

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2017

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T.J. BROSCOFF

Read an interview with the Texas Country star.

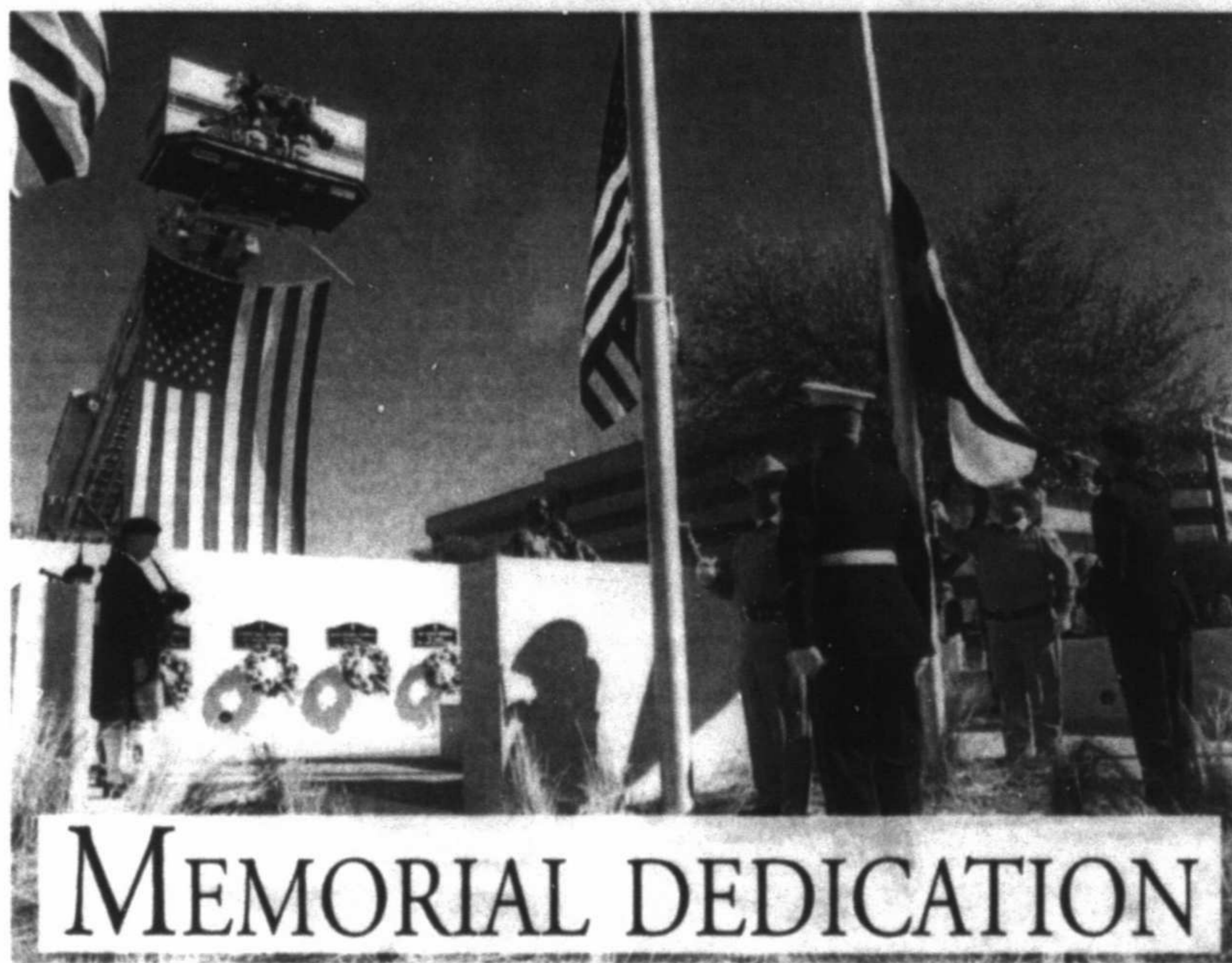
WEEKENDER



DENNIS SIGNS WITH SMU

Nick Dennis, Lee High 2016 graduate, signed his letter of intent to play football with SMU.

Page 1C



MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Honor Guard members raise the flags Wednesday for the dedication ceremony of the new Hero Plaza at ClayDesta Plaza.

Hero Plaza dedicated to honor wounded veterans who died in parade

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

His shirt had hung there for five years, but Wednesday morning marked the moment Terry Johnson pulled it out of the closet to wear one last time.

A black shooting-style shirt with a camouflage-printed patch sewn on the right breast and the Show of Support emblem embroidered in tan thread on the left is a memento of tragedy.

"This was the shirt I was wearing that night," Johnson said at the dedication of Hero Plaza, built to memorialize the deaths of four wounded veterans who were killed by a train as their parade float was stopped on the tracks.

In the late afternoon of Nov. 15, 2012, Johnson's Show of Support organization was in the process of celebrating wounded veterans just as it had in years past. A parade through town led to the Midland County Horseshoe Arena, where a celebration would take place. On this day, however, the gathering never happened.

At about 4:30 p.m., the second of a pair of parade floats — flatbed trailers pulled by semi-tractor trucks with veterans and their spouses seated atop — had



Midlanders gather Wednesday for the dedication ceremony of the new Hero Plaza at ClayDesta Plaza.

Please see PLAZA/4A

Record highs mark first anniversary of rebounded economy

Midland-Odessa index for October is 11.1 percent higher than a year ago, economist says

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Economic recovery in Midland-Odessa celebrated its first birthday as the final quarter of 2017 got underway.

"It's looking extraordinary," said Karr Ingham, the Amarillo economist who prepares the Midland-Odessa Regional Economic Index for the Midland Development Corp.

The October index came in 11.1 percent higher than October 2016, the 12th consecutive month of increase, according to Ingham.

Though the index remains about 10 percent below the peak reached in January 2015, Ingham said some components already have rebounded to record highs. The previous growth cycle lasted five years, and this recovery period is only a year old, he said.

Consumer spending is registering 40

Please see HIGHS/4A

'Listen and Learn' provides data for MISD

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Midland ISD officials have "listened" and "learned" after seven community input sessions over the course of two months.

District leaders announced Wednesday they have information they believe will help in creating an educational community that is different and makes sense for a district "on the move."

Aiding the master plan will be feedback from community members, district staff and students. The forums were called "Listen and Learn." They represented a first opportunity to meet Superintendent Orlando Riddick. He then put them to work, so he could have information related to what they wanted and expected from the district.

That information was generally related to three questions:

- What the district should start doing.
 - What the district should keep doing.
 - What the district should stop doing.
- About 500 people participated in the Listen and Learn process. They took part

Please see MISD/4A

Visit us on social media



Price of oil

\$58.09 ▲ \$0.53
January 2018

The big number

8 Americans died in a Mexican bus crash. Page 8A

Word of the Day:

pundit

Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Vol. 89, No. 285

Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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63647-00001

Cathy Esthan
FINE JEWELRY
Santa shops here.

Cardinal Law dead at 86

By Rachel Zoll and Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY —

Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston whose failure to stop child molest-



Law

esters in the priesthood triggered the worst crisis in American Catholicism, died Wednesday in Rome at age 86.

Law, who spent the final years of his career leading an important basilica in Rome and continued to wield considerable influence inside the Vatican, had been sick and was recently hospitalized.

Law was once one of the most important figures in the U.S. church, serving in one of its most visible and storied posts. From 1984 until he resigned under pressure 18 years later, he was spiritual leader in Boston, the nation's fourth-largest archdiocese, with 1.8 million Catholics.

In 2002, though, The Boston Globe began a series of stories that revealed that Law and his predecessors had transferred child-molesting priests from parish to parish without alerting parents or police a scandal later chronicled in the Oscar-winning film "Spotlight."

Within months, Catholics around the country demanded to know whether their bishops had done the same. And the scandal quickly spread overseas, to Ireland, Belgium, Chile, Australia and beyond.

In Boston, Law's death was met with anger and bitterness among some. "I hope the gates of hell are swinging wide to allow him entrance," said Alexa MacPherson, who says she was abused for six years as a child. "I won't shed a tear for everyone who's been a victim under him."

Robert Costello called Law "a cruel, selfish bastard," while fellow abuse victim Phil Saviano wondered: "How is he going to explain this when he comes face to face with his maker?"

Law's successor as archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, said it was a "sad reality" that Law's legacy will forever be tied to the abuse scandal, when the church "seriously failed" to care for its flock and protect children.

Pope Francis, who is being watched closely by the faithful over his handling of bishops who shield pedophiles, is set to preside over Law's funeral rites at a Mass on Thursday at St. Peter's Basilica, an honor accorded to all Rome-based cardinals.

The pope said nothing about Law's death during his weekly general audience Wednesday, and in a condolence letter he made no direct mention of the cardinal's tenure in Boston. "I raise prayers for the repose of his soul, that the Lord God, who is rich in mercy, may welcome him in His eternal peace, and I send my apostolic blessing to those who share in mourning the passing of the cardinal," Francis wrote.

Since 1950, more than 6,500 of the nation's priests, or about 6 percent, have been accused of molesting children, and the American church has paid over \$3 billion in settlements, according to news reports and studies commissioned by the U.S. bishops.

As the leader of the archdiocese at the epicenter of the scandal, Law became a powerful symbol of the crisis. His fall from grace was swift. Law tried to manage the scandal at first by refusing to comment, then by apologizing and promising reform. But the release of thousands more church records exposed additional cases in which Law and others expressed more concern for accused priests than for victims.

Obituaries



Alma Louise Outlaw Boone

Alma Louise Outlaw Boone, 88, passed away on December 15, 2017 in San Antonio, Texas.

She was born on November 12, 1929 in Carlsbad, New Mexico to Nigle C. and Mildred L. Outlaw. After being delivered by her Grandfather (Dr. L. H. Pate), Alma was raised in Falls and Post, Texas. She graduated Post High School in 1947. While attending Post High School, she played on the girls' basketball team making All District her junior and senior years. Alma played on the first Post girls' basketball team to play in the State Tournament.

Following high school, Alma attended Baylor University, graduating with a B.S. degree in 1951 and was then certified as a Medical Laboratory Technologist at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas in 1952. While working at Baylor Hospital she met her future husband, Stephen Austin Boone Jr. They were married on September 20, 1952 in Post, Texas. This union lasted 50 years 23 days.

Following their marriage, they lived in Snyder, Midland, Monahans, Lubbock, Odessa, and returned to Midland in 1963. She worked as a Laboratory Technologist for various hospitals, retiring from Midland Memorial Hospital in 2012 at the age of 82 maintaining her professional Certified Medical Technologist license for 60 years.

During the 49 years Alma was in Midland, she was active in multiple aspects of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, making its members her "second family."

In 2013, Alma moved to San Antonio, Texas to be near her oldest son and family, until the time of her death. Alma is preceded in death by her husband, infant son, parents and sister.

She is survived by her sons Stephen Austin Boone III and Nigle Eugene Boone and their families.

Viewing will be Thursday evening December 21, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home. Graveside services and interment will be at Resthaven Memorial Park Friday December 22, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Online condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Anderson Hwy.
(432) 683-5575

Delia Tarango Menchaca

Delia Tarango Menchaca went home to be with her Heavenly Father on Saturday, December 16, 2017 in Reedsport, Oregon.

Delia was born March 17, 1926 in Candelaria, Texas. She later moved to Midland where she met and married her late husband Sam Menchaca. Delia was a hairdresser most of her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sam Menchaca and by 7 brothers and sisters.

She is survived by one brother, Rudy Tarango of Reedsport, OR and two sisters, Hilda Saldana of Abilene, Texas and Alicia Ochoterenca of Midland, Texas; numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Viewing will be Thursday, December 21, 2017 from 10:00am to 9:00pm starting with a rosary at 7:00pm at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Chapel. Funeral mass is set for Friday, December 22, 2017 at 2:00pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

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

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2009 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - 432-647-7700



Elizabeth "Betsy" (Brumback) Beebe

Elizabeth "Betsy" (Brumback) Beebe, 92, formerly of Ashfield and Shelburne Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 16th, 2017 at The Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst, Massachusetts. Although in relatively good physical health, she struggled with the challenges of dementia over the last few years. She was born in Van Wert, Ohio, on October 28, 1925, the daughter of Willson P. and Rowena (Conn) Brumback. She attended grade school in Van Wert, and high school at the Columbus School for Girls in Columbus, Ohio, and the Northampton School for Girls, in Northampton, MA, where she graduated in 1942. After high school, she attended Smith College for a short time before moving to Boston, where she ultimately graduated from the Eliot Pearson School of Tufts University.

It was during her time in Boston that she developed a love of teaching, which led to a life-long career in education. She taught all manner and ages of children at more than half a dozen public and private schools in both Massachusetts (The Bement School in Deerfield; Sanderson Academy in Ashfield; Rowe Elementary School in Shelburne Falls; and the Academy at Charlemont in Charlemont) and New York (she taught 3rd grade at what is now the Gardner-Dickinson School in the Wynantskill Union Free School District). She was most proud of the pinnacle of her own education - obtaining a bachelor's degree from Russell Sage College in Troy, New York, at the age of 43, while she was a dorm parent at The Emma Willard School in Troy.

After retiring from teaching at age 65, she continued to work for many years, including at the Smith College Alumni Association, Singley Real Estate, and the Mohawk Trail Concert Association. She also volunteered her time

at the Senior Center in Shelburne Falls, the Mary Lyon Foundation, and several other organizations in Western Massachusetts. One of her life-long passions was the Brumback Library in Van Wert, which was built by her great-grandfather in 1899, and bears the distinction of being the first public county library in the United States. She was avid traveler, both nationally and internationally, having visited England, France, and Italy, as well as Mexico and China. She spent her spare time knitting, weaving, and quilting, and continued to improve her command of the French language well into her 80's. She thoroughly enjoyed reading, her bedside table and bookcases were always stacked high with books, and her coffee table littered with magazines and newspapers. She would often cut articles out of the newspapers and magazines and mail them to unsuspecting relatives and friends.

She is survived by two daughters, Sarah and husband John Peck, of La Selva Beach, CA, and Susan of Tucson, AZ; three sons, Dwight of Northampton; Willson and wife Vickie of Midland, TX, and Tyler and wife Brooke of Briar Cliff Manor, NY. She is also survived by several nieces, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her brother, Willson P. Brumback, Jr., predeceased her earlier this year. Her husband, William H. Beebe, predeceased her on January 15, 1975.

Those who knew Betsy would not be surprised to learn that several years ago she crafted her own obituary: "Elizabeth (Brumback) Beebe, 101, died yesterday at home." And in her instructions left with the funeral home, she also insisted, "No funeral, but the kids may decide to have a party or what-have-you." Although she did not quite make it to 101, Betsy lived a rich and wonderful life, and always enjoyed sharing her life stories (and opinions) with students, friends, and family. She "never met a stranger", and will be remembered fondly by all whose lives she touched. She will be deeply missed.

The family would like to thank the wonderful doctors, nurses, aides, and volunteers at The Hospice of the Fisher Home. Their compassion, caring and support for our mother made her final months comfortable and happy, and for that we are truly grateful.

In keeping with her wishes, no services are planned at this time; however the family will host a gathering during the spring of 2018. Donations may be made to the charity of one's choice or the Beebe Memorial Fund at the Bement School, 94 Old Main Street, P.O. Box 8, Deerfield, MA 01342.



Johnie Lee Qualls

Johnie Lee Qualls, 75, of Midland, Texas passed away Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Rosary service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00

a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church.

Johnie Lee was born on December 28, 1941 to Oscar Lee and Mildred Aline Qualls in Winslow, Arizona. Johnie Lee grew up as an Air Force Brat with his family, living from Alaska to Puerto Rico and everywhere else in between. He served in the Army from 1961-1967, was a paratrooper in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, LRRP, and served 2 tours of duty in Vietnam.

As an adult he traveled 2 1/2 times around the World from India, SE Asia to Europe. He finally settled in Frankfurt, Germany, where he was working for Encyclopedia Britannica selling all around Europe through AAFES military bases and where he also met the love of his life, Gladys, and after a brief court ship, they married in her hometown, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and when he passed away, he was just shy of 14 days celebrating being married for 40 years. In 1981 they finally moved back to the US, lived in different states until they finally settled 23 years ago in Midland, TX, where they raised their 2 wonderful sons, Tim and Andrew.

Fellow Veterans were Johnie Lee's passion and in 2004 he started a non-profit Veteran's Organization, Soldiers of Today and Yesterday, where through various fundraisers and grants he was able to help fellow Veterans with financial help or counseling, or just provide a listening ear to their troubles. He loved to barbecue and was known for his famous "Johnie Lee's Briskets". He cooked them to feed over 4000 Katrina evacuees in 2005, and the National Guards in Midland and El Paso when they were being deployed just to name a few. He was an active member with St. Stephen's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, VFW, and American Legion.

He is survived by his wife Gladys Qualls, sons, Christopher John Beck (Missy), Timothy Lee Qualls, (Katie O'Day Qualls), Andrew Blake Qualls, Granddaughter Felicia Olson, and Griffin Lee Qualls.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Oscar Lee and Mildred Qualls, Sisters, Mona Lee Qualls, Carol Lee Beck, Brother, Jerry Qualls. The family would like to thank all the doctors and medical staff at Memorial ER, Hospital, Health South, especially Dr. Paul Best, caretakers and nurses with Comfort Keepers, Encompass Home Health Care, St. Joseph's Home Health Care, for the care of Johnie Lee.

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

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



Juan Moreno

1946-2017
Funeral services for Juan Moreno 70, of Midland will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thurs-

day, December 21, 2017 at Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. John 5:28

Juan was a beloved son, father, brother and grandfather. His positive, charismatic, and stoic way of life made him loved and revered by all his family and friends. His spirit will live on through his family and friends. Juan was born on December 29, 1946 in Manuel Benavides, Mexico, and passed away December 17, 2017.

He is preceded in death by his mother Jesuita Leyva Moreno; father Eufemio Moreno; brothers Armando Moreno and Miguel Moreno. Juan is survived by his wife Elva Moreno Jordan, daughters Leticia Moreno, Vicky Maldonado and husband Johnny Maldonado, Norma Moreno and husband Joseph Bermea, Maira Molinar and husband Yoasam Molinar, Jeannette Herrin and husband Steven Herrin; grandchildren Jonathan Maldonado, Alexis Moreno, Domingo Bustamante, Inri Molinar, Natalie Maldonado, Jacob Perez, Grace Bustamante, Alice Perez, Kaylee Molinar, Adriel Molinar, Lukas Herrin and Penelope Herrin, great grandchildren Josiah Maldonado and Cristiano Moreno; sisters Manuela Villa, Antonia Galindo, Flora Bacza, and Julia Mercado.

Thomas FUNERAL HOME
FUNERALS & CREMATIONS - MIDLAND, TEXAS



Kathy Barrier

Kathy Barrier passed away on December 8, 2017 surrounded by her family.

Kathy worked for House of Printing for over 9 years as their graphic artist, she helped so many with her talents and she enjoyed everyone she worked with. Kathy was a kind person with a happy spirit and loving heart! We will miss her greatly.

She is survived by her parents, Neil and Dotie Barrier of Brownfield, brother Terry (Brenda) of Corpus Christi and sister Jolisa (Jay) Collinsworth of Andrews, and her beloved nieces and nephews and their children.

Memorial services will be held at First Baptist Church Meadow, TX, on Saturday, December 23rd at 3:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, Memorials may be made to Kristen Corbin Scholarship at Permian Basin Foundation, 200 N. Lorraine St., #500, Midland, TX.

Death Notices

Jeff W. Rawls, Jr.

Jeff W. Rawls, Jr., 78 of Midland, passed away on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at Ashion Medical Lodge. A graveside service will be held at Resthaven Memorial Park at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017 with Reverend Clark Racca officiating.

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

Cardinal Law's legacy: a stain of scandal on the church

By Rachel Zoll
Associated Press

When the clergy sex abuse scandal erupted in Boston in 2002, Cardinal Bernard Law had every reason to think he would survive. Law had a place among the power-brokers of the heavily Catholic city. He was a friend of U.S. presidents, an emissary of Pope John Paul II.

But after months of disclosures about how he had protected child-molesting priests, Law was driven out as the church found itself in crisis across the U.S. and around the world.

"We're still reeling from the catastrophic damage to the Catholic church's credibility," said Christopher Bellitto, an authority

on church history at Kean University in New Jersey.

Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston who died Wednesday at age 86 in Rome, was an unlikely catalyst for this darkest chapter of American Catholicism.

He arrived in Boston in 1984 with a record of civil rights activism starting in the 1960s as a young priest in Mississippi, where he sometimes traveled in the trunks of cars for safety. He had lived in many countries and was educated at Harvard. He was devoted to building relationships with Jews and other Christians.

"The promise that he seemed to represent when he first came to Boston, it seemed to herald a new day," said James O'Toole, a Boston

College historian.

But that goodwill evaporated in 2002, when The Boston Globe began a series of stories about how Law and his predecessors had failed to protect young people from pedophile priests.

The articles were partly based on previously confidential church records. Amid the files, which held stomach-churning details of how priests had sexually assaulted children, were notes of sympathy and concern from church leaders, including Law, for the accused clerics.

"I realize this is a difficult time for you and for those close to you," Law wrote in 1994 to then-priest John Geoghan, who already had a record of allegations and would

eventually be accused of molesting more than 130 children. "If I can be of help to you in some way please contact me. Be assured you are remembered in my prayers."

Law said he relied on the faulty advice of physicians and psychiatrists in allowing priests to stay on in parishes. But the documents unearthed by the Globe showed a record of church leaders ignoring pleas for help from parents and expressing hostility toward those who came forward to say they had been hurt.

Suddenly, an archbishop accustomed to being photographed at the White House or with Cuba's Fidel Castro was now being seen in court, under the withering examination of attorneys for victims.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by



Pundit
[puhn-dit]
noun

1. a person who makes comments or judgments, especially in an authoritative manner; critic or commentator.



Midland Reporter-Telegram
AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-8932

A Heart Newspaper
Published each morning by the Heartland Reporter-Telegram Division, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701. Periodicals postage paid at Midland, TX 79701. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

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Winter begins

Winter officially begins with the winter solstice on Dec. 21. This is the astronomical first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Enjoy our winter solstice facts, folklore, FAQs, and more.
The winter solstice is the day with the lowest hours of sunlight in the whole year. In the northern hemisphere, it always occurs around Dec. 21 or 22. In the southern hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs around June 20 or 21.
Spring begins on March 20.

Source: almanac.com

Things to do

- (subject to change due to the holiday weekend)
- Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artsbysaradb.com.
- 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. on midland.tx.us/rlb.
- Hogwarts Holiday, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. This "Harry Potter"-themed event will sort Hogwarts students and tuggles into various houses and they attend magical classes. Teens can participate in the Harry Potter Escape Room. Costumes encouraged.
- Bingo Nights, 7 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane, 682-9511
- Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595.

Watering schedule

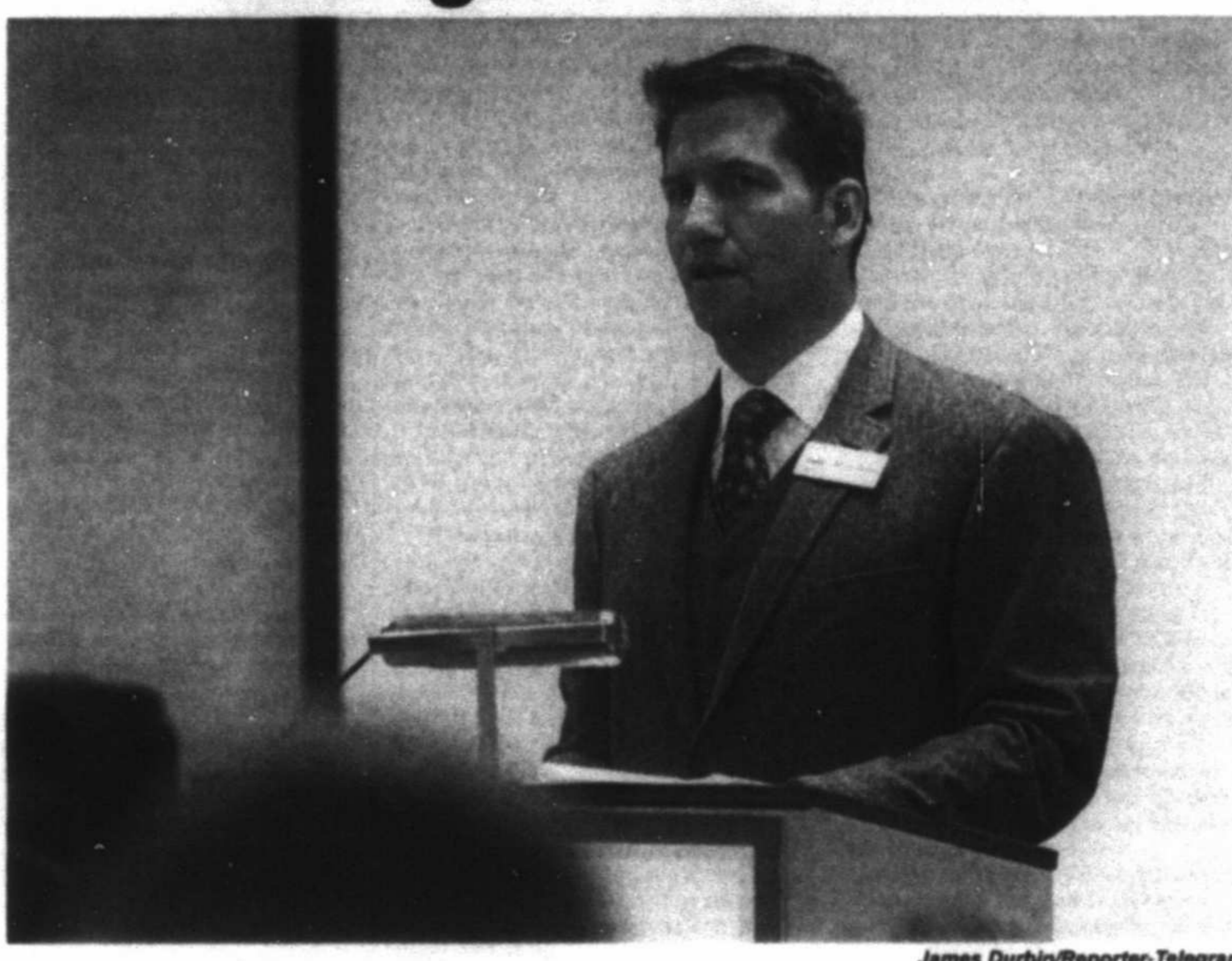
The current outdoor watering schedule allows residents and businesses in the city of Midland to water twice per week.
Even-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Saturdays and Wednesdays.
Odd-numbered addresses may water outdoors on Fridays and Tuesdays.
Any violation may result in a fine up to \$500.
The ban on washing outdoor surfaces is still in effect.

