE fenced catche yard, available for sub lease. $1,200 month. 432-631-6079

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC CALICHED
ELECTRIC GATE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
432-664-7764

GREAT SPOT FOR a commercial yard, 1, 2, or 3 acre calache yard for lease with secured fencing & electric gate. Located on the east side of Midland just outside of the city limits inside of Loop 250 For more information call Terry at 432-689-6073.

Commercial

NOW LEASING
• Office/Warehouses •
• Small Office Suites •
• Fenced Yards
Various locations.
Call 432-661-4057

OFFICE / RETAIL space for lease.
45' X 75'
2209 N. Big Spring,
Call Matt
800-672-3911

OFFICE/ WAREHOUSE 3650 sq ft with 8 offices, conference room, kitchen/ breakfast area. Plus 1500 sq ft warehouse with HVAC. Fenced yard with a wash bay for vehicles. 1601 Idlewilde. $5,300/ month. 432-638-1341.

MOM & Pop Retail Convenience store, with house on side, paid $176,000 in 2006, willing to take offers due to health issues. Serious inquiires only! Call Diane at 325-656-1254 or email blackwell357@gmail.com

Mobile-Modular Homes

Mobile Homes Rent

Mobile Homes for rent ranging between $650 - $800. Deposit $500. Fenced in yard. Paved roads. Ready to move in to. 432-687-6324.

SMALL 1 Bedroom, trailer, single person or couple. $450 month Bills paid except electricity & butane. $100 deposit. 432-296-2023

Placing an ad in Classifieds is very easy.

All you have to do is call 432-682-6222.

We'll help you create an effective, easy to read ad, that is delivered daily to thousands of homes in Midland & surrounding areas.

If you expect value and results from every advertising dollar, Call 432-682-6222 TODAY!

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Kid Scoop.com
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
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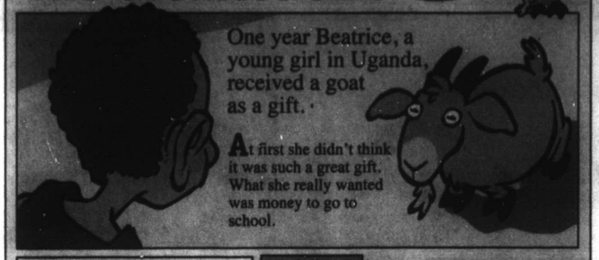
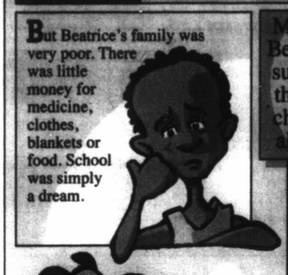
The Greatest Gift

That's ME!



One year Beatrice, a young girl in Uganda, received a goat as a gift.

At first she didn't think it was such a great gift. What she really wanted was money to go to school.



But Beatrice's family was very poor. There was little money for medicine, clothes, blankets or food. School was simply a dream.

Much to Beatrice's surprise, the goat changed all that!

Drinking the goat's milk made Beatrice and her five younger sisters and brothers healthier. The manure from the goat fertilized the garden and made it more productive.

And, the one little goat gave more milk than her family could drink, so they could sell it and make money.

After a few months of selling the goat's milk, Beatrice had enough money to go to school!

Beatrice named her goat **Mugisa.** Use the code to find out what that means. Do you think that was a good name for her goat?

✚ = C
■ = K
▬ = L
◢ = U

_____ _____ _____ _____
▬ ◢ ✚ ■

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

How Beatrice Got Her Goat

Beatrice's goat was a gift from an organization called **Heifer International.** Children and adults can both help Heifer International give farm animals and training to needy families around the world.

The gift of a goat is $120. Or you can share the cost with others for a $10 donation.

Unscramble these words to find out the other kinds of gift animals Heifer International can provide to people in need.

SCIHCK _____

UDCSK _____

ESECE _____

BITSBAR _____

EPESH _____

To find out how you can give a goat to a family visit **www.heifer.org**.

Extra! Extra!

Helpful Hunt

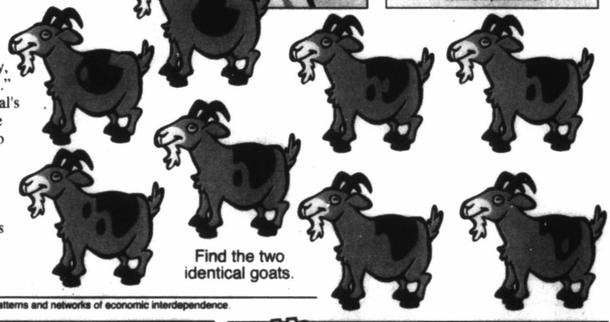
Look through today's newspaper and find five or more ways people are helping others.

