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INSIDE

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018

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Endeavor is top driller in Permian in 2018

EOG leads all Texas drillers with 556 permits filed this year

By Sergio Chapia
Houston Chronicle

The proof is in the numbers. Crude oil traded above \$60 per barrel for most of 2018, and the higher prices resulted in more drilling activity in Texas, data from the Railroad Commission of Texas shows.

Some 1,020 oil and natural gas companies asked state regulators for 13,294 original drilling permits through Wednesday. The figures mark two consecutive years of growth for exploration and production activity in Texas. EOG Resources was the top Texas driller in 2018 with 556 drilling permits filed, with more than 70 percent in Eagle

Ford and 27 percent in the Permian Basin. The Permian, meanwhile, was the top destination in Texas for oil and natural gas companies, accounting for more than 60 percent of drilling permits filed in the state. The 2018 figures show that the shale

Please see TOP 4A

More inside

Researchers: Permian producers set to weather price volatility.

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Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times/TNS

Brenda Arlette (Breanna) Dominguez, 5, peeks through blinds Aug. 3 in her grandmother Lupita Rios' bedroom, where surveillance cameras located all around her home are monitored.

Border town plagued by suspicion, distrust

■ Many residents think their neighbors are immigrant smugglers

Editor's note: Part three of a four-part series.

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske
Los Angeles Times

ROMA — It was 11 p.m. when her six dogs started barking on the patio, a sign Maria Guadalupe "Lupita" Rios had come to recognize. Immigrants were passing through her street a block north of the Rio Grande.

From her leather couch facing an oil

Related content

Border Patrol agents use secret signals, signs.

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painting of the river, Rios called to her 5-year-old granddaughter, Brianna, who was monitoring security footage on a large screen in the master bedroom. Rios' husband installed half a dozen \$300 security cameras around their ranch house last year after she grew nervous about him leaving 11 days at a time to work the South Texas

oilfields.

"Who is it?" Rios asked. "Your cousin? A *mojado*?"

That's what residents of Roma, most with roots that stretch across the river to Mexico, call border crossers. "wetback," a word stripped of its vitriol in Spanish. Some even use the diminutive *mojadito*.

Brianna peeked through the blinds but didn't recognize the figure creeping through the mesquite brush. Her grandmother asked where the person went. Into the garage, the girl replied calmly, accustomed to strange figures passing at all hours.

Please see DISTRUST/6A

Odessa, Midland finish 1, 2 for nation's top rent increases

From staff reports

No two cities in America reported larger percentage increases in apartment rents than Odessa and Midland.

RentCafe stated in its end-of-the-year report that Odessa just topped Midland for the No. 1 spot. The website reported year-over-year increases of 21.8 percent in Odessa and 21.4 percent in Midland. The next closest community in the nation was Reno, Nevada at 10.2 percent.

RentCafe's report also indicated that in the Texas, Midland and Odessa ranked first and second in terms of dollar amounts. The rent for an average apartment in Midland was \$1,561. In Odessa, the average was \$1,363. Other Texas cities with high rents were Austin, \$1,361, Frisco, \$1,343, and Plano, \$1,279.

RentCafe also reports: ■ the national average rent increased 3.1 percent to \$1,419.

■ among the cities with the lowest rents in 2018 were the Texas cities of Brownsville, \$685, Killeen, \$713, and Amarillo (\$735).

■ four communities in Texas showed negative growth when it came to percentage changes in rent in 2018 — College Station, minus 1.1 percent; Waco, minus 0.6 percent; Brownsville, minus 0.6 percent; and Pearland, minus 0.2 percent.

■ the highest rent in the nation can be found in Manhattan, New York: \$4,200.

Across the nation

City	Percent change
Odessa	21.8
Midland	21.4
Reno, Nevada	10.2
Peoria, Arizona	9.7
Manchester, New Hampshire	9.7

Across the state

City	Rent
Midland	\$1,561
Odessa	\$1,363

Please see RENT/4A

Sports

View coverage from the Orange Bowl inside on Page 1C.



Melanie Nicholas
Another year to be grateful about motherhood
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Agriculture

'Sorry cotton'

Farmers hope for a better year Page 2A

Word of the Day:

pneumatic

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

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—Pat Henderson

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Photos by Rose Baca/Dallas Morning News/TNS

Charles Johnson, 20, pulls a tarp over a bale of cotton Nov. 14 during the harvest at Matt Farmer's farm in Lynn County south of Lubbock.

Region's cotton farmers 'start praying' 2019 is better

By Nanette Light
The Dallas Morning News

LAMESA — They call it "sorry cotton." The yellowed, scrawny crop is what Matt Farmer and his son-in-law Garron Morgan say they have too much of this year.

"We've got a lot more sorry cotton than we've got good cotton," Garron, 38, said over the roar of the tractors pushing through the fields. Together, the pair farm about 10,000 acres, growing mostly cotton and some peanuts on their West Texas farm about an hour north of Midland.

Today was harvest day, typically Matt's favorite day. He watched as the machines glided across the horizon, raking the cotton bolls from their stalks until nearly as clean as a Popsicle stick.

Those little balls of fluff are what he counts on to pay his employees, cover his bills, buy his wife and grandchildren nice Christmas presents. A couple dozen families are counting on him, too. In addition to his family's land, he rents farmland from them.

But on this chilly November afternoon, he shook his head. They were weeks behind.

And now, that field was just a bunch of sorry cotton.

Cotton is Texas' No. 1 cash crop, with a value of \$3.4 billion last year. More than half of the state's cotton is produced in the southern high plains area where Matt and Garron live.

Here, highways criss-cross seemingly never-ending farmland with panoramic views that magnify the sky's vastness. A cluster of whining wind turbines and the occasional solar farm nod to the changing times.

Farmers like Matt and Garron grow the fiber that Texans depend on. And this year, growing the cotton was a struggle.

The rain the farmers desperately needed and anxiously waited for in the summer after the seeds were in the ground didn't come until September and October — too late to grow a tall cotton crop and just in time to soak the fields and delay the harvest.

"A lot of times, you can work your hardest, do whatever you can do with your own hands, but Mother Nature will play a bigger role in whether you make a good crop or don't make a crop at all," Garron said.

The farmers here don't blame climate change, President Donald Trump or his trade war for their difficult year. They say they're at nature's mercy, and they hate it.

But what concerns Matt more is the bare acres of farmland he passes on the way to his cotton field — patches where farmers typically would be growing cotton but instead aren't growing any crop, hoping for better luck next year.

About one-fifth of the region's farmland didn't grow a crop this year because of the unfavorable weather conditions, according to the Plains Cotton Growers, a nonprofit that represents cotton



Silvano Morales tends to cotton coming through a gin Nov. 15 at Adobe Walls Gin, the world's largest gin under one roof, in Spearman, north of Amarillo.

farmers in the state's High Plains area.

Matt doesn't blame his neighboring farmers for the empty fields; he has some acres sitting empty, too.

"There's land laying blank out here right now that's not being farmed. And a lot of people say, 'Well, I'm not involved in agriculture, that doesn't affect me. I'm not going to worry about it,'" Matt said.

"If you eat, you're involved in agriculture. If you're not walking around naked, you're involved in agriculture."

Matt and Garron know they won't make a profit this year; they're aiming for broke — enough money to pay back their loans to the bank and their suppliers.

They just want to keep the farm going.

"We pray a lot," Matt said. "And I'm on blood pressure medicines."

BORN TO THE LIFE

As a kid, Matt wanted to be a cowboy, not a farmer.

He didn't like the feel of the dust clinging to his sweaty face or the bugs buzzing about while driving an open-air tractor.

"I came home one day, and there was a new tractor in the barn that had a heater, an air conditioner and an AM radio in it," said Matt, a third-generation cotton farmer. "And I decided that the saddle that didn't have a radio or heater or air conditioner wasn't for me anymore."

When he and his wife, Dianne, married at age 17, a tractor and 640 acres of dirt in Borden County was all he wanted. Now, he's farming the land that's been in his wife's family for four generations.

"There is such joy knowing

that this is what my family has done for years," said Dianne, as she searched for matching tupperware to pack up a workday lunch of roast, mashed potatoes and black-eyed peas. When her grandparents died, she and her cousins each inherited 320 acres, some of which Matt now oversees.

"They were such hard workers, and I know that they would be so pleased with what Matt's done," she said.

"I don't know about that," Matt said, chuckling.

As his childhood friends grew up and left the farm for college and later jobs in the professional world, Matt planted cotton in their place. About 85 percent of Matt and Garron's farmland is rented, including thousands of acres that belong to friends and family.

That responsibility weighs on him.

"That's a lot of acres, a lot of people depending on us to make them a living," said Matt, who wears a black cowboy hat and slim sunglasses to shade his face from the afternoon sun. Always armed with a joke, sometimes he cups his hand over his lip when he's thinking, below the salt-and-pepper mustache he's worn for decades.

He watched on a chilly Wednesday afternoon as tractors harvested that patch of "sorry cotton" on land six families entrusted to him and Garron. It hurts him to pull out a crop that isn't his best.

"The better I do, they better they can do," he said.

CHOOSING THE LIFE

Six years ago, Garron left a salaried job selling seed and fertilizer for a supply company to farm with Matt.

The soft-spoken farmer with a beard and a baseball hat — instead of a cowboy hat like his father-in-law — wasn't from a farm family, but he grew up working on farms and for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research farm while a college student at Texas Tech University.

"There are lots of kids who grow up on the farm and leave as quick as they can. And there's lots of people like me who didn't grow up on a farm and come into it later in life."

He chose the unpredictability of farming over a job with a steady paycheck. Like Matt, he wanted to raise his son and daughter on the farm. He wanted to work with his family and for himself, not someone else.

"I knew cotton farming in West Texas, I wasn't going to get rich doing it," he said that November day as morning sunlight filtered through a stained-glass window hanging of a cotton plant in his in-laws' kitchen.

"But just the thrill of getting to plant a seed and watch what happens and seeing at the end of the year what you have left to harvest was something that always intrigued me."

The average age of a Texas farmer is 60, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's most current 2012 Census of Agriculture report. But the country has seen a slight increase of about 2 percent from 2007 to 2012 in the number of farmers 25 to 34, the census states.

"We need young blood to come in and continue on what a lot of these families started in the '40s and '50s out here in this area," Matt said. "Agriculture in this area, we're the lifeblood of the economy. As we go, so goes the area's economy out here."

Farming helped Matt raise a family and pay for his daughters

to attend college — something he and his wife didn't have the opportunity to do.

But he admits it's tough to make a living as profit margins shrink and operation costs rise.

"You have to have a lot of luck. You have to have a lot of faith," he said.

TRYING NEW METHODS

Cotton fields dot the highway like breadcrumbs all the way from Lamesa to Spearman, four hours to the north. A maroon Texas A&M University flag marks the spot in the arid, chilly Panhandle where Quentin Shieldknight and his dad, Fred Shieldknight, farm about 10,000 acres.

On their acreage near Spearman — a small town that thrives on oil and gas, farming and a vast view — 38-year-old Quentin worried about pulling those white puffs sprouting from the ground.

His in-laws hand-picked cotton in northern Collin County before suburban sprawl overtook the land. Because of early Panhandle freezes, Quentin vowed he'd never grow the crop.

But when the prices of corn and wheat crashed several years ago, Quentin and Fred took a chance. Science promised new varieties of the plant could withstand the cold. Cotton also relies on significantly less water than corn.

The crop has exploded in the area, with farms dusted in white going on for miles.

"Once we tried it, it took off for us," said Quentin, who graduated with a degree in agronomy, the science of plant and soil, from Texas A&M University. A few years ago, Quentin and Fred bought their first fancy tractor for harvesting the cotton — it does the work that three of Matt and Garron's machines do. Quentin's older sister, Kelly Jack, was proposed to in one of the family's cotton fields.

"Now, we're cotton farmers, I guess for life," Fred said.

But one year's success doesn't promise another. Last year, an immature crop brought in only enough to cover Quentin and Fred's operation expenses.

Quentin's wife, Kristin Shieldknight, said the uncertainty of farming doesn't sustain a family of five on one salary that is paying bills and saving for college.

"You could live, but there'd be no savings," said Kristin, a former teacher and now chief of innovation for Spearman ISD, as she shoveled fresh wood shavings into a pig pen. "I want [my kids] to go to college. I want to help pay for their college. ... And I don't think you can do that unless I work."

This year, they're more optimistic. They caught a few more summer showers than Matt and Garron did in Lamesa. And, unlike their friends to the south, most of their farmland is irrigated.

But rain — and about 6 inches of snow — also delayed

Please see COTTON/4A



Ahn Young-joon/AP

Workers board large-sized liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers under construction Dec. 7 at the Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering facility in Gejeo Island, South Korea. South Korea's big three shipbuilders — Daewoo, Hyundai Heavy Industries and Samsung Heavy Industries — won orders for 53 new LNG carriers in 2018 at about \$200 million each, soaking up the lion's share of the 62 vessels ordered globally, according to numbers compiled by the London-based shipping group Clarkson Research.

US fossil fuel exports spur growth, climate worries

Editor's Note: This story is part of a collaboration between The Associated Press and the Center for Public Integrity, The Texas Tribune and Newsy.

By Michael Biesecker and Kim Tong-Hyung
Associated Press

GEOJEJO, South Korea — In South Korea's largest shipyard, thousands of workers in yellow hard hats move ceaselessly between towering cranes lifting hulks of steel. They look like a hive of bees scurrying over a massive circuit board as they weld together the latest additions to the rapidly growing fleet of tankers carrying super-chilled liquefied natural gas across the world's oceans.

The boom in fossil-fuel production in the United States has been matched by a rush on the other side of the Pacific to build the infrastructure needed to respond to the seemingly unquenchable thirst for energy among Asia's top economies. When Congress lifted restrictions on shipping crude oil overseas in 2015, soon after the Obama administration opened the doors for international sales of natural gas, even the most boosterish of Texas oil men wouldn't have predicted the U.S. could become one of the world's biggest fossil-fuel exporters so quickly.

Backers of U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, argue that the boom will produce environmental benefits

because it will help China and other industrial nations wean themselves from coal and other dirtier fossil fuels.

Environmentalists counter that the massive new supplies unleashed by American advances in extracting natural gas from shale doesn't just make coal-fired power plants less competitive.

LNG also competes with such zero-carbon sources of electricity as nuclear, solar and wind — potentially delaying the full adoption of greener sources. That's time climate scientists and researchers say the world doesn't have if humans hope to mitigate the worst-case consequences of our carbon emissions, including catastrophic sea-level rise, stronger storms and more wildfires.

"Typically, infrastructure has multi-decadal lifespans," said Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University. "So, if we build a natural-gas plant today, that will impact carbon emissions over decades to come. So those are the critical and crucial decisions that are being made today. Do we increase access to and use of fossil fuels, or do we make decisions that limit and eventually reduce access to fossil fuels?"

While it is difficult to estimate how much America's rise as major exporter of fossil fuels is contributing to a hotter climate, some of the economic benefits are plain to see in South

Korea's shipyards.

At the sprawling Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering facility on the island of Gejeo, more than half of the 35 vessels scheduled for delivery in 2018 were LNG carriers. A similar number of vessels are lined up for completion next year.

South Korea's big three shipbuilders — Daewoo, Hyundai Heavy Industries and Samsung Heavy Industries — won orders for 53 new LNG carriers in 2018 at about \$200 million each, soaking up the lion's share of the 62 vessels ordered globally, according to numbers compiled by the London-based shipping group Clarkson Research.

South Korea is expected to finish 2018 at the top spot in overall orders for new commercial ships, surpassing China for the first time in seven years.

During a recent visit by The Associated Press, three of the LNG carriers were being assembled inside a massive dry dock. Another 13, including The British Contributor, had been floated out to nearby berths where workers were putting on finishing touches.

U.S. LNG exports quadrupled in 2017, with this year on track to see similarly exponential growth. Nearly a fifth of that gas goes to South Korea.