This date in Midland

On Dec. 21, 1997, the Stanton Buffaloes defeated Rogers 33-7 to claim the 2A football championship at Texas Stadium.
On Dec. 21, 1937, Walt Disney's first animated feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," had its world premiere at the Carthay Circle Theater in Los Angeles.
On this date:
In 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts.
In 1891, the first basketball game, devised by James Naismith, is believed to have been played at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts. (The final score of this experimental game: 1-0.)
In 1942, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Williams v. North Carolina, ruled 6-2 that all states had to recognize divorces granted in Nevada.
In 1945, U.S. Army Gen. George S. Patton, 80, died in Heidelberg, Germany, 12 days after being seriously injured in a car accident.
In 1991, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the death of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
Today's Birthdays: Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 69. International Tennis Hall of Famer Chris Evert is 63. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 60. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is 55. Contemporary Christian singer Natalie Grant is 46.

Source: The Associated Press

TODAY IN MIDLAND
PBAF grant allocation



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Aaron Bedell, Permian Basin Area Foundation chief operating officer, talks about the foundation and its community goals Tuesday during an event at which more than \$2 million was allocated to area nonprofit organizations.

On Dec. 21, 1997, the Stanton Buffaloes defeated Rogers 33-7 to claim the 2A football championship at Texas Stadium.
Today in History
Today is Thursday, Dec. 21, the 355th day of 2017. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 10:28 a.m. Central time.
Today's highlight:
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In 1991, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the death of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
Today's Birthdays: Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 69. International Tennis Hall of Famer Chris Evert is 63. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 60. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is 55. Contemporary Christian singer Natalie Grant is 46.

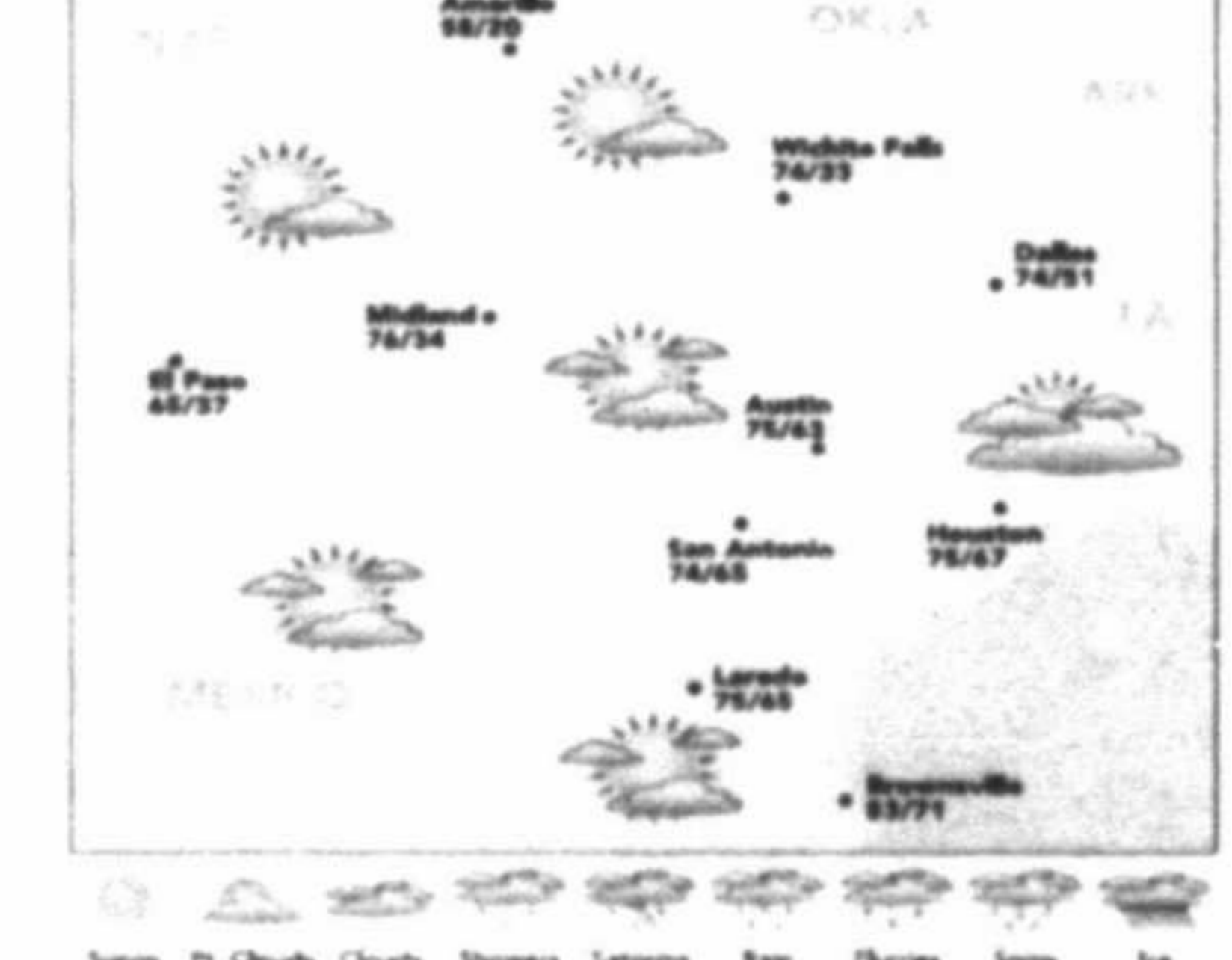
Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 0-4-0
Pick 3 day: 6-5-1
Pick 3 evening: 0-0-3
Pick 3 night: 9-8-1
Daily 4 morning: 0-6-9-9
Daily 4 day: 4-5-5-8
Daily 4 evening: 0-1-4-8
Daily 4 night: 0-6-2-9
Cash Five: 5-13-31-33-34
Triple Chance: 5-8-9-12-20
22-23-34-38-45
Lotto Texas: 6-10-11-22-30-45
Power Ball: 1-20-61-64-69-68
20 Powerplay: 2
All or Nothing morning: 2-3
4-6-7-14-15-16-17-18-22-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-5-8
11-12-15-16-17-20-21-22
All or Nothing evening: 1-4-5
6-8-11-12-14-16-17-22-23
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-5
7-9-10-13-15-16-19-24

Weather

Wednesday's temperatures
High: 71
Low: 38
Normal high: 57
Normal low: 30
Dec. 20's records
Record high: 79 set in 2010
Record low: 11 set in 1973
Precipitation
Tuesday: 0.01 in.
Wednesday: 0.00 in.
Month total: 0.39 in.
Year total: 17.73 in.
Normal total (year to date): 14.40 in.
Winds
Average speed: 10 mph
Highest speed: 22 mph
Highest gust speed: 27 mph
Today's forecast
High: 75

Forecast for Thursday, December 21, 2017



Low: 37
Conditions: Sunny during the day/partly cloudy at night
Winds: 5-15 mph during the day and night
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise: 7:45 a.m.
Sunset: 5:49 p.m.
Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Aquarius if born before 10:28 a.m. Afterward, the Sun will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017:
This year you see life from an extremely disciplined viewpoint, and you also gain an ultra-modern attitude about various issues. This combo makes you extremely interesting to others. If you are single, you will experience others' heightened interest in you. Through a friend, you could meet a passionate individual who has a romantic interest in you. If you are attached, your dualistic attitude adds intrigue to your relationship. Schedule more weekend getaways together, as it will enhance your bond. AQUARIUS brings provocative situations into your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have a hot temper, which seems to emerge from out of the blue. You care about others and easily could lead them with a torch in hand. A partner adds depth to any adventure you choose to pursue. Remain confident when dealing with a higher-up. **Tonight:** Say "yes."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Read between the lines with a situation that involves your work. A partner could add a lot of energy to your day. You'll communicate your thoughts with style and expertise at work or in your social life. **Tonight:** Be where your friend can relax and enjoy some entertainment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will deal with others effectively, though you might need to express your frustration in a way that can be heard. A serious conversation might be the natural outcome. Listen to what someone you respect shares. Clarify your opinions, if need be. **Tonight:** Try a new night spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be emotionally strung out with everything that you want to accomplish before the holidays. A partner pushes your buttons in a conversation. This person tends to make it difficult to have a serious talk. Discuss plans with a loved one. **Tonight:** Choose a favorite stress-buster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You could be suppressing your feelings right now. You might not realize the cost of wearing this mask, but you will, given some time. Fatigue and a lack of spontaneity easily could be the result. Weigh the pros and cons of taking a financial risk. **Tonight:** Take a brief walk.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You will find it imperative to have the mistletoe appropriately hung. If ever there were a time for romance, it is now. Be diligent. The person who catches your eye right now could be older or more serious than you. **Tonight:** Express your irritation about a work-related matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might be more grounded than you realize.

You'll want to deal with certain issues in your domestic life before you go full-throttle into the holiday happenings. By handling a difference of opinion, you will ensure a wonderful few days. **Tonight:** Live in the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might feel pulled in two different directions. You tend to juggle many different responsibilities and come out ahead. You are likely to succeed even more easily than usual. Make an effort to keep communication flowing. **Tonight:** Head home early, if possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ True to form, you have taken a risk and left a great deal of the holiday preparations to the last minute. You might need to get out and shop, wrap packages and do whatever else is part of your routine that has not yet been completed. **Tonight:** Order some take-out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You are unusually mellow right now. This holiday flows seamlessly, unless you have negative feelings about someone in your family. If this is the case, you might want to clear the air before everyone gets together. **Tonight:** A conversation catches you by surprise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might want to make a statement without using any words. What you do will delight others. Sometimes words can create expectations rather than the essence of what you are feeling. You might be surprised by a loved one's response. **Tonight:** Avoid a power play at all costs.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You sense that a lot is going on behind the scenes. You can't seem to get someone to spill the beans, hard as you might try. Let a secret remain so. You might be surprised when it comes out and you can hear the whole story. **Tonight:** Get some R and R — you are going to need it!

BORN TODAY
Musician Frank Zappa (1940), actress Jane Fonda (1937), actress Jane Kaczmarek (1955)

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Woman arrested on animal cruelty charges

From staff reports

A 29-year-old Midland woman was arrested by Midland County sheriff's deputies Wednesday afternoon on 16 charges of cruelty to animals, which are state jail felonies, Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter said.

Carly Jo Underwood was being held Wednesday on cruelty to livestock animals — physical abuse and cruelty to non-livestock animals — torture, accord-

ing to the press release. The charges are in relation to animal carcasses being discovered during a foreclosure procedure at a residence on East County Road 144, according to the release. The charges coincide with the number of



Underwood

carcasses that were found in the residence, Painter said. Bond had not been set as of Wednesday evening.

Underwood was arrested as she was getting off a flight at Midland International Air & Space Port, according to the press release.

She also was charged with three Class C misdemeanors: driving with an invalid license, speeding and failure to appear. Bond had not been set.

PLAZA

From 1A

bottomed out on the train tracks at Garfield Street, with little time to escape the path of a Union Pacific locomotive traveling through town.

Marine Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary Stouffer, 37; Army Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Boivin, 47; Army Sgt. Maj. William Lübbers, 43; and Army Sgt. Joshua Michael, 34, died. More than a dozen others were injured. Johnson was at the Horseshoe. In years past, he knew the parade was near because he could hear the sirens' blare grow louder while he prepared for his honorees. On this day, their volume faded lower, and he knew there was a problem not far away.

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter also was at the Horseshoe when the crash happened.

"When it came across on the radio, I just couldn't believe that something like that could happen right there," he said after the dedication ceremony. "I arrived on the scene, and there were people everywhere screaming and hollering."

"It took me back to when I was in Vietnam," Painter said. "There were bodies lying everywhere."

Painter, his deputies and Midland Police Department officers worked to calm the calamity and bring order to the scene.

"I posted guards to where the bodies lay to protect them. We got them covered up as quickly as we possibly could," Painter said. "There were some civilians who were getting out of hand. They just had no respect."

"There was nothing you could say to alleviate the pain and horror that these people went through," the longtime sheriff and former Marine said of the victims. "These wounded soldiers went through worse

They had been through combat overseas. It's something they were accustomed to, but their family members had never been through it. It was a tragic event, a serious trauma for the family members."

Johnson decided shortly after the tragedy to pay respect to the victims and their families who had lost their loved ones. He also wanted to thank the community for its outpouring of generosity. Hundreds of dollars in gift cards were passed to Show of Support to give to victims and their families so they could buy necessities such as clothing, food and medicine. Hundreds rushed to donate blood. Thousands assembled at Centennial Plaza to pray.

Hero Plaza is located on a small parcel of land in ClayDesta. A bronze statue by Bruce Greene stands at the center. A young man, leaning on a cane, and a young woman, leaning on his shoulder while draped in a blanket with "U.S.A." imprinted upon its fabric, together hold a baby and gaze upward at the Texas and American flags. In the face of death and tragedy are life and hope, state and country.

Clayton and Modesta Williams, who own the property, offered the site as home to Hero Plaza.

"I think it's so important to honor and thank these men," Clayton Williams said. He recalled the Vietnam War era, when military members coming home received unkind and often hostile receptions.

Johnson said he, his organization, the victims and the community will never have closure. However, Wednesday marked the realization of his five-year effort to give honor and thanks.

As for the black shirt, it's back in the closet, never to be worn again but never to be forgotten.

HIGHS

From 1A

to 50 percent year-over-year growth, Ingham said. October sales were 44.5 percent higher than last October, a new record for October spending, surpassing the previous record set in October 2015. So far this year, sales are up 16.6 percent compared to the first 10 months of 2016.

In Midland, October spending was up 35 percent, and year-to-date spending is up 10.7 percent compared to year-ago levels.

Automotive spending climbed 53.5 percent over last October, the second highest total on record for October, again only behind October 2014 just before oil prices began falling to 13-year lows. Year-to-date automotive spending is up 27 percent compared to the same period last year.

In Midland, automotive spending was up 45.5 percent from October 2016 and is up 28.8 percent so far this year compared to last year.

"That general spending has soared to record levels in a year's time is incredible," Ingham said.

He said that the second significant pillar of the Midland and Odessa economies — employment — remained understated, and he cited recent quarterly employment and wage data to back up his assertion.

"You can tell, through June, employment growth was much higher than the monthly numbers published by the Texas Workforce Commission," said Ingham, putting employment growth in Midland-Odessa at about 7.2 percent, significantly higher than the commission's monthly estimates of about 2.3 percent, and probably the strongest growth among the state's metropolitan statistical areas. He expects the third quarter report to be even stronger.

"You could tell, with all other components rising 30 to 40 percent but employment only 2 percent, that there were considerably more jobs being added than the numbers being published monthly showed," Ingham said.

The housing market continued to move deeper into record territory. There were 376 existing homes sold in the two cities in October, a record for October, and 44.6 percent higher than the 260 sold last October. To date, 3,477 homes have been sold, the first time the number of sales has exceeded 3,000 in the first 10 months of the year. This is up 29.7 percent from 2,680 homes sold in the first 10 months of 2016.

In Midland, 259 homes were sold, up 58.9 percent from 163 last October. So far this year, 2,382 homes have been sold, up 35.6 percent from 1,757 a year earlier.

Two negatives in the October index

concern homes.

The average home sales price of \$239,815 was down 0.1 percent from \$239,976 last October. The sales price so far this year has averaged \$258,542, up 6.6 percent from \$242,425 a year ago.

In Midland, the October sales price averaged \$259,376, down 6.9 percent from \$278,500 last October.

The year-to-date price average is \$289,938, up 5.6 percent from \$274,656.

"Pulling back on the rate of growth in home prices doesn't bother me a bit," Ingham said.

Permits for new housing construction is the other negative, he said. The 78 permits issued in October in Midland and Odessa is a 6 percent decrease from the 83 issued last October. The two cities have issued a record 1,165 housing permits so far in 2017, up 34.2 percent from the 868 issued a year ago.

In Midland, the 53 permits issued in October was unchanged from last October, and the 705 issued so far this year is up 40.4 percent from 502 issued in the first 10 months of 2016.

Construction activity remained strong, according to Ingham. While the valuation of all building permits is well below the \$1 billion levels recorded in 2013 and 2014, he said totals are up 50 percent compared to a year ago.

October permit valuations were up 49.1 percent compared to last October and are up 22.3 percent so far this year compared to year-ago levels.

In Midland, permit valuations are up 57.9 percent in October from last October and are up 8.2 percent so far this year over the first 10 months of 2016.

Ingham said hotel-motel activity continued to swell in the third quarter, climbing 73.4 percent in October over the previous October and up 26.2 percent so far this year.

In Midland, hotel-motel tax collections were up 70.5 percent over last October and are up 19.5 percent so far this year.

"As was the case in the past, the numbers reflect two phenomena: greatly expanded business travel to the region, largely as a result of the rapid recovery in the regional oil and gas economy, and the direct use of hotels and motels as work-week lodging for oil and gas workers," said Ingham.

While the region's oil and gas industry may not soon return to the peak highs of 2014 in terms of employment and rig count, it will provide enough momentum for continued, rapid expansion of the overall economy, Ingham said.

"There's a better than average chance that the general economy will continue to grow and find its way back to, and surpass, its peak reached in January 2015," he said.

MISD

From 1A

in events across town in churches, businesses, nonprofits and educational sites.

Elise Kail said Wednesday she expects the strategic plan will revolve around three pillars, based on input district officials received. The pillars are to cultivate and sustain communication, to maintain rigorous instruction and to plan and invest for the future ahead.

In a few Listen and Learn events, the expansion/improvement of facilities and technology rated high, as did issues related to configuration and curriculum development.

There seemed to be positive feedback on the professional learning communities, which allow teachers to exchange information to help in the classroom setting. There also was appreciation for a no-excuses attitude for student development and that districts officials must maintain a growth mindset for all students. Riddick said participants rated teacher quality high, and that the district is working with Abell-Hanger Foundation and Scharbauer Foundation on a "good teacher" project that he expects will help with teacher development and teacher quality.

He said the process will benefit from the district seeking "District of Innovation" status and the work staff and MISD leaders did on the Lone Star Governance Report. It is also expected that the district will see benefits as it seeks to put a "System of Great Schools" into place.

"There are enablers that will allow us to be fluid in the process," Riddick said.

The following are results from the Listen and Learn events that took place from September through November at different sites across Midland.

Sept. 14

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep professional learning communities and collaboration opportunities 34
 - Keep expanding magnet schools and fine-arts programs 27
 - Keep growth mindset and no-excuses philosophy 19
 - Keep communication from school to home in native language 13
 - Keep over-communicating with parents 13
- Things to stop doing
 - Stop one-size-fits-all instruction 17

- Stop doing the things we always did just because we did them 16
- Stop overwhelming kids with homework 14
- Stop imposing politically correct agenda on our community and our kids 10
- Stop overcrowding classrooms 9
- Stop not communicating and wasting time and disrespecting adults, teachers and students 9

- Things to start doing
 - Start to plan for future bonds for elementary and secondary schools 28
 - Start homework help after school 16
 - Start recognizing importance of fine arts 16
 - Start more vocational training 13
 - Start preparing kids for the real world and thinking beyond graduation 12

Sept. 21

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep open communication and the efforts on shifting community perception 15
 - Keep expecting excellence and creating bigger goals for self and students 14
 - Keep magnet programs 13
 - Keep vocational training 9
 - Keep professional learning communities 4

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop allowing discipline disruptions 15
 - Stop citing policy and rules over common sense 11
 - Stop placing a focus only on college degrees 10
 - Stop retaining teachers who don't want to or shouldn't be teaching 9
 - Stop unhealthy food options 5

- Things to start doing
 - Start a bond for secondary schools 17
 - Start growing mentoring and support quality teachers 13
 - Start effective discipline and classroom management 10
 - Start more opportunities for classes that prepares students with practical life skills 10
 - Start recruiting teachers for career training 6
 - Start providing all kids G1 learning opportunities

Oct. 12

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep professional learning communities 30
 - Keep performing arts, career and technology and extracurricular activities 24
 - Keep supporting teachers 15
 - Keep all aspects of communication methods possible in multiple directions 11
 - Keep positive discipline 6

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop lower expectations for challenging students 13
 - Stop the heavy emphasis on testing, which causes anxiety 9

- Stop singling out students in front of others 8
- Stop bussing kids away from their neighborhood schools 8
- Stop the cookie-cutter industrial model of education 8

- Things to start doing
 - Start curriculum development that includes cultural awareness and diversity 21
 - Start new grade reconfiguration (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) 20
 - Start more creative and parent-involved initiatives 19
 - Start having administrators substitute for a day 7
 - Start magnets at the secondary school level 6
 - Start exposure to and resources for different student populations 6
 - Start budgeting more for tutorials 6

Oct. 19

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep communicating in all methods possible with community and parents 23
 - Keep hiring and supporting strong, passionate and great teachers 22
 - Keep focusing on college and career preparation and career exploration opportunities 21
 - Keep sharing best practices via student and teacher mentoring opportunities 14
 - Keep PE/physical activity and recess for students 9
 - Keep offering higher-level classes, dual-credit and ECHS dual-credit classes 9

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop resisting change and making excuses for adult convenience 36
 - Stop only focusing on the test, teaching to the test and overtesting students 24
 - Stop one-size-fits-all attitude 19
 - Stop excessive homework or having homework just to have it 11
 - Stop overcrowding and large class sizes 10

- Things to start doing
 - Start more college and career readiness, internships and career development 29
 - Start reaching out for more prevention programs and church involvement 14
 - Start incorporating life skills into curriculum such as typing, budgeting, curative 13
 - Start focusing on individual child needs through acceleration and differentiation 13
 - Start more free time and recess at elementary schools 12

Oct. 26

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep hiring and promoting great, passionate teachers, certified in all content areas 44
 - Keep building relationships with students through a no-excuses and growth-mindset philosophy 24
 - Keep 22:1 ratio and in K-4 and no more than 25 in upper-grade classrooms 23

- Keep communication open to both parents and communicate with students 22
- Keep college and career readiness, vocational, Early College and dual credit 21

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop so many teacher meetings, extra paperwork and mandates, in turn creating tired teachers 33
 - Stop the bullying 30
 - Stop tolerating bad behavior, disrespect of students by teachers and teachers by students 25
 - Stop labeling, grouping, profiling and criminalizing students 16
 - Stop outdated teaching and learning methods 13

- Things to start doing
 - Start being consistent with discipline 36
 - Start to pay teachers a competitive salary to meet living needs, actively recruit and recognize 33
 - Start more STEM classes, vocational program, AVID and college and career readiness 20
 - Start listening to students more, celebrating students and treating them as individuals 18
 - Start to transform grade reconfiguration (PK-5, 6-8, 9-12) 13

Nov. 2 (ESL classes at Cogdell)

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep supporting teachers and don't have substitutes 11
 - Keep bilingual and ESL programs/classes 11
 - Keep bilingual personnel in the schools and have more ESL classes 10
 - Keep providing transportation 8
 - Keep recognizing students' academic achievement, attendance, punctuality and good behavior 6
 - Keep special programs for all students with special needs 6

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop discrimination by placing out-of-country students two grade levels below when they are college-ready 16
 - Stop bullying, racism, disrespect and discrimination toward non-English speakers and have supervision 12
 - Stop employing teachers who don't love their profession and implement racism and bullying 11
 - Stop the bullying and fights being cellphone recorded 10
 - Stop counting students tardy for being 5 to 10 minutes late 9

- Things to start doing
 - Start having teachers treat parents better, make time to visit and answer questions about their children 14
 - Start talking to students about morals, values, principles, humanity and danger of weapons 11
 - Start changing food nutrition so kids can be more healthy 9
 - Start training and selecting all front office personnel property to be kind and respectful 8
 - Start training personnel on cultural diversity, kindness, respectfulness and helpfulness 8

Nov. 14 (DEIC)

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep improving technology 23
 - Keep professional learning communities 20
 - Keep empowering students with a growth mindset 12
 - Keep setting high standards through goal-setting and mentoring 4
 - Keep having students come first 3

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop buying programs and not training staff not giving time for effective implementation before a new program 18
 - Stop too much testing 15
 - Stop failing to supply teachers with adequate supplies and textbooks 13
 - Stop labeling students 7
 - Stop micromanaging teacher activities 4

- Things to start doing
 - Start Technology 1:1 for students and appropriate technology for teachers 18
 - Start building another high school 13
 - Start moving sixth grade out of elementary 12
 - Start constructing a real discipline plan 6
 - Start student career pathways allowing certifications 5

Dec. 1 (students)

- Things to keep doing
 - Keep off periods 39
 - Keep allowing off-campus lunch 35
 - Keep helping students apply to colleges and for scholarships 14
 - Keep extracurricular classes 11
 - Keep having tutorials available when needed 10

- Things to stop doing
 - Stop restrictive dress code, strict dress code, sexualization of girls' shoulders through dress code 36
 - Stop procrastinating on grading papers 33
 - Stop unnecessary homework, summer reading and busy work 26
 - Stop limiting school spirit activities 17
 - Stop cutting budgets for extracurricular activities and sports other than football and baseball 13

- Things to start doing
 - Start exceptions for final-term exams 34
 - Start fixing buildings, build new buildings, and especially fix the bathrooms 27
 - Start playing music in the halls to encourage students to achieve their goals and go to school 14
 - Start giving kids — especially seniors — life skills (open bank account, interviewing, job apps) 14
 - Start having teachers actively teach and engage with students (fewer worksheets and sitting behind desk) 11

With shutdown clock ticking, GOP struggles for spending deal

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a shutdown clock ticking toward a midnight Friday deadline, House Republican leaders struggled on Wednesday to unite the GOP rank and file behind a must-pass spending bill.