Standards Link: Civics: Understand the role of volunteerism and organized groups in social and political life.

Gifts that MULTIPLY!

When Heifer International gives a goat or other animal to a family, the family must "pass on the gift." Recipient families give the animal's first female offspring to another family in need. That family, in turn, passes on the gift to another family. So one gift multiplies throughout the community!

The cost of any animal purchased includes training and medicines to keep the animal healthy.



Find the two identical goats.

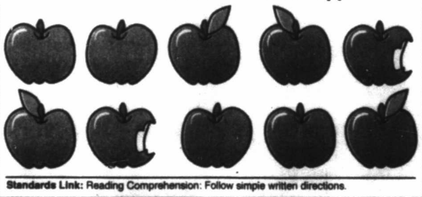
Standards Link: Geography: Understand the patterns and networks of economic interdependence.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

In addition to farm animals, people can give the gift of trees at **www.heifer.org**. Young trees, called seedlings, can be planted to create a small family orchard of fruit or nut trees. The fruit of the trees provides good nutrition and extra fruit can be sold at market to provide income for a family, too.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Draw a line between each identical apple.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

HEIFER
MEDICINE
MARKET
MILK
MANURE
MONEY
SURPRISE
MUGISA
FARM
GOAT
ANIMAL
COINS
GIFT
BEATRICE
UGANDA

H	S	N	I	O	C	E	Y	B	L
S	U	R	P	R	I	S	E	E	A
I	G	A	F	E	R	U	N	A	M
T	A	S	T	F	I	G	O	T	I
E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	R	N
K	D	G	E	E	F	I	T	I	A
R	A	U	R	H	L	A	G	C	I
A	V	M	E	K	O	S	R	E	S
M	H	E	E	G	P	T	O	M	O

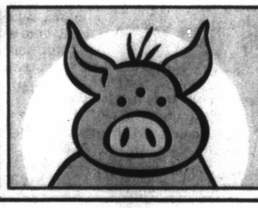
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

It's a Numbers Game

Find a partner. Each partner takes a different color pen or crayon. Circle as many numbers as you can in one minute on the front page. Who circled the most numbers over 50? Whose numbers add up to the highest sum?

Standards Link: Number Sense: Calculate sums.



What do you call a pig with three eyes?

ANSWER: piggy!

Weekly Writing Corner

Creepy Animal Facts

Students write about the animals they consider creepy and why.

If a tick drops off its host, it can still live for a long time. Some dog ticks have stayed alive, without food, for three years! Ticks are serious pests, because they spread diseases including Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease and tularemia. When a tick has finished feeding, it may be 2.5 centimeters (1 inch) across. A tick may stay attached to its host for hours, weeks or until the host dies. A tick attaches itself to skin by hanging on with its strong legs. It can pierce the host's skin with its snout and it feeds on blood.

Zachary, 3rd grade

Wolves, to me, are the creepiest animals! Wolves howl at the moon to notify other wolves to go hunting. The wolf's eyes glow in the dark. Now that's creepy! The creepiest thing of all is that wolves eat raw meat! I think that's disgusting and creepy.

McKenna, 3rd grade

Bats are very interesting and creepy. They are the only mammals that can fly and some of them live in caves. Bats have a furry body and their wings are covered by smooth, flexible skin. They sleep upside down and are nocturnal.

Christine, 6th grade

I think the anglerfish is the creepiest animal because of its long, sharp teeth. The anglerfish uses bait that is a small, glowing mass of bacteria. The fish and the bacteria show mutualism because the anglerfish can lure prey and the bacteria can get shelter. The body part holding the bacteria is called a "fishing pole."

Ryan, 6th grade

The creepiest animal, in my opinion, is the potato bug. I think it's creepy because it crawls, it's huge in size, and it looks horrifying. It also has huge eyes that can see everything around it.

Amanda, 6th grade

There was this creepy spider in the bathroom. Either this is true or I was hallucinating this morning. Last night I washed the spider down the drain and then I filled the sink with water. 45 minutes later I drained the sink. This morning I went to rinse my hands and the spider was crawling up out of the drain. I'm telling you, that is CREEPY!

Rachel, 6th grade

Write On!

Valentine Surprise

Make up a story about a Valentine's Day surprise! Who was surprised? What was the surprise? Use five or more adjectives.

Deadline: January 15
Published: Week of Feb. 12
Send your story to:
Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

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