The British Contributor is the third of six LNG carriers being built by Daewoo for British energy giant BP, which will mainly use them to transport

U.S. gas to Asia under a 20-year contract with the Freeport LNG facility south of Houston. Daewoo delivered four similar ships this year to the government-owned Korea Gas Corporation, which has a 20-year deal to buy gas exported from Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass LNG terminal in Louisiana.

Burning natural gas produces about half the carbon dioxide as burning coal does. LNG's increased adoption for generating electricity has been pitched by the U.S. and others as a way for nations to make progress toward meeting their emissions reductions goals under the 2015 Paris climate accord. Burning gas also creates less particulate pollution.

In China, the Communist government has declared a "Blue Sky Defense War" to reduce the choking smog in Beijing and two dozen surrounding cities with a program to convert hundreds of thousands of homes and industrial facilities from burning coal to gas. In February, Texas-based Cheniere signed a 25-year deal with the state-controlled China National Petroleum Corporation to export LNG from its export terminal in Corpus Christi.

But the increased gas exports from the U.S. and other sources hasn't really put much of a dent in Chinese coal consumption, which has remained largely flat in 2018. Overall carbon emissions for China, the globe's biggest emitter, saw a nearly five percent increase in 2018.

COTTON

From 2A

cotton harvest in the Panhandle. The farmers weren't picking cotton on this November afternoon one week before Thanksgiving.

Quentin worried about the acres of cotton covered in snow, pretty as it was.

"It makes me sick to my stomach when I walk onto those fields and the cotton is just sitting there," Quentin said. "That's dollars sitting there."

Gaylon Morgan, professor and state extension cotton specialist of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University, says climate change is making growing and harvesting cotton more challenging. While there's controversy about the cause of that climate change, Morgan said "something" is occurring that will impact what crops farmers grow and ultimately what people have to eat and wear.

"And it will probably make for more erratic crop production," he said, adding that more drought-tolerant crops are likely to be adopted over time, such as when Quentin switched to farming more cotton than corn because it takes about half the amount of water.

But Matt and Quentin, whose farms are located in different growing seasons, say the extreme weather this year — hot and dry to chilly and wet — is just cyclical.

"I know the weather changes. Other than the setting on a hair dryer, you tell me what normal is," Matt said.

They don't think Trump and his trade war is part of their tough times, either. Quentin said people forget Trump was a businessman and didn't need to run for president.

"He's looking out to try to make good deals for the American people to get them more money in their pocket," he said.

Matt, who showed Sen. Ted Cruz around his farm last year, said if Trump "doesn't do something crazy, I'll probably vote for him again."

"He's trying," he said. "I'm not going to say everything he does is going to work, or even going to help. But it's nice to see somebody's got your back. You can get real discouraged out here."

Matt noted the farmland sitting bare, the solar plants and wind turbines farmers have



Rose Baca/Dallas Morning News/TNS

Matt Farmer inspects cotton from a freshly harvested bale Nov. 14 on his farm in Lynn County south of Lubbock.

allowed to overtake their land for extra money, and the meat goats his neighbor is raising on thousands of acres that once were cotton crop.

"Right now, if you don't have non-farm income, you're struggling," he said. "Some struggling pretty good, some trying to decide if they want to go again."

THE CYCLE CONTINUES

Two weeks before Christmas, Matt harvested his last crop.

A snow in early December that normally would have fallen up north where Quentin farms hit his land instead, falling on what cotton was left.

It wasn't more sorry cotton, either. With tall stalks thick with white cotton puffs, it was a good patch. Not his best, he said, but pretty good.

That cotton had been ready to harvest since November, when the ground was too

wet. He told Garron more than once they needed to get the crop out soon — before the cotton bolls fell to the muddy ground and before they sat too long on the stalks, the burs staining the white fluff yellow.

When the snow melted and dried from the fluff, they didn't wait any longer.

"We had one good day," he said in mid-December. "And the [farmers] that haven't gotten it done haven't had a good day since."

Matt and Garron will have enough money this year to pay back what they borrowed to grow the crop, but they won't make a profit.

It's better than Matt thought they'd fare. He's looking ahead now to the next season, breaking and plowing the soil for a new crop.

And maybe next year, better luck.

"2019. Start praying," Matt said.

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Top

From 1A

revolution is still going strong. Horizontal drilling projects accounted 67 percent of exploration and production activity in Texas while vertical wells accounted for nearly 30 percent.

PERMIAN BASIN

Some 407 companies filed 8,039 drilling permit applications for projects in the Permian Basin. Midland-based Endeavor Energy Resources was the top company in the region with 440 drilling permit filings. Owned by wildcatter billionaire and reality TV star Autry Stephens, the company has become an acquisition target by major oil companies seeking to boost their presence in the West Texas shale play. More than 69 percent of drilling permit applications filed in the Permian Basin were for horizontal drilling projects.

Top 10 Permian Basin drillers

Endeavor Energy Resources, 440 permits; Pioneer Natural Resources, 405; Occidental Petroleum, 369; Apache Corp., 289; ExxonMobil, 285; Diamondback Energy, 230; Parsley Energy, 211; Crownquest Operating, 185; COG Operating, 178; and Kinder Morgan, 155.

EAGLE FORD SHALE

Some 187 companies filed 2,920 drilling permits for projects in the Eagle Ford Shale of South Texas. EOG Resources was the top company in the region with 392 drilling permit applications. Most of EOG's leases are in the oil-rich central region of the shale play. With 562 drilling permits, Karnes County was the top destination in the Eagle Ford. More than 90 percent of drilling permits filed in the region were for horizontal drilling projects.

Top 10 Eagle Ford Shale Drillers

EOG Resources, 392 permits; ConocoPhillips, 200; Sanchez Energy, 188; WildHorse Resources, 131; Chesapeake Energy, 123; Marathon Oil, 111; Lewis Energy, 106; Carrizo Oil & Gas, 127; EP Energy, 99; and BP, 79.

BARNETT SHALE

Some 142 companies filed for 462 drilling permits in the Barnett Shale of North Texas. The Mexican company PetroBAL was the top driller with 42 permits, followed by Devon Energy of Oklahoma with 34. With 86 drilling permits, Jack County was the top destination for oil and natural gas companies in the Barnett. More 81 percent of drilling permits filed in the region were for vertical drilling projects.

Barnett Shale Top 10 Drillers

PetroBAL, 42 permits; Devon Energy, 34; Stearns Well Service, 27; White Knight Production, 23; TEP Barnett USA, 18; EnerVest, 16; HWH Production, 10; Bonfire Operating and Bridwell Oil, 7; and Bess Resources, Cholla Petroleum, G&F Oil and Willowband Investments, 6.

HAYNESVILLE SHALE

Some 49 companies filed for 407 drilling permits for projects in the natural gas-rich Haynesville Shale of East Texas. Rockcliff Energy of Houston was the top company in the region with 56 drilling permits. Rockcliff is a pure-play Haynesville company that uses horizontal drilling techniques to develop natural gas wells. Nearly two-thirds of drilling permits filed in the region were for horizontal drilling projects.

Haynesville Shale Top 10 Drillers

Rockcliff Energy, 56 permits; Sabine Oil & Gas, 53; XTO Energy, 48; BP, 37; CCI East Texas Upstream and Tinos Exploration, 25; Sheridan Production Co., 18; Aethon Energy, 17; KJ Energy, 14; and Covey Park Resources, 11.

CONVENTIONALS

A large amount of exploration and production activity goes on outside of the state's four shale basins. More than 376 companies filed for 1,466 drilling permits in these conventional oil fields, led by Frostwood Energy of Houston with 85 followed by Hilcorp Energy, also of Houston, with 79. Founded in April 2016, Frostwood has developed a mix of horizontal and vertical wells in Victoria County and surrounding areas. With 104 drilling permits, Wichita County was the top destination for conventional drillers.

Top 10 non-shale basin drillers: Frostwood Energy, 85 permits; Hilcorp Energy, 79; Scout Energy Management and Newport Operating, 47; North South Oil and 4P Energy Texas, 27; Unit Petroleum Co. and Sojourner Drilling Co., 26; Tecolote Energy, 24; and Le Norman Operating, 21.

RENT

From 1A

Austin	\$1,361
El Paso	\$1,343
Plano	\$1,279
McKinney	\$1,263
Dallas	\$1,182
Houston	\$1,093
Fort Worth	\$1,083
San Antonio	\$1,016
Lubbock	\$924
Amarillo	\$738

Source: www.rentcafe.com

Despite 254-county strategy, O'Rourke lost appeal among rural voters

By Jonathan Tilove
Austin American-Statesman

PLACID — JoAnn Randall, a writer and rancher in Placid, a dot on the map 145 miles northwest of Austin in the geographical center of Texas, describes herself as a political independent.

Randall and her husband, Bill, a blues and rock guitarist, vote in the Republican primaries in McCulloch County because that's the only game in town.

But, this past election, JoAnn Randall was smitten with Beto O'Rourke.

"All you have to do is get in the presence of him and it's contagious, especially if you're a woman because he's so danged good-looking," said Randall, who is 79 and has lived in the county for 25 years. "The charisma just emits."

When O'Rourke came to McCulloch County, population 7,957, and neighboring San Saba County, population 5,959, for well-attended town halls on April 6, Randall was his guide.

They were stops 231 and 232 of O'Rourke's tour of all 254 counties, and, Randall wrote at the time, "It was one of the most exciting, enlightening and hopeful days of my life."

Seven months later, O'Rourke won just 400 votes in McCulloch County, or 15 percent of the vote.

That was half a percentage point less than Hillary Clinton received in 2016, 3 points less than Barack Obama's total in 2012 and 9 points less than Obama's tally in 2008.

O'Rourke's 11.9 percent of the vote in San Saba County told the same story.

Rural Texas, it seems, was immune to Betomania, or, more accurately, it had symptoms of both the phenomenon and the antibodies creating a rural firewall that saved U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, from defeat.

"It pulled every Republican out of the woodwork," said Jerry Blankenship, the San Saba County GOP chairman.

In his 2.6-percentage point victory, Cruz out-pollled O'Rourke by 214,921 votes because of the Republican's lopsided margin of 446,693 in the state's 172 rural counties.

Overall, O'Rourke made some small progress over recent Democratic performances, winning 25.6 percent of the state's rural vote, a small rebound from the last two cycles, in which Clinton won 24.3 percent against President Donald Trump in 2016 and Wendy Davis won 23.5 percent against Gov. Greg Abbott in 2014.

But as recently as 2002 — eight years after Texas Democrats last won statewide office — Democrat Ron Kirk won 40 percent of the rural vote and 44 percent of the urban vote running against U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, for an open seat in the U.S. Senate.

In the weeks since the election, Democrats have been left to puzzle over why a candidate as good as O'Rourke gained so little ground in rural Texas after covering so much ground to introduce himself, and if there is anything he might have done differently to coax just enough additional votes from these sparsely populated precincts to have won. And, considering O'Rourke's quick turn from losing Senate candidate to potential presidential prospect, what might his poor showing outside the state's largest metro areas reveal about O'Rourke's strengths and weaknesses as a possible national candidate in 2020?

"Democrats see in him maybe a teeny bit of the reincarnation of Jack Kennedy," Blankenship said in an interview in the cafe at the Doffmeyer Hotel, a six-room boutique hotel located in what was an early 20th century gentlemen's social club in downtown San Saba. And, Blankenship said, the thinking went, "If Republicans can't beat him in Texas, then it's all over. That may have been part of the motivation for the extraordinary turnout among Republicans, overcoming that very possibility."

Of O'Rourke, Blankenship said, "My sense is that the people in San Saba found him very personable and, as an individual, a likeable fellow, perhaps more



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Beto O'Rourke speaks at a town hall event Aug. 30 at the Grand Texan Hotel Convention Center in Midland.

so than his opponent who certainly doesn't give off the warm and fuzzy vibes. But I think people here were concerned about the prospect of Democratic majorities in Congress. What comes with him is potential control of the Senate."

"I think it's not so much Republicans being especially inspired by their candidates," Blankenship said. "It's more that there's a perception that the Democratic Party has shifted so far to the left that people are concerned there's an existential threat to their value system if the Democrats were put into a position of unchecked power, so they're pretty much motivated to get out to vote."

Asked to identify those threatened values, Blankenship said, "Traditional rural Texas values of personal liberty, independence, limited government, low levels of taxation, property rights, Second Amendment rights. Those values have been pretty constant across time in rural Texas, and I think there's a widely held perception that those are more faithfully upheld by the Republican Party these days."

Blankenship, who has a Ph.D. in math, moved to San Saba from Dallas 24 years ago after retiring at 49 from an oil company. Last year, the county judge asked if he'd fill in as county chairman to administer the primary.

"I pretty much inherited my party affiliation from my mother's side of the family," he said. "They were Quakers involved in the anti-slavery movement and in the founding of the Republican Party in the 1850s."

Blankenship believes rural Texas values are an inheritance from the "common traits of settlers on the frontier. You share a certain set of values."

Rural Texas represents a declining share of the electorate — 11.1 percent in 2018, down from 15.2 percent in 2002. But it occupies an enormous place in the state's geography, history, economy, culture and psyche.

"Texas is so overwhelmingly urban and so overwhelmingly rural at the same time," said Josh Blank, manager of polling and research at the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas.

Roy Spence, an Austin advertising guru, grew up in Brownwood in Brown County, which borders McCulloch and San Saba counties to the north. Rural Texas, Spence said, is the wellspring of the Texas Democratic Party and the party can't wholly recover politically without reconnecting with its roots and "not just show up but 'fess up and have a plan to revitalize these communities."

O'Rourke's degree from Columbia University is in English literature. His favorite book is Homer's "The Odyssey," unabridged. He says the only reason he and his wife, Amy, named their oldest son, Ulysses, was because they didn't have the guts to name him Odysseus.

His campaign was from start to finish a road trip, a journey of discovery, livestreamed all the way on Facebook, enabling him to establish a uniquely personal, ongoing and interactive relationship with his following. Traveling to all 254 counties was a narrative device, a laudable mission, going places Democrats had stopped going, didn't care or even feared to tread, that propelled the campaign forward and showed O'Rourke off to his best advantage — caring, earnest, reasonable, open-hearted, post-partisan, perpetually on the go, and, for all his generally liberal positions, more idealistic than ideological — while providing perpetually

refreshed opportunities for positive press coverage.

Andrew White, a Houston businessman who decided to run for the Democratic nomination for governor after the death of his father, former Gov. Mark White, in the summer of 2017, said that when he was thinking about running he spoke with O'Rourke, who already had embarked on his Senate run. O'Rourke recalled for White that when he was contemplating running for Senate, "I called your dad," who told him, "Don't forget it's a 254-county race."

Two weeks after the November election, White, who lost his bid for the Democratic nomination as a moderate alternative to former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, wrote an opinion piece that appeared in the Houston Chronicle under the headline, "Ted Cruz was right about Beto."

"I hate to admit it, but Ted Cruz was right," he wrote. "Beto O'Rourke was too liberal for Texas voters. Despite his magnetic charisma, unending work ethic and \$70 million war chest, O'Rourke lost — and he lost even though he had almost double the votes of any other Democrat in Texas midterm history. So, what happened? The 254-county strategy didn't work as planned."

White told the Austin American-Statesman that O'Rourke followed literally his father's instructions to campaign in all 254 counties but did not give those more moderate and conservative voters in rural Texas and elsewhere who were drawn to his candidacy a reason to believe he was something other than a standard-issue liberal Democrat.

"He was still knee-jerking to the left," said White, who said that, for example, while O'Rourke was right to oppose building a border wall, he didn't make it clear that it didn't mean — as Cruz alleged — he was for open borders.

"Beto is a true romantic," White said. "He wants to do it the idealistic way, and, for him that means complete transparency, which he brought into his life and into our world through Facebook, and that complete transparency means no PACs, no consultants, no polls, and I think he wanted it his way and only his way. And he did, and we fell in love with him and people all over the country did, but the question is, can he still be authentic to himself and yet make wise decisions about the choice of words as he talks about nuanced, difficult issues?"