Although a major obstacle evaporated after key GOP senators dropped a demand to add health insurance subsidies for the poor, a number of defense hawks offered resistance to a plan by GOP leaders to punt a guns-versus-butter battle with Democrats into the new year.

There's still plenty of time to avert a politically debilitating government shutdown, which would detract from the party's success this week in muscling through their landmark tax bill.

Some lawmakers from hurricane-hit states also worried that an \$81 billion disaster aid bill was at risk of getting left behind in the rush to exit Washington for the holidays.

Lawmakers said the GOP vote-counting team would assess support for the plan and GOP leaders would set a course of action from there.

Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said "there's no specific direction right now" about the path forward. He spoke after an hourlong closed-door meeting of Republicans in the Capitol basement.

An earlier plan favored by pro-Pentagon members of the influential Armed Services Committee would have combined the stopgap funding bill with a \$658 billion Pentagon funding measure. But the idea is a nonstarter with the Senate, especially Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Meanwhile, an \$81 billion disaster aid bill faced a potential separate vote of its own, but it was at risk of languishing because of opposition among some conservatives over its cost. Senate action on that bill, a priority of the Texas

and Florida delegations, wouldn't come until next year anyway.

Democrats oppose the GOP endgame agenda because their priorities on immigration and funding for domestic programs aren't being addressed. Their opposition means Republicans need to find unity among themselves, which once again is proving difficult. In such situations, congressional leaders often turn to lowest common denominator solutions, which in this case would mean a stopgap measure that's mostly free of other add-ons.

"The number of options is collapsing down," said Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla. "I have faith that at the last possible moment, to paraphrase Churchill, when we have no other choice, we'll do what we need to do."

Regardless of how the crisis of the moment will be solved, most of the items on Capitol Hill's list of unfinished business are going to be pushed into next year.

"I think it's highly unlikely that there's a government shutdown," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Fox News Channel's Special Report with Bret Baier on Wednesday. "I think that the right thing to do is let's get a short-term funding and we'll deal with these issues in January."

The upcoming short-term measure would fund the government through Jan. 19, giving lawmakers time to work out their leftover business.

Hopes for a bipartisan budget deal to sharply increase spending for both the Pentagon and domestic agencies appeared dead for the year, and Democrats were rebuffed in their demands for protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, announced Wednesday that they would not seek to add the insurance subsidies, which are designed to stabilize the

Affordable Care Act's markets. The tax bill repeals requirement that individuals purchase insurance.

Trying to combine the health measure with the spending bill was a demand of Collins when President Donald Trump and Senate GOP leaders secured her vote for the tax bill.

House Republicans weren't part of that deal, and with the tax vote over, it became plain that Senate leaders were not able to deliver for her.

Lawmakers said a short-term, \$2.1 billion fix for an expiring program that pays

for veterans to seek care outside the Department of Veterans Affairs system would be added to the package. So would a short-term "patch" to make sure the states facing shortfalls from the Children's Health Insurance Program, which pays for health care for 9 million children from low-income families, won't have to purge children from the program.

The fate of the \$81 billion House disaster aid measure, now likely to see a separate vote, appears unclear. Conservatives are upset with the price tag of the plan,

which also contains billions of dollars for California wildfire recovery. Democrats are pressing for more help for Puerto Rico, and California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the No. 2 Republican in the House, signaled a willingness for at least some accommodation to win Democratic votes.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California told fellow Democrats in an emailed update that GOP leaders aren't yielding on a Democratic demand that nondefense spending increases match the budget boost for the Pentagon.

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

11:00 P.M. Choral Christmas Eucharist
Preceded by Carols with combined Choirs &
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OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 21, 2017 | Page 6A

Some words should be banned; others shouldn't

The recent excitement over an incredible story about the government trying to ban certain words reminded me of all the words and phrases I despise and wish were banned.

For the sake of getting on with it, briefly: The Washington Post reported Friday that officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had been forbidden from using seven words as they prepared their 2019 budget documents. The words were: vulnerable, diversity, entitlement, fetus, transgender, science-based and evidence-based.

Everybody went bonkers on cue. Pro-choice activists insisted that such word changes were an attempt to thwart abortion rights. The CDC pushed back and denied the ban. Anonymous analysts continued to confuse everyone. CDC Director Brenda Fitzgerald went straight to Twitter, writing: "I want to assure you there are no banned words at CDC. We will continue to talk about all our important public health programs."

What really happened? It's hard to know for sure at this point. The Post sees a heavy-handed silencing, but the National Review's Yuval Levin offers a different explanation. According to Levin's sources, the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the CDC, issued a stylebook to departments for the preparation of budget documents. Included

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group



were three of the words mentioned above — vulnerable, diversity and entitlement — with the suggestion that they be used as little as possible because they were either used too often or incorrectly.

Now that you mention it, I think I'll add them to my list. Levin was also told that other, more intriguing words were mentioned in a meeting as possible "trigger" words that might so upset congressional Republicans that they'd slash funding. These were fetus, science-based, evidence-based and transgender. In some cases, alternatives were suggested, such as "unborn child" for "fetus." In other words, if you want those people — congressional Republicans — to fund us, don't use language they don't like.

One could call this either, "Oh, my God, they're trying to ban words!" Or, you could call it common sense. I'm not sure which is more discomfiting, however CDC guys worried that "science-based"

would so frighten Republicans that they'd kill their budget, or, that this could possibly be true.

So that happened. Obviously, the government shouldn't ban words, but there's no reason a columnist, who gets to be queen for about 750 words, can't take a stab. In a gesture of democratic pandering, I even enlisted the help of my kingdom of Facebook "friends." Because they were self-selecting, this survey should not be construed as "science-based."

But the evidence suggests that my friends are a peevish lot when it comes to mis- or over-used words, which makes me like them even more. My own personal list, the phrasing of which is rhythmically pleasing if obviously redundant, begins with nouns that have been "re-purposed" as verbs.

When a friend recently said to me that she hadn't been "gifted" in a long while, I thought (to myself), "So I see." Then, "lo and behold," (a phrase that will be allowed at Christmastime), I was informed by a linguist that "to gift" has been a verb since 1550. He noted, however, that he would have interpreted my friend's statement as meaning that she hadn't been given (as a gift) in a while. That, too, I'm sure.

To put it bluntly, "awesome" isn't anymore. "Snowflake" produces more ennui

than insult. "Pivot," "veritable," "in reality," and "best practices" wear us down. As do: "reach out," "share" and "think outside the box." "Own" it, if you must, but I'd sell it on Ebay. Just sayin'.

"Breaking news" IS news. It's devastated, not "decimated." You don't "effort," for heaven's sake. You make an effort. Or, maybe just try. Which apparently is a thing. No problem? You're welcome. And I take back my thank you.

Literally, where is all this "low-hanging fruit," if you don't mind my asking. And, no, you're not recording me "for quality and training purposes." You're collecting profane diatribes to read at the company holiday party. Nice try. Or just, "nice." Sick. Stop it.

We're not going to "unpack" anything, unless you're my valet, or "drill down," unless you're the plumber. We're sick of optics, mansplaining, onboarding and THIS, as in "what she said." We've had it with closure and ideating, as well as doubling down on the whole nine yards. No one is "woke."

At the end of the day, when all is said and done, the fact of the matter is we were all vulnerable as fetuses, some of whom were surely bound to become transgender because evidence-based diversity is what it is.

But, no worries. It's all good. Believe me. Bigly.

OPINION EXTRA

When woman says 'yes,' sometimes she means 'no'

Over the weekend, Jessica Bennett, gender editor of The New York Times — yes, that's a real title — wrote a piece titled "When Saying 'Yes' Is Easier Than Saying 'No.'" She argued that in many cases, women say yes to sex but actually don't want to do so. "Sometimes 'yes' means 'no,' simply because it is easier to go through with it than explain our way out of the situation. Sometimes 'no' means 'yes,' because you actually do want to do it, but you know you're not supposed to lest you be labeled a slut. And if you're a man, that 'no' often means 'just try harder' because, you know, persuasion is part of the game." Bennett continues by arguing that consent is actually societally defined, that "our idea of what we want — of our own desire — is linked to what we think we're supposed to want."

But Bennett offers no clear solutions to this issue. If it's true that women say yes but mean no, are men supposed to read minds? If a woman says no but a man seduces her until she says yes, is the initial no supposed to take precedence over the final yes?

Unfortunately, Bennett offers no guidance. Neither does Rebecca Reid, who wrote in Metro UK that she once participated in a threesome because she "didn't want to be rude." And Reid says that such experiences aren't uncommon: "There are hundreds of reasons why, but they all boil down to the same thing. We're nice girls. We've been raised to be nice." She adds, "sometimes being careful means having sex that you don't want, that leaves you feeling dirty and sad and a bit icky. It's not rape. It's not abuse. But it's not nice, either."

In the pages of The New Yorker, a similarly vague story went viral. Titled "Cat Person," it describes a woman named Margot who seduces a man and sends him all the signals that she wants to have sex with him but is internally divided over whether to go through with it: "she knew that her last chance of enjoying this encounter had disappeared, but that she would carry through with it until it was over." In the end, she cuts short their relationship, and he texts that she is a "Whore."

It's a painful story, to be sure. But it also raises a serious question: What exactly are men supposed to do in such scenarios? Because as a society, we're beyond suggesting that women are doing anything wrong in consenting to nonmarital sex, women are free to do what they want. But we are in the midst of a push to punish male aggressors. And if we water down consent to nothingness, how can we ever expect men to feel safe in the knowledge that a sexual encounter won't come with life-altering implications?

Perhaps the problem is expectations. All three articles articulate the complaint that women want to fulfill men's expectations. But none of them admit to another expectation, one created by the feminist movement: the expectation that women themselves must treat sex casually or fall prey to reinforcing the patriarchy. Ask a person of traditional moral standards whether the woman should have said no in all of these stories. The answer will be yes. But then that person will be regarded as a prude.

There are costs to societal expectations. Traditional mores ruled out the male expectation of sex in non-commitment scenarios. Yes, men had hopes of sex — all men do, virtually all of the time. But men had no expectation that such hopes would be achieved absent serious commitment. Thanks to our consent-only society, however, in which sexual activity is a throwaway and any notion of cherishing it is scoffed at as patriarchal, men have developed expectations that too many women feel they must meet — and men have taken up the feminist standard that consent is a goal to be achieved. The cost to such a system is borne almost entirely by women.

The healthiest system of sexual interaction is a system in which most women can be sure enough of themselves most of the time to feel decent after saying yes. That system no longer exists, thanks to the disconnect between commitment and sex. And the continuing disconnect between consent and expectation will continue to burden women in heavier and heavier ways.

— Ben Shapiro, Creators Syndicate



Trump's ticket to survival: Ban words

President Trump has the best words — and only the best. If there is a word he does not like, or a phrase or proper noun that is not performing up to his expectations, he calls that word into his office and he tells that word, in no uncertain terms, "You're fired."

Earlier this month, we learned that Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel dropped "Romney" from her official communications — at the request of Trump, who did not like McDaniel using the name "Romney," even though that is her name, because it is also the name of her uncle Mitt, who Trump regards as a "loser."

Word dismissed. Problem solved. Now The Washington Post's Lena Sun and Juliet Eilperin report that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention barred the use in budget documents of terms Trump officials find objectionable: "vulnerable," "entitlement," "diversity," "transgender," "fetus," "evidence-based" and "science-based."

The CDC disavowed the word ban after a brutal couple of days in which the response proved, to a science-based certainty, that the Trump administration had made itself vulnerable to a great diversity of mockery. The prevailing view: What the fetus* is going on?

(*Forbidden words used without permission.) My own analysis, made in consideration with my personal wishes, finds that the administration should not give up on its word ban. In fact, a more extensive word ban — an all-out vocabulary blockade, enforced by an armada of language police — could be Trump's ticket to survival.

Trump could benefit enormously from restricting the use of the many words, names and phrases that threaten him: Robert Mueller. Good taste. Facts. Spelling. The Geneva Conventions. Suit-jacket buttons. The Constitution. Exercise. International trade. Democrats. Intelligence briefings. Intelligence.

It would be even more effective if the administration replaced problematic words with favorable ones. The tax bill in Congress is deeply unpopular because it's a giveaway to the rich and it keeps loopholes, such as the tax bonanza for hedge-fund billionaires, that Trump promised to abolish. But if the administration simply bans the word "rich" in favor of "deserving" and replaces "loopholes" with "incentives," the tax bill is instantly jampacked with incentives for the deserving.

The tax bill could become even more unpopular when people discover it's likely that 13 million fewer Americans will have health insurance, and as a result more will get sick and die. But the situation sounds much better if the word "uninsured"

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group



is banned in favor of "treatment-unencumbered," "sick" is replaced with "in transition" and "dead" is replaced by "inactive."

Trump might also need to restrict use of the words "kickback" and "self-dealing" after Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., reversed himself and announced his support for the bill, just as it emerged that a provision had been added providing a bonanza to real estate investors such as ... Bob Corker.

Using the word ban to thwart the Russia probe is more problematic — but doable. "Collusion" would need to be replaced by a more benign word, such as "cooperation." The name "Russia" could be jettisoned in favor of the friendlier-sounding "Canada" and the problematic phrase "obstruction of justice" replaced by the inoffensive phrase "presidential discretion." To be safe, Trump should ban "impeachment" in favor of "commendation." The worst-case headline for Trump becomes: "President Trump commended for using presidential discretion over cooperation with Canada."

Trump should probably ban the word "irony" after his attorneys argued that the "gov" emails from his transition team are "private" property and not "official" — even though Trump's defenders argued the opposite when defending Michael Flynn's Russia contacts during the transition as "official" and not "private."

There is no Trump problem a word ban wouldn't fix. Forbidding the phrases "rules of evidence" and "civil procedure" would prevent meddlesome senators from exposing Trump judicial nominees' lack of familiarity with what the elites call "law." Banning the word "credibility" could boost the reputation of White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who proclaimed the "defeat of ISIS" on Sunday — just after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said "don't believe" such claims.

And then there's poor Rex Tillerson, waiting quietly to be fired as secretary of state. He will need to have words such as "humiliation" and "defenestration" barred to protect his dignity.

Or maybe Trump will inform the secretary of his dismissal simply by announcing he has banned two more words: "Rex Tillerson."

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Triumphant Trump celebrates tax win — but some fear backlash

By Steve Peoples, Catherine Lucey and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A triumphant President Donald Trump and jubilant fellow Republicans celebrated the passage of their \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul Wednesday as a "historic victory for the American people." The American people, however, will need some convincing.

As Trump and GOP lawmakers gathered at the White House to cheer their first major legislative achievement — and the biggest tax changes in a generation — some Republicans warned that the party could face a painful political backlash against an overhaul that offers corporations and wealthy taxpayers the biggest benefits and triggers the loss of health care coverage for millions of Americans.

There was no hint of anxiety at the White House, though, as the president and congressional Republicans pushed any qualms aside and reveled in a much-needed win at the end of a year marked by GOP infighting and political stumbles.

"We are making America great again," Trump declared, personally thanking his "little team" of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, before lawmakers lavished praise upon a president they have often openly criticized.

"I don't know if we'll have bigger moments, but we hope to," said Trump. The president was expected to sign the bill at a later date for technical reasons. In fact, the signing may be postponed until the start of the new calendar year in order to delay \$120 billion in automatic cuts to popular programs such as Medicare and spare Republicans from having to explain them in an election year.

The tax package provides a deep cut in the corporate rate, from 35 percent to 21 percent. On the individual side, about 80 percent of American households will get tax cuts next year, while about 5 percent will pay more, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center.

People who make less than \$25,000 will see an average tax cut of \$60; those who earn between \$49,000 and \$86,000 will get about \$900, and those in the top 1 percent of income — earning more than \$733,000 — will receive around \$51,000 in tax savings, the policy center said.

The cuts will come at a price: The Congressional Budget Office predicts the legislation will add \$1.4 trillion to the national debt over the next decade.

Some of the president's strongest allies conceded that voters may not immediately warm to the new law.

Andy Surabian, a senior aide for a pro-Trump super PAC, likened the president's position to that of Ronald Reagan, who struggled through low approval ratings early in his presidential term after Congress passed a tax cut that led to huge Republican losses in the 1982 midterm elections. Reagan went on to a sweeping re-election in 1984 after the economy improved.

Said Surabian: "Even if we don't start seeing positive effects in 2018, the important thing here is President Trump sets himself up to win re-election in 2020."

GOP strategists and candidates alike called on Trump to launch an immediate public relations tour to sell the plan to help avert an anti-Republican tsunami in 2018.

"People don't understand it," said Virginia Republican Senate candidate Corey Stewart, though he still called passage "a massive win" for Trump and the GOP.



Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

President Donald Trump joined by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., Vice President Mike Pence, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wis., Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., front right, and other members of congress, speaks during an event Wednesday on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington to acknowledge the final passage of tax overhaul legislation by Congress.

Only about 1 in 3 voters have supported the legislation in recent days, according to several polls. About half of Americans believe the plan will hurt their personal finances. And 2 in 3 voters say the wealthy will get the most benefits, according to a USA Today/Suffolk University poll released last week.

The White House said Wednesday that Trump will actively promote the bill. Aides argued that media coverage has not accurately portrayed the benefits and that people will come around as they feel the payoff.

Trump himself complained in a tweet that "defeated Dems" and the media were out to "demean" the tax package but "the results will speak for themselves, starting very soon."

Democrats, who unanimously opposed the tax plan in Congress, were furious about the new policy yet upbeat about the potential political fallout in next year's elections. They need to flip 24 House seats and just two Senate seats to take control of each chamber.

Asked if the tax bill will help Republicans hold the House, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi leaned into a microphone and said, "Let Them. Think. That."

The bill goes far beyond taxes. While it does not repeal the law known as "Obamacare," the legislation finalized by the House on Wednesday attacks a central tenet of the health care system by eliminating the requirement that all Americans have health insurance. The Congressional Budget Office says elimination of the "individual mandate" will boost health care costs by about 10 percent for those with coverage and leave 13 million additional Americans without health

insurance in 10 years. Millions of people will still remain covered under the law's Medicaid expansion and health care exchanges, but Trump cast the package as a shadow repeal.

"We have essentially repealed Obamacare," the president declared.

On taxes, the first modest effects will be felt in February paychecks.

People living in high-tax states like New York and California may ultimately pay more. Among those who benefit, the wealthy will make out far better than the working-class voters who fueled Trump's victory last year.

Trump said Wednesday the bill will spur economic growth as corporations, flush with cash, increase wages and hire more workers. Democrats questioned, even mocked that prediction.

Reflecting the political risks, some of the nation's most vulnerable House Republicans voted against the bill.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., one of 12 GOP House members to vote no, said the tax plan would hurt many people in high-tax states. The bill imposes a \$10,000 cap on taxpayers who deduct their state, local and property taxes. Currently, there is no limit on how much in state and local taxes you can deduct.

All but one of the GOP no votes came from like-minded Republicans facing re-election in 11 months in moderate districts across New Jersey, New York and California.

The road to a Democratic House majority, if there is one, runs through these districts.

All the salesmanship in the world won't change the reality that the tax overhaul overwhelmingly favors the rich, Democratic critics said.

Ryan savors tax bill win, but coming fights could roil GOP

By Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was a victory lap so irresistible that Speaker Paul Ryan did it twice.

When the House approved the \$1.5 trillion Republican tax bill Tuesday and again Wednesday with minor changes, it was a beaming Ryan who emphatically pounded the gavel, announced the vote and applauded his following GOP colleagues.

The moment put lawmakers on the cusp of shipping the measure to President Donald Trump and achieving one of Ryan's — and his party's — long-cherished goals. Since entering the House in 1999 as a 28-year-old whose resume ranged from fitness trainer to congressional aide, Ryan has evolved into a dominant GOP voice on tax and budget issues.

Few dispute that the Wisconsin Republican can claim the tax bill's passage as a personal triumph. But in a business that often cares more about the next battle than the last one, the coming few days and the 2018 election year loom as a complicated and risky time for Ryan.

To ward off a Christmas-season or January government shutdown and win defense spending boosts, GOP leaders will eventually need a compromise with Democrats demanding domestic program increases and an immigration deal. That could anger his party's most conservative members, who helped push previous Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, into early retirement in 2015 when they decided he was too prone to cut bipartisan agreements.

"I can't imagine that a historic tax reform package would be enough credit to stop backlash from a bad spending and immigration bill that gets put on the House floor," Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., leader of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, said in an interview Tuesday. "It's just not the way that politics happen. They're viewed as two separate things."

Up next will be the 2018 agenda, which Ryan envisions focusing on squeezing savings from benefit programs that moderates from competitive districts are leery of touching. Then comes November's midterm elections in which Trump's unpopularity means the GOP faces a real chance of losing House and Senate control.

"He's got to hold the House," said former Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., who once led the House GOP's campaign efforts. "At the end of the day, part of the report card of leaders is they've got to re-elect their members."

For now, Ryan is relishing congressional approval of the tax bill, which Trump is certain to sign. His desire to revamp the code was evident in 1998, when as congressman-elect he complained during a C-SPAN

interview that existing laws were inhibiting practices "that make America great," two decades before Trump made similar words famous.

"I am very pleased with how far we pushed the art of the possible," Ryan said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press.

With a tricky 2018 approaching, speculation has arisen that flush from victory, Ryan would leave Congress after the tax legislation becomes law or after next year's elections. He's tried squelching that talk, though in a less-than-sirtight way.

"I'm not going anywhere anytime soon, and just let's leave that thing at that," he told reporters.

Davis, the former Virginia GOP congressman, says it would be a "huge mistake" for Ryan to depart before the 2018 elections because "it would signal to Republicans across the country that he's abandoning ship."

After this year's crash of the GOP effort to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, most Republicans viewed the tax bill as a crucial achievement to show voters.

"A lot of people are thinking, 'This is one of the reasons I came here,'" said Rep. Jeb Hensarling. "There are just so many post offices you can rename."

Even so, conservatives are already pressuring Ryan in their direction. While denying rumors they may try forcing a vote on removing Ryan from the speakership, they're not shy about saying they'll be watching closely. "Once the euphoria of passing the tax bill wears off, we'll have to turn to other issues like spending," said conservative Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., who's clashed often with GOP leaders. "It depends how the speaker picks his way forward."

A bipartisan compromise on spending and protecting immigrants from deportation who arrived illegally as children — the "Dreamers" — would likely garner enough Democratic and GOP votes to pass Congress despite conservatives' objections. But no party leader wants lingering resentment among their rank and file that could result in defections on future bills or even attempts to topple them.

"Any leader, if they're going to lead, has to make sure they've got followers behind them," said former Rep. Tom Reynolds, R-N.Y., who entered Congress with Ryan.

Besides alienating conservatives, Ryan — his party's 2012 vice presidential candidate — must balance an assertive 2018 agenda with shielding moderates from damaging votes.

Though final decisions remain, Ryan has discussed trying to revamp benefit programs that could include Medicaid, welfare and food stamps. Most Republicans expect that drive to avoid reshaping Medicare and Social Security, which help older people and would be politically perilous.

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This Tuesday image taken from video shows, Dustin Hoffman accuses Anna Graham Hunter, from left, Cori Thomas and Kathryn Rossetter during an interview in New York. Associated Press

Three of Hoffman's accusers explain why they decided to talk now

By John Carucci
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Three women who have accused Dustin Hoffman of sexual misconduct say they are still able to watch his movies because they are able to separate the artist from his actions.

One of his alleged victims, Cori Thomas, said she still has admiration for him — though she now sees him as a fallen idol. “I wanted to be a method actor like him. I was so impressed with his performances in ‘Midnight Cowboy’ and that sort of thing. So I really wanted to do that kind of work. And so I think I feel, felt just disappointed. I felt disillusioned,” she said in an interview with The Associated Press. “I felt disappointed by somebody who I thought was maybe bigger than life and maybe that’s the lesson is that nobody is bigger than life. You know we’re all humans, but at the same time there’s also right and wrong. You know everyone is accountable.”

A handful of women have come forward to accuse the “Tootsie” star of sexual misconduct, some of which allegedly occurred decades ago. The 80-year-old initially apologized for making one accuser feel uncomfortable with his comments, but in a testy conversation with comedian John Oliver at public talk earlier this month, he denied any wrongdoing. His representative didn’t return a message from the AP seeking comment Tuesday on the women’s allegations.