Angelina Bonetti Deans, who helped arrange O'Rourke's town hall event in Brady, the McCulloch County seat, said she believes O'Rourke coming to Brady, visiting all the counties, was an important beginning.

"Oh, absolutely, sure, it showed he gave a damn," she said. "He cared enough to stay on the road."

"I think he needs just a little more of a rough edge," Deans said. "He needs to play up the rural side of himself. Eat a steak, wear some camo, shoot a gun."

Cruz strategist Jeff Roe does not think O'Rourke's 254-county strategy was smart or successful. He assessed its impact as superficial and ephemeral, not a serious attempt to woo rural voters, with no follow-up in the field or on the air.

"Everything was like the Fourth of July, but there was no Fifth of July," Roe said.

The Cruz campaign was surprised and delighted as O'Rourke — who didn't distinguish himself as exceptionally liberal in his three terms in Congress or in the run-up to the Democratic primary — appeared to tack left during the campaign, or at any rate, to do very little

to parry Cruz's depiction of him as out of touch with Texas values.

For rural voters, that label stuck. Between his visits to San Saba and Brady in early spring and the November election, O'Rourke transmogrified from intriguing stranger to bad hombre for many rural voters.

In successive UT/Texas Tribune surveys, O'Rourke went from being viewed unfavorably by 15 percent of rural respondents in February, to 29 percent in June to 64 percent in October.

"This election really came down in many ways to voters' views of Trump. In our post-election polling, Cruz won 92 percent of voters with favorable impressions of Trump, and Beto won 92 percent of voters with unfavorable views of Trump," said Chris Wilson, who did the polling for Cruz's campaign. "In counties outside the largest 30 in the state, Trump's image was 66 percent favorable/22 percent unfavorable. In an election so polarized by the national environment, there really wasn't much room for Beto to make inroads with rural Texas voters."

"While Beto did show up in rural counties, the issues he raised — things like supporting kneeling during the national anthem, open borders and impeaching President Trump — are hardly the issue set you'd be talking about if you wanted to actually earn votes outside of the large urban areas in the state," Wilson said. "If you look at where Beto deployed resources, this becomes clear, his 'pop-up offices,' and field efforts were really concentrated in the four major cities, select suburbs and El Paso."

"I don't think his strategy was ever one to secure crossover voters," said Seth McKee, a Texas Tech University expert on Southern politics. "I can't think of any salient issue where he didn't look like a national Democrat."

After O'Rourke held town halls in San Saba and Brady, he drove, along with Amy O'Rourke and two campaign aides, an hour northwest to Ballinger and met with Rumsels County Judge Barry Hilliard in his office.

Hilliard, who grew up there, was a detective sergeant with the Midland Police Department until his mother called and said he needed to come back home to run the ranch established by his grandfather in 1880. He has been county judge for eight years.

At first the conversation had the feel of an awkward first date, if the date were being livestreamed on Facebook.

They talked about guns. O'Rourke mentioned his concern about "weapons of war," and Hilliard said he didn't think it made sense to ban semi-automatic weapons.

"We're different in Texas, in my opinion, we're special, like you say, we understand the situation with the guns where others in maybe larger metropolitan areas don't," he said.

O'Rourke said "some of my best memories" growing up were of hunting and that his three children, "Ulysses and Molly and Henry, when we go to the ranch, they're starting to use BB guns, and I don't know if they've used a .22 yet. Amy and I compete with shotguns, and Amy's the better shot, with the clay pigeon."

O'Rourke, further searching for common ground, said his parents were Republicans and so were Amy's parents. He also emphasized his positive campaign message.

"He's a very pleasant fellow. I'd be glad to call him my friend. I just don't think I agree and rural West Texas agrees with some of his stances," Hilliard told the Statesman in a post-election interview. "I thought his demeanor was awesome. I really liked him."

"I felt he was more moderate than what I expected," Hilliard said. "I consider myself a moderate. I don't agree with the far right or left."

When the ballots were counted, O'Rourke won 385 votes in Rumsels County, or 11.84 percent, virtually identical to Clinton's share of the vote two years ago.

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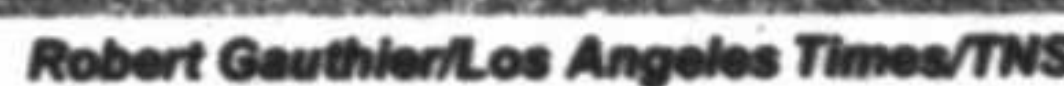
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A bridge over the river links Roma with Miguel Aleman, which, like many parts of the state of Tamaulipas, has been plagued by drug cartel violence. Some Roma residents have stopped going to the Mexi-



"In the '80s, we had 30 percent unemployment, but

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LIFE ON THE LINE

Border Patrol agents use secret signals, signs

Editor's note: Last part of a four-part series.

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske
Los Angeles Times

ROMA — The report came over the radio from a Border Patrol agent perched on the riverbank: "We've got a raft with five bodies on it. Roma, upriver from the bridge. I cannot see them; I just know they're already on the U.S. side."

Supervisory Agent Albert Olivares drove toward the action.

"Sounds like the group hit a bug," he said, slang for tripping a sensor planted in the thick mesquite brush.

Within minutes, half a dozen agents descended on nearby Water Street, about a block north of the Rio Grande. One brought a tracking dog, a German shepherd named Arys.

Such scenes unfold routinely in Roma, a town of 11,400 people on the Mexico border. It's a well-traveled entry into the Rio Grande Valley, the country's busiest corridor for illegal immigration.

If immigrants can cross the river here without being spotted, it's not difficult to clamber up the bank to hide in or around homes. They can run a few blocks to a strip mall, try to blend in with shoppers, or meet smugglers' cars on Highway 83. Agents call that brief window "vanishing time." Residents are so used to the cat-and-mouse of Border Patrol and immigrant that they barely look up as desperate dramas unfold around them.

On this steamy summer day, agents fanned out on Water Street, radios crackling again, this time with reports from a white aerostat blimp hovering above and agents across town.

"They didn't go north, they didn't go south. They doubled back, or they're in the houses," an agent said.

The blimp relayed images captured overhead to agents at controls on the ground, who updated those in the field.

Arys picked his way across an overgrown lot and led agents to the back of a tan brick house built into a hill. The owners had added a basement of gray cinder blocks to the hillside, with "Mexico" stamped on its side. Agents tried



Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times/TNS

Border Patrol dog Arys sits in front of a locked steel door where three immigrants are hiding from agents Aug. 3 in the backyard of a home on Garfield Avenue in Roma, about a block north of the Rio Grande.

one of two black metal doors. It held, sizzling in the tropical sun. "Open the door!" the dog handler, Ronnie Montemayor, shouted in Spanish.

The door didn't budge. "It's going to get very hot, and we're not leaving," he said. Silence. Radios buzzed again. Another raft had been spotted crossing the river. Though immigrants sometimes cross in the dead of night, here the days are just as busy. It was now about 11 a.m., the sun blazing.

Several cars drove past the developing crime scene, which didn't strike the agents as odd. What bothered them was a man in a dark gray van that lingered a block away, watching. Before they could question the man, he drove off.

Roma is famous for smuggling. Agents have trouble trusting residents, who they fear might work for Mexican cartels. Instead of cultivating neighbors, agents remain outsiders, on edge, relying on technology and subtle signs to do their job.

They ride horses, bicycles and boats down the river where smugglers' scouts pose as fishermen. They follow footprints like animal trackers, dragging roads with tires so that fresh prints stand out. One day an agent took a wooden plank and, like a groundskeeper dragging an infield, smoothed out dirt in a residence's backyard.

Agents also have learned to listen, patrolling trails that are as

thick with the calls of smugglers as the chaparral. A nightly chorus of smugglers' whistles, shouts and truck horns tell immigrants that it's time to move.

There were no sounds coming from the basement where agents waited with Arys. Agents called Roma police to see who owned the house as they picked their way around a backyard play set and basketball hoop. Neighbors said it was a family. Agents finally reached them by phone. They were not surprised to hear migrants were hiding in their basement.

"They've done it before," Olivares said.

Three agents tried to force the basement door, pushing with all their strength. It held. An agent got down on his knees to peer underneath. He saw a shoe, and a drop of sweat.

"Open the door. I see you. You're going to die without water," the agent shouted, banging on the hot metal.

The door opened a crack. Agents pulled three men into the weedy yard. Two of them, 23 and 17, were from Mexico. The third was Guatemalan. Jose Luis Garcia Morales initially spoke an indigenous language, Quiche, thinking one of the agents looked Guatemalan. He wasn't.

Garcia reverted to Spanish, explaining that he had traveled more than 1,600 miles north from Coatepec to feed his family. He had just 20 pesos left, about \$1.

"We all have children, parents," he said. He pointed at the agent.

"You, too, have a heart. You're working to eat. So are we."

The agent moved to load Garcia into a waiting van.

"Look," Garcia whispered. "Let me go."

"I can't," Garcia boarded the van.

Apprehensions don't always go so smoothly.

A year ago, a man Olivares was apprehending tried to grab his gun. He was saved by a safety holster. Olivares also responded last year to a call for help from agents on horse patrol who had found a heavyset migrant in distress on a nearby ranch.

"He had a very weak pulse," Olivares recalled. The man died in his truck before they could reach a hospital.

After capturing the three immigrants, Olivares drove east to the other side of town, past a house that agents call "radio man's" because the owner's father foiled law enforcement radio frequencies to smuggle drugs. He pointed out other landmarks, reciting nicknames agents had given them: dead dog corner, shot-up wheelbarrow, cake shop and Speedio's, a long-shuttered car wash.

When there are no street addresses for a given location, it's easier to say they're at the cactus patch or outhouse. Agents create some signposts of their own in the brush: an old doll jammed atop a roadblock; a Darth Vader mask nestled in a pecan tree trunk; scarecrows perched on the riverbank.

Agents also monitor popular smuggling pick-up spots, such as the Burger King on Highway 83.

"You'll see them eating a Whopper," said Olivares, 48, who grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and joined the Border Patrol in 1997.

He's seen smugglers dress up as UPS deliverymen, priests and pilots, "wings and all." The smugglers know when the Border Patrol makes shift changes and view these times as opportunities to cross the river.

"They're watching the aerostats as much as we do," Olivares said of smugglers. They wait until the blimps are routinely grounded to move groups of people or loads of drugs from stash houses across the river.

Days later, a pair of Border Patrol motorboats zoomed down a stretch of the Rio Grande to the east. When they saw fishermen on the Mexican riverbank, they slowed.

Agents lobbed casual questions in Spanish: What have you caught? Is the fishing good? As the fishermen spoke, agents photographed them and their Texas license plates. The men were loaded with gear, unlike others who agents had seen posing with crude sticks and strings. One even had a clutch of bass. But agents were still suspicious. If they lived in Texas, why fish from the opposite bank, at strategic bends overlooking stretches of river favored by migrants?

"Usually if anyone is hanging out here, they're scouting" for smugglers, Agent C. Hernandez said.

As agents guided the boats upriver, they leaned against plastic-coated cables running from the front of the boat to the top, designed to foil the wires that smugglers string across the river to catch them unawares. They call them "decapitation lines."

When they heard a raft had just crossed near Los Ebanos, the boats took off. Los Ebanos, a town downriver named after a stand of ebony trees, is home to the oldest hand-drawn ferry on the river, which carries a few cars and pedestrians across to a U.S. customs booth.

By the time the boats arrived, they found a muddy trail up the U.S. riverbank. Migrants had just scrambled out of sight. The smuggler's raft had vanished.

"They're probably watching us right now to see if we catch those guys," said Agent A. Martinez.

Agents headed up the trail to an overgrown cemetery. They pointed to a fresh wavy sneaker print called a "running W."

"They hugged the brush line past the cemetery," an agent said.

"They'll call ahead and have someone pick them up," another added.

The river agents radioed counterparts on the other side of the cemetery, on horse patrol. There was nothing to do but return to their boats. From there, they set out once again, coasting west, scanning the dense banks for smugglers.

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Wall Street faces annual losses despite solid gains for week

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press

Wall Street capped a week of volatile trading Friday with an uneven finish and the market's first weekly gain since November.

Losses in technology, energy and industrial stocks outweighed gains in retailers and other consumer-focused companies. Stocks spent much of the day wavering between small gains and losses, ultimately unable to maintain the momentum from a two-day winning streak.

Even so, the major stock indexes closed with their first weekly gain in what's been an otherwise painful last month of the year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 rose more than 2 percent for the week, while the Nasdaq added nearly 4 percent. The indexes are still all down around 10 percent for the month and on track for their worst December since 1931.

"It seems like convulsions in either direction have been the real norm for much of December and that's certainly been the case this week," said Eric Wiegand senior portfolio manager for Private Wealth Management at U.S. Bank. "The initial push higher and then seeing it subside a little bit is perhaps getting back to a little bit more of a normal environment, reflecting the reality that we have still a number of issues overhanging the market."

The market's sharp downturn since October has intensified this month, erasing all its 2018 gains and nudging the S&P 500 closer to its worst year since 2008.

Investors have grown worried that the testy U.S.-China trade dispute and higher interest rates would slow the economy, hurting corporate profits. This week, with trading volumes lower than usual because of the Christmas holiday, served up some pronounced swings in the market.

A steep sell-off during the shortened trading session on Christmas Eve left the major indexes down more than 2 percent. On Wednesday, stocks mounted a stunning rebound, posting the market's best day in 10 years as the Dow shot up more than 1,000 points for its biggest single-day point gain ever.

The market appeared ready to give much of those gains back on Thursday, before a late-afternoon reversal that erased a 600-point drop in the Dow left the market with a two-day winning streak.

"The market was so oversold and then Wednesday and Thursday were:



Richard Drew/AP

Executive Floor Governor Charles Caccose, left, and trader Tommy Kalikas consult Friday on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks are opening higher Friday as U.S. markets try to maintain the momentum from a late-day rally Thursday.

key reversal days, but also stronger closes than opens," said Janet Johnston, portfolio manager at TrimTabs Asset Management.

"The market was starting to price in the worst-case scenario: a recession," Johnston said.

Still, the market's downturn has left stocks substantially less expensive than they were heading into the fourth quarter, Johnston noted.

"And that sets up a good buying opportunity," she said.

On Friday, the S&P 500 index fell 3.09 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,485.74. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 76.42 points, or 0.3 percent, to 23,062.40. The average had briefly climbed to 243 points.

The Nasdaq added 5.03 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,584.52. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks climbed 6.11 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,337.92.

Technology companies, a big driver of the market's gains before things deteriorated in October, were among the big decliners. Alliance Data Systems dropped 1.4 percent to \$149.82.

Oil prices recovered after wavering in midmorning trading. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 1.6 percent to settle at \$45.33 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, inched up 0.1 percent to close at \$52.20 a barrel in London.

Despite the rise in oil prices, energy sector stocks declined. Cabot Oil & Gas slid 3.5 percent to \$22.95, while Hess lost 2.8 percent to \$40.38.

Retailers and other consumer-focused companies fared better. Amazon rose 1.1 percent to \$1,478.02.

Wells Fargo rose 0.5 percent to \$45.78 on news that the lender has agreed to pay \$575 million in a national settlement with state attorneys general over its fake bank accounts scandal. The San Francisco-based bank has acknowledged that its employees opened millions of unauthorized bank accounts for customers in order to meet unrealistic sales goals.

Tesla climbed 5.6 percent to \$333.87 after naming two independent directors to its board under an agreement with federal regulators.

Homebuilders fell broadly in the morning after the National Association of Realtors said its pending home sales index fell last month as fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes.

Higher mortgage rates and prices are squeezing would-be buyers out of the market, especially in the West. The stocks mostly recovered by mid-afternoon. William Lyon Homes gained 3.4 percent to \$10.81.

Bonds prices recovered after mid-day dip, sending the yield on the 10-year Treasury down to 2.72 percent from 2.74 percent late Thursday.