Three of his accusers spoke to various media outlets Tuesday, detailing their experiences with Hoffman and trying to explain why they decided to come forward now.

Kathryn Rossetter, an actress who shared the stage with Hoffman in the 1984 Broadway revival of “Death of a Salesman,” said she knows she’s going to “take a beating” for waiting to tell her story, but she said the sexual misconduct allegations that toppled Harvey Weinstein gave her the impetus to speak up.

“I was committed to having my whole story published because it’s such a long story of how he was a hero and then it was a bait-and-switch in the aftermath,” she said.

Rossetter saw Hoffman as her hero when he helped her land her first Broadway play,

but things quickly soured when she says he started repeatedly groping her backstage. She claims he even tried to penetrate her with his finger. Even after she was finally able to gain the courage to come forward to tell her story, Rossetter still struggles with the shame, especially when she had to break the news to her elderly father.

“It’s not easy. I deal with it by trying not to look at all the negative comments. I know the truth. I know I have to live my truth,” she said.

Anna Graham Hunter was the first woman to come forward. She was a 17-year-old high school senior working as an intern on the film version of “Death of a Salesman” in 1985. She remembers the actor asking her for a foot rub on her first day on the set. She obliged but said it made her uncomfortable. She claims the actor often used sexual language and even grabbed her buttocks several times. Hunter says she struck him in an effort to make it stop.

She carried a sense of guilt with her for years. “Most of us have stories like this and we deal with it in different ways,” she said.

Thomas was a friend of one of Hoffman’s daughters. When she was 16, she ended up in the actor’s hotel room waiting for her mother to pick her up. She recalls Hoffman leaving the room to take a shower. He returned in a towel and exposed himself, then asked for a foot rub, according to Thomas.

But for years Thomas didn’t consider herself a victim: “I was dismissing it — I was saying, ‘Oh well but he didn’t really do anything bad to me.’”

All of the women still appreciate some of Hoffman’s work — albeit with some caveats. Rossetter said she can watch his films dating from before her alleged assault took place.

“I can watch Dustin’s movies before ‘Death of a Salesman’ and I’ve watched — I’ve seen them after, but I see it differently. I just can’t look at him the same way,” she said. “It’s heartbreaking because he is a good actor.”

Hunter said she still has respect for Hoffman’s talent.

“He is a brilliant, brilliant actor, you know,” she said. “So I don’t want to be robbed of the movies. I love movies, you know, they don’t always love me back.”

Eight Americans, two Swedes, one Canadian dead in Mexican bus crash

By Gabriel Alcocer
Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico — Driver negligence and speed caused a bus crash in southern Mexico that killed eight Americans, two Swedes, one Canadian and a Mexican tour guide and a Mexican tour guide as they traveled from cruise ships to visit nearby Mayan ruins, officials said Wednesday.

Quintana Roo state prosecutors said a preliminary manslaughter investigation indicated the driver lost control of the bus and when he tried to get back on the narrow highway, the bus flipped, struck a tree and landed in vegetation along the roadside.

“Due to a lack of care the driver lost control of the bus’ steering to the right, leaving the asphalt,” state prosecutor Miguel Angel Pech Cen said at a news conference. He said evidence found at the scene indicated the driver was going too fast.

The state government said that in addition to

the 12 people killed, three Canadians, four Brazilians, four Americans and two Swedes had to be hospitalized for treatment of injuries. The two Swedes were transported to the United States for treatment. Seven other people were slightly injured in Tuesday’s accident and returned to their cruise ship.

By Wednesday afternoon, only four tourists — one Brazilian and three Americans — remained in local hospitals, the state prosecutor’s office said.

A state government statement early Wednesday said the bus driver was injured and taken into custody. But Pech Cen later said the driver was not in custody. He said the driver was transported from the scene for medical treatment. They knew the driver’s identity and would get a statement from him, but were not sure if he was in a hospital or still at home, the prosecutor said. He did not elaborate on the conflicting government statements.

The Swedish and Canadian governments confirmed the deaths of their citizens, but the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City confirmed only that there were “multiple” American deaths and several injuries. A statement said the embassy had staff on the ground assisting victims and loved ones.

“We express our heartfelt condolences to all those affected by this tragedy,” State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in Washington. Haim Shalubbo of Fort Lauderdale said Wednesday that his mother-in-law, Fanya Shamis, was among the bus passengers killed in the crash. “We are waiting for the bodies to come home,” he said. He said the family had no additional information to provide at this time.

Chris Brawley, of Haslet, Texas, was on one of the two cruise ships that had passengers on the crashed bus, and he was en route to the ruins as well. He said his bus passed by the accident just minutes after it occurred, and he observed skid marks on the dry pavement.

Brawley said the ship he was sailing on, the Serenade of the Seas, sailed out of Mahahual on Tuesday around 5:30 p.m., a couple hours after its scheduled departure. It was docked Wednesday up the coast in Cozumel.

“Captain informed us this morning one of our passengers passed overnight,” Brawley said.



Novedades de Quintana Roo via AP

An ambulance sits parked next to an overturned bus Tuesday in Mahahual, Quintana Roo state, Mexico. The bus carrying cruise ship passengers to the Mayan ruins at Chacchoben in eastern Mexico flipped over on a highway early Tuesday.

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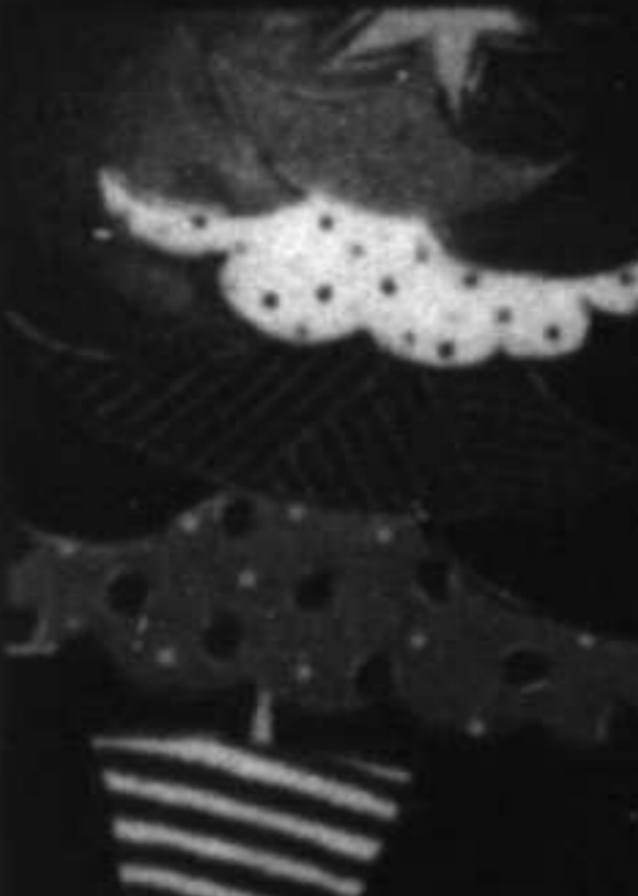
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BEST BETS

TODAY



PAINT JOB Kiddy and 4 avas Parties host a holiday-themed adult paint and sip. Hang out with friends while creating your own "Funky Tree" just in time for gift-giving. 6:30 p.m.



NO JOSHIN' Texas singer Josh Ward keeps his hustle going through the year as he returns to headline Rockin' Rodeo. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY



GAME ON Enjoy a big meal at Opal's Table for its whiskey and wild game dinner featuring a four-course meal with whiskey pairings. Reservations required. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY



DIVA LIVE "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars" contestant Tananna makes her way to West Texas to headline the Recovery Room in Odessa.

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters.

TALL CITY 14

Opening: "Downsizing," "Father Figures," "The Greatest Showman," "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," "Pitch Perfect 3." Closing: "Just Getting Started," "Murder on the Orient Express."

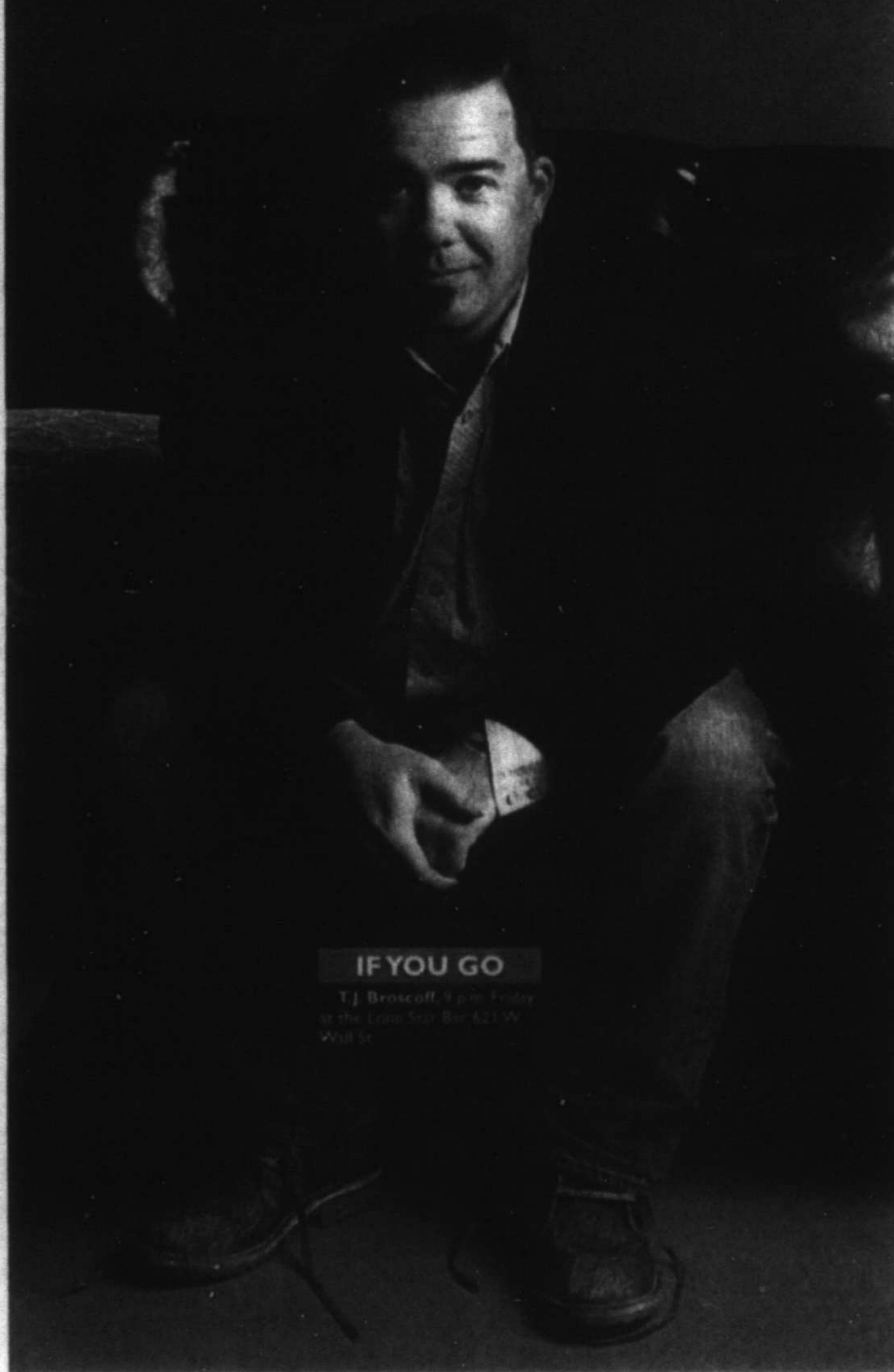
CINERGY CINEMAS

Opening: "Downsizing," "Father Figures," "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," "Pitch Perfect 3." Closing: "Daddy's Home 2," "Justice League," "Wonder."

STAYING IN!

Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. Page 3

CALLING ALL THE SHOTS



IF YOU GO

T.J. Broscoff, 4 p.m. Friday at the Lone Star Bar, 223 W. Wall St.

Life isn't bad these days for singer T.J. Broscoff

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Texas musician T.J. Broscoff was celebrating his birthday at the time of this interview. While not keen on revealing his age, he has no doubt lived quite a life. Addiction to drugs and alcohol was followed by recovery and a career in music that's led to his third and newest album "Love, Loss and Afterglow."

Life is good for the North Texas native, and he plans on keeping it that way. He said that as an independent artist, he was able to call all the shots on the album.

"What I like about life right now is that I can pay the bills, and for a struggling musician, that's something," he said in a phone interview. "I'm also glad to wake up with a clear head and good conscience. And I'm grateful I'm alive. I buried 21 friends during my darker days. So now is a blessing."

Broscoff brings his energy and zeal to the Lone Star Bar on Friday.

Since his debut album "Ready to Fly" in 2010, Broscoff has scored seven top-40 hits on the Texas charts and went on to score the No. 1 single "Falling Down." He's scored a rising hit with "Devil's Done with Me," which is gaining momentum with streams on Spotify.

The singer songwriter said his first album started the healing process. "Ready to Fly" and other tracks focused on getting past his demons. The experience was cathartic but he didn't feel necessarily better.

"To be honest, I felt more vulnerable," Broscoff said. "Any music scene really, alcohol and drugs are an underlying theme. You go to bars. You drink. Listen to music. Have fun."

"For me to come out and be 'I'm sober, let's party!' was a risk. And really, God walked me through the whole deal," he said.

Broscoff's honesty in music and writing more about everyday life quickly became his signature. Fans could relate, and they responded.

"I've always said I write human. I'm not good at singing about partying or love songs about whiskey," he said. "I like writing about life's little victories and challenges, like 30 years of marriage or a teenage heartbreak. Seeing their lives is how I try to write."

Please see **BROSCOFF**/Page 3

HEAT INDEX: Hogwarts Holiday at Centennial, Chance Anderson plays Lone Star Bar

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

HOGWARTS HOLIDAY AT CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

Even wizards like to celebrate during the holiday season. The library hosts this "Harry Potter"-themed event where Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry students and muggles will get sorted into various houses and attend magical classes on potions, caring for magical creatures and more. Teens can step inside the Harry Potter Escape Room to test their skills to get out. Wear your favorite character costumes and spend the holidays at Hogwarts. 2:30-5:30 p.m. today at 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

COOKIES AND COCOA WITH SANTA AT OPAL'S TABLE

There is still time to get those wish lists to Kris Kringle. Chef Chip Hight welcomes parents and children to meet Santa Claus and for cocoa and cookies. The bar will also be open for parents to enjoy the holiday cocktail menu options. The event is come and go. 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at 223 W. Wall St. \$20 per child. opalstable.com.

TEJANO CHRISTMAS DANCE AT LA HACIENDA EVENT CENTER

Why not boogie down for the holidays? With a lineup that includes Los Musicales y David Lee Garza, Jay Perez, Gary Hobbs



and La Dezz there is no way not to get on your feet and deck the halls. Besides, you can work off

the shopping stress and Christmas. Please see **HEAT INDEX**/Page 2

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CALENDAR & MORE

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Editor's note: This feature has been edited to fit the space. Recurring events likely will be affected by the holidays. Consider reaching out directly to confirm schedule.

EVENTS

Adult Paint and Sip: Funky Tree, 6-30 p.m. today at Kidd's and Canvas Parties, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. \$35. liddandcanvasparties.com.

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday at Opa's Table, 223 W. Wall St. \$20. opatable.com.

Author signing with Suzie Jackson signing copies of her new book "If You Were a Commandment," 11-30 a.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Bookshoppers, 2617 W. Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting, View the more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays, 6-11 p.m. through Jan. 1 at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparcs.org.

FINE ART & DANCE

Winter Art Exhibit featuring works by area art associations at The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces, 3500 N.A. St.

The works of Anabella Charlton and Jesse Trejo on display Fridays throughout December at Kamposi, 510 S. Big Spring St.

"What If?" University of Texas of the Permian Basin Senior Art Exhibition by families Fernandez on display through Jan. 5 at the Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. scmidland.org.

FOOD & DRINK

Whiskey and Wild Game Dinner will feature four courses with whiskey pairings, 7 p.m. Friday at Opa's Table, 223 W. Wall St. \$95. opatable.com.

MUSIC

AMERICANA SINGER-SONGWRITER Shotgun Josephine, 9 p.m. Saturday at Escape Lounge, 3001 E.

Business Loop 20, Odessa.

COUNTRY

Josh Ward, 9 p.m. today at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. \$10. rockinrodeoatmidland.com.

Randy Rogers acoustic, 7 p.m. Friday at Dos Amigos, 4700 N. Golder Ave. \$17 advance, \$20 door. dosamigos.com.

T.J. Briscoff, 9 p.m. Friday at the Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

Chance Anderson, 9 p.m. Saturday at the Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

COVER/TRIBUTE The Trip, 9 p.m. Friday at Your Place, 3704 W. Wall St.

DJ/DANCE #HangoverSundays, 7 p.m. Sunday at Atrium Lounge, 3904 W. Wall St.

DJ Wildman, 9 p.m. Friday and Sunday at the Loft, 7th, 1401 E. Seventh St. Odessa.

DRAG

Tatiana from "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars", 11 p.m. Saturday at the Recovery Room,

2802 N. County Road West, Odessa.

KARAOKE

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

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

Karaoke and pool tournament, Tuesdays at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

LATIN

Tejano Christmas Dance with Los Musicales y David Lee Garza, Jay Perez, Gary Hobbs, La Daza, 7 p.m. Friday at La Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Hwy 191. \$25. haciendmidland.com.

Latin Night hosted by West Texas Salseros begins with a free Latin dance lesson. Music by DJ Ray, 9-30 p.m. Friday at Club Crude, 4101 E. 42nd St., Odessa. \$5. 21 and older.

POP

Justin Langston, 8 p.m. Saturday at Brew St. Bakery, 4610 N. Garfield St.

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service



'Father Figures' is offensive, tone deaf borderline hostage situation

'Father Figures' is a movie, ostensibly. I'm pretty sure it is. Moving images were projected, along with recorded sound, which indicates it is a movie, but the effect was so listless, low-energy and profoundly unentertaining that I jotted down in my notes "what even IS this?" It would be more accurate to describe the experience as a nearly two-hour borderline hostage situation, with torture involving bad, offensive and unfunny "comedy."

The protagonists are brothers Peter (Ed Helms) and Kyle (Owen Wilson), who are "twins." Sure. Peter is a divorced doctor, with a kid who hates him, and a personal life that consists predominantly of "Law & Order: SVU" reruns. He's deeply envious of Kyle, a beach bum who's made millions licensing his likeness to a barbecue sauce company.

At the wedding of their mother, Helen (Glenn Close), Peter, desperately unhappy with the banality of his cushy upper-middle class life, self-soothes with an episode of "SVU," when he becomes convinced one of the actors is their long-lost father. He's not, but it triggers a round of questioning about his parentage, which sets the brothers on a cross-country road trip.

First, they head to Miami to find football star Terry Bradshaw, the name Helen initially throws out. But it soon becomes a wild goose chase up the Eastern seaboard dubbed "Operation Who's Your Daddy," as the bros dig up Helen's exes from the last days of disco.

Cinematographer Lawrence Sher makes his directorial debut with the film, which is about as captivating as a flaccid noodle. Awkward bits of brotherly rivalry or ribaldry go on for far, far, painfully too long, and all of the energy is strangely subdued and muted. All momentum is sapped from the film, which requires extreme amounts of patience to endure.

But, the true offense comes from the blinkered and completely tone deaf script by Justin Malen. That

it's not funny and makes no sense would be bad enough, but there's a virulent strain of sexism, too. Every woman the brothers encounter is evaluated for their sexual potential, not anything else. Their own mother, played by the legendary Close, is reduced to a running joke that involves the exes repeatedly describing her sexual skills of their mother.

Tack on a wildly misguided and totally random scene wherein the brothers pick up a hitchhiker, played by Katt Williams, and things go from bad to worse. Uptight Peter worries about the safety of picking up a stranger, insists he isn't suspicious because the potential rider is black, so Kyle demands to know if he's a serial killer. They give him a ride — tied up with jump ropes in the backseat. The brothers then bicker over how many girls they each hooked up with in high school and how much money they make. How could anyone involved in this project possibly think this was a good idea?

There's an entire subgenre of films now where Helms is the vessel for expressing a collective white male anxiety about masculinity, but played for laughs, because why face issues head on? Those stories deserve to be told, but not at the expense of others, and the limited, privileged worldview of "Father Figures," which is laced with a cutesy, insidious streak of sexism, homophobia and racism makes for a bromantic comedy that illustrates how exclusion will be Hollywood's downfall.

'Father Figures'

0 stars
Cast: Ed Helms, Owen Wilson, Glenn Close, Katt Williams, Terry Bradshaw, J.K. Simmons.
Directed by Lawrence Sher.
Running time: 1 hour, 53 minutes.
Rated R for language and sexual references throughout.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

BROSCOFF

From Page 1

As he's grown as a songwriter, he's learned ways to encompass listeners with his lyrics.

"I don't want to tell audiences what to think. I want them to apply their lives to the song and run with it," he said.

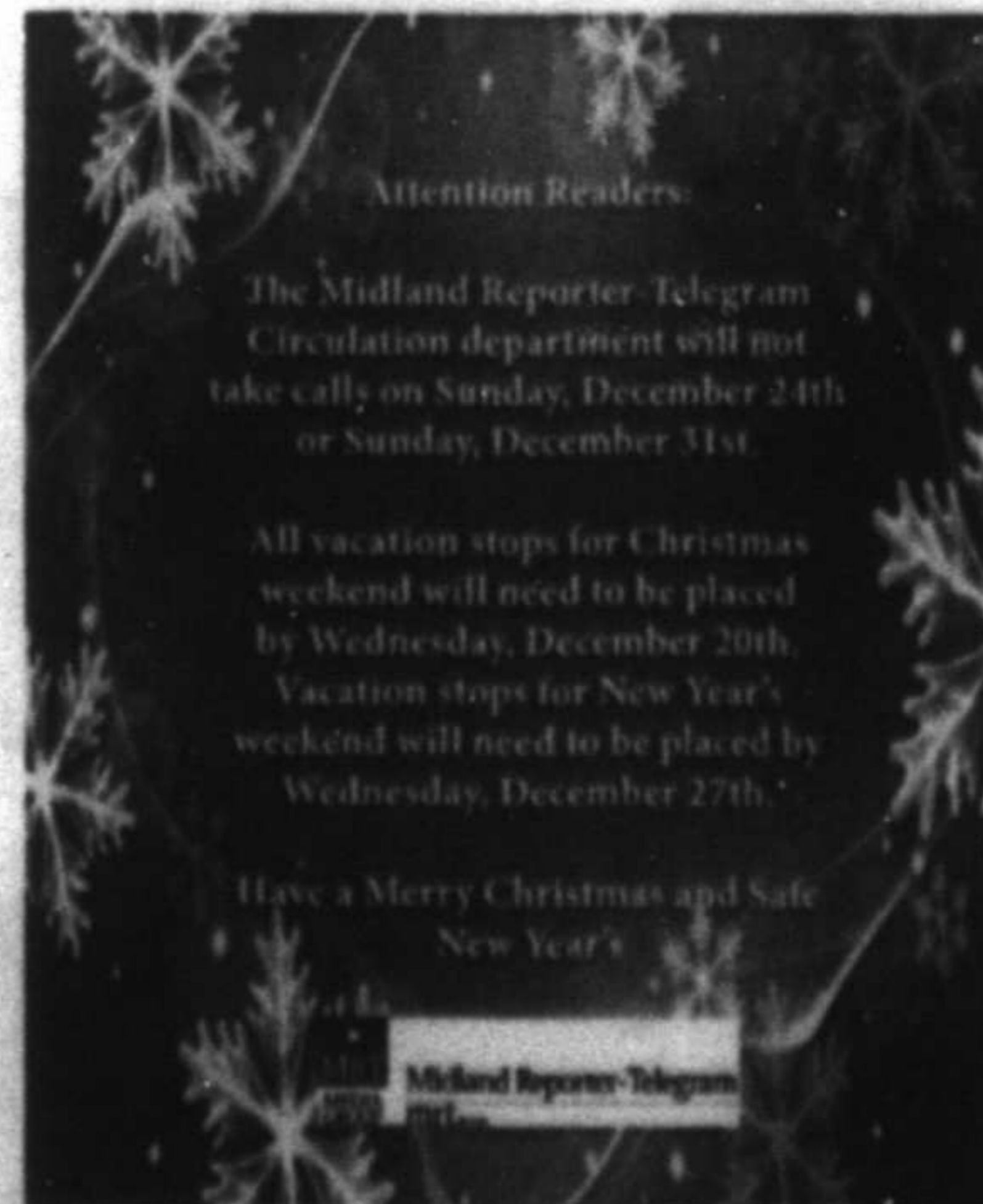
Another thing he wants — since it is Christmastime

— is a 21-foot bass cat boat with a 250 on the back.

"I bass fish as much as I can, and this is like the Cadillac of boats," he said.

But with a price tag of \$50,000 and up, he said he'll settle for some guitar strings or something simpler.

"I really do cherish time with my family. With all the past behind me, I'm enjoying this thing called life."



'Greatest Showman' is a great big mess

When the 2018 Golden Globe nominations were announced last week, "The Greatest Showman," which had yet to be released or reviewed, garnered a nomination for "Best Motion Picture — Musical or Comedy," seemingly just for being a musical. "The Greatest Showman" is definitely a musical, but there's nothing "greatest" or "best" about it.

This wild and wacky musical biopic of circus impresario P.T. Barnum is a profoundly confused and muddled film, with a story that's at once too thin and too busy, a period piece making a halfhearted gesture towards modern-day values, with everything pasted into place using a mixture of frantic pop music and Hugh Jackman's flop sweat.

The songs, which are pervasive, and endless, are ear worms that are catchy as all get-out. They're written by the Oscar-winning songwriters of "La La Land," Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, so it makes sense they would be so infectious. But there's a deeply strange cognitive dissonance in watching performers in period dress sing and dance to contemporary pop songs. The anachronistic soundtrack worked well in "A Knight's Tale" and "Marie Antoinette," but it just doesn't work here, when the characters burst into modern songs, especially to move the story forward or describe their emotions. There's a particularly jarring number billed as "opera" that's actually a Celine Dion-style ballad.



KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

The story follows the rise of circus impresario Phineas Taylor Barnum (Jackman), a dreamer and a go-getter always trying to improve his station in life to impress his upper crust in-laws. He risks it all on a show, turning his museum of oddities into a live freak show with curious characters, animals, acrobatics, song and dance. But his constant striving for acceptance drives him to the breaking point. He abandons his wife (Michelle Williams), daughters and show as he becomes obsessed with attaining high-brow status (and a good review from a cranky theater critic), with a tour for opera singer Jenny Lind (Rebecca Ferguson).

Michael Gracey makes his directorial debut with "The Greatest Showman," with a script by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon. The script doesn't know what era it's in, especially with regard to the circus performers. Barnum delights in the different and strange people he hires, who draw large crowds — both ticket buyers and protestors. Some of his "freaks" have genetic differences (a dwarf, a giant), some have body modifications (tattooed guy), and some are just

different because of white Western standards of beauty (a bearded lady, people of different races). Barnum brutally exploits them, leaves them high and dry, and is then celebrated for putting diverse performers on stage. All is forgiven with a rousing, foot-stomping number celebrating individuality. It's almost impossible to recover from that moral whiplash, especially when Barnum is clearly a narcissist lacking in empathy.

At the center of all this chaos is a rather sweet love story between richie rich producer Phillip Carlyle (Zac Efron) and trapeze performer Anne Wheeler (Zendaya). Their stripped-down aerial duet is simply stunning and demonstrates both the possibilities of a circus-based musical, as well as the magnetic chemistry and charisma of these two performers. It's also a treat to watch Efron return to his musical roots. You wish that "The Greatest Showman" focused on this couple and got rid of the rest of the mess.

'THE GREATEST SHOWMAN'

1.5 stars
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Zendaya, Rebecca Ferguson, Keala Settle.
Directed by Michael Gracey.
Running time: 2 hour, 45 minutes.
Rated PG for thematic elements including a brawl.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

'Jumanji' sequel serves up stars, good hearted fun

More than two decades after Robin Williams conquered that pesky board game, "Jumanji" has been resurrected with more and glossier stars (Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart and Jack Black), a comedy director and a "modern" twist. The result, "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," is a very sweet, and generally entertaining body swap lark with some nice messages about being, and believing in, yourself.

Why it had to be "Jumanji" is the head-scratcher. Even speaking as someone who was 12 when the first came out, and genuinely enjoyed the Joe Johnston-directed adventure and the fantasy of being swept up in a board game come to life, the idea that a die-hard "Jumanji" fanbase exists, or that the "brand" is so rock-solid that it needs a reboot, seems dubious at best.

There are pointless sequels everywhere of course, and questioning the purpose for their existence is a fruitless exercise. The only reason I bring it up here is because Jake Kasdan's "Welcome to the Jungle" spends a fair amount of genuinely un-



LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

necessary time straining to justify how it is connected to "Jumanji" including a whole prologue establishing how it had evolved into a video game by 1996.

The conceit here is that when you're transported into the game, you are suddenly a character in the game, in body, voice and skillset but with your earthbound personality pretty much intact. This is how a group of mismatched teens sharing the same detention, including the nerdy, shy Spencer (Alex Wolff), the football player Fridge (Ser'Darius Blain), the superficial popular girl Bethany (Madison Iseman) and the too-smart for gym class Martha (Morgan Turner), transform into avatars played by Dwayne Johnson (Spencer), Kevin Hart (Fridge), Jack Black (Bethany) and Karen Gillan (Martha).

It's a role reversal for

everyone — the nerdy girl is hot now (and scantily clad), the hot girl is a soft, middle aged man, the skinny guy is The Rock and the big football player is now tiny and wimpy — and they all have to go through the stages of learning to accept their new bodies, talents and shortcomings.

There is of course a lot of easy comedy in these situations — Spencer admiring his new muscles and Bethany getting used to her new anatomy among them. And all the main actors/avatars are kind of great at imitating the facial expressions of their teenage counterparts, especially Johnson and Black.

How can you argue with a bunch of movie stars acting goofy and hawking a "believe in yourself" message? There are some odd beats and choices, especially around Gillan's Martha, who is costumed

in nearly nothing (surely as a send up of what female characters usually wear in video games, but however meta it might have been intended to be, it is still literally her costume). There's also a plot line that hinges on her learning how to flirt from Bethany (because they all decide that flirting with the bad guy security guards is the only way they can get past them). Maybe it's all in good fun, or maybe one of the four credited screenwriters could have been a woman.

But "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" probably doesn't warrant that much scrutiny. Its surface pleasures are strong enough for a fun holiday afternoon at the movies.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," a Sony Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "adventure action, suggestive content and some language." Running time: 119 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

HEAT INDEX

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calories by hit boot-scooting across the dance floor.
7 p.m. Friday at 12610 State Hwy 191. \$25. haciendmidland.com.

CHANCE ANDERSON AT THE LONE STAR BAR

Oklahoma musician Chance Anderson and his band always hit the road during the holidays. Since Thanksgiving, his Drunken Turkey Tour was supposed to last only three

days. Thankfully, he's extended his road show to Midland. The singer brings a rocker's edge mix to his country tracks as if Bon Jovi merged with Lee Brice. But the sound is definitely his own.
9 p.m. Saturday at the Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St.

STARBRIGHT VILLAGE CONTINUES AT MCKINNEY PARK

If you want a Christmas overload of lights and music, go west. Star-

bright Village features what is billed as the largest display of lights in the Permian Basin. That's a bold statement but with more than 300,000 lights amid holiday displays and music, it's likely true. The village is open to both drivers and walkers so enjoy the sights hand in hand or coast along with accompanying music on the radio. The village is free but donations are welcome to keep it that way and to make it even bigger next year.

6-11 p.m. through Jan. 1 at 625 W. Pool Road. odessatxparcs.org.

ON SCREEN

Epic true story is best movie of the year

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Dunkirk" (PG-13)
Christopher Nolan has been high on my radar since his second film, "Memento." He has never let me down, even through the weirdness of "Interstellar" and the brilliance of "Inception." "Dunkirk" is not only the best of the bunch but easily the most accessible to those who might not appreciate his thought-provoking style. It is taut, intense and profound. It is for British films about World War II what "Saving Private Ryan" is for American films. It is also the best film of the year. **A**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"The Elf" (unrated)
Pathetic horror fare manages to exploit at least three things: the title, which adds "the" so it won't be mistaken for the Christmas classic film; an attempt to capitalize on the recent spate of living homicidal dolls films; and an attempt to cash in on the popularity of the Elf on a Shelf toy. It fails miserably. Then again, had this film actually been scary, the exploitation would have been an enhancement, not a detriment. **F**

MORE REVIEWS

"Acts of Vengeance" (R) Antonio Banderas has made an effective transition over the past few years to action star. That's quite a move for the actor who first burst onto the screen in Pedro Almodóvar sex romps. And his films are of a much higher quality than some of the others who eke out a living in this genre (Yes, I mean you, Steven Seagal). This effort is sleek and original but too predictable. **B-**

"All Saints" (PG)
Thoroughly enjoyable family film about an Anglican priest told to close his church when his flock falls to about 10 members. He gets a second chance when a group of Burmese refugees join the church and helps plant and raise crops to keep the doors open. Shot at the real-life church, this is a real-life story that both entertains and stays true to the true story. Did you know? The film stars Barry Corbin and John Corbett who also worked together in the TV series "Northern Exposure." **B+**

"American Assassin" (R) Michael Keaton's mere presence helps elevate a pedestrian action thriller to genuinely intriguing heights.

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

B "Better Watch Out"

(R) Clever film proves the horror genre is not out of ideas. **B+**

"Cops and Robbers"

(R) The plot is respectable but the execution of it is not. **C-**

"Dementia 13" (unrated)

Remake of Francis Ford Coppola's first feature film captures the 1960s British horror feel but doesn't enhance what was already a poor to fair story. **D+**

"Despicable Me 3"

(PG) All of the characters are fleshed out in ways the first two films failed to do, and all get their moment in the spotlight. None, though, makes a more adorable impact than Agnes, the youngest of the three sisters. Magnificently voiced by Neve Scharrel, the girl's quest to find and capture a unicorn is the best thing in the film. **A-**

"Good Time" (R)

Gritty story of a man who uses his mentally challenged brother for a robbery. It's the best movie to use this kind of theme since 2007's brilliant "The Lookout." **B+**

"The Heist" (unrated)

Aka "Hatton Garden the Heist," this is the first of two films in as many years centered on one of the biggest robberies in British history. Alas, neither truly captured the spirit of what drove a group of old men to commit the crime, and this one is not nearly as compelling as the one that followed, "The Hatton Garden Job." **D**

"Home Again" (PG-13)

Watching this film is not an unpleasant experience. Reese Witherspoon can enhance almost anything she's in (with the notable exception of "Hot Pursuit"), and she tries valiantly to rescue the story. But this is a story that was either mishandled by the filmmakers or never meant to be greenlighted to begin with. **C**

"I Do ... Until I Don't"

(R) This is the second feature written, directed by and starring Lake Bell, who scored an underground hit with her first film, "In a World." This effort, too, is smart and funny. If you like your romantic comedies with a dash of feminism thrown in, keep this film on your list. **B**

"Kedi" (unrated)

Stirring documentary about the sprawling cat population of Istanbul, where the felines aren't kept as pets but are taken care of by the city's cat lovers. **B**

"Kidnap" (R)

Halle Berry delivers a spunky performance in a film that would otherwise be forgotten. She helps make it a little more interesting, but the story is too derivative to be entertaining. **D+**

"Kingsman: The Golden Circle" (R)

Things progress wonderfully in this rousing sequel to 2014's delightful "Kingsman: The Secret Service." Then something strange happens. Things almost come to a full stop, and the story becomes achingly boring. That goes on for another 45 minutes or so, and things return to the campy delight. **B-**

"The Last Rites of Ransom Pride" (R)

Kudos to the small bunch of filmmakers and country music stars determined to keep the Western film alive, but this is the kind of film that does more harm than good. **C**

"The Limehouse Golem" (unrated)

By the time this British period mystery reveals its big secret, most of its audience will have lost interest. **C-**

"Logan Lucky" (PG-13)

No one knows his way around a heist film better than Steven Soderbergh. The man behind the "Ocean's 11" remake and its sequels cannot only do the slick, Las Vegas style robbery, but he is just as adept when he takes the theme to a NASCAR race in the South. Not only is the robbery nifty, this is also one of the funniest films of the year. **A**

"Singularity" (PG-13)

Bizarre thriller melds the machine-killer future of the "Terminator" films with the Dystopian teen film themes found in the "Hunger Games" and "Maze Runner" franchises. It has its moments but ultimately collapses under the weight of its own lofty goals. **C**

"Tulip Fever" (R)

The film held such promise. Had it stuck with its title's theme about 17th century Amsterdam's obsession with the flower and the pursuit of it, it could have been great. Rather, it doesn't venture into new territory, opting instead for a boring love story. **D**

Alexander Payne makes big mistake with small story in 'Downsizing'

Director Alexander Payne got our votes when he offered a brilliantly satirical look at politics and popularity with his insightful high school-based comedy "Election." He showed with "Sideways" that he could present a story as firm and dry as a prized red wine. He's done neither with his latest offering, "Downsizing." All the Oscar-winning filmmaker has shown with the production is how he came up short whether trying to make social commentary, dealing with political satire or attempting just to be funny. The film is a massively muddled mess of ideas that might have made more of an impact if Matt Damon's performance wasn't so painfully bland. It probably wouldn't have mattered with another actor, but it sure couldn't have hurt.

The downsizing here has nothing to do with the cutting of employees that seems to have become a favorite corporate pastime. In this case, it's very literal. A Norwegian scientist has discovered a way to shrink a person who is 6 feet tall to five inches. A world of Lilliputian-sized people would put less strain on the ecology and be a financial boom because houses, cars, food, etc., would all be so small, a person's personal wealth explodes to gargantuan size.

After living a life of mediocrity, Paul (Damon) and Audrey (Kristen Wiig) Safranek decide to spend the money to be downsized. Things don't go as planned, and Paul finds himself living a miserable existence in the tiny world. It gets worse when he meets Ngoc Lan Tran (Hong Chau), a Vietnamese dissident who was shrunk against her will as punishment for her protests. Now she cleans up after the rich and famous.

There are multiple places where the film appears to be ready to take some kind of stand but then crumbles in indecisive writing. Just before Paul and Audrey go for their transformation, they are confronted in a bar by a man who wants to know why people who are only 5 inches tall should have the same right to vote as normal-size people. His argument is those who have been downsized are spending less and killing the economy. Debates on the bigotry of this thinking could have filled the movie, but Payne brushes it off with little discussion.

And, the idea the small population is hurting the world economy makes absolutely no sense. Yes, they can make one steak last for a year, but there has to have been a boom in miniature technology, since

RICK BENTLEY

Tribune News Service



all the residents have cars, TV sets, tables, clothes and any other item a full-sized person would need.

It's the off-target way Payne presents Ngoc that provides the film's most brutally bad moments. Instead of making her the focal point of the idea that size doesn't matter, the director strips away any power Ngoc might have by making Chau play the character with an accent in which every word she speaks sounds like a cat dragging its claws down a chalkboard making a baby cry while a car alarm goes unattended.

It's not the accent that is so disruptive. It's the way Payne has directed Chau to deliver the lines. The delivery is so mechanical that Chau's range of emotions go from annoyingly angry to obnoxiously irritating. This comes across as even more painful to watch because Damon shows so few genuine emotions as he gets verbally smothered by Chau.

The only person who looks to be enjoying the process is Christoph Waltz, who plays Damon's noisy neighbor. He's loving the small life and has even found a way to make it financially work for him. It's such a pleasure to get to see Waltz play such a character who is so in love with life, since he so often plays the dark antagonist.

Payne's main theme is there will be haves and have-nots no matter what size the population. Chau's character should have been the spokesperson for a small community that has been reduced to struggling to find food. Even that world is so poorly presented that the movie shows a darkness that isn't part of the story.

'Downsizing'

0.5 stars
Cast: Matt Damon, Kristen Wiig, Hong Chau, Christoph Waltz
Director: Alexander Payne
Rated R for language including sexual references, some graphic nudity and drug use
Running time: 135 minutes

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

FILM CAPS

"Coco" (PG) A young boy with musical aspirations visits the Land of the Dead. Voices of Gael Garcia Bernal, Anthony Gonzalez, Benjamin Bratt, Renee Victor. Directed by Lee Unkrich. Co-directed by Adrian Molina.

"The Disaster Artist" (R) James Franco's shrewd, affectionate and frequently hilarious comedy re-creates and deconstructs the making of Tommy Wiseau's cult landmark "The Room," with Franco giving a fully committed, even haunted performance as Wiseau.

"Downsizing" (R) A stressed Omaha couple choose to take part in a groundbreaking experiment where they're shrunk to 5 inches tall. With Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau, Kristen Wiig. Written by Alexander Payne & Jim Taylor. Directed by Payne.

"Father Figures" (R) Two brothers set out to find their biological father after discovering everything their mother told them was a lie. With Owen Wilson, Ed Helms, J.K. Simmons, Glenn Close. Written by Justin Melen. Directed by Lawrence Sher.

"Ferdinand" (PG) Animated tale about a large, gentle bull determined to return to his family after being captured. Voices of John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Gina Rodriguez. Inspired by a book by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson. Directed by Carlos Saldanha.

"The Greatest Showman" (PG) Hugh Jackman stars as P.T. Barnum, the 19th century entrepreneur who created entertainment known around the world. With Michelle Williams, Zac Efron, Rebecca Ferguson, Zendaya. Songs by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon; story by Bicks. Directed by Michael Gracey.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" (PG-13) Four teenagers find themselves inside an old video game console featuring ferocious realism and danger. With Dwayne Johnson, Jack

Black, Kevin Hart. Written by Chris McKenna & Erik Sommers and Jake Kasdan & Scott Rosenberg & Jeff Pinker; story by McKenna, based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg. Directed by Jake Kasdan.

"Justice League" (PG-13) Batman and Wonder Woman recruit a team of superheroes to defend the planet against a new threat. With Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa, Ezra Miller. Written by Chris Terrio and Joss Whedon; story by Terrio & Zack Snyder, based on char-

acters from DC Entertainment. Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Directed by Snyder.

"Pitch Perfect 3" (PG-13) Graduated from college and struggling to find jobs on their own, the Bellas reunite for a USO tour. With Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Halle Steinfeld. Written by Kay Cannon and Mike White; story by Cannon, based on the book by Mickey Rapkin. Directed by Trish Sie.

"Singularity" (PG-13) Bizarre thriller melds the machine-killer future of the "Terminator" films with the Dystopian teen film themes found in the "Hunger Games" and "Maze Runner" franchises. It has its moments but ultimately collapses under the weight of its own lofty goals. **C**

"Tulip Fever" (R) The film held such promise. Had it stuck with its title's theme about 17th century Amsterdam's obsession with the flower and the pursuit of it, it could have been great. Rather, it doesn't venture into new territory, opting instead for a boring love story. **D**

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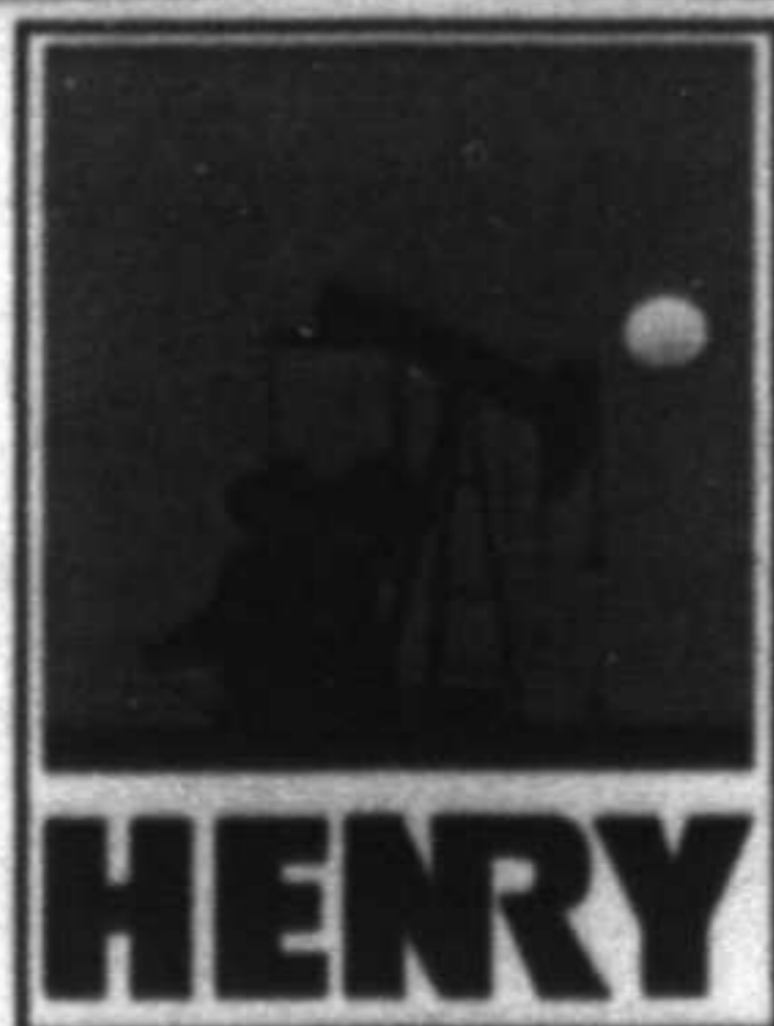
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Luke 2:9

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

ON SCREEN

'Pitch Perfect 3' takes strange but fun tonal shift

When the a cappella-themed comedy "Pitch Perfect" debuted in 2012, its success proved audiences were hungry for the style of raucous yet decidedly feminine humor it served up. The inventive musical numbers didn't hurt either, and suddenly, the niche singing style most often seen on college campuses went mainstream.

With "Pitch Perfect 2," the franchise went bigger and broader, to mixed results.

In the final farewell of the trilogy, "Pitch Perfect 3" jettisons the body humor for action-adventure, and leans so far into the weird that it's very, very strange, yet sometimes amusing. At least the music's fun.

The film, written by Kay Cannon and Mike White, directed by "Step Up All In" director Trish Sie, follows the Bellas (formerly of Barden University) as they struggle with life after college. No longer able to perform regularly with their best friends, they're creatively stymied and nostalgic for their collegiate prime. For one last hurrah, they decide to hop on a USO tour, which bizarrely takes place in Spain, Greece and the South of France — not Fallujah.

There's a streak of self-reflection throughout "Pitch Perfect 3," pointing out the formulaic tics of the franchise. "Is there a competition? There always has to be a competition," a manic Chloe (Brittany Snow) breathlessly asks. Of course there is. On the tour, which is somehow sponsored by DJ Khaled (playing himself), four groups will compete to open for him on the last night. The Bellas are feeling insecure when they check out their competition, who all play instruments. They find their rivals in the all-girl rock group Evermoist, headed up by a perfectly smarmy Calamity (Ruby Rose).

And yet, a competition just isn't enough. Adding to the drama are some serious daddy issues. Fat Amy's (Rebel Wilson) long-lost father (John Lithgow) turns up for reconciliation, but he's got more nefarious ulterior motives, and the girls have to put their special aca-skills to work to thwart him. It's probably the only spy movie that will involve a choreographed performance of Britney

KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service



Spears' "Toxic" deployed as a diversion tactic.

The script is dense with jokes, especially oddball one-liners and visual gags. Silent weirdo Lilly (Hana Mae Lee) gets several of these kooky moments, but in general, the storylines feel thin for everyone not named Rebel Wilson. The film is truly a showcase for her brazen and silly brand of humor, and she even gets some wild fight scenes, as she battles her father's henchmen aboard the yacht.

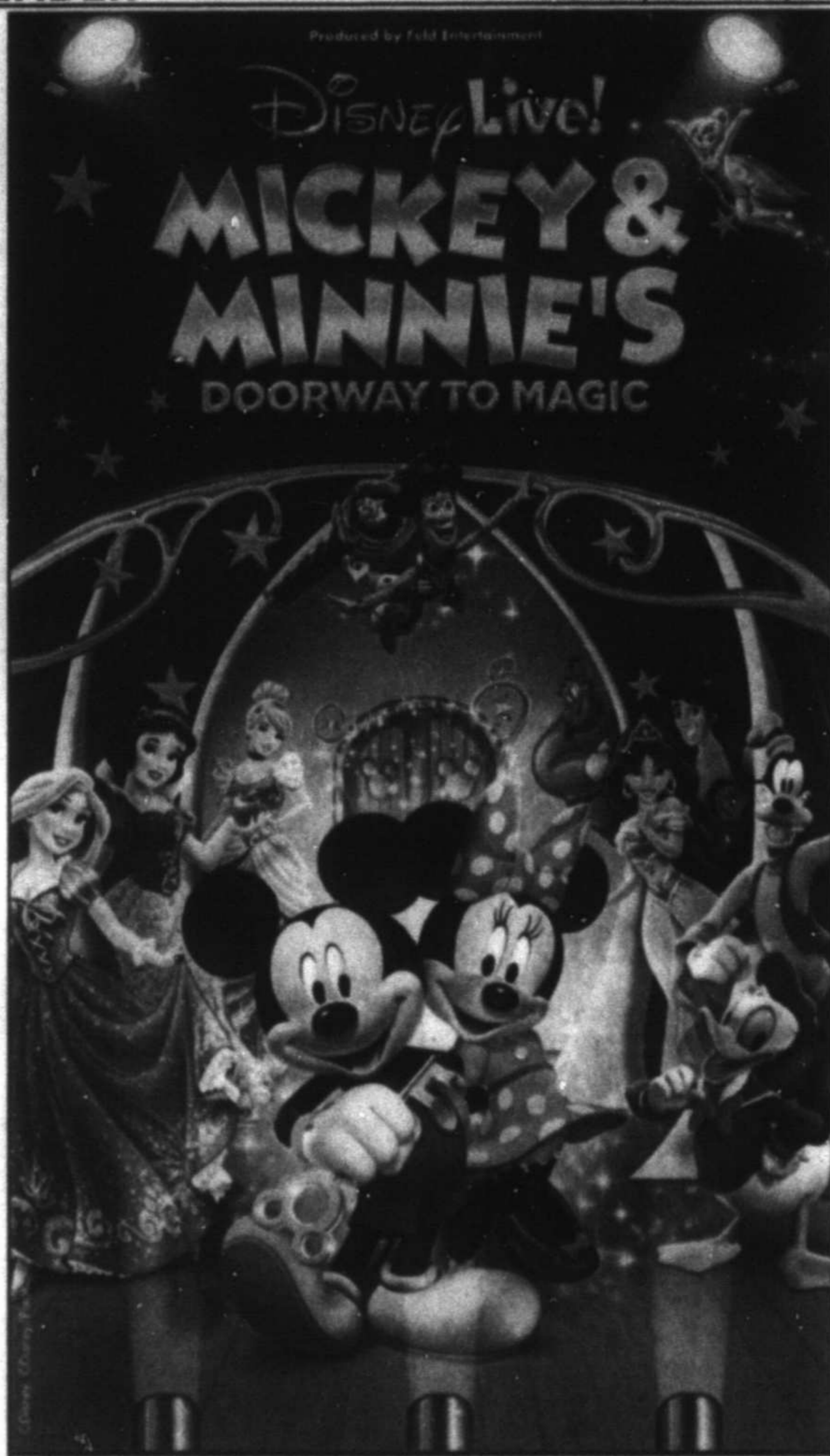
Even Anna Kendrick's Beca has been given short shrift on her story. Quitting her job as a music producer kicks off the journey, and she is later faced with a decision about whether to leave her group and go solo, or stick with the team. Frustratingly, she plays both sides. But with the aca-dudes out of the picture, there aren't any tortured romances, just some light flirtation. It's truly a story about female friendship and its persistence. And that harmonies can be deployed to fight criminals? The tendency to try and squeeze a cappella into as many incongruous vessels as possible is one of the unfortunate habits of the series, because it's fun enough without all the pyro. "Pitch Perfect 3" is so breezy it's completely weightless, but it manages to deliver just enough of the goods.