The dollar declined to 110.41 yen from Thursday's 110.74 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1442 from \$1.1449.

Gold edged up 0.1 percent to \$1,283 an ounce and silver gained 0.8 percent to \$15.44 an ounce. Copper rose 0.5 percent to \$2.68 a pound.

Overseas, major indexes in Europe closed higher while markets in Asia mostly rose. London's FTSE 100 gained 2.3 percent, while the Nikkei 225 index fell 0.3 percent.

Utah gears up to implement nation's lowest DUI limit

By Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — New Year's Eve revelers in Utah could find themselves with more than a hangover as 2019 dawns. If they drink and drive, they could end up on the wrong side of the nation's newest and lowest DUI threshold.

The 0.05 percent limit goes into effect Sunday, despite protests that it will punish responsible drinkers and hurt the state's tourism industry by adding to the reputation that the predominantly Mormon state is unfriendly to those who drink alcohol. The state's old limit was 0.08 percent, the threshold in most states.

For Utah lawmakers, the change is a safety measure aimed at encouraging people not to drink at all if they've been drinking.

The change was easily approved in 2017 by the Legislature, which is mostly Mormon and mostly Republican, and signed into law by Gov. Gary Herbert, also a Republican and member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The religion teaches its members to abstain from drinking alcohol.

"The vast majority of people nationwide think that if a person has been drinking they shouldn't be driving," said Republican Rep. Norm Thurston, who sponsored the measure.

The change means that depending on things such as food intake, a 150-pound man could be over the 0.05 limit after two beers in an hour, while a 120-pound woman could exceed it after a single drink in that time, according to figures from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The National Transportation Safety Board also backs the change, and many in the hospitality industry worry that other states will follow suit. Utah was among the first to adopt the now-standard 0.08 threshold decades ago, and lawmakers in four states — Washington, Hawaii, Delaware and New York — have floated measures to lower their DUI limit in recent years. None has passed.

"Other states proposing the 0.05 law, don't just follow blindly in the footsteps of Utah," said Jackson Shadelbower, a spokesman for the American Beverage Institute, a national restaurant group.

In 2017, the group took out newspaper ads in Utah, neighboring states and in USA Today, featuring a fake mugshot under a large headline reading, "Utah: Come for vacation, leave on probation."

It's unfair that smaller people could violate the new threshold after just one or two drinks in quick succession, even though they're no more impaired

than someone talking on a hands-free cellphone, his group argues.

NTSB member Bella Dinh-Zarr countered that fears about the law are overblown. Nearly 100 countries have a similar limit, and it hasn't correlated with less drinking per-capita. Federally funded research indicates the standard could save some 1,500 lives a year if adopted around the U.S., she said.

"The restaurant industry should support this because it keeps their customers alive and drinking," Dinh-Zarr said.

Utah's law takes effect as the state basks in the news that the U.S. Olympic Committee chose Salt Lake City over Denver as a future bid city, most likely for the 2030 Winter Olympics. State tourism officials say they're not concerned about the law driving away visitors.

With the increased use of Uber and other ride-hailing apps, many people going out for a night on the town don't set foot in their own cars. In Utah, DUI arrests have dropped more than 50 percent over the past seven years despite a booming population, according to state figures.

Even if the law doesn't present a practical problem, it could scare off some visitors who see the state as rigid about liquor laws, said David Corsun, director of the Daniels College of Business' Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management. Still, it's hard to say how big the impact might be.

"If you really want to ski Utah, you're going to ski Utah. You're just going to figure it out," Corsun said.

Police, meanwhile, say they're aiming to stop dangerous drivers, not target people who might have had a drink or two and could be in violation of the lowered DUI threshold.

"You can't just stop someone who left a bar because you suspect they may have used alcohol," said Sgt. Nick Street with the Utah Highway Patrol.

Still, patrons of Salt Lake City's burgeoning bar scene do feel unfairly singled out by the change.

Stopping for a whiskey after work with her sister at the upscale pub Beerhive, Maude Romney, 29, said she'll likely only go to places she can walk to from her downtown home.

"I'm paranoid about it already," she said.

A DUI charge can be expensive and have long-term effects on careers.

In a booth in a corner, recent Ohio transplant Rob Wheatley, 30, said he drinks to try new craft beers, not to get drunk. He's skeptical that the law will be a serious deterrent for binge drinkers.

"I don't know if it's going to change anyone's behavior," he said. "If they're going to have a beer, they're going to have a beer."

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

FORT WORTH Man charged with capital murder in death of infant son

A 26-year-old man is in custody and charged with capital murder in the death of his 2-month-old son.

Joseph Matthew Welborn of Fort Worth was being held in the Tarrant County jail Saturday on a \$250,000 bond.

His son, Christian Welborn, died Dec. 21 shortly after being taken to a hospital with a skull fracture.

Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn said during a news conference Friday that Welborn was home alone with the child when Christian suffered blunt force trauma to his head.

An arrest affidavit says Welborn, who has four other children, initially told investigators that one of Christian's siblings accidentally dropped him, but Welborn then gave conflicting accounts of what transpired.

The other children have been placed in state custody.

Online jail records don't

indicate if Welborn has an attorney to speak on his behalf.

PORT ARTHUR Machete-wielding man fatally shot by officer

A 35-year-old man wielding a machete has been shot and killed by a police officer in Southeast Texas.

Authorities in Port Arthur say they're investigating the circumstances that led to Friday's shooting but say the officer had repeatedly commanded the man

to drop the machete but he kept moving toward the officer, prompting the gunfire.

Bystanders told the Beaumont Enterprise that they heard six or seven shots.

Police have not released the names of the man or the officer, who was not injured.

The Jefferson County district attorney's office is investigating the shooting along with Port Arthur police.

Port Arthur is southeast of Beaumont along the border with Louisiana.

Planning ahead will make returning gifts easier

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

This is the season to give, and in some cases, return. Although returns are common, return policies vary greatly across stores. Stores aren't legally required to accept items for refund, exchange or credit unless goods were defective or misrepresented. Some stores provide refunds, while others only issue store credits. A few stores consider all sales to be final, while others do so only for sale or clearance items. It's important to read and understand the store's refund policy before trying to return an item from your stocking or unwrapped gift.

According to a survey from the National Retail Federation (NRF), just 32 percent of respondents indicated that a store's return policy was a top factor in deciding where to shop this holiday season. Sales, price and quality were the top factors. So, it's even more important to review those return policies now before having to wait in a long line at the store. Luckily for consumers, most retailers do accept returns in some form or another. However, returns can sometimes be frustrating. This is especially true now that the holidays are wrapping up.

Although returning gifts can be stressful, following these tips from

your BBB can make it easier:

■ **Know and understand the policies.**

As a consumer, know whether returns are subject to any fees, such as restocking fees, and if you'll receive cash or store credit. There may be different return policies for items bought on sale/clearance, as well as certain items because of health reasons. Return policies may also be different over the holidays, so double-check even if you're familiar with the retailer. It's also important to read and know the product's warranty in case it's defective.

■ **Keep receipts and packaging.**

Keep any receipts that came with the gift and bring them with you. When giving gifts, try and include a gift receipt. If you received a gift you want to return without a receipt, don't be afraid to ask the person who gave it to you. To make returns easier, don't remove tags from clothing and don't remove items from their packaging until you're sure you want to keep them. Many items, such as electronics and toys, are difficult to return once opened.

■ **Timing is important.**

The immediate few days after Christmas are known for frustratingly long return lines at stores. Try to plan your trips for days and times that will be less busy. However, don't wait too long. Many stores have special holiday return policies and won't

accept items after a certain amount of time has passed. Take extra care to know the time limits for returning your item.

■ **Know how to return gifts bought online.**

Read the posted return policy to find out if returns are allowed, what reasons are accepted, if there are restocking fees, where to send the item and whether you'll have to pay for return shipping. You may be able to save shipping costs by returning an item bought online to a store location.

■ **Re-gift, donate or sell if all else fails.**

Despite your best efforts, some items may just not be returnable. But don't let the item go to waste. Consider re-gifting it, donating it or selling it.

Heather Massey is the Regional Director for the Permian Basin office of Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin. She is available for media interviews and speaking engagements. You can reach her by phone: 741-2592 or email: hmassey@permianbasin.bbb.org.

For more consumer information, BBB Business Reviews or to file a complaint, visit your local Better Business Bureau online at bbb.org/central-texas.

Crime Stoppers fugitive

KEITH MOTEN

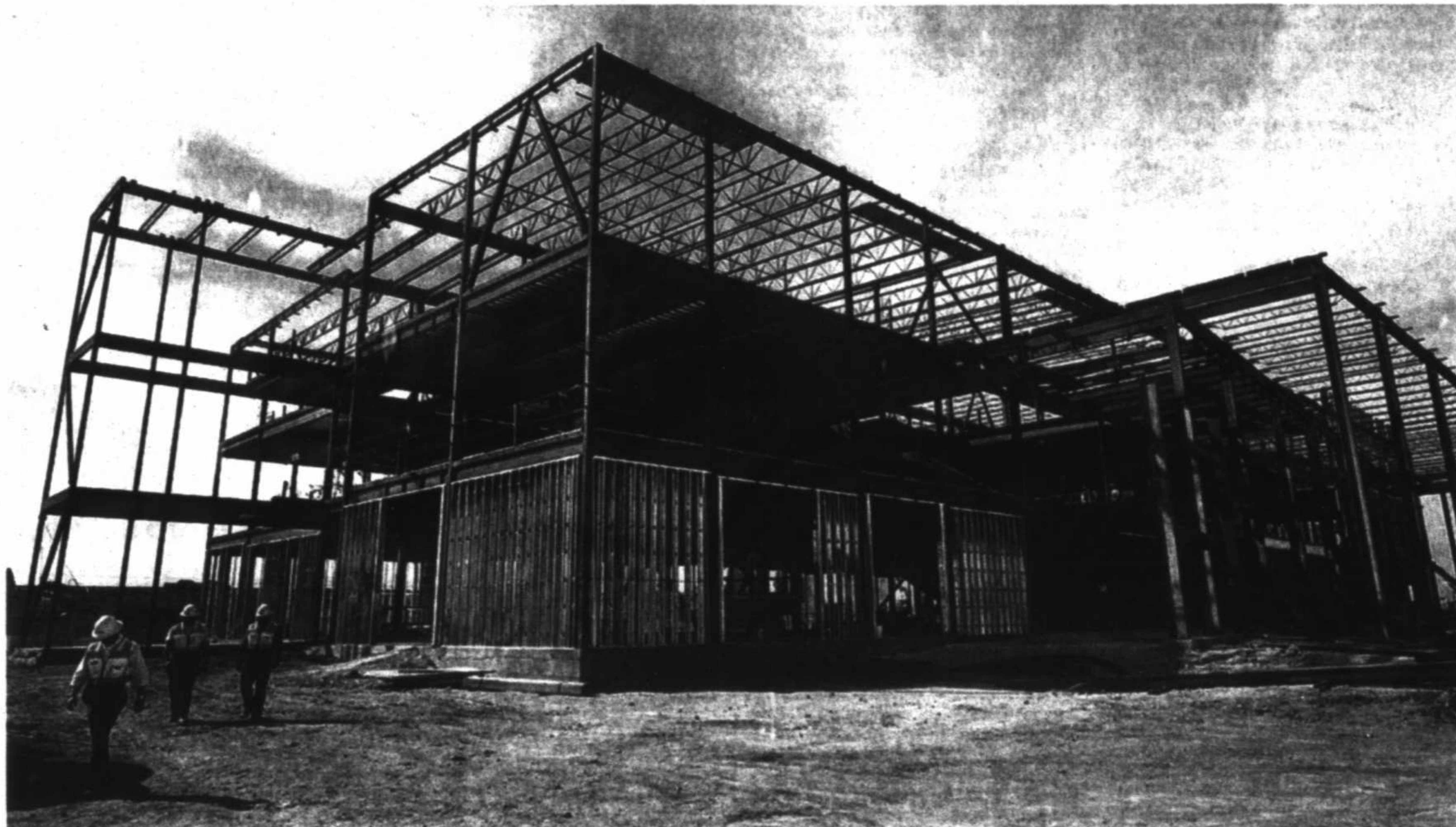
DOB: 2-8-1990
Height and weight: 6 foot 2;
183 pounds
Charge: Fail Comply Sex Offender Registration — Violation of Probation



Moten

■ **Wanted as of 12-27-2018**
■ **\$500 Reward to the first person who calls Midland Crime Stoppers this week with information that leads to this fugitive's arrest.**
■ **Call 684-TIPS or 1-800-7-LOCKUP, online at midlandcrimestoppers.com or text TIP247 plus your message to 274637**
■ **Mobile App 'P3 TIPS' or go to www.p3tips.com**
■ **As always you will remain anonymous**
■ **NEVER attempt to apprehend this subject yourself.**
■ **Subject may be armed or dangerous.**

EYE ON DEVELOPMENT



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Construction on the UTPB engineering building photographed April 5, 2018.

MDC commits to innovative projects to meet Midland's challenges

By Brent Hilliard
Midland Development
Corp. board chair

The Permian Basin's oil and gas industry has emerged as the economic powerhouse of the nation. With 8.5 percent year-over-year growth in employment, and 30 percent growth in sales tax revenues, Midland is experiencing an unprecedented economic upswing.

In January through October 2018, an estimated 40 new workers joined Midland's labor force each day. This is accompanied by the challenges of rapid expansion that have revealed our city's

urgent need for greater capacities in infrastructure, medical care, workforce housing and comprehensive educational opportunities. Unless Midland can sustainably manage its growth, it will become an outpost for oil and gas extraction, not a locus of opportunity where families thrive and quality of life is cultivated.

However, Midland is blessed with visionary community and elected leaders who are eminently capable of unlocking our city's potential and taking transformational action. Collaboration among these leaders is the key factor that will enable our

city to provide for the needs of its residents.

The Midland Development Corp. is committed to precisely that kind of collaboration. Over the past five years, we have funded or committed to \$15 million of road and infrastructure projects with the city of Midland; \$9 million of road projects with the Texas Department of Transportation; \$1.35 million for Midland College and Midland Independent School District's dual credit and technology education programs; \$2 million for Midland Health's Physician Recruitment Program; \$10 million for UT Permian Basin's College of Engineering and Makerspace; \$8.4 million for Texas Tech Health Sciences Center's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program and about \$450,000 for Midland College's Transportation Training Program, among many other projects. The MDC's board views its activities as a portfolio of investments that are targeted to best assist Midland in its areas of greatest opportunity and most acute need.

In 2018, the MDC committed itself to innovative projects to meet Midland's extraordinary challenges. This prompted us to invest in an in-house engineering department of three civil engineers, empowering the MDC to more effectively develop its business parks, expedite infrastructure projects and participate with the city of Midland's road and right-of-way planning. The MDC is the first economic development corporation in Texas to establish its own engineering team.

The opportunities available in Midland demand ground-breaking responses. We cannot fall back on methods that worked in the past. Blessed by resources and energetic leadership, the MDC finds itself in a position to accelerate Midland's trajectory toward a future that fulfills our great potential.

Study: Midland County is 3rd financially healthiest in Texas

From staff reports

Midland County dropped from the first to the third most financially healthy county in the state, according to SmartAsset.

The financial technology company shows Midland ranked behind Lavaca and Fayette in the state rankings.

The study, according to SmartAsset, looked at debt, bankruptcy, poverty and unemployment and indicates Midland County:

- is 0.86 percent in debt as a percentage of income;
- has 0.38 bankruptcies per 1,000 people;
- with a poverty rate of 9.7 percent; and
- with an unemployment rate of 3 percent.

Among the counties in the top 10, Midland ranked eighth in debt as a percentage of income, seventh in bankruptcies per 1,000

people, first in poverty rate and third in unemployment rate.

SmartAsset said that to calculate debt as a percent of income, they divided debt per capita by income per capita; to calculate bankruptcies per 1,000 people, they divided total bankruptcies by the population and multiplied that number by 1,000.