'Pitch Perfect 3'

2.5 stars

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Anna Camp, Brittany Snow, Ester Dean, Hailee Steinfeld, John Lithgow, DJ Khaled.
Directed by Trish Sie.
Running time: 1 hour, 33 minutes.
Rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content, language and some action.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency



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SPORTS

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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 21, 2017 | Section C

Louisiana Tech routs sloppy SMU 51-10 in Frisco Bowl

By Sean Shapiro
Associated Press

FRISCO — J'mar Smith threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score, Louisiana Tech's defense scored twice and the Bulldogs rolled to a 51-10 victory over sloppy SMU on Wednesday night in the Frisco Bowl.

Smith completed 15 of 23 passes for 216 yards, and Teddy Veal caught four passes for 84 yards for Louisiana Tech (7-6). The Bulldogs led 42-10 at the half.

SMU (7-6) fumbled on its first offensive snap and turned it over on its first three drives and six times overall.

It was a disappointing debut for SMU coach Sonny Dykes against his former school. Dykes was 22-15 at Louisiana Tech from 2010 to 2012 before leaving for California in 2013. Dykes was fired by Cal a year ago, and spent this season as an offensive analyst at TCU before SMU hired him to replace Chad Morris on Dec. 11.

With most of the staff joining Morris at Arkansas, Dykes elected to coach the bowl game and installed graduate assistant G.J. Kinne as offensive coordinator for the bowl game.

It didn't have the desired effect. Smith gave the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead on a 1-yard sneak with 7:43 remaining in the first quarter.

Louisiana Tech had a short field to work with after Sedrick Cooper returned an interception 31 yards to the SMU 30.

Amik Robertson returned an interception 55 yards for a touchdown less than a minute later, pushing the lead to 14-0.

SMU held onto the ball on its fourth drive, but couldn't reach the end zone and settled for a field goal after stalling at 8.

On the ensuing kickoff, Jaqwis Dancy had a 65-yard return, setting up a 6-yard touchdown pass from Smith to Veal for a 21-3 lead.

Louisiana Tech added returned



Andy Jacobsohn/The Dallas Morning News via AP

Louisiana Tech safety Darryl Lewis (38) runs 23 yards for a touchdown after intercepting an SMU pass during the second quarter of the Frisco Bowl on Wednesday in Frisco.

Please see FRISCO/2C

Hey there, Sonny



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Nick Dennis, Lee High 2016 graduate, talks with Lee assistant coaches Floyd White (far left), Will Murchison (center left) and Boe Smith (far right) Wednesday before signing his letter of intent to play football with SMU.

Lee grad Dennis signs with SMU

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Nick Dennis was the first to admit that six years ago, as a freshman offensive lineman at Lee, hardly anyone pictured him competing at the Division I level.

But he embraced his past head on and held a clear vision of the future when he signed with SMU on Early National Signing Day, Wednesday afternoon at the Lee Field House.

Dennis will join the Mustangs under newly hired head coach Sonny Dykes, the son of late former Lee coach Spike Dykes, who directed the Rebels from 1980-83.

Things weren't always rosy for the imposing Dennis, who stood 6-foot-4,

300 pounds in his senior year at Lee. He struggled with attendance, grades and commitment to even football itself for a time.

"Freshman year, I didn't go to school. I hated it," Dennis said. "At that time, I lived in Odessa, so I had a 45-minute to an hour drive over here and I just didn't like it. I got really behind that year. Sophomore year it was kind of better, but I wasn't on varsity and I didn't take it seriously. Once I got on varsity, I started taking it seriously and we didn't do too well (in the 2015 season) and I got behind."

Dennis decided it was time for a change heading into his senior season. With a goal of playing college football in the forefront of his mind, he wanted to be

better and he knew he could be. Still, he battled through ineligibility for the Rebels' first five games of the 2016 season.

"I wanted to be a leader for this team," Dennis said. "Going into my senior year, I was ineligible and that was very hard. That made me realize that I needed to do better, so I can go to a D1 school eventually."

For Dennis, all that time lost on the field was difficult and it fueled him to change. He signed in February to play at Navarro Junior College and through an increased focus and dedication to his craft over the next two seasons, he eventually earned offers from nearly 20 Division I programs.

Please see DENNIS/2C

Cowboys star Elliott mum in return from suspension

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

FRISCO — Ezekiel Elliott's Dallas teammates alluded to the happy-go-lucky locker room personality they missed — along with the football skills — during the star running back's six-game suspension.

Elliott wasn't interested in sharing that side of himself, or much of anything else in a 70-second session with reporters that last year's NFL rushing leader abruptly ended because he didn't want questions about his time away from the team.

"All right, I'm done," Elliott said after the fifth such question — why he didn't want to talk about what he did in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where he spent almost all of the six-game suspension over domestic violence allegations.

Elliott fought Commissioner Roger Goodell's decision for two months in federal courts in three states. His legal team won injunctions and other rulings that kept him on the field for eight games

before abandoning the case when an appeals court in New York denied an injunction.

Soon after announcing that he was ending the appeal, Elliott went to Mexico. There were photos of him running on a beach, and apparently a planned documentary that has yet to be released. Elliott didn't want to talk about that either.

"Just watch it," he said. "Tell me the message you get."

Elliott's agents said six weeks ago that the former Ohio State star would release a "personal statement" before his return, but it never happened.

The closest thing was his only answer of substance Wednesday, when Elliott responded to a question about what he learned by saying he didn't walk to talk about the episode and then thanking the Cowboys, his family and the fans.

"Especially the Cowboys fans who stuck by me through this tough time and have a little faith in me," Elliott said. "I'm not going to talk about it



Louis DeLuca/Dallas Morning News/TNS

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant (88) talks with running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) as they stretch together at practice on Wednesday at the Star in Frisco.

any more. This is the last time you're going to hear me speak about it. So please don't even ask me about it."

The Cowboys went 3-3 without Elliott, losing the first three before the current three-game winning streak that has kept them alive in the NFC wild-card race. Dallas must

win its final two games, starting Sunday at home against Seattle, and get help from several teams.

Elliott ran with the first team in his first practice Wednesday, and a Dallas offense that sputtered even

Please see COWBOYS/2C

8 Steelers, 6 Eagles and Saints highlight Pro Bowl squads

■ Cowboys sending DE Lawrence, OLs Frederick, Martin and Smith

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Pittsburgh Steelers lead the NFL in one category this season: most Pro Bowl players.

Antonio Brown, Le'Veon Bell and Ben Roethlisberger are among eight Steelers selected for the all-star game. They will be joined on Jan. 28 in Orlando, Florida, by tackle Alejandro Villanueva, guard David DeCastro, center Maurkice Pouncey, kicker Chris Boswell, and linebacker Ryan Shazier, who is injured. Brown, also injured but expected back for the playoffs, was voted a starter, as were Bell and the three offensive linemen.

The Philadelphia Eagles and New Orleans Saints each placed six players in the game in balloting announced Tuesday.

Four rookies were chosen in voting by NFL players, coaches and fans: running backs Alvin Kamara of the Saints and Kareem Hunt of the Chiefs, cornerback Marshon Lattimore of the Saints, and safety Budda Baker of the Cardinals as a special teamer.

Two long snappers will be selected by each coach; the losing AFC and NFC team with the best record will have its coaching staff work the Pro Bowl.

Twenty-four of the 86 Pro Bowl selections are newcomers. That includes two of the three Rams specialists chosen: kicker Greg Zuerlein and return specialist Pharos Cooper. Rams punter Johnny Hekker is a repeat Pro Bowler.

"The presence of five of our players on the Pro Bowl roster is a testament to the collective effort of our football team," Rams coach Sean McVay said in a release. "While we emphasize football as a team sport, we appreciate their individual contributions to our overall success. We're extremely proud of them."

Five teams have no representatives: the Jets, Browns, Colts, Bears and Packers.

Other AFC offensive starters: Patriots QB Tom Brady and FB James Develin; Texans WR DeAndre Hopkins; Chiefs TE Travis Kelce; Titans T Taylor Lewan; and Raiders G Kelechi Osemele.

Other defensive starters, it will be: Jaguars DE Calais Campbell and CBs Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye; Ravens S Eric Weddle and LB C.J. Mosley; Broncos LB Von Miller; Texans LB Jadeveon Clowney; Chargers DE Joey Bosa; Titans DT Jurrell Casey; Bengals DT Geno Atkins; and Miami S Reshad Jones.

Starting on offense for the NFC: Eagles QB Carson Wentz, who is injured, TE Zach Ertz and G Brandon Brooks; Falcons WR Julio Jones and C Alex Mack; Vikings WR Adam Thielen; Rams RB Todd Gurley; Cowboys T Tyron Smith and G Zack Martin; Redskins T Trent Williams; and 49ers FB Kyle Juszczyk.

Defensive starters for the NFC: Vikings DE Everson Griffen and CB Xavier Rhodes; Cardinals LB Chandler Jones and CB Patrick Peterson; Cowboys DE Demarcus Lawrence; Eagles DT Fletcher Cox; Rams DT Aaron Donald; Redskins LB Ryan Kerrigan; Panthers LB Luke Kuechly; Seahawks S Earl Thomas; and Giants S Landon Collins.

Other AFC specialists are: Titans punter Brett Kern, Chiefs returner Tyreek Hill, and Patriots special teamer Matthew Slater.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

College Football Gasparilla Bowl: Temple vs. FIU, 7 p.m., ESPN, ESPN2... High School Football Texas 2A D2 Championship: Muenster vs. Tansha, 11 a.m., FSSW, FCBC...

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL Houston Astros - Traded OF Preston Tucker to Atlanta for a player to be named or cash... Minnesota Twins - Named Jeff Sommers manager and Mike McCarthy bullpen coach...

YOUTH SPORTS

2 YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS NAMED TO ALL-AMERICAN BOWL Defensive end Jayden Lackey and wide receiver Cooper Armer, both 9-year-olds...



Armer



Lackey

NHL GLANCE

Standings table for NHL with columns for Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, and Western Conference, listing teams and their records.

NBA GLANCE

Standings table for NBA with columns for Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division, Southeast Division, Central Division, and Western Conference, listing teams and their records.

NFL GLANCE

Standings table for NFL with columns for American Conference and National Conference, listing teams and their records.

HS FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

BORDEN COUNTY ROLLS TO REPEAT, BALMORHEA FALLS AGAIN ARLINGTON - No. 1-ranked Borden County scored 36 unanswered points in the third quarter to roll past No. 3 Jonesboro, 60-22 by mercy rule in the UIL 1A Six-Man Division I championship game Wednesday at AT&T Stadium.

Despite the lopsided final score, Jonesboro owned the time of possession battle in the loss. The Eagles controlled the ball for 17 1/2 minutes in the first half and nearly 26 minutes for the game.

downs for the Bears, who lost in the state final for the second straight season. Tanner Hodgkins racked up 127 yards and three scores for Strawn, which was outgained, 488-393.

passing and two scores in the game, while Jared Kelsey passed for 237 yards and three scores for Regulo (13-2).

APSE 5A ALL-STATE FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

FWHS-TEAR OFFENSE Linebackers - BRYAN CASTILLO, Victoria West, Sr. - Graded 94 percent, 86 percent, 0 sacks allowed... Running backs - JAZEN CARL, Olin Marshall Legacy, Jr. - 88 tackles, 2 INTs, 4 fumble recoveries, 9 TFL, 9 pass breakups, 4 punt returns...

2017-18 BOWL GLANCE

Table listing various bowl games including Sun Bowl, Cactus Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, and others, with dates and participating teams.

DENNIS

From IC Dennis said his experience with the Bulldogs was transformational in every sense of the word. "I got out there at 350 (pounds) and lost 30 pounds in about two months and started at center the first nine games my freshman year," Dennis said.

COWBOYS

From IC while winning games when he was gone figures to be more efficient with the versatile runner, pass-catcher and blitz blocker. "It just makes our offense that much better, that much more powerful," said quarterback Dak Prescott, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year last season with fellow first-star Elliott as his backfield mate.

FRISCO

From IC another interception for a touchdown early in the second quarter. This time, Darryl Lewis had a 23-yard return down the sideline for a 28-3 lead. Smith added touchdown

particular Elliott anecdote. "He's crazy. It's fun just to have a guy like that in the locker room." Once they lost three straight games without him, the Cowboys figured they would need to win all five remaining games to make the playoffs a year after Prescott and Elliott led them to an NFC-best 13 wins.

Braves acquire OF Preston Tucker

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves have acquired outfielder Preston Tucker from the Houston Astros for a player to be named or cash.

Tucker hit .250 with 24 homers and drove in 96 runs for Triple-A Fresno last season. He hit .243 with 13 homers as a rookie with the Astros in 2015 but hit only .164 in 48 games with Houston in 2016. Tucker could contend

for playing time in left field for Atlanta after Matt Kemp was traded to the Dodgers in a five-player deal on Saturday. The trade opened a spot for top prospect Ronald Acuna, but Acuna is only 20 and has yet to make his major league debut.

Braves right-hander Luke Jackson, who had a 4.62 ERA in 43 games out of the bullpen last season, was designated for assignment to clear a spot on the team's 40-man roster.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

Men

- SOUTHWEST**
 Baylor 80, Southern 60
SOUTH
 Duke 104, Louisville 40
 Florida 72, James Madison 63
 Gardner-Webb 102, Texas Tech 41
 Hampton 86, Appalachian St. 53
 Louisiana Monroe 74, Centenary College of Louisiana 51
 Memphis 70, Siena 68
 Mississippi St. 84, UNLV 48
 N. Arizona 85, Jacksonville 72
 Nicholls St. 80, Middle Tenn 52
 UNC 74, New Orleans 67
 UT Martin 84, Blue Mountain 76
 Vanderbilt 81, Houston Baptist 48
FAR WEST
 E. Washington 84, U. of Alaska of Providence 68
 Utah Valley 84, Montana Tech 56
NORTWEST
 Bradley 75, SE Missouri 67
 Creighton 116, SC Upstate 62
 Iowa St. 56, Mt. Eastern 59
 Nebraska 104, UTSA 94
 Oakland 87, Western Ill. 66
 Ohio St. 70, Penn State 65
 North Dak. 83, Jackson St. 57
EAST
 CCNY 84, Miami 57
 Cornell 80, Lafayette 71
 DePaul 76, CS Bakersfield 62
 George Washington 68, New Hampshire 54
 Georgetown 75, North Texas 60
 Georgia St. 71, UMass 63
 Houston 70, Providence 59
 Marquette 65, Indiana 61
 Seton Hall 88, Wagner 68
 St. Bonaventure 84, Northwestern 65
 St. John's 77, Saint Joseph's 73
 West Virginia 77, Coppin St. 38

Top 25 Fared

1. Villanova (11-0) did not play. Next vs. Indiana, Friday.
2. Michigan State (11-1) did not play. Next vs. Long Beach State, Thursday.
3. Arizona State (11-0) did not play. Next vs. Pacific, Friday.
4. Duke (12-1) beat Louisville 104-40. Next vs. No. 24 Florida State, Saturday, Dec. 20.
5. North Carolina (10-2) lost to Wake Forest 79-77. Next vs. Ohio State, Saturday.
6. Miami (9-0) did not play. Next at Hawaii, Friday.
7. Kentucky (9-1) did not play. Next vs. UCLA, Saturday.
8. Texas A&M (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Butler, Thursday.
9. Xavier (11-1) did not play. Next at Northern Iowa, Friday.
10. West Virginia (10-1) beat Coppin State 79-38. Next vs. Furman, Saturday.
11. Wichita State (9-2) did not play. Next vs. Florida Gulf Coast, Friday.
12. Gonzaga (10-2) did not play. Next at San Diego State, Thursday.
13. Virginia (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Hampton, Friday.
14. Kansas (9-2) did not play. Next vs. Stanford, Thursday.
15. TCU (11-0) did not play. Next vs. William & Mary, Friday.
16. Purdue (11-2) did not play. Next vs. Tennessee State, Thursday.
17. Oklahoma (9-1) did not play. Next at Northwestern, Friday.
18. Arizona (9-3) did not play. Next vs. UConn, Thursday.
19. Baylor (10-2) beat Southern University 80-61. Next at No. 21 Texas Tech, Friday, Dec. 20.
20. Connecticut (10-2) did not play. Next vs. Cleveland State, Thursday.
21. Tennessee (9-2) beat Furman 88-61. Next at Wake Forest, Saturday.
22. Texas Tech (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Auburn Christian, Friday.
23. Seton Hall (10-2) beat Wagner 89-68. Next vs. Marshall, Saturday.
24. Florida State (10-1) did not play. Next vs. Southern Miss, Thursday.
25. Creighton (10-2) beat SC Lipscomb 116-62. Next vs. No. 23 Georgetown, Thursday, Dec. 20.

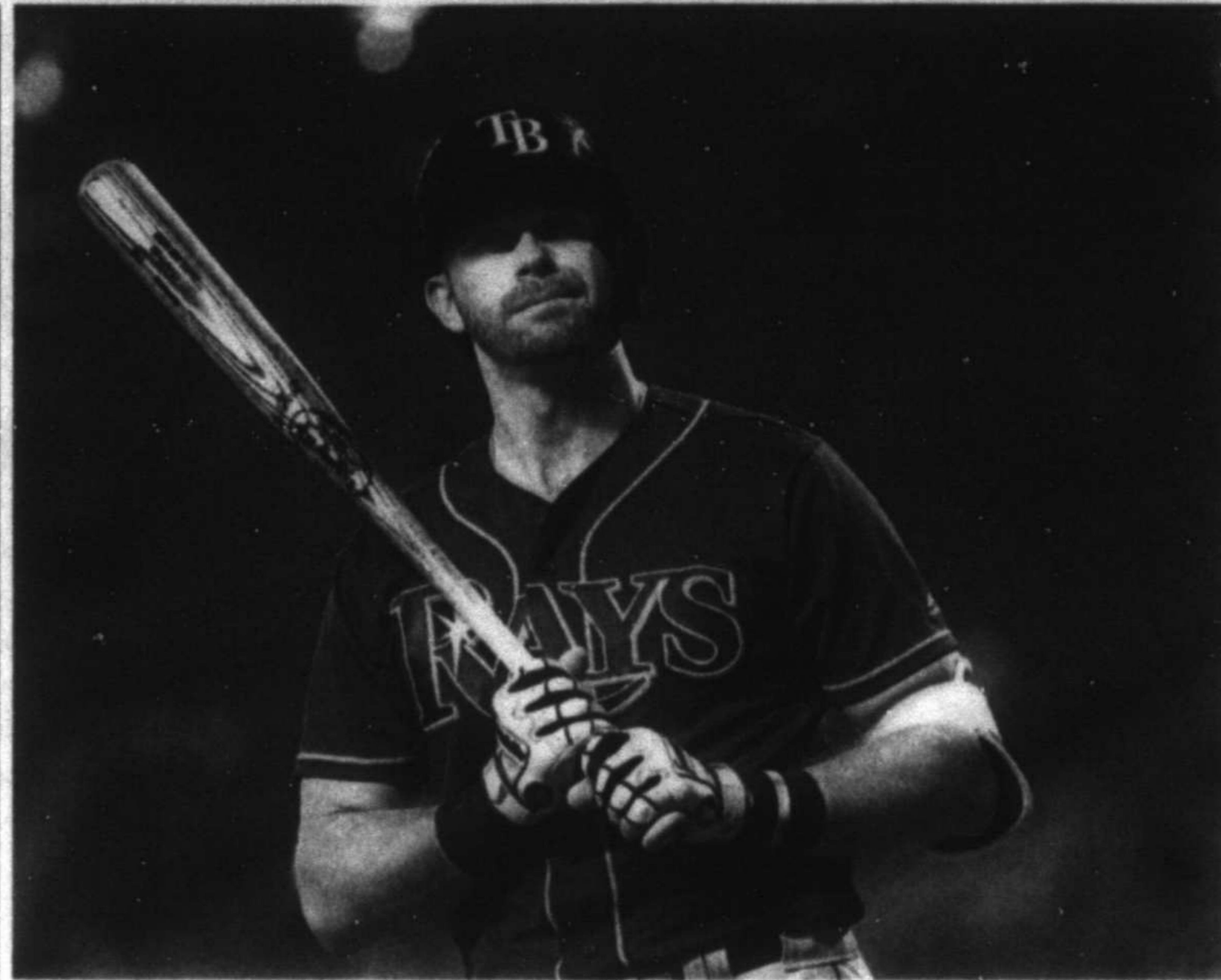
Women

- SOUTHWEST**
 Baylor-Corban 62, Texas State 56
 LSU 50, UNLV 37
 SMU 65, Loyola Marymount 60
 TCU 58, Hampton 48
 Texas A&M 103, Hawaii 58
 Texas A&M-CC 72, St. Thomas (TX) 42
SOUTH
 Auburn 68, Murray St. 47

TEXAS COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

BAYLOR 80 SOUTHERN 60
 WACO — Manu Lecomte scored 22 points and No. 18 Baylor won its fifth straight, 80-60 over Southern on Wednesday night.
 Baylor went on a 13-0 run in the first half to pull away, then had an 11-2 spurt after Southern cut its lead to 46-40 midway through the second half.
 The Bears (10-2) shot 63 percent from the field (31 for 49), including 11 for 22 from 3-point range. Lecomte was 6 for 9 on 3s. King McClure added 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting for Baylor, which won despite turning the ball over 21 times compared to six for Southern.
 The Bears' inside game made its presence felt, especially on the defensive end. Baylor had a 41-28 rebound advantage and blocked 10 shots. Tristan Clark led the Baylor frontcourt with 11 points. Jared Sam led the Jaguars (3-9) with 21 points, and Jamar Sandifer had 14. Southern shot 27 for 72 from the field (38 percent) but was only 2 for 15 from 3-point range (13 percent).
NEBRASKA 104 UTSA 54
 LINCOLN, Neb. — James Palmer Jr. had a career-high 25 points and Nebraska used a late 9-0 run to put away UT San Antonio 104-54 on Wednesday night.
 Nebraska (8-5) scored more than 100 for the first time since beating North Carolina A&T 107-57 on Dec. 19, 2005.

The Cornhuskers led by as many as 10 points in both halves only to see the Roadrunners come back to tie the score repeatedly in the second half.
 UTSA (7-6), which trailed by seven at intermission, hit 10 of its first 12 shots of the second half, knocking the score at 77 on Nick Allen's dunk with 11:20 remaining. Nebraska opened up a five-point lead at 81-76 on Isaiah Roby's free throws with 8:06 remaining but saw that advantage eliminated by a Jhivven Jackson 3-pointer followed by a driving layup.
 Anton Gill hit a 3 pointer with 4 minutes left, then was fouled shooting a 3 pointer 40 seconds later and sank all three free throws. A Palmer layup and free throw put Nebraska up 95-86 with 1:54 left.
 The Huskers hit 37-of-50 free throws in the game that saw UTSA substituted for 31 fouls. Palmer was 13 for 17 from the line. The Roadrunners were 9 of 10 from the free throw line. Nebraska used a 10-0 mid-first half run to take a 27-17 lead at the 8:22 mark and led 49-42 at half.
 Jackson led UTSA with 26 points. Deon Lyle scored 15 and Allen had 12 points. Keston Wallace and Byron Fritman had 10 points each.
 Gill — a fifth-year senior — finished with a career-high 21 points for Nebraska. Even Taylor added 16. Glyn Watson Jr. had 13 points and Isaiah Roby scored 10 points.



Patrick Semansky/Associated Press

Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria walks off the field after striking out in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on Sept. 21 in Baltimore.

Giants acquire Evan Longoria from Rays for 4 players

By Janie McCauley
 Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Evan Longoria expects to win immediately with the San Francisco Giants, whose run of success in even years is well documented — and the club's new third baseman knows all about that.

The Giants' brass realizes adding Longoria to the lineup and an already-talented infield gives San Francisco a far better chance of bouncing back from a surprising last-place season in the NL West.

An offense-producing third baseman the Giants sought this winter, Longoria was traded from Tampa Bay on Wednesday for outfielder Denard Span, star infield prospect Christian Arroyo and two minor league pitchers.

"I'm looking forward to bringing everything I can and more to the clubhouse and the organization and being back in the postseason and winning like I expect to," Longoria said. "It's an even year coming up and I know the Giants win in even years. That I am looking forward to."

The position had been a priority for San Francisco, and Longoria's durability means so much, too. He has played at least 156 games in each of the past five years, all 162 in 2014, and also hit 20 or more homers in each of those five seasons.

"He's sorely needed and will be a great addition for us," Giants general manager Bobby Evans said.

It marked the first big offseason move by each organization.
 Tampa Bay in effect is responsible for \$14.5 million of the \$88 million Longoria is owed, and the Rays took on \$13 million in guaranteed money

due Span.
 Longoria had \$86 million in remaining guaranteed salary and buyout as part of a contract that runs through 2022 and contains a 2023 club option. The \$9.5 million in deferred money included in that total was converted to an assignment bonus payable by the Rays from 2025-29. Tampa Bay will give the Giants \$2 million by Dec. 31 to cover Longoria's assignment bonus and an additional \$3 million by Oct. 31, 2022.

The 32-year-old leaves Tampa Bay as the longest-tenured player in franchise history, after spending 10 of his big league seasons in a Rays uniform. He is the club's leader with 1,435 games, 261 home runs and 892 RBIs. Longoria started all 30 of the Rays' postseason games at third.

Longoria batted .261 with 20 homers and 86 RBIs last season. The 2008 AL Rookie of the Year and three-time Gold Glove has played at least 156 games in each of the past five seasons and hit 20 or more home runs in all of those years.

Longoria grew up in Southern California as an Angels fan but has plenty of friends who cheer for the rival Dodgers. "I'm going to be saying a lot of 'soories,'" he said.

Also, he's getting off turf, noting, "I'm excited to be playing on grass."
 In November 2012, Longoria received a \$136.6 million, 10-year contract with Tampa Bay that added \$6 million in guaranteed money and \$100 million to his previous deal. If exercised, the option would make the agreement worth \$144.6 million over 11 years. He will complete his 10th season of major league service on the second day of next season, which would

have given him the right to approve any trade from the Rays as a 10-year veteran who spent five or more years with his current manager.

Rays general manager Erik Neander said trading Longoria "was in the best long-term interest of our franchise."

Still, he was the face of a small-market franchise and meant so much to the city.
 "The decision itself was one that was incredibly difficult for us to make," Neander said.

The 33-year-old Span has hit 283 with 60 homers and 432 RBIs over 10 years in the majors, but San Francisco was looking for more athleticism and steady defense in the outfield. In fact, manager Bruce Bochy had approached Span about the possibility of playing left field going forward. Span led the Giants last season with 73 runs scored despite a stint on the 10-day disabled list. He previously played for the Nationals and the Twins.

Bochy expects Longoria to bat third or cleanup, and he can already envision Longoria as part of a top infield with Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford, second baseman Joe Panik and Brandon Belt at first. "When you talk about the elite third basemen of the game, Evan's name is going to be there. He's been one of the most consistent third basemen in the game," Bochy said. "It's going to be one of the best infield defenses in the game."

Arroyo, a first-round draft pick out of high school in 2013 about an hour north of Tampa in Brooksville, was one of the Giants' top prospects but didn't play in the majors after June 2 because of a broken left hand.

NBA ROUNDUP

LAKERS 122 ROCKETS 116

HOUSTON — Rookie Kyle Kuzma set career highs with 38 points and seven 3-pointers, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame 51 points from James Harden to end the Houston Rockets' 14-game winning streak with a 122-116 victory Wednesday night.
 It was Houston's first loss since Nov. 14 and snapped a three-game skid for the Lakers.

The game was tied before Los Angeles scored 10 straight points — while Houston missed seven shots in a row — to go up 110-100 with about four minutes left.
 Houston ended an almost four-minute scoring drought when Harden made a free throw, and he added three more after being fouled on a 3-point attempt a few seconds later to cut it to 110-104. But former Rocket Corey Brewer made a 3-pointer before Lonzo Ball hit two free throws to make it 115-104.

On a night when the Celtics honored their former forward in his first game back, the popular Olynyk received a standing ovation from Boston fans and led the Heat to another win against the top team in the Eastern Conference. Josh Richardson had 19 points and six assists for Miami, which took two of three in the season series. The Heat ended Boston's 16-game winning streak earlier this season with a victory at home.
 Olynyk signed with Miami as a free agent during the offseason. His previous high was 30 points on Dec. 15, 2014.
 Kyle Irving paced the Celtics with 33 points, but missed a jumper from the right wing that bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

MAVERICKS 119 PISTONS 93
 DALLAS — Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. had 15 points and five assists in his return from a hip injury and Dallas beat Detroit.
 The Mavericks, last in the Western Conference, won for just the second time in eight games while ending a three-game Detroit winning streak that followed seven straight losses by the Pistons.
 Anthony Tolliver led Detroit with a season-high 18 points, going 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

HEAT 96 CELTICS 90
 BOSTON — Kelly Olynyk scored a career-high 32 points in his rousing return to Boston, and undermanned Miami hung on a victory.



Karen Warren / Houston Chronicle

Los Angeles Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma (0) drives to the basket against Houston Rockets forward PJ Tucker (4) during the second half of an NBA game at Toyota Center Wednesday in Houston.

rebounds, Nikola Mirotic had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Chicago beat Orlando for its seventh straight win.
 The Bulls had lost 10 straight with Mirotic out of the lineup prior to his return Dec. 6, and they haven't lost since to improve to 10-20.
 Nikola Vucevic scored 18 points for Orlando, which lost its sixth in a row.
 Facing the league's fourth-worst scoring defense, the Bulls took a 43-27 lead with 9:05 left in the second quarter on Mirotic's layup, one of many easy baskets.

THUNDER 107 JAZZ 79
 OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help the Oklahoma City Thunder roll past the Utah Jazz 107-79 on Wednesday night.
 Westbrook made 10 of 13 shots and had seven assists

and four steals. Oklahoma City has won eight of 11 after a rough start to the season. The Thunder (16-15) are above .500 for the first time since early November.

Paul George scored 10 of his 18 points in the third quarter and Carmelo Anthony also scored 18 for Oklahoma City. Rodney Hood scored 17 points for the Jazz, who have lost six of seven.
 Breakout rookie Donovan Mitchell sat out with a right big toe contusion.

RAPTORS 129 HORNETS 111

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Delmar DeRozan scored 18 of his 28 points after halftime and Toronto overcame a slow start to beat Charlotte for its fourth straight win.
 Serge Ibaka scored 15 of his 24 points in the first half for Toronto, and OG Anunoby shot 6 of 7 from beyond the arc while scoring 20 points. Toronto has won 10 of 11 and is in third place in the Eastern Conference.
 The Hornets got a career-best 32 points from reserve Jeremy Lamb but lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

PACERS 105 HAWKS 95

ATLANTA — Victor Oladipo scored 23 points, Myles Turner had 20 and Indiana beat Atlanta.
 Bojan Bogdanovic had 19 points as Indiana won for the second time in five games. The Pacers relied from a sluggish start to shoot 48.8 percent. Atlanta has yet to win consecutive games this season and dropped to 7-24. The Hawks bench outscored Indiana's 46-28, led by 18 points and nine rebounds from John Collins.



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THURSDAY PRIME TIME		DECEMBER 21, 2017											
Channel	Time	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 (R)	A Charlie Brown Christmas	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Local 2 News (R)	10000 Miles from Home	10000 Miles from Home
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (R)	Int. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	CBS 7 News (R)	The Late Show with J. Condon	The Tonight Show
KWPT CW	5	14	5	14	5	M*A*S*H (R)	M*A*S*H (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KPEJ FOX	9	5	5	5	3	All About Us	Mission: M25	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KMLM HD	11	12	12	11	11	All About Us	Mission: M25	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KPRT PBS	13	13	13	8		News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KUPB UNI	4	4	4	4	18	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KOSA MNT	15	16	16	16		News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
FLX	340	375	185			News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
HBO	300	300	14	14		News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
HBO2	302	302	15	10	23	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
HBO3	304	304	16	10		News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
MAX	300	300	17	12	24	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
MAX2	302	302	18	12		News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
PLEX	300	300	19	14	25	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
SHOW	320	320	22	15	26	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TMC	330	330	23	15	26	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
AME	27	58	28	35	47	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
BET	58	-	-	-	-	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
BRAVO	65	76	-	-	-	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
CNBC	46	52	39	72		News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
CNN	43	50	51	39	56	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
FX	45	48	53	23	55	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
FSW	37	50	50	45	28	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
FX	31	56	59	64	69	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
HALLMARK	54	71	58	-	34	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
MSNBC	47	53	-	-	-	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
NBCSN	38	43	-	-	-	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
NBCU	55	-	39	34	37	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
SPN	30	-	55	53	58	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
SYFY	66	62	41	57	67	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TBS	25	33	44	60	41	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TCH	41	75	24	63	66	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TILE	20	-	-	-	-	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TLC	51	61	32	30	52	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TNT	24	34	40	28	50	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
TYLAND	49	-	35	54	35	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
USA	26	55	42	27	48	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
WGN	19	85	-	-	-	News at 9 (R)	PBS NewsHour (R)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Life in Pieces (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother

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Family split by repercussions of a long-repressed assault

DEAR ABBY: I am estranged from my sister, whom I love dearly. The reason goes back many years. When I was 13, her husband got me drunk and molested me. While I never forgot, I did repress it — possibly due to my age.

Time went on, I thought I had moved on and life would continue as usual. Well, five years ago the trauma erupted inside of me. My therapist thinks that possibly what triggered it was becoming a grandmother.

I cannot talk to my sister's husband, let alone look at him. The sight of him makes me physically ill, which is obvious to everyone. Exposing him would devastate my sister, her family and our extended family.

I am praying for guidance and the strength to forgive him, but it's not working, and neither is therapy. I am now regarded as the "bad guy" and left isolated with no one except my amazing husband. My own kids are skeptical and think I am destroying our family. Advice, Abby? — **SO LOST IN THE MIDWEST**

DEAR SO LOST: Because keeping quiet and talking to a therapist haven't helped you, I will suggest another route for healing. Call your family together. Tell them exactly what happened when you were 13 and that you can no longer keep quiet about it.

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.

At the same time, contact a rape crisis center because at 13, even if you were drunk and consented to what your brother-in-law did, you were underage and a victim of statutory rape. If your family accuses you of making this up, invite them to some of your counseling sessions with the rape counselor. With the help of that person, you may be able to help them see the light.

DEAR ABBY: I was a professional musician most of my life and loved every second of it. While I still do production work and an occasional performance, I no longer tour or need the money from the shows.

I own several instruments that are my most prized possessions, and have many precious memories associated with them. They are worth several thousand dollars. I cannot think of anyone to leave them to who might appreciate them.

None of my heirs are musical, and I'm estranged from my only child, a son in his early 40s. If he inherited them, he'd sell them

and squander the money before the last chorus. The same is true of my only grandchild.

I'm in my early 60s, healthy, active and don't plan on going anywhere anytime soon. But eventually — when I do — I want these most important items to go where they will be played well and appreciated. — **QUARTER NOTE QUANDARY IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR Q.N.Q.: How about donating your instruments to a program that keeps music alive in schools with underfunded music programs nationwide? An organization to consider is the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. It gives economically disadvantaged youth access to the benefits of music education, and helps them to be better students and express their emotions and creativity through playing music. The foundation also has a fund called Music Rising that helps school music programs after natural disasters. The website is mropus.org. If you check it out, I'm sure you will find it interesting.

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NORTH
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♥ A976
♦ K10986
♣ 87

WEST
♠ QJ107
♥ 104
♦ A732
♣ K63

EAST
♠ 86532
♥ QJ83
♦ J5
♣ 42

SOUTH
♠ K94
♥ K52
♦ Q4
♣ AJ1095

The bidding: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
10 Pass 2♠ Pass
20 Pass 3NT All pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

In a recent team match, both teams reached the same contract after identical auctions.

The opening spade lead was won in dummy perforce. There were five top tricks and either minor suit might provide another four. The club play was a finesse for the king — 50 percent.

The chances in the diamond suit were much harder to figure, so the declarer at the first table took the club finesse at trick two. West won with the king and continued with the jack of spades, ducked by declarer. Declarer won the 10 of spades continuation and cashed his clubs. East defended carefully, keeping all his spades and three hearts, discarding both of his diamonds. When South finally led a diamond, West rose with his ace as East shed a heart. East overtook West's seven of spades with the eight and cashed the long spade for down one.

The other declarer was not willing to put all of his eggs in the club basket. He led a diamond to his queen at trick two. Should East hold the ace and duck it, South would switch to clubs and make his contract even with a club loser. If nothing good happened in diamonds, South could still fall back on the club finesse later. West captured the queen of diamonds with the ace and continued spades, as at the other table. South won his king of spades and led a diamond to the king in order to take the club finesse. "Great was the fall thereon," as Edgar Kaplan used to say.

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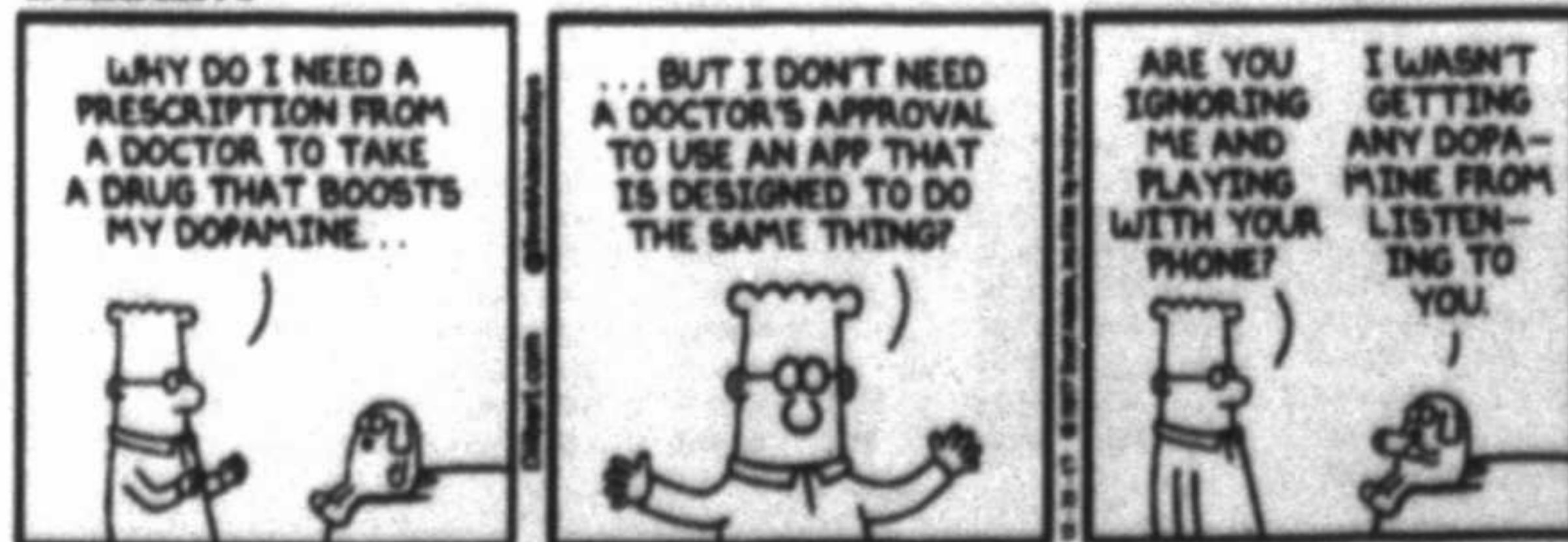


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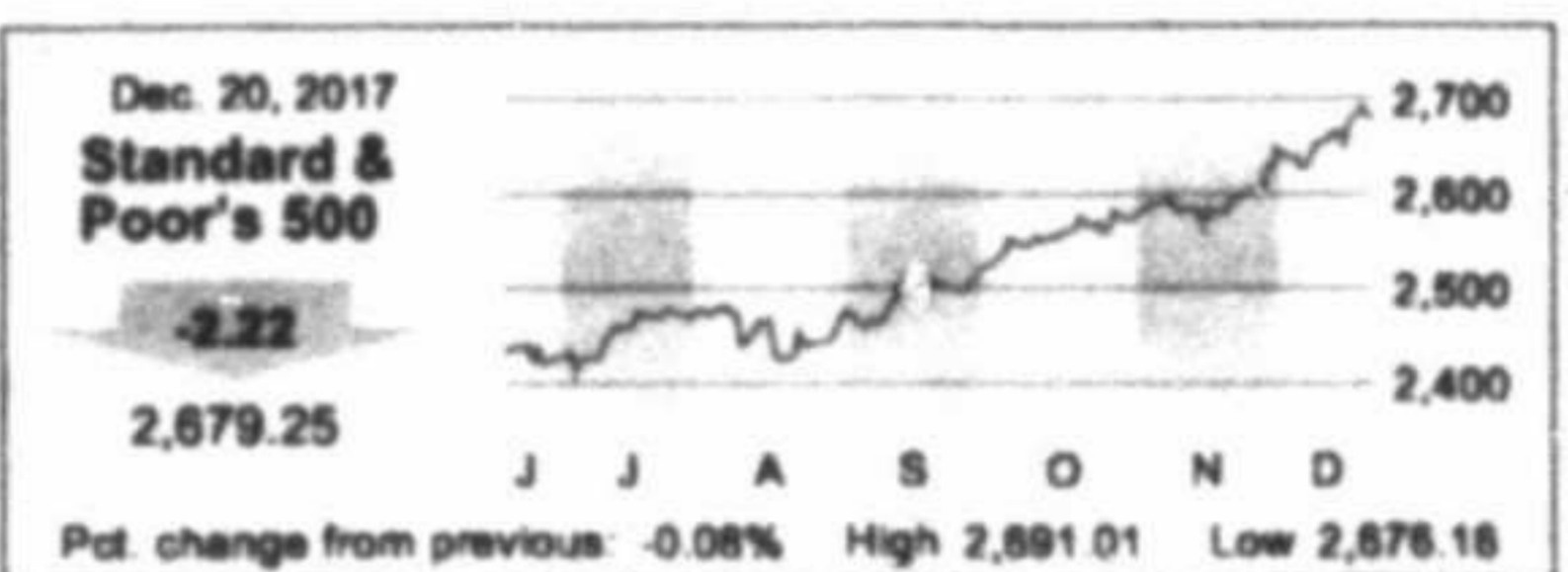
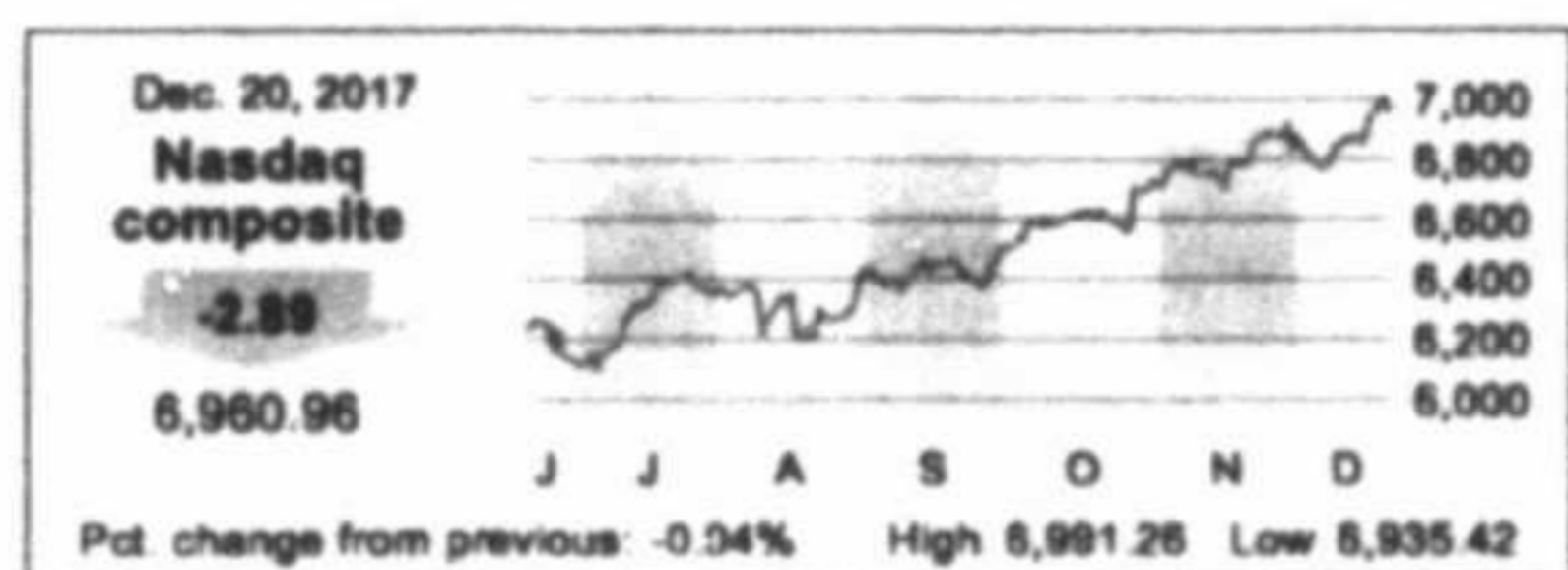
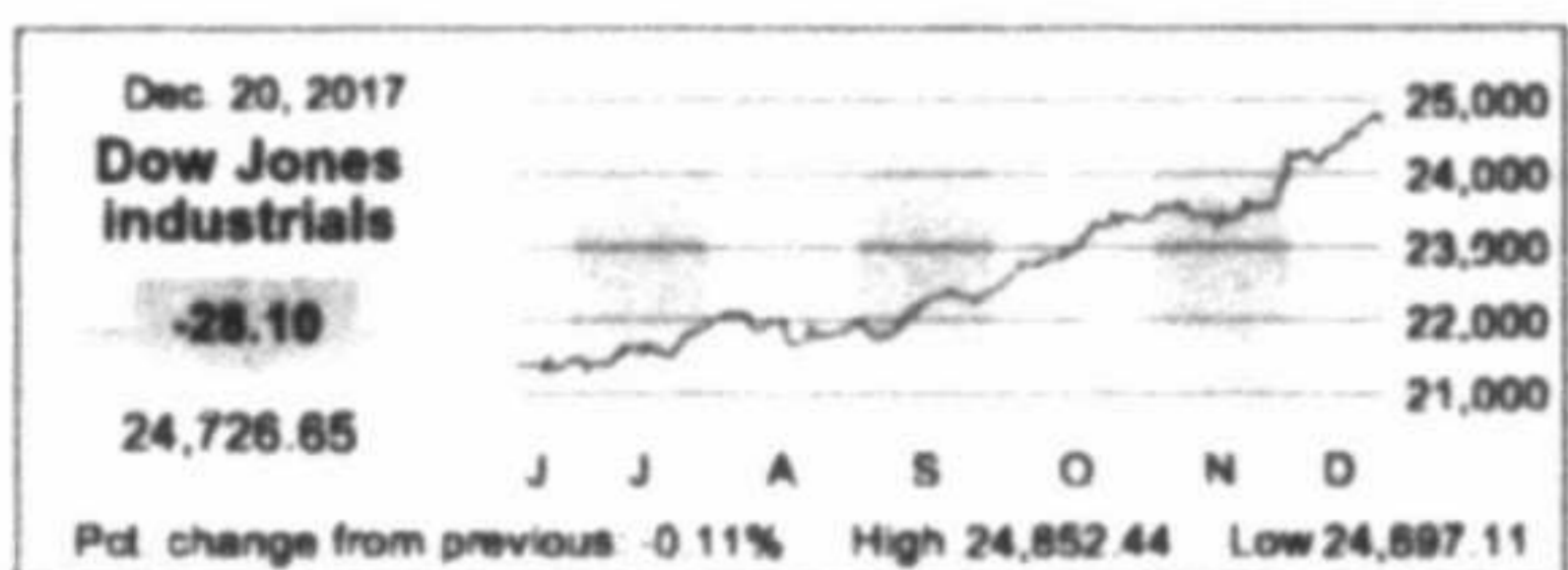
LOCKHORNS



BUSINESS & OIL

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Thursday, December 21, 2017 | Page 6C

A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Wednesday: \$58.09
Previous: \$57.46

POSTED
Wednesday: \$54.75
Previous: \$54.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR
Wednesday: \$52.00
Previous: \$51.25

NATURAL GAS
Wednesday: \$2.637
Previous: \$2.692

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)

Name	Vol	High	Last	Chg	%Chg
Apple	150,554	174.45	174.45	+0.13	+0.07
Amazon	7,362,328	174.45	174.45	+0.13	+0.07
Microsoft	5,481,451	145.81	145.81	+0.06	+0.04
Google	4,217,311	111.11	111.11	+0.11	+0.10

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PPH	36.95	-0.22	-0.60
BP	52.73	-0.27	-0.51
IBM	163.00	-0.10	-0.06
MSFT	145.81	-0.06	-0.04
GOOGL	111.11	-0.11	-0.10

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)

Name	Vol	High	Last	Chg	%Chg
Goldman Sachs	1,383,117	5.36	5.36	+0.47	+8.75
Bank of America	1,215,726	1.54	1.54	+0.11	+7.43
Wells Fargo	648,255	1.72	1.72	+0.08	+4.81
JP Morgan Chase	481,165	1.25	1.25	+0.07	+5.88

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Plumtree	2.98	-0.10	-3.36
Interlock	2.62	-0.11	-4.20
NTN Buzz	4.07	-0.32	-7.86
OncoCyt	6.10	-0.35	-5.57
Admco	46.00	-1.95	-4.24

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on stock)

Name	Vol	High	Last	Chg	%Chg
Microsoft	1,010,140	45.75	45.75	+1.77	+3.89
Intel	387,446	47.56	47.56	+0.52	+1.10
Parsons	322,787	85.52	85.52	-3.31	-3.86
Apple	220,121	174.35	174.35	+0.13	+0.07

LOSERS (\$2 on stock)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CoStage	2.38	-0.26	-10.93
Shirley	3.27	-0.41	-12.54
Technet	7.35	-0.90	-12.25
Marvell	2.28	-0.28	-12.30
Brooks	2.75	-0.34	-12.36

Major US companies say workers will see some of tax windfall

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hours after landing a massive tax windfall, AT&T, Comcast, Wells Fargo and Boeing — among other major companies — announced plans Wednesday to share a fraction of their bounty with workers.