The 10 healthiest counties in Texas (2017 rankings in parentheses)

Lavaca (4)
Fayette (6)
Midland (7)
Gilmer (12)
Deaf Smith (not ranked)
Scurry (20)
Johnson (24)
Moore (26)
Llano (28)
Burleson (29)
Dropout: Webb (35), Andrews (35), Randall (7), Randall (8), Collin (8), Fort Bend (19)

Cities with least inflation over past 10 years

Note: SmartAsset looked at the price of goods and services. After calculating purchase power, SmartAsset chose the average per capita income by the end of living in each city for both 2007 and 2017. The change in purchasing power from 2007 to 2017 then shows the cities in the country with the least inflation.

City	Change in purchasing power	Average change in cost of living	Average change in personal income	Change in inflation
Urban area	44.81	1.85	5.5	100
Provo, Utah	38.55	-0.52	2.47	89.59
Suburban, Michigan	38.19	0.09	3.14	88.21
Birmingham, Ohio	35.11	-0.12	2.46	75.10
Delaware, Ohio	35.09	-0.14	2.05	74.21
Wilmington, North Carolina	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
Champaign, Illinois	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
Waco, Texas	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
Lawrence, Kansas	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
Peoria, Illinois	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
Rockford, Illinois	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
Rockford, Illinois	32.28	0.16	2.05	70.46
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Note: Percentages are listed in the following categories: Change in purchasing power, average change in cost of living, average change in personal income.

City	Average change in cost of living	Average change in personal income	Change in inflation
Urban area	1.85	5.5	100
Provo, Utah	-0.52	2.47	89.59
Suburban, Michigan	0.09	3.14	88.21
Birmingham, Ohio	-0.12	2.46	75.10
Delaware, Ohio	-0.14	2.05	74.21
Wilmington, North Carolina	0.16	2.05	70.46
Champaign, Illinois	0.16	2.05	70.46
Waco, Texas	0.16	2.05	70.46
Lawrence, Kansas	0.16	2.05	70.46
Peoria, Illinois	0.16	2.05	70.46
Rockford, Illinois	0.16	2.05	70.46
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Rockford, Illinois	0.16	2.05	70.46

Note: Percentages are listed in the following categories: Change in purchasing power, average change in cost of living, average change in personal income.

Building permits Dec. 17 - 21

3020 W. Front Street 1004 N. Big Spring Street	New Commercial Commercial-Accessory Building	1908 Chuck Wagon 2913 Chelsea Place 1805 Wrangler Lane	New Residence New Residence New Residence	3803 Wedgewood Court 4917 Rustic Trail 4817 Rustic Trail	Residential Addition Residence-Detached Residential Alteration
3408 N. Midkiff Road 3408 N. Midkiff Road 500 N. Baird Street	Commercial Alteration Commercial Alteration Commercial Alteration	4502 Solana Court 1803 Wrangler Lane 1807 Wrangler Lane	New Residence New Residence New Residence	3310 Maxwell Drive 2604 Soaring Drive 20000 Winfield Road	Residential Alteration Residence-Detached Residential Alteration
2907 N. Big Spring Street 3314 W. Illinois Ave. 722 W. Kansas Ave.	Commercial Alteration Swimming Pool Swimming Pool	1804 Rattler Lane 1806 Rattler Lane 1800 Rattler Lane	New Residence New Residence New Residence	4501 Roadrunner Trail 1412 E. Mockingbird Lane 203 Seal Parkway	New Residence Sign Sign
25 Suffolk Drive 5502 Heartland Court 1201 Princeton Ave.	Residential Alteration Residential Addition	1802 Rattler Lane 5311 Logan Court	New Residence New Residence		

Source: City of Midland



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Jessica Hill/AP

Michele Fitzpatrick, a retired lieutenant commander in the Coast Guard, poses for a photograph Dec. 18 at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Female veterans, both current and former service members, were more likely to vote in the 2018 midterm elections for Democrats than Republicans, 60 percent to 36 percent, according to data from VoteCast.

Military women, female veterans are shifting away from GOP

By Hope Yen and Jennifer McDermott
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It had been months since retired Lt. Cmdr. Michele Fitzpatrick paid attention to news coverage. She was turned off by President Donald Trump's tweets and attacks on critics such as the late Republican Sen. John McCain, a war hero. But as the November midterm elections approached, she fired up her laptop.

A member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Class of 1980, the first to include women, Fitzpatrick began researching candidates and poring over issues. On Election Day, she voted without hesitation: all Democrat.

"I just don't think what's happening now is helpful," Fitzpatrick, of Groton, Connecticut, said in a telephone interview, pointing to the negative discourse in Washington. "It's almost like watching kids and bullies on the playground instead of people actually doing something about helping this country to survive and to thrive."

That's hardly a startling view from a Democrat these days. But from a military vet?

Long seen as a bastion of support for Republicans, the face of the U.S. military and its veterans is changing — and perhaps too is their political bent.

Veterans by and large did vote for GOP candidates on Nov. 6, affirming Trump's frequent claim that they stand among his strongest backers. But more women are joining the military, and they are bucking the pattern, according to data from AP VoteCast.

The 60-year-old Fitzpatrick recalls suppressing her opinions as a young "hardcore Democrat" in an overwhelmingly Republican military but finding other ways to promote change, such as supporting other female cadets.

Now, women in the military are helping elect new Democratic lawmakers and spur discussion on once little-mentioned topics such as sexual harassment and women in combat roles. As political candidates, female veterans also had a breakout performance in the midterms, sometimes campaigning as a foil to Trump: empathetic and competent on issues such as health care while also trustworthy on military and defense, typically a GOP strength.

"I see this as a beginning edge of a larger movement," said Jeremy Teigen, professor of political science at Ramapo College and author of "Why Veterans Run: Military Service in American Presidential Elections, 1789-2016."

Both current and former female service members were more likely to vote in the 2018 midterm elections for Democrats than Republicans, 60 percent to 36 percent, according to the data from VoteCast. Men with military backgrounds voted Republican by roughly the same margin,

58 percent to 39 percent.

A record number of female veterans — four — were elected to the House, all Democrats. Three won in political swing districts, helping give the party control of the chamber next year.

Democratic Rep.-elect Chrissy Houlahan, a former Air Force captain, said she was motivated to run after organizing a bus trip last year to the Women's March in Washington. She felt her election would serve as a repudiation of Trump, but she avoided sharp rhetoric in favor of a message of service to country and getting things done.

She recalled Pennsylvania voters telling her they were exhausted by gridlock and partisan attacks and "would like our nation and our democracy and our values to stabilize to what we can recognize."

All told, 55 percent of voters who had served in the military backed Republican candidates in the elections, compared to 42 percent who supported Democrats, according to VoteCast data.

Trump frequently embraces the U.S. military and veterans in speeches, referring to "my military," though he has also insulted war heroes such as McCain and military families who criticize him. "I think the vets, maybe more than anybody else, appreciate what we are doing for them," Trump said last month.

Not the female veterans, though. Their margin of support for Democrats was comparable to that of women overall, according to VoteCast data.

AP VoteCast is a nationwide survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters — including more than 4,000 current and former service members — conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago.

Laura Cavallaro, 35, who served on active duty in the Marine Corps from 2001 to 2005 and on inactive duty until 2009, says she's never voted but thinks she will in 2020. A recent graduate of Rhode Island College, she said she believes Trump has kept his promises about helping the economy and creating jobs. At the same time, "Who knows if he's going to say something to the wrong person and start another war?" she said. That's particularly concerning for military veterans who know what's at stake in combat.

When Cavallaro joined the military, she considered herself a Republican because her parents were. Now, she sees herself more as an independent, saying she's pro-gun rights and pro-gay rights.

"I think being in the military kind of opened my eyes to a lot more things," she said. "If I had stayed in Rhode Island, I wouldn't have met so many different personalities and people with other political views."

In 2016, the Defense Department lifted all restrictions on the roles women can perform in the military, sparking broader debate

about combat missions and even whether women should be eligible for the draft.

Currently, there are more than 20 million veterans of the U.S. armed forces, about 10 percent of them female, the fastest growing subgroup. In the U.S. military forces, 16.6 percent of those enlisted are women, up from about 2 percent in 1973.

Women now make up 20 percent of the Air Force, 19 percent of the Navy, 15 percent of the Army and 8.6 percent of the Marines, according to Defense Department figures. In the Coast Guard, a division of the Department of Homeland Security, women make up 22 percent of the officers and 13 percent of those enlisted. The Coast Guard Academy, where Fitzpatrick was among the first women to attend in 1976, enrolled a class this year that is 40 percent female, a new high.

Teigen, who studies military voting, said that in the context of the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment, female veterans running for office provided a contrast for voters, "someone who was willing to volunteer to take time out of their youth to serve their country and stand up for others," compared to Trump, a New York billionaire with five wartime draft deferments and a fraught history with women. Of the military veterans who ran for the House, 12 were women, the highest number ever.

Houlahan will serve her first House term starting in January, along with former Navy pilot Mikie Sherrill, D-N.J., and Navy veteran Elaine Luria, D-Va., who defeated another veteran, Republican Rep. Scott Taylor, a former Navy SEAL. The women prevailed in tight races by tying their opponents to Trump and the GOP congressional majority while pledging to work on both sides of the aisle. All had stories about being among the only women working among men and used their platforms to speak out about abuses in the military.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, a frequent Trump critic, also won re-election. She is a member of her state's National Guard.

In all, seven female veterans will serve in the next Congress, up from four. The veterans in the House will join Sens. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot, and Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, a combat veteran in the Iowa Army National Guard. Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., a retired Air Force colonel, lost her Senate bid but was later appointed by Arizona's governor to replace Sen. Jon Kyl in the seat that belonged to McCain.

"I sure hope I got to make history," Houlahan said cautiously, when asked about her candidacy and the influence female veterans could have on Washington. "That would be amazing. And I would be happy to serve everybody, not just the women and the Democrats."

Short on solutions, long on blame in 2nd shutdown weekend

By Zeke Miller
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cooped up in the White House after canceling a vacation to his private Florida club, President Donald Trump fired Twitter barbs at Democrats on Saturday as talks to end a weeklong partial government shutdown remained at a stalemate.

As the disruption in federal services and public employees' pay appeared set to continue into the new year, there were no signs of any substantive negotiation between the blame-trading parties. Trump held out for billions in federal funds for a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico, which Democrats have said they were intent on blocking.

Trump tweeted Saturday that he was "in the White House waiting for the Democrats to come on over and make a deal on Border Security." But there has been little direct contact between the sides during the stalemate, and Trump did not ask Republicans, who hold a monopoly on power in Washington for another five days, to keep Congress in session.

As he called for Democrats to negotiate on the wall, Trump brushed off criticism that his administration bore any responsibility for the recent deaths of two migrant children in Border Patrol custody. Trump claimed the deaths were "strictly the fault of the Democrats and their pathetic immigration policies that allow people to make the long trek thinking they can enter our country illegally." His comments on Twitter came as his Homeland Security secretary met with medical professionals and ordered policy changes meant to better protect children detained at the border.

Trump earlier had upped the brinkmanship by threatening anew to close the border with Mexico to press Congress to cave to his demand for money to pay for a wall. Democrats are vowing to pass legislation restoring the government as soon as they take control of the House on Thursday, but that won't accomplish anything unless Trump and the Republican-controlled Senate go along with it.

Talks have been at a stalemate for more than a week, after Democrats said the White House offered to accept \$2.5 billion for border security last Saturday. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told Vice President Mike Pence that it wasn't acceptable, nor was it guaranteed that Trump, under intense pressure from his conservative base to fulfill his signature campaign promise, would settle for that amount.

House GOP quietly ends probe into FBI's 2016 decisions

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans say more investigation is needed into decisions made by the FBI and the Justice Department in 2016 as they brought an unceremonious end to their yearlong look at the department's handling of probes into Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails and Donald Trump's ties to Russia. In a letter released Friday evening, less than a week before Republicans cede the House majority to Democrats, the chairmen of two House committees described what they said was the "seemingly disparate treatment" the two probes received during the presidential election in 2016 and called on the Justice Department to appoint a special counsel to investigate further.

House Judiciary Chairman Robert Goodlatte and Rep. Trey Gowdy, House Oversight and Government Reform chairman, both of whom are retiring next week, sent a letter to the Justice Department and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell saying they reviewed thousands of documents and conducted interviews that "revealed

troubling facts which exacerbated our initial questions and concerns." Republicans have said since the election that they believe Justice officials were biased against President Trump when they started an investigation into his ties to Russia and cleared Clinton in a separate probe into her email use.

The wrapping up of the congressional investigation, done in a letter and without a full final report, was a quiet end to a probe that was conducted mostly behind closed doors but also in public as Republican lawmakers often criticized interview subjects afterward and suggested they were conspiring against Trump.

The investigation's most public day was a 10-hour open hearing in July in which former FBI special agent Peter Strzok defended anti-Trump texts he sent to a colleague as he helped lead both investigations. Strzok fought with Republican lawmakers in a riveting spectacle that featured Strzok reading aloud from his sometimes-lewd texts, and Democrats and Republicans openly yelling at each other. Goodlatte and Gowdy laid out several concerns in the letter, many of them echoing a report issued this year by the Justice Department's internal watchdog. That re-

port concluded that Strzok's anti-Trump text messages cast a cloud on the agency's handling of the probe and also that fired FBI Director James Comey repeatedly broke from protocol, including when he announced his recommendation against charging Clinton. But unlike the congressional investigation, the report also found there was no evidence that Comey's or the department's final conclusions were motivated by political bias toward either candidate.

Democrats have blasted the GOP-led congressional probe, saying it was merely meant as a distraction from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. New York Rep. Jerry Nadler, the top Democrat on the judiciary committee, and Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, top Democrat on the oversight panel, are expected to end the investigation when they take power in January. Nadler has called it "senseless."

California Rep. Adam Schiff, who does not sit on either panel but is the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, tweeted Friday evening that the Republican investigation is ending "not with a bang, but with a Friday, buried in the holidays whisper, and one foot out the door."

NOTICE TO PATIENTS

Effective January 1, 2019, R. Moss Hampton, M.D. will no longer be affiliated with Texas Tech Physicians of the Permian Basin, and thus will no longer be providing patient care through the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology University Women's Health Clinic.

All post-operative evaluation and follow-up care will be provided by other department physicians. Alternatively, all patients will have the opportunity to obtain a copy of medical records or have them transferred by request from the clinic office at:

701 W. 9th Street
Odessa, Texas 79763
Or by calling: (432) 709-2290

California officer's killing reignites sanctuary law fight

By Olga R. Rodriguez and Jocelyn Gecker
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The shooting death of a California police officer has reignited the debate over sanctuary laws, with a sheriff all but blaming the statewide immigration policy for the killing as he announced the arrest of a man living in the U.S. illegally.

A two-day statewide manhunt ended Friday with the arrest of Gustavo Perez Arriaga, who came out with his hands up as a SWAT team prepared to raid a home in Bakersfield, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) southeast of where Cpl. Ronil Singh was shot in the small town of Newman before dawn Wednesday.

Perez Arriaga was captured while planning to flee to his native Mexico, authorities said.

Sheriff Adam Christianson, who led the investigation, blamed California's sanctuary law for preventing local authorities from reporting Perez Arriaga to U.S. immigration officials for deportation after two previous drunken driving arrests.

"We can't ignore the fact that this could have been preventable," Christianson told reporters, asking why the state was "providing sanctuary for criminals (and) gang members. It's a conversation we need to have."

The laws are a flashpoint between jurisdictions that say they allow immigrant communities to report crimes without fear of deportation and the Trump administration, which has vowed to crack down on such cities and states.

President Donald Trump tweeted about Singh's killing Thursday by saying it was "time to get tough on Border Security. Build the Wall!"

The immigration fight has intensified



Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department via AP

This undated file photo shows officer Ronil Singh who was killed on duty conducting a traffic stop early Wednesday in the town of Newman, Calif. A suspected drunken driver accused of fatally shooting Singh who pulled him over was captured Friday as he tried to flee back to Mexico, where he lived before illegally crossing into the U.S., authorities said.

as Trump pushes for funding for a border wall that congressional Democrats oppose, forcing a partial government shutdown.

Perez Arriaga crossed the border in Arizona several years ago and had worked a variety of jobs as a laborer, including at several dairies. The 33-year-old had gang affiliations and multiple Facebook pages with different names, Christianson said.

An email to a sheriff's spokesman asking whether Perez Arriaga had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf wasn't returned and a phone call rang to a voicemail that was full.

California's sanctuary law includes

more than 800 exceptions for violent crimes and felonies and bars police from asking people about their citizenship status.

Gov. Jerry Brown has said the law strikes a balance between protecting families and ensuring consequences for serious criminals. His spokesman said Friday that if the suspect was a known gang member, police could have informed federal authorities.

"California law fully permits the sharing of information on dangerous gang members," spokesman Evan Westrup said. Former state Sen. Kevin de Leon, the

Democrat who wrote the legislation, said it's "highly irresponsible" to blame the law for the officer's death.

"The type of tone and attitude that Sheriff Christianson has taken instills fear and panic in all immigrant communities" that could make people afraid to report crimes, de Leon told KNX-AM radio in Los Angeles.

Cpl. Singh had pulled over a suspected drunken driver in Newman when he was fatally wounded, and he managed to fire back but didn't hit the attacker, authorities have said.

A resident who saw the driver get behind the wheel flagged down Singh and heard the gunshots minutes later, Stanislaus County sheriff's Sgt. Tom Letras told the Modesto Bee newspaper.

Authorities have arrested seven other people, including Perez Arriaga's brothers, 25-year-old Adrian Virgen and 34-year-old Conrado Virgen Mendoza; his girlfriend, 30-year-old Ana Leyde Cervantes; and a co-worker, 27-year-old Erik Razo Quiroz, authorities said. Three people were arrested at the home near Bakersfield.

All are accused of helping Perez Arriaga, who's expected to be arraigned on charges Wednesday, authorities said.

Singh, 33, was also an immigrant, coming legally from his native Fiji to fulfill his dream of becoming an officer, authorities said. Singh had a newborn son and joined the 12-officer Newman police force in 2011.

Newman Police Chief Randy Richardson called him a patriot.

"This is a man that loved his country. This is a man that worked hard for what he believed in. He believed in this community," the chief said at a candlelight vigil that hundreds attended Friday night to honor Singh. "Ronil loved his job." Reggie Singh told the crowd, holding his brother's 5-month-old son.

Despite #MeToo, rape cases still confound police

By Jim Mustian and Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The #MeToo movement is empowering victims of sexual assault to speak up like never before, but what should be a watershed moment for holding assailants accountable has coincided with a troubling trend: Police departments in the U.S. are becoming less and less likely to successfully close rape investigations.

The so-called "clearance rate" for rape cases fell last year to its lowest point since at least the 1960s, according to FBI data provided to The Associated Press. That nadir may be driven, at least in part, by a greater willingness by police to correctly classify rape cases and leave them open even when there is little hope of solving them.

But experts say it also reflects the fact that not enough resources are being devoted to investigating sexual assault at a time when more victims are entrusting police with their harrowing experiences.

"This is the second-most serious crime in the FBI's crime index," said Carol Tracy, executive director of the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia, "and it simply doesn't get the necessary resources from police."

Police successfully closed just 32 percent of rape investigations nationwide in 2017, according to the data, ranking it second only to robbery as the least-solved violent crime. That statistic is down from about 62 percent in 1964, despite advances such as DNA testing.

The FBI provided The AP with a dataset of rape statistics dating back to the early 1960s — a table that includes more complete data than the snapshot the bureau releases each fall.

The grim report card has prompted debate among criminal justice experts, with some attributing the falling clearance rate to an antiquated approach to investigations.

"You'd figure with all the new technology — and the fact that the overwhelming majority of victims of sexual assault know their attacker — the clearance rates would be a lot higher," said Joseph Giacalone, a former New York City police sergeant who teaches at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

"It's almost as if forensics and DNA has let us down," he said.

Experts agree that sexual assault is one of the most confounding crimes police confront. Many investigations lack corroborating witnesses and physical evi-

"This is the second-most serious crime in the FBI's crime index, and it simply doesn't get the necessary resources from police."

Carol Tracy,

executive director of the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia

dence. A significant chunk of complaints are reported months or years after the fact. Researchers believe only a third of rapes are reported at all.

Historically, some detectives also discouraged women from pursuing tough-to-prove charges against boyfriends, husbands or close acquaintances. The declining clearance rate could mean that investigators in some places are finally classifying rape investigations properly, said Kim Lonsway, research director at End Violence Against Women International.

Rather than hastily "clearing" certain tough-to-solve cases, she said, some police departments have begun "suspending" them, meaning they remain open indefinitely. That leaves open the possibility there could someday be an arrest.

"This may be an indicator of some positive things," Lonsway said.

The FBI's clearance numbers provide an incomplete picture of how often rapists are brought to justice. That's because they also include "exceptional clearances," where police close an investigation without charging anyone, for reasons beyond the department's control. That could be because a victim stopped cooperating or the suspect died or is incarcerated in another state, among other reasons.

The figures do not specify the percentage of rape cases that are exceptionally cleared compared with those resulting in arrests, but state data can fill out the picture in some places.

In Detroit, for instance, police investigated 664 reported rapes last year but made just 44 arrests, according to Michigan data. Another 15 cases were

closed for other reasons. That would give Detroit a clearance rate of 8.9 percent, even though only 6.6 percent of reported rapes resulted in an arrest.

Sam Gaspario said that when she reported in 2011 that she had been sexually assaulted, police in Woodbury, Minnesota, lacked a sense of urgency.

Investigators in the St. Paul suburb expressed frustration that she delayed reporting the attack for more than a year and couldn't recall the precise date. One time, when she phoned to follow up her case, she was put on hold indefinitely.

"To me, it felt like it was invalidated," Gaspario said. "I was just completely dismissed."

Woodbury Police Cmdr. Steve Willis acknowledged Gaspario's complaint fell through the cracks and was not investigated for years, something he called "a system failure."

"Obviously, we own that," Willis said.

Willis said authorities have "no reason not to believe" Gaspario but decided a few weeks ago they could not prove her alleged attacker had forced her into intercourse.

He acknowledged police would have been in a firmer position to investigate the case had they begun looking into the matter immediately.

"It can make a person so angry," Gaspario said. "Are women supposed to start wearing body cameras when they're alone in a room with somebody?"

Many police sex assault units have heavy workloads and insufficient staffing, said Kevin Strom, the director of RTI International's Center for Policing Research & Investigative Science, a research center based in North Carolina. "I think that has a major

impact in terms of influencing the ability of law enforcement to successfully clear these cases," he said.

The clearance rate in rape cases dropped steadily in the 1960s, plateaued at nearly 50 percent through most of the 70s, 80s and 90s, then began a steady yearly decline last year, according to the statistics collected by the FBI.

In 2013, the FBI significantly broadened the definition of rape in its Uniform Crime Reporting system to include oral penetration and attacks on men. After the revision, the number of rapes counted in the system soared from an average of around 84,500 per year between 1995 and 2012, to nearly 126,400 in 2016. The clearance rate after the adjustment continued to tick down, falling from 38 percent to 32 percent.

The number leapt again to 166,000 in 2017, a year when sexual assault got unprecedented national attention in the wake of allegations made against President Donald Trump and Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. Both men deny assaulting anyone.

Rape complaints in New York City, for instance, surged 24.5 percent as the #MeToo movement took off, according to city crime statistics.

"I think that has a major impact in terms of influencing the ability of law enforcement to successfully clear these cases," he said.

The NYPD, the nation's biggest municipal police force, transferred three dozen investigators to the special victims division in April, trimming a detective's average caseload from 77 to 64. The department also started an advertising campaign encouraging sexual assault victims to come forward.

"We believe that the stigma has been removed to a degree," said Lori Pollock, the department's chief of crime control strategies, "so people are much more comfortable — especially in domestic situations — to come forward and report rapes that are happening now and rapes that have happened in the past."

Authorities: Missouri man shot girlfriend, her kids, mother

Associated Press

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — A St. Louis-area man shot his girlfriend, her two young children and her mother in the home they all shared, authorities said Saturday. He exchanged gunfire with officers as he fled and was captured several hours later in a convenience store, covered in blood and wounded.

Prosecutors filed 15 charges against Richard Darren Emery of St. Charles, Missouri, including first-degree murder, assault and attempted robbery. Authorities said Emery, 46, abandoned his own pickup and tried unsuccessfully to steal a woman's car while on the run, attacking her as well.

Emery remained in a local hospital with two gunshot wounds that authorities said did not appear self-inflicted and most likely came from the shootout with officers. St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney Tim Lohmar said investigators did not know the motive for the shootings as of Saturday evening.

"We may never know," Lohmar said during a news conference. "This one in particular was the worst example of a domestic violence case. Anytime you have a domestic violence case you worry about the safety of the victim, and this would be your worst nightmare."

St. Charles is a city of about 70,000 residents on the Missouri River northwest of St. Louis. Officials said it's had a spate of deadly domestic violence incidents recently — with six deaths in the past eight days that Lohmar said are unrelated. Officials said police

received a call just before midnight Friday about a shooting at the house where Emery and the victims lived. Lohmar said officers later found three victims dead of gunshot wounds in one bedroom. They were Zoe Kasten, 8; her brother, Jonathan Kasten, 10; and their grandmother, Jane Moeckel, 61.

Officers found the fourth victim, a 39-year-old woman, in the home's master bedroom, suffering from gunshot wounds but still alive, Lohmar said. She was taken to an area hospital, where she died.

Authorities did not name the fourth victim but described her as the children's mother, the daughter of the older woman and Emery's girlfriend.

The initial call came to police from inside the house, and Lohmar said investigators believe Moeckel made it.

"During that phone call, the 911 operator could hear gunshots in the background," St. Charles Police Lt. Tom Wilkinson said.

Lohmar said Emery attempted to flee in his pickup and was stopped by a police car. He and the officers exchanged shots, and he fled on foot. Authorities described his attempt to steal another vehicle as a carjacking and said she stabbed his female driver seven times. They said her injuries were not life-threatening.

The area is wooded, and Lohmar said Emery was able to elude police in the dark. But when he sought shelter in the bathroom of the convenience store a few miles away, an employee contacted police, Lohmar said.

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John 14:26-28

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

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Humans shed 40 pounds of skin in their lifetimes, completely replacing their outer skin every month.

The average adult human has two to nine pounds of bacteria in his or her body.

Pluto explorer ushering in new year at more distant world

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The spacecraft team that brought us close-ups of Pluto will ring in the new year by exploring an even more distant and mysterious world.

NASA's New Horizons spacecraft will zip past the scrawny, icy object nicknamed Ultima Thule soon after the stroke of midnight.

One billion miles beyond Pluto and an astounding 4 billion miles from Earth, Ultima Thule will be the farthest world ever explored by humankind. That's what makes this deep-freeze target so enticing: it's a preserved relic dating all the way back to our solar system's origin 4.5 billion years ago. No spacecraft has visited anything so primitive.

"What could be more exciting than that?" said project scientist Hal Weaver of Johns Hopkins University, part of the New Horizons team.

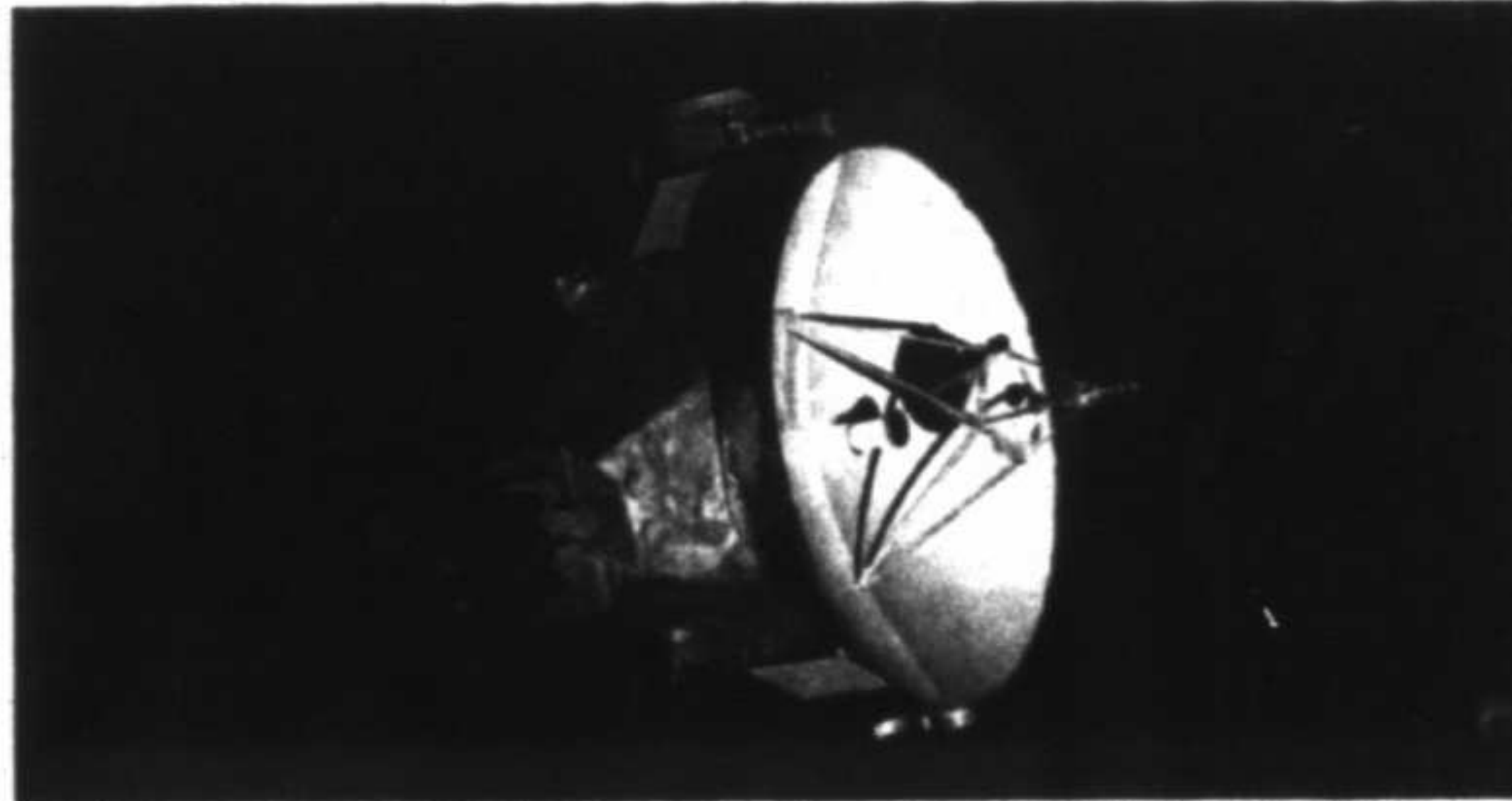
Lead scientist Alan Stern of Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, expects the New Year's encounter to be riskier and more difficult than the rendezvous with Pluto: The spacecraft is older, the target is smaller, the flyby is closer and the distance from us is greater.

NEW HORIZONS

NASA launched the spacecraft in 2006; it's about the size of a baby grand piano. It flew past Pluto in 2015, providing the first close-up views of the dwarf planet. With the wildly successful flyby behind them, mission planners won an extension from NASA and set their sights on a destination deep inside the Kuiper Belt. As distant as it is, Pluto is barely in the Kuiper Belt, the so-called Twilight Zone stretching beyond Neptune. Ultima Thule is in the Twilight Zone's heart.