The moves pleased President Donald Trump, who has claimed his \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts that largely favor the wealthy and businesses would ultimately help the middle class.

But Democratic lawmakers and corporate watchdogs say the move is a public relations stunt that pales in comparison to the profits the companies' shareholders and executives will reap because of the lower tax rates. The stock market, as well, has risen on the belief the savings will largely go to investors, rather than workers.

Trump was quick to celebrate an announcement by Dallas-based AT&T that it would pay a \$1,000 bonus to 200,000 workers once the tax bill passed Wednesday is signed into law. His praise came as the Justice Department is suing to block a proposed \$85 billion merger between the communications company and Time Warner, a deal Trump has objected to as "not good for the country."

Outside the White House, Republican lawmakers clapped and cheered as Trump highlighted AT&T's planned bonus payments.

"That's because of what we did," Trump said. "So that's pretty good. That's pretty good."

The president suggested other companies would be making similar announcements, saying "We're going to see something that's very special."

Comcast said later Wednesday it will give \$1,000 bonuses to more than 100,000 employees. Wells Fargo said it will boost its minimum wage to \$15 an hour, as well as donate \$400 million to nonprofit and community organizations. Major government contractor Boeing said it will provide an additional \$300 million for job-training, facility upgrades and charitable giving.

A White House official said the companies did not coordinate these announcements with Trump's economic team. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations. Trump has had an uneven relationship with corporate America since his election. He simultaneously met with CEOs for job announcements that enhanced his reputation as a dealmaker, but he also deployed a populist anger on Twitter to berate companies that crossed him.

The business community initially embraced and courted Trump, only to back away after his failure to strongly condemn white nationalists whose August rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, led to the death of a counter-protester.

Stocks end mixed after bouncing around for much of the day

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks bounced around Wednesday and finished little changed after Congress passed the Republican-sponsored tax bill. Smaller companies fared the best.

The Senate narrowly passed the tax bill after midnight and the House, which passed a similar bill Tuesday but had to go back and make changes, followed suit in the afternoon. President Donald Trump is expected to sign the bill soon.

It's been a very strong year for the market, and ordinarily investors might sell some of their holdings in late December and take some profits before they make new investments in January. But with a tax bill passing at the very end of the year, TD Ameritrade Chief Market Strategist JJ Kinahan said that pattern might not hold.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 2.22 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,679.25. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 28.10 points, or 0.1 percent, to 24,726.65. The Nasdaq composite slid 2.99 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 6,960.96.

Metal prices rise

Gold rose \$5.40 to \$1,269.60 an ounce. Silver climbed 12 cents to \$16.28 an ounce. Copper added 4 cents to \$3.20 a pound.

New blow for Uber: Top EU court likens it to taxi service

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Uber suffered a new blow Wednesday as the European Union's top court ruled that it should be regulated as a transport company instead of a technology service, a decision that crimps its activities around Europe and could weigh on other app-based companies too.

Taxi drivers honked horns to celebrate the ruling, which punctures Uber's image as the pioneer of a new gig economy that's setting its own rules while governments clamor to keep up.

Uber — which is wrapping up a particularly punishing year — sought to downplay the decision, which might only affect the company's operations in four countries. Uber said it will try to keep expanding in Europe anyway.

The decision by the Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice in theory applies to ride-hailing services around the 28-nation EU. But the ruling leaves it to national governments to decide how and whether to change the way they regulate Uber and similar services.

Uber has gained a strong foothold and customer base in most European countries, adapting its multiple services to bend to local rules when faced with legal challenges. Its hallmark low-cost service — hooking up unlicensed freelance drivers with riders via an app — is already banned in many European cities, and instead Uber's services are much like taxis, just more flexible and sometimes cheaper.

Some other internet-based businesses fear the ruling could suppress innovation and usher in other restrictions, as European authorities look for ways to regulate companies that operate online and outside traditional sectors and don't fit in with existing laws.

The decision stems from a complaint by a Barcelona taxi drivers association, which wanted to prevent Uber from setting up in the Spanish city. The taxi drivers said Uber drivers should have authorizations and licenses, and accused the company of engaging in unfair competition.

Arguing its case, San Francisco-based Uber said it should be regulated as an information services provider, because it is based on an app that connects drivers to riders.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)	Closing Price \$146.81 Up 6.50
Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)	Closing Price \$5.04 Up 0.04
Diamondback Energy (FANG)	Closing Price \$117.24 Up 5.43
Legacy Reserves (LGCY)	Closing Price \$1.20 Up 0.02
Mexco Energy (MXC)	Closing Price \$3.98 Up 0.02
Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)	Closing Price \$25.75 Up 0.35
ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)	Closing Price \$19.89 Up 0.53
RSP Permian (RSP)	Closing Price \$37.98 Up 0.94
Ring Energy (REI)	Closing Price \$13.97 Up 0.53
Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)	Closing Price \$22.13 Up 0.71

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD
AK Steel	16	5.63	10	-4.9		
AT&T Inc	2.09	14	36.55	+0.13	+0.4	
AbbottLab	1.27	26	57.02	+2.22	+3.9	
Abxres	85	2.18	83	-15.2		
AdiaEnergy	1.32e	15.07	15.07	+18.6		
AMD	10.96	0.3	-3.2			
Alibaba	49	172.54	+1.36	+0.8		
Alcoa	1.56e	10.74	10.74	+14.8		
Altria	70.90	0.9	-0.3			
Amgen	05e	6.24	04	-27.1		
Amgen	5.28e	16	177.11	+24	+13.1	
Anadarko	20	56.73	+1.34	+2.3		
Apache	1.80	41.28	+0.91	+2.2		
Apple Inc	2.52	20	174.35	+0.13	+0.07	
Applied	48	17	53.29	+33	+68.1	
Arctoc	48	10.30	+10	+22.0		
AT&T	1.89	24	66.55	-0.4	-0.6	
AutoData	2.52	31	117.98	-0.9	-0.8	
BP PLC	2.38	29	48.95	+3.1	+6.3	
BlackH	48	17	29.48	+0.3	+1.0	
B P&S	27.80	-0.8				
Barrick	1.20	15.82	+0.1	+0.2		
Basic	45					
Berk	242,959.00	-492.00	+21.4			
BRW	1.78	17	58.80	-0.7	-1.2	
BlackBerry	14	12	17	+1.30	+7.6	
Boji	1.88	21	61.39	-0.36	-0.6	
Brown	79	88.74	-1.4	-1.6		
Brown	79	87.57	-1.3	-1.5		
CSX	80	27	55.41	+0.56	+1.0	
CVS Health	2.00	13	73.50	+1.25	+1.7	
Calsonic	36	11.20	+0.18	+1.6		
Caterpillar	3.12	40	152.52	+1.61	+1.1	
Celastec	8	10.68	+1.2	+11.3		
Crystall	2.16	8	17.15	-2.25	-13.1	
Chesapeake	4.32	89	128.89	+1.89	+1.5	
Chick	28	15.63	-3.8	-24.3		
Chico	33	12	8.79	+0.08	+0.9	
ChC	1.94	-1.11	-24.2			
Chesapeake	32	30	114.68	+1.83	+1.6	
Chico	1.16	20	38.74	+0.44	+1.1	
Chico	1.28	14	74.88	-0.4	-0.5	
Chico	6	8.88	+0.17	+1.9		
Coca-Cola	1.48	28	46.88	+0.11	+0.2	
Colgate	1.40	26	74.82	-0.33	-0.4	
Comcast	83	19	38.38	+24	+61.9	
ConAgra	86	21	38.14	+1.8	+4.7	
ConocoPhillips	1.86	43	94.25	+1.87	+2.0	
Cracker	4.80	29	164.52	-1.72	-1.0	
CSX	5.53	-0.3	-0.4			
Crash	33e	14	14.48	+3.2	+22.8	
DCP	3.12	50	35.84	-3.7	-10.3	
DTE	3.30	21	108.25	-7.0	-6.5	
Deven	34	97	39.84	+1.14	+2.8	
Digital	5.36	+0.47	+118.3			
DRG	15.75	+0.9				
Disney	1.88	19	189.88	-3.12	-1.6	
EOG	87	193.54	+2.11	+1.1		
Enbridge	08	32	12.06	+0.37	+3.1	
Enbridge	08	55.48	+1.98	+3.6		
Enbridge	23	93.38	+2.37	+2.6		
ENSCO	04	5.37	+1.16	+21.8		
Enbridge	1.89	20	26.00	-24	-90.8	
Enbridge	1.1e	6.52	-1.2	-18.8		
Enbridge	3.08	32	82.88	+4.4	+5.3	
Facebook	33	177.80	-1.82	-1.0		
Ford	80e	11	12.72	+0.3	+2.4	
Freddie	17.80	+0.33	+33.9			
GATX	1.88	13	88.82	-2.1	-2.3	
Goldman	34e	8.87	-0.7	-7.9		
Goldman	1.51e	34.13	+0.3	+0.8		
Goldman	48	16	17.40	-1.3	-7.5	
Goldman	1.10	19	32.39	-0.8	-2.5	
Halliburton	72	47.42	+1.55	+3.3		
IBM	12.15	+0.3	+9.7			
IBM	87e	38.82	+0.3	+0.8		
IBM	59e	45.81	+0.8	+1.8		
IBM	1.51e	69.88	-1.2	-1.7		
IBM	5.08	87.18	+0.7	+0.8		
IBM	1.77e	153.38	+3.0	+1.9		
IBM	1.89	21	47.88	+0.2	+0.4	
IBM	1.40	11	79.90	+1.10	+1.4	
IBM	59e	45.81	+0.8	+1.8		
IBM	25	42.16	-0.1	-0.2		
IBM	2.34	16	105.14	-3.7	-3.5	
IBM	3.38	39	94.16	-0.2	-0.2	
IBM	3.88	20	128.42	-1.2	-0.9	
IBM	50	33	17.16	-1.0	-5.8	
IBM	50	14	27.32	-3.7	-13.2	
IBM	1.20	-0.2	-4.4			
IBM	2.73	-0.6	-3.4			
IBM	1.51	9	25.33	-0.20	-0.8	
IBM	16.32	+0.3	+1.7			
IBM	12	6.53	-1.6	-24.6		
IBM	4.04	20	172.17	-1.22	-0.7	
IBM	1.92	14	56.11	-1.2	-2.1	
IBM	31.85	-3.0	-9.4			
IBM	4.98	-0.2	-2.4			
IBM	10	45.75	+1.77	+3.9		
IBM	1.88	30	85.52	-3.1	-3.6	
IBM	24	6.22	+1.7	+27.1		
IBM	20	34.32	+7.0	+20.4		
IBM	307	63.89	-0.5	-0.8		
IBM	6	4.00	-1.21	-30.4		
IBM	1.7e	4.62	-0.5	-10.8		
IBM	1.12	+0.3	+11.1			
IBM	14.78	+1.1	+4.3			
IBM	85e	14.43	-0.6	-4.2		
IBM	3.18	+1.30	+15.6			
IBM	7.98	+0.9	+11.3			
IBM	3.88	71.88	+8.8	+12.3		
IBM	76	21	49.00	-0.8	-1.6	
IBM	47.91	+1.91	+4.0			
IBM	1.58	14	31.89	-0.3	-0.9	
IBM	23	82.7	-0.8	-1.0		
IBM	1.54	-1.1				
IBM	82	-0.1	-0.1			
IBM	88	22.30	+0.2	+0.9		
IBM	88	11.82	-0.2	-1.7		
IBM	63e	25	9.10	+2.7	+30.0	
IBM	9.75	+1.3	+3.6			
IBM	1.28	19	36.48	+0.48	+1.3	
IBM	28	187.20	+7.00	+3.7		
IBM	2.28	28	28.80	+0.28	+1.0	
IBM	14	10.09	-0.4	-4.0		
IBM	107.53	-1.7	-1.6			
IBM	3.18	27	194.91	+1.9	+1.0	
IBM	88	11.82	-0.2	-1.7		
IBM	63e	25	9.10	+2.7	+30.0	
IBM	9.75	+1.3	+3.6			
IBM	1.28	19	36.48	+0.48	+1.3	
IBM	28	187.20	+7.00	+3.7		
IBM	2.28	28	28.80	+0.28	+1.0	
IBM	14	10.09	-0.4	-4.0		
IBM	107.53	-1.7	-1.6			
IBM	3.18	27	194.91	+1.9	+1.0	
IBM	88	11.82	-0.2	-1.7		
IBM						

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MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE
District Manager
 The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications. This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidates with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required. This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary. To apply, please email your resume and cover letter to shedd@hearstnp.com. No phone calls please.

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 Fernando Uribe 432-558-0468
 Send Resume to: Lynia.Garcia@CaltexOilfield.com

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

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE
 Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm-4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person. \$11.00 per hour

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Legal and Public Notices
Community Events

Attention Readers

The Midland Reporter-Telegram Circulation department will not take calls on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st.

All vacation stops for Christmas weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 20th. Vacation stops for New Year's weekend will need to be placed by Wednesday, December 27th.

Have a Merry Christmas and Safe New Year's

Midland Reporter-Telegram

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Proposals will be accepted by the County Purchasing Agent, located in Suite 1101 of the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine Street, Midland, Texas 79701 until 10:00 A.M., Local Time, January 18, 2018. The proposals will be opened and acknowledged at 10:05AM, Local Time, January 18, 2018.

Generally, the Commissioners Court selection will be made within 30 days. Interested parties are invited to attend the proposal acknowledgment and the Commissioners Court meeting.

RFP 17MCO529 - DOWNTOWN LIBRARY RENOVATION CONSTRUCTION

A MANDATORY site survey will be held at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at the Midland County Downtown Library.

Midland County reserves the right to reject any or all of the responses, to waive all formalities, and to withdraw the RFP at any time.

The RFP will be available on Thursday December 21, 2017. Information may be obtained from the County Purchasing Agent's Office 432-688-4872 or pur103@co.midland.tx.us or on the Midland County Purchasing website www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/purchasing

Kristy Engeldohf
Midland County Purchasing Agent

Miscellaneous 4 Sale

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Commercial

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*Brewer County
*648 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak \$1,500/acre
*585 ac. Pecan Creek New Living/Shop 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill \$4,425/acre
*Howard County
*842 ac. canyon, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some wildlife traffic \$1,750/acre
*1100 ac. big canyon, SOLD area, cedar/mesquite, great deer, turkey, etc. \$895/acre
*125 ac. Indian Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, more stock \$1,180/acre

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7104 in the 118th District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

Midland Independent School District
Midland, Texas
Notice to Vendors
Request for Charter Bus Services

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed proposal(s) for RFP #18-02 Charter Bus Services through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in accordance with the proposal documents in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Room 704, Midland, Texas at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, January 18, 2018. Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/domain144. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1985.

General Announcement

Thank You Jesus!
Mark Berryhill for
Ministering for Christ
Teach the Lord's
Word 1-4

Lost and Found

LOST CAT, West Kansas Area in Midland, Female, mostly white with black on the ears, feet and rings on half the tail. Blue eyes. Has microchip. \$100 reward for safe return. Call 432-425-5008 or 432-978-7130

LOST DOG, large, black German Shepherd Lab mix. Vicinity of Cannonon Drive. Call 432-238-0380

Antique and Vintage

1995 SHELBY Cobra Replica, 1500 miles, custom built small block 427, 528 HP, 5 speed Tremec transmission \$45,000.00 (432) 661-0233

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4WD and SUV

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LAND FOR sale! Midland, acres, 0.161 acre, 606 N. Lee Street, Midland, TX, 79701. Please call Raul at 505-480-8290

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RANCH FOR SALE
4.212 Acres near Snyder, Tx. Water, 3 houses, great hunting. Owner Financing \$795/ Acre (432) 684-7764

WEST TEXAS TRANS PECOS AREA, NEAR LAKE AMSTAD 40-85 ACRES, MESQUITE, CEDAR, BRUSH COVER, WHITTAL, JAVELINA, BLUE QUAIL, TURKEY, DOVE. STARRING AT \$2,200 DOWN, \$349/MO. CALL/ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO. 888-288-0189 www.ranchandcountryrealty.com

General Announcement

Attention Readers
In observance of
Christmas Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, December 25th, 2017

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads
Publishing On: **Deadline is:**
Mon., Dec 25th Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm
Tues., Dec 26th Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm

Classified Display Ads
Publishing On: **Deadline is:**
Mon., Dec. 25th Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
Tues., Dec 26th Thurs., Dec. 21st, 2pm

Retail Display Ads
Publishing On: **Deadline is:**
Mon., Dec 25th Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
Tues., Dec 26th Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken
Monday, December 25th from 7 AM-10 AM only

RV Vehicles

SPARTAN1989 Mustang RV, 30', Beautifully restored motor home. This home will never decrease in value. Tiny living in wheels. Must see to believe. \$20,000. 623-605-5898

Garage Estate Yard Sale

Real Estate Rental Sale

MOVING SALE
707 McDonald Friday only Dec. 22 8am-3pm
Full top deck, arch, kitchen racks, Wing back chair, yard tools, bedroom suite complete with bed, dresser, etc. glass, bedding, sheets, bedspread & shams, pillows, & miscellaneous items

Classified CAN
682-6222

Get Framed

See how this ad caught your eye with its effective use of a border as a frame? Ask your Rep. about framing your ad today!

432-682-6222
or fax to 432-682-6999

COMMERCIAL YARD BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE 5 ACRES, FENCED 2 AC CALICHOED - \$2250/MONTHLY. BEST EAST OF MIDLAND 432-664-7764

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE. 1800 square feet. Utilities and general maintenance included. Midland International Airport area. Contact Cheryl Keith, 432-262-4908, or ckait@pbrpc.org

FOR SALE

Real Estate Rental Sale

2000 ELMA Drive, Very nice fourhome 3 bedroom 3 bath, fireplace, double car garage, sprinkler system, nice trees, gated patio area. \$1,500 per month & \$750 deposit. Call 432-230-0167 or 432-230-3871

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram

CLASSIFIEDS

Who's Who For Service

You can advertise your business for as little as \$47.00 monthly. Call 682-6222 for details.

<p>HAULING & Cleanouts Home, storage, or office. 432-889-1318</p> <p>Sves Professionals</p> <p>Cleaning Services Home Cleaning ALL IN ONE cleaning done right, also offering private sitting, C.N.A. Nurse and references available. Contact Segura at 432-269-4580</p> <p>Cleaning Specialist Excellent references. Get ready for the holidays! 432-561-8622</p> <p>EXPERIENCED HOUSE CLEANING 432-961-0493</p> <p>Computer Tutor Overcome Your Fear of Computers! Your PLACE at Your PACE. Call Karen 432-553-2468 (leave msg)</p>	<p>Electrical ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call GAS Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. Text # 22541</p> <p>LAING ELECTRIC. 432-413-5880 Licensed and insured. TECL 18544. Always appreciated!</p> <p>BRICK, BLOCK & Stone Work 45 years experience. References. Max 432-661-8899</p> <p>Concrete For all your concrete needs, driveways, sidewalks, new slabs house or garage additions. Call Danny @ 432-684-0702</p> <p>JS Concrete Slabs, curbs, driveways, patios. Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner 432-413-0924</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>ELLIS & Sons Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2879. TALC8005482.</p> <p>CRC INTERIOR and Exterior Painting Remodeling, fencing & fabrication. Clayton R. Cross. 432-770-6993. 1st ESTIMATE FREE.</p> <p>PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath, Permis Maintenance 432-697-5417</p>	<p>PRECISE PAINTING FEMALE PAINTER. Interior/exterior, residential. Very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4643</p> <p>PAINTING, SHEET rock, repairs, fans, electrical, plumbing, tile-floor & bath, Permis Maintenance 432-697-5417</p> <p>CERAMIC TILE work all types. 57 years experience. Free estimates. 432-352-6509</p> <p>AFFORDABLE TREE shrub pruning, removal, sprinkler repairs. Licensed & Insured. Call Williams Tree Lawn Sprinkler 561-8802, 638-6183.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient. 432-250-9470 Free Estimates.</p> <p>LEYVA LAWN CARE Trees & Lawns. Professional & Efficient. 432-250-9470 Free Estimates.</p> <p>RAUL'S LAWN Services. Lawn mowing, edging, shrub trimming. Free estimates. Reasonable. Call Raul @ 432-254-6364.</p> <p>RETIRE MIDLAND Fireman. Trim trees, hedges, clean flower beds, clean up & mowing. Call 697-2030.</p>	<p>WATER TREATMENT Culligan of West Texas Residential & Commercial FREE WATER ANALYSIS 563-2690</p> <p>We buy homes in any area in any condition. Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.</p> <p>Personal Services MASSAGE & Bodywork by Henry 2401 N. Dixie in Odessa - 4500 W. Illinois in Midland By Appointment only. 432-349-7811 www.sportsmassageodessa.com</p> <p>Let Classifieds Work for You! Call 432-682-6222</p>
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Midland Reporter-Telegram Media Group

Our goal is to be the premier media provider in the community. Let our team of experts work with you to develop a results-driven, first rate digital and print marketing strategy for your business.



DIGITAL MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group has an extensive offering of digital promotional tools that produce measurable results for today's online marketing arena. We offer marketing solutions through digital channels such as search engines, websites, social media, email, and mobile apps.

MAGAZINE MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group has an extensive line of Magazine publications offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer MRT Business Insider, Midland Magazine, Discover Midland, MRT All American and MRT Oil Report.

PRINT MARKETING SERVICES

MRT Media Group is a seven day a week paper offering a variety of local content and specialized categories to fit all your needs. We offer Education, Health, The Weekender, Faith & Philanthropy, Oil and Gas and Cultural sections.

We don't sell advertising, we offer marketing solutions!

MRT Digital Services will help you find your customers and engage with them to grow your business!

Local, Trustworthy, News At Your Finger Tips.
Advertise - 432-687-8811



Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Can you find all the things in Santa's Workshop listed at right? Read carefully and look closely - it's tricky!

- 12 PAINT BRUSHES
- 11 HAMMERS
- 10 PENCILS
- 9 BASEBALLS
- 8 TEDDY BEARS
- 7 DOLLS
- 6 WRAPPING PAPER ROLLS
- 5 ORNAMENTS
- 4 ROLLS OF TAPE
- 3 STOCKINGS
- 2 MUGS
- 1 SAW

How many candy canes can you find in two minutes?

Find the two identical elves.

Extra! Extra! Winter Words

Look through the newspaper for words that could be used to describe a cold winter. Use them in a sentence to describe the weather today.

Standards Link: Writing. Write sentences using descriptive details.

Weekly Writing Corner

Gifts

Students describe some gifts that money can't buy.

Write a song with no help. Someone who really loves you will love it. It could be a Christmas song. Use interesting words and give it to the person who loves you.

Gabby, 2nd grade

A present that doesn't cost money is service. Another thing is love and another thing is caring.

Shannon, 2nd grade

You can give a gift they will never forget like a picture, or tell them a story, or a huge hug. Not a television or an X-Box. But best of all is a lot of love.

Christian, 2nd grade

I would make a card out of some leftover paper. I would write about how much I love that person, and draw some things on it as well. Then I would take an old can and cut out a diamond. I would take some wire from my wire fence and put through the top of the diamond to make an ornament. Finally, I would take the ornament and the card and put them under the Christmas tree.

Zane, 5th grade

This year I am so totally bankrupt. I can't donate my gifts to the toy drive this year. I could re-gift a bunch of things or that's it. I can donate my time to help the hungry. There is a House of Mercy down the road from my house. My family and I will measure, pour, package and send food to Africa for hungry children. This good deed will only cost me my time.

Cole, 4th grade

A good no money gift would be a stuffed animal from home.

Porter, 4th grade

A gift that you can give that doesn't cost money is love. You can't buy it and you can't trade somebody for it. You can give love by showing kindness.

Faith, 5th grade

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw the snowman that should come next to complete the pattern in each row.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning. Complete patterns.

Kid Scoop Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	O	W
T	E	S	A	N	T	D	A	O	R
O	D	S	E	V	L	E	R	S	A
C	D	A	A	O	Y	K	O	Y	P
K	Y	S	C	N	S	B	L	D	P
I	E	M	M	H	T	E	L	N	I
N	R	U	O	R	Y	A	S	A	N
G	G	P	T	N	I	A	P	C	G
S	A	W	S	L	I	C	N	E	P

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Visual spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Naughty and Nice

Look through the newspaper to find a news story about someone being naughty and another news story about someone being nice. Write a letter to each of them.

Standards Link: Writing Applications. Write informal letters using correct format.

What do you call an old snowman?

ANSWER: WARM!

Write On!

Spirit of the Olympics

Some people talk about the "Spirit of the Olympics." What do you think that means?

Deadline: January 14
Published: Week of Feb. 11
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdz@mr.com

Please include your school and grade.

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