ULTIMA THULE

This Kuiper Belt object was discovered by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2014. Officially known as 2014 MU69, it got the nickname Ultima Thule in an online vote. In classic and medieval literature, Thule was the most distant, northernmost place beyond the known world. When New Horizons first glimpsed the rocky iceball in August it



NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI via AP

This illustration shows the New Horizons spacecraft. NASA launched the probe in 2006; it's about the size of a baby grand piano.

was just a dot. Good close-up pictures should be available the day after the flyby.

ARE WE THERE YET?

New Horizons will make its closest approach Monday at 11:33 p.m. The spacecraft will zoom within 2,200 miles of Ultima Thule, its seven science instruments going full blast. The coast should be clear. Scientists have yet to find any rings or moons around it that could batter the spacecraft. New Horizons hurtles through space at 31,500 mph, and even something as minuscule as a grain of rice could demolish it. "There's some danger and some suspense," Stern said at a fall meeting of astronomers. It will take about 10 hours to get confirmation that the spacecraft completed — and survived — the encounter.

POSSIBLY TWINS

Scientists speculate Ultima Thule could be two objects closely orbiting one another. If a solo act, it's likely 20 miles long at most. Envision a baked potato. "Cucumber, whatever. Pick your favorite vegetable," said astronomer Carey Lisse of Johns Hopkins. It could even be two bodies connected by a neck. If twins, each could be 9 miles to 12 miles in diameter.

MAPPING MISSION

Scientists will map Ultima Thule every possible way. They anticipate impact craters, possibly also pits and

sinkholes, but its surface also could prove to be smooth. As for color, Ultima Thule should be darker than coal, burned by eons of cosmic rays, with a reddish hue. Nothing is certain, though, including its orbit, so big that it takes almost 300 of our Earth years to circle the sun. Scientists say they know just enough about the orbit to intercept it.

COMPARING FLYBYS

New Horizons will get considerably closer to Ultima Thule than it did to Pluto: 2,220 miles versus 7,770 miles. At the same time, Ultima Thule is 100 times smaller than Pluto and therefore harder to track, making everything more challenging. It took 4 1/2 hours, each way, for flight controllers at Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland, to get a message to or from New Horizons at Pluto. Compare that with more than six hours at Ultima Thule.

WHAT'S NEXT

It will take almost two years for New Horizons to beam back all its data on Ultima Thule. A flyby of an even more distant world could be in the offing in the 2020s, if NASA approves another mission extension and the spacecraft remains healthy. At the very least, the nuclear-powered New Horizons will continue to observe objects from afar as it pushes deeper into the Kuiper Belt. There are countless objects out there, waiting to be explored.



AP file photo

Andrew Dickens, 21, of Toledo, Ohio, stands Dec. 31, 2016, with other revelers during the New Year's Eve celebration in New York's Times Square.

Experts say there's no way 2 million fit in Times Square

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ryan Seacrest and Anderson Cooper will be there. Snoop Dogg, too.

But 1 or 2 million people in New York's Times Square for New Year's Eve? As Snoop would say, you must be sippin' on gin and juice.

Crowd-size experts scoff at those mammoth figures — floated annually by city officials and event organizers — saying it's impossible to squeeze that many of even the skinniest revelers into such a relatively small space.

The real Times Square ball drop crowd likely has fewer than 100,000 people, crowd science professor G. Keith Still said.

"Generally, people are overestimating crowd sizes by 10- to 100-fold," said Still, who teaches crowd science at Manchester Metropolitan University in England and trains police departments on techniques to calculate crowd sizes.

The crowd estimates come from the New York City Police Department, according to the Times Square Alliance, which runs the ball drop.

In recent years, the department estimated that 2 million people had packed into Times Square. Mayor Bill de Blasio used a big number again Friday, saying the city expected "up to 2 million people in Times Square itself," a bow-tie-shaped zone running five blocks between Broadway and 7th Avenue.

New York University professor Charles Seife, a mathematician and journalist who explored statistical manipulation in his book "Proofiness," said the city has an interest in promoting a bigger number because it "helps cement the image of New York City as the center of the universe at a certain date and time."

He suggested fuzzy math and fuzzier geography were also at play. "How do you count a participant in the Times Square ball drop?" Seife asked. "Is it everyone who can see the ball, or anyone squeezed into a bar in Manhattan?"

To actually fit 1 million revelers, the city would have to jam more than the equivalent of a sold-out Yankee Stadium on every block of 7th Avenue between Times Square and Central Park — which starts about 15 blocks to the north.

Still and his colleagues perform detailed analyses when calculating precise crowd totals. But even using simple techniques, like measuring Times Square on a map and running a few calculations, it's clear the numbers don't get anywhere near 1 million.

Times Square would

hold about 51,000 people at a density of 3 people per square meter (square yard). Still said, or about 86,000 at 5 people per square meter. It might reach 120,000 if the crowd packed in at 7 people per square meter, but he said that density, involving people squished together front-to-back and shoulder-to-shoulder, is unlikely.

Those numbers don't count people watching from hotel and office building windows or from penned-off areas farther away. They also don't account for space taken up by stages, security apparatus and egress routes, where people would otherwise be able to stand.

New York's crowd estimate has evolved over time. As late as 1998, the police department was estimating that roughly 500,000 people attended. But for the millennium bash at the close of 1999, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani predicted as many as 2 million.

At big events, an accurate crowd estimate is critical to public safety. The wrong number can leave cities devoting too many or too few resources to an event, Still said. But New York — despite inflating the size of its crowd — manages the throngs well, funneling revelers into penned off areas, so there's no opportunity for overcrowding, and screening each person for weapons.

Police are planning for 65 such pens this year, stretching well north of Times Square proper. To get 1 million people into those 65 pens, each would have to fit around 30,800 people.

Estimating crowd sizes has long been subject to inexact guesswork and political pressure.

Arguments about crowd size flared after President Donald Trump claimed he had the largest presidential inauguration audience in history. The National Park Service stopped estimating crowds for events on the National Mall in Washington D.C. after a dispute with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan over the attendance for his 1995 Million Man March.

Parades for victorious sports teams involve some of the most over-the-top estimates. Officials claimed 3.2 million people crammed the streets of Philadelphia for last year's Eagles Super Bowl parade. The city's mayor later conceded that the crowd was probably closer to 700,000.

And forget about a million people packing tiny Vatican City for Christmas, Easter or anything else.

"Unless they are 17 meters high, stacked on top of each other, shoulder to shoulder, you can't get that many people in St. Peter's Square," Still said.

Presley's 'Comeback Special' still relevant, 50 years later

By Adrian Sainz
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Elvis Presley wanted an honest answer. Steve Binder gave him one.

Presley was meeting Binder for the first time in Binder's office in Los Angeles in 1968. A music and television producer, Binder had been asked to put together an NBC television special featuring Presley, who had become more of a movie actor than a rock 'n' roll singer in the 1960s when the Beatles and the Rolling Stones were dominating the rock world.

Presley and Binder talked for about an hour about music and established a rapport, Binder recalls. Then Presley popped the question: "What do you think of my career?"

"I was young and brash in those days," Binder told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "I said, 'I think it's in the toilet.'"

According to Binder, Presley said: "Well, finally, somebody's talking straight to me."

That meeting became a meaningful step in the creation of the one-hour TV show "Singer Presents...Elvis," better known today as the '68 Comeback Special. Aired on Dec. 3, 1968, the program was a rapturous return for the 33-year-old Presley, whose music had mostly stuck to soundtrack songs from his often pulpy, saccharine films. It was sponsored by Singer, the sewing machine company.

Relaxed at some points, energetic during others — and always inspired — a still-handsome Presley sounds strong and soulful. He appears genuine: He sweats, his black hair gets messed up.

The finale features an emotional Presley singing "If I Can Dream," a moving piece written for the show that served as a response to the tumult of 1968, when the Vietnam War served as



AP file photo

Elvis Presley is shown in August of 1969 at the International Hotel where he made his first public stage appearance in 9 years in Las Vegas. The 1968 television show known as Presley's comeback special is experiencing its own return and revitalization. NBC has said the "Elvis All-Star Tribute" will be hosted by Blake Shelton in Feb. 2019, and will include well-known performers recreating the songs and staging of the original program.

the backdrop for the assassinations of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

Presley returned to prominence. He began performing for sold-out crowds in Las Vegas and produced "From Elvis in Memphis," an album that included "Suspicious Minds" and "In the Ghetto."

Presley's career would slow down. He divorced his wife, Priscilla, and began abusing prescription drugs. He died of a heart attack on Aug. 16, 1977, in Memphis.

Still, his popularity has remained high. Graceland, the tourist attraction built around his former Memphis home, draws 500,000 visitors a year. HBO recently released a documentary, "Elvis Presley: The Searcher." And his image and voice are regularly used in films, TV shows and commercials.

Much has been said about the importance of the '68 Comeback Special to Presley's career. In a 2008 Los Angeles Times article, writer Robert Lloyd calls it a "moment of change."

"He regains his voice," Lloyd writes. Television had been an

early friend to Presley. He made groundbreaking appearances on variety shows hosted by Ed Sullivan and Milton Berle. Later, however, they became sources of embarrassment. Binder says Presley complained that hosts openly made fun of him.

Presley's return to TV required a leap of faith. Binder says Presley's manager, Col. Tom Parker, wanted a Christmas-themed special.

"The colonel handed me a box with 20 Christmas songs in quarter-inch tape that disc jockeys all over America were playing on their radio stations as Elvis' Christmas gift to America," Binder said. "There was no Elvis in it, other than him singing these Christmas songs."

Binder would have no part of a Christmas show. The typically hard-nosed Parker relented. The special included only a small reference to the holiday, with "Blue Christmas."

Musical director Billy Goldenberg, who preferred music from "West Side Story" over Presley's "Hound Dog," said he had to find a path to Presley's "subconscious character, the things

that were going on that he didn't say, but did."

"He was tender and lovely and polite," Goldenberg said during a forum during Elvis Week in August.

Goldenberg said he also noticed "a lot of rage" in Presley.

"There's a lot of raw primitiveness," Goldenberg said. "There's a lot of sexuality in Elvis. And of course there is the tender side."

Goldenberg wanted to "bring Elvis into the 1960s" and make him "valid."

NBC's investment was validated. The special became its top-rated show of the year and has grown in stature since. The network hopes to replicate the magic in February. The "Elvis All-Star Tribute" will feature Blake Shelton as host and will include well-known performers recreating the original program.

A box set released in late November includes a Blu-ray version of the program, and Binder has written a book about the show.

A show he never thought would endure.

"Nothing is dated. That show could have been shot yesterday," Binder said. "I had no idea it would ever be seen again."

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**The
Cottage**



Oliver de Ros/AP

Family members attend a memorial service Monday for 7-year-old granddaughter Jakelin Caal Maquin, in San Antonio Secortez, Guatemala. The body of the 7-year-old girl, who died while in the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol, was handed over to family members in her native Guatemala on Monday for a last goodbye.

Trump tries to deflect blame for migrant children's deaths

By Nomaan Merchant,
Zeke Miller and
Colleen Long
Associated Press

President Donald Trump sought to deflect blame for the deaths of two Guatemalan children in U.S. custody by claiming they were "very sick" when they arrived, even though immigration authorities have said both children passed initial health checks.

Meanwhile, his Homeland Security chief visited Border Patrol agents and medical officials at the southern border amid promises of more thorough health screenings for migrant children.

The president, whose administration has faced widespread criticism over the deaths, pointed on Twitter at Democrats "and their pathetic immigration policies that allow people to make the long trek thinking they can enter our country illegally."

He also alleged that both children "were very sick before they were given over to Border Patrol."

The two tweets were his first comments on the Dec. 8 death of 7-year-old Jakelin Caal and the death on Christmas Eve of 8-year-old Felipe Gomez Alonzo.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has issued detailed statements about both children's deaths.

An initial screening of Jakelin "revealed no evidence of health issues," CBP said on Dec. 14. It wasn't until several hours later that Jakelin's father, Nery Caal, told agents that she was "sick and vomiting," CBP said. Attorneys for the Caal family have also denied claims that Nery "hadn't given her water in days," as Trump

wrote.

And CBP said Tuesday that agents logged 23 welfare checks of Felipe and his father in the first several days the two were detained. Felipe's father, Agustin Gomez, told a Guatemalan official that the boy first showed signs of illness Monday morning, the day he died.

Despite Trump's claim that Democrats were responsible for "pathetic" immigration policies, at least one of the laws his administration has blamed — legislation that prevents the immediate deportation of unaccompanied children from Central American countries — was signed in 2008 by former President George W. Bush, a Republican.

Democrats criticized the president in turn. "You slander Jakelin's memory and re-traumatize her family by spreading lies about why she died," said U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, of Texas.

The president's comments came Saturday afternoon, the same day Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen was in Yuma, Arizona, to meet with medical staff at the border. Nielsen said in a statement that "the system is clearly overwhelmed and we must work together to address this humanitarian crisis." She called on Congress to "act with urgency."

Her office said she was briefed in El Paso, Texas, on Friday on "recently instituted secondary medical screenings and the more thorough initial health screenings of migrants."

El Paso Mayor Dee Margo said he met with Nielsen and told CNN on Saturday that he agreed with her that the immigration policy is "broken."

"El Paso is dealing with the symptoms as a result of the lack of fortitude in Washington, on both sides of the aisle, to deal with our immigration policy," the Republican said.

Felipe and Agustin Gomez were apprehended by border agents Dec. 18 near the Paso del Norte bridge connecting El Paso to Juarez, Mexico, according to border officials. The two were detained at the bridge's processing center and then the Border Patrol station in El Paso, until being taken at about 1 a.m. Sunday to a facility in Alamogordo, New Mexico, about 90 miles away.

After an agent noticed Felipe coughing, father and son were taken to an Alamogordo hospital, where Felipe was diagnosed with a common cold and found to have a fever of 103 degrees Fahrenheit, officials have said.

Felipe was held for observation for 90 minutes, according to CBP, before being released with prescriptions for amoxicillin and ibuprofen. But the boy fell sick hours later Monday and was re-admitted to the hospital. He died just before midnight.

New Mexico authorities said late Thursday that an autopsy showed Felipe had the flu, but more tests need to be done before a cause of death can be determined.

CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said this week that prior to this month, no child had died in their custody in more than a decade.

Trump threatened via Twitter the previous day to cut off aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in Central America's so-called Northern Tri-

angle region. He has made similar threats in the past without following through.

The government of El Salvador is pushing back against Trump's assertion it doesn't do enough to stem migration north to the United States. The Central American nation says it has made strides in economic and social improvements to try to tamp down the root causes of the phenomenon.

A statement released Saturday said that the Salvadoran government has pushed a media campaign urging its citizens not to risk their lives making the dangerous journey, and especially not to expose children. It says migration from the country has fallen significantly this year.

Boy whose Yemeni mom fought US travel ban to see him dies

By Daisy Nguyen
Associated Press

LODI, Calif. — The father of a 2-year-old boy who was separated from his Yemeni mother until she successfully fought the Trump administration's travel ban to see him in the United States laid his body to rest Saturday, a day after the child was taken off life support at a hospital.

Under a cloudless winter day, Ali Hassan carried his son's small body to bury at an Islamic cemetery in California's Central Valley.

"I'm a U.S. citizen; my son is a U.S. citizen," the 22-year-old father told mourners at a service before burial.

"The Muslim ban kept my wife from coming to the U.S. for over a year. It forced me to choose between my son's health and keeping our family together. We are angry, but we know our son did not die in vain."

The child's distraught mother mourned privately at home.

Abdullah Hassan died Friday at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, where his father brought him in the fall to get treatment for a degenerative brain condition. He had been on life support when his 21-year-old mother, Shaima Swileh, arrived last week.

Hassan spent his youth in California's central valley after his family immigrated there from Yemen. During a trip to the war-torn country in 2016, he fell in love with Swileh and married her that same year.

Because she is Yemeni, Swileh was restricted from traveling to the United States under the White House travel ban that's keeping citizens from Yemen and four other mostly Muslim countries from

entering the country.

The family stayed in Cairo, Egypt, while Swileh tried to obtain a waiver to that ban, which would allow her a visa to travel with her family to the United States to receive medical treatment for the boy.

But she was repeatedly denied travel documents, Hassan said.

When Abdullah's health worsened, Hassan went ahead to California in October to get their son help. As the couple fought for a waiver, doctors put Abdullah on life support.

"My wife is calling me every day wanting to kiss and hold her son for the one last time," said Hassan, choking up at a news conference earlier this month.

He started losing hope and was considering pulling his son off life support to end his suffering. But then a hospital social worker reached out to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which sued on Dec. 16, said Basim Elkarrar, executive director of the advocacy group in Sacramento.

The State Department granted Swileh a waiver the next day, and she has since received a visa to stay in the country.

She was pictured cradling her son in the hospital 10 days ago.

"With their courage, this family has inspired our nation to confront the realities of Donald Trump's Muslim Ban," said Saad Swileh, a lawyer with the council who represents the family.

"In his short life, Abdullah has been a guiding light for all of us in the fight against xenophobia and family separation."

Hassan said he hopes his family's struggle will lead to policy changes and families like his will not have to separate.



Caterina Gomez via AP

This undated photo shows Felipe Gomez Alonzo, 7, near Laguna Brava in Yalambogoch, Guatemala. Felipe died in U.S. custody at a New Mexico hospital on Christmas Eve after suffering a cough, vomiting and fever, authorities said. He was 8-years-old. The cause is under investigation.



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THE CAT'S MEOW

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People find peace in Mexico City's magic garden

By Kate Linthicum
Los Angeles Times

MEXICO CITY — Six years ago, Hector Sampson was taking his daily walk in Mexico City's Chapultepec park when he heard a trace of classical music drifting from the trees.

He followed the sound, down a dense corridor of shrubs and bushes, until he found himself in a verdant, sonic paradise.

Lush foliage surrounded brightly colored benches — blue, red, orange, yellow — on which people peacefully reclined while listening to music that played from a ring of speakers.

Sampson had discovered one of the city's best-kept secrets: the Auditorama.

Far removed from the crowds and chaos that dominate the rest of Mexico's expansive capital city, the Auditorama offers a rare refuge for reflection.

For decades, people have been coming to the free, city-run space to detach for a moment from the rest of the world — to meditate, pray, read, sit quietly with lovers, even grieve. There's just one rule, spelled out on several small signs: "No talking."

Another small, hand-lettered sign reads "Be happy."

"It's an oasis," said Sampson, a writer and radio personality whose esoteric interests include quantum physics and research into alien life. Since coming across the Auditorama, he has visited daily and has helped organize a rotating library of books — mostly poetry, plays and historical tomes — from which visitors can borrow.

During the last several years, he has witnessed multiple whispered marriage proposals in the Auditorama. He has also watched people cry.

Twice, he said, people who were contemplating suicide told him that the beauty of the place had persuaded them to rethink their plans. One man, mourning the death of his son, told Sampson that his meditations there had helped him find peace.

Sampson said his writing has improved greatly since he began spending time in the garden.

"It just has a certain magic," he said on a recent chilly morning as he arranged library books on a folding table.



Geraldina Rome, 29, meditates Dec. 20 at the Auditorama in Chapultepec Forest, in Mexico City, Mexico.

City officials inaugurated the Auditorama in 1972 on a site famous for its mystic properties.

On one side of the garden, carved into a hillside, lies a cave known as Cincalco.

Pre-Hispanic groups considered the cave the entrance to the underworld. Huemac, the last ruler of the Toltec culture, is said to have taken his life there around 1100, distraught over his fading empire.

Caretaker Juan Carlos Hernandez y Cervantes, who spends his days in the garden, watering bursts of pink, white and red flowers, leafy trees and rows of bamboo, keeps a candle lit inside the cave at all times.

"It's so our spirits have light," he said.

Hernandez has been working in Chapultepec park for more than 30 years and has been taking care of the Auditorama for 10.

Stooped from his 78 years, with a bushy white mustache, Hernandez gets asked by some people when he will retire.

Hopefully no time soon, he tells them.

"I love this place," he says. "I'm still working because I like my job."

Beyond tending to the impressive garden, he helps care for the family of cats that roam the property and is in charge of changing the CDs that play while the space is open, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. He maintains a collection of thousands of discs, nearly all of it donated. He follows a schedule, which is posted on a sign.

Tuesday: New Age. Wednesday: Traditional Mexican. Thursday: World Music. Friday: Jazz. Saturday: Chill Out. Sunday: Classical. The park is closed on Monday.

Chapultepec, which sprawls

over nearly 1,700 acres in the middle of the city, is one of the largest and most visited urban parks in the Western Hemisphere. Known as "the lungs of the city" for the oxygen produced by its densely planted sequoia, cedar and cypress trees, it boasts a zoo, a man-made lake filled with blue paddle boats and towering Chapultepec Castle, whose elaborately appointed rooms were once inhabited by Emperor Maximilian I and his consort, Empress Carlota.

While Chapultepec gets roughly 40,000 visitors a day, the Auditorama typically sees only a few hundred.

That is partly because of its location, tucked in a corner of the park near a World War II memorial and a usually dry fountain that features a white marble sculpture of Goliath on one side, and on the other, a sculpture of

David with his sling.

On a recent morning, seven people visited the Auditorama in the first hour it was open, according to a tally counter Sampson uses.

One of them was Geraldina Rome, a 29-year-old attorney, who for three years has been coming once a week to meditate.

"I call it my magic garden," she said. "It's important to disconnect for a minute, and to let your mind go to another place."

She sat down cross-legged on a sky-blue bench, began to breathe deeply and closed her eyes. All traces of the city — the honking, the thick clouds of car exhaust — were gone. It was just her, the fragrant air and a rousing piano composition by Franz Schubert: Impromptu No. 3 in G-flat major.

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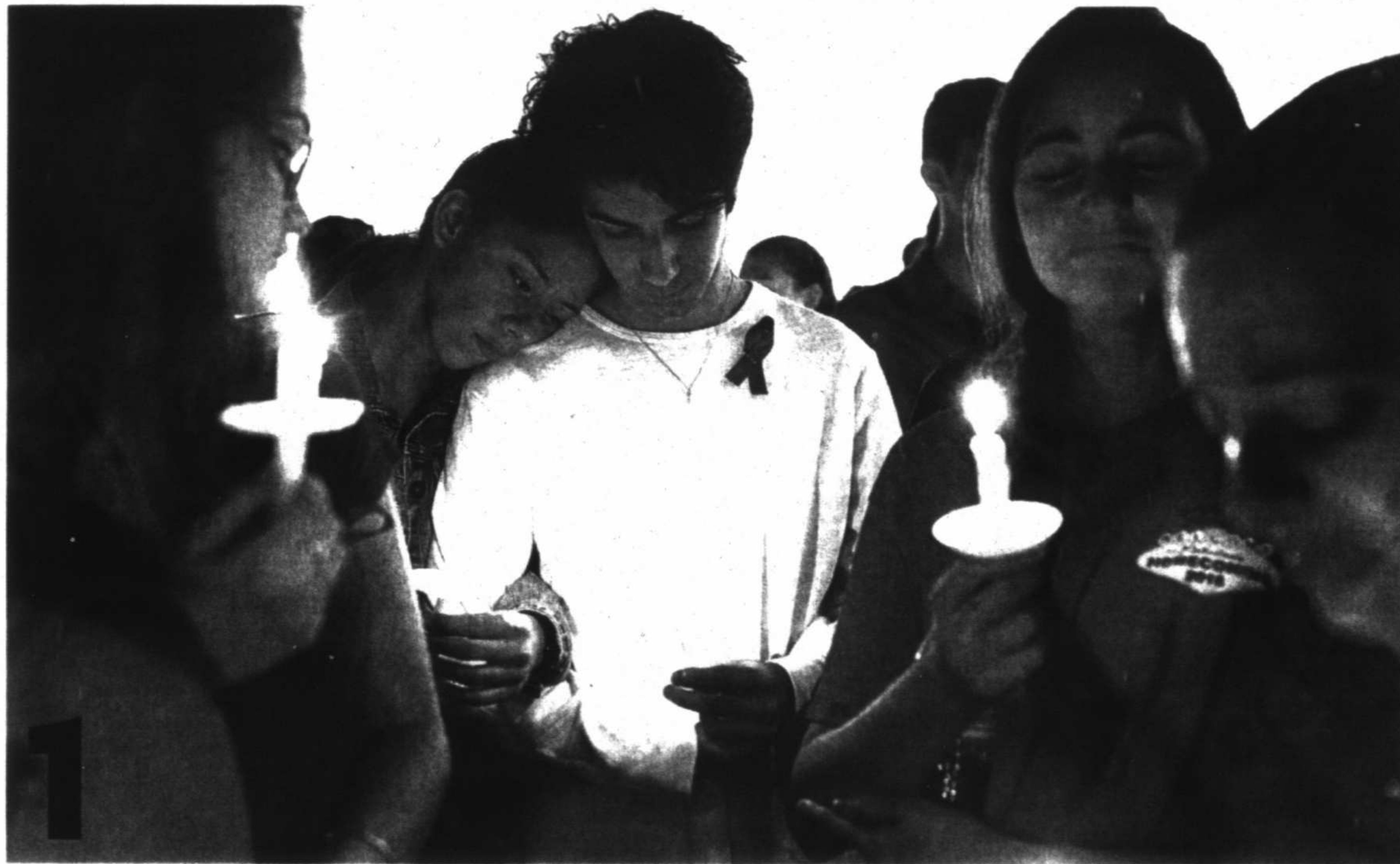
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Sunday, December 30, 2018 | Section B



AP file photos

Students gather during a vigil Feb. 15 at Pine Trails Park for the victims of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Nikolas Cruz, a former student, was charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder. The shooting in Parkland was voted the Associated Press top story of the year.



Protesters gather at the Grand Park in Los Angeles on Jan. 20 for a Women's March against sexual violence and the policies of the Trump administration. The #MeToo movement, which surfaced late in 2017, maintained its momentum throughout 2018 as many more powerful men were forced to account for past instances of sexual assault and misconduct.



Mourners gather outside a coffee shop Nov. 8 at a vigil for Sean Adler in Simi Valley, Calif. Adler was killed in a mass shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, Calif. When a Marine combat veteran shot dead 12 people at the country music bar, it was a grim 'Not again' moment for many Americans — the fifth mass shooting of the year in the U.S. that produced nationwide shock and sorrow.



Firefighter Jose Corona sprays water Nov. 9 as flames from the Camp Fire consume a home in Magalia, Calif.



The Dave Johnson coal-fired power plant is shrouded against the morning sun July 27 in Glenrock, Wyo.

Florida school shooting voted top news story in Associated Press survey

■ AP's annual poll: Mass shooting at Parkland, Florida, high school — which killed 17 people and sparked nationwide student-led marches for gun control — is voted top news story of 2018

By David Crary
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The mass shooting at a Parkland, Florida, high school — which killed 17 students and staff, and sparked nationwide student-led marches for gun control — was the top news story of 2018, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The No. 2 story was the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into whether Donald Trump's election campaign coordinated with Russia. It was one of several major stories — in a year jam-packed with dramatic developments — in which the U.S. president played a role.

A year ago, the surge of #MeToo sexual misconduct allegations that toppled many powerful men was voted the top news story of 2017. The continuing momentum of #MeToo in 2018 was this year's No. 3 story.

The first AP top-stories poll was conducted in 1936, when editors chose the abdication of Britain's King Edward VIII.

Here are 2018's top 10 stories, in order:

1. Parkland school shooting: It happened on Valentine's Day — an act of senseless hate by a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle who killed 14 students and three staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Previous mass shootings had prompted passionate calls for tighter gun-control laws, but this time was different. A group of student survivors at the school, soon joined by allies nationwide, launched the March for Our Lives movement that organized massive walkouts and peaceful protests at schools across the country. The movement remains active, and has helped energize the broader campaign for tougher gun laws.

2. Trump-Russia probe: Throughout 2018, Mueller's team investigated whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia ahead of the 2016 election and whether the president obstructed the investigation. The evidence so far shows a broad range of Trump associates had Russia-related contacts during the campaign and transition period; some former Trump aides have been indicted for lying. In a separate case in New York, prosecutors say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to make illegal hush money payments to two women in a bid to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign.

3. MeToo: The #MeToo movement, which surfaced late in 2017, maintained its momentum throughout 2018 as many more powerful men were forced to account for past instances of sexual assault and misconduct. Once-revered comedian Bill Cosby was sentenced to prison; so was Larry Nassar, the former Michigan State and USA Gymnastics sports doctor convicted of molesting hundreds of young women. Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein was charged with rape. And Les Moonves was ousted as top executive at CBS after a dozen women accused him of sexual misconduct.

4. Mass shootings: When a Marine combat veteran shot dead 12 people at a country music bar in California in November, it was a grim "Not again" moment for many Americans — the fifth mass shooting of the year in the U.S. that produced nationwide shock and sorrow. In May, two months after the Parkland shooting, eight students and two teachers were killed at a high school in Santa Fe. In June, a gunman shot dead five employees at the Capital Gazette newspaper in

Annapolis, Maryland. And in October, 11 people were killed at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh during Shabbat morning services.

5. U.S. midterm elections: With Donald Trump on the minds of many voters, Democrats managed to flip about 40 seats in the House of Representatives to seize control of that chamber from Republicans. Democrats also flipped several governorships around the country. But the GOP boosted its slim majority in the Senate and will have a 53-47 edge in the next session of Congress.

6. U.S. immigration: Events along the U.S.-Mexico border produced yearlong drama and controversy. At the height of the midterm election campaign, President Trump deployed thousands of Army troops to the border, warning of threats from a caravan of migrants who'd journeyed from Central America. Earlier, a zero-tolerance order from Trump resulted in more than 2,500 migrant children being separated from their families. The practice sparked global outrage from politicians, humanitarians and religious groups; images of weeping children and anguished parents were splashed across newspapers and television.

7. Kavanaugh hearings: Trump nominee Brett Kavanaugh was narrowly confirmed to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court after explosive Senate hearings on allegations of sexual harassment and assault stemming from his high school and college years. While millions of Americans watched on TV, senators heard testimony from Kavanaugh, who denied any wrongdoing, and accuser Christine Blasey Ford, who said he attempted to rape her during a party when they were in high school. Kavanaugh's presence on the high court gives its conservative bloc a 5-4 majority.

8. California wildfires: The most populous state endured an epic year for wildfires, culminating with devastating November fires occurring simultaneously 450 miles apart. The Camp Fire in Northern California swept through the city of Paradise, killing at least 86 people — the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century. Nearly 14,000 homes and hundreds of businesses were destroyed. In Southern California, three people died and 1,500 structures were destroyed by the Woolsey Fire. The two fires and a third smaller blaze produced \$9 billion in initial insurance claims; debris cleanup is pegged at \$3 billion.

9. Climate change: Worsening natural disasters around the world intensified the focus on climate change; delegates at a global summit in Poland negotiated an agreement on the next steps to minimize harm. In the U.S., a government report warned of devastating impact, prompting pushback by President Trump.

10. Khashoggi killing: For weeks, Saudi authorities issued a variety of denials. But eventually it became clear: that Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi was killed on Oct. 2 inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi, a native of Saudi Arabia, was fiercely critical of its royal regime and the Saudi role in the catastrophic war in Yemen. The murder has had major diplomatic repercussions, in part because of widespread belief that Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, was involved. The U.S. Senate passed a measure blaming the crown prince for the death, a move opposed by President Trump as he tries to preserve close U.S.-Saudi ties.

Given that most of the voters in the AP poll are U.S.-based, several major international news stories did not make the Top 10. Among them was the drama over Britain's planned exit from the European Union, the election of new leaders in Brazil and Mexico, the dramatic rescue of a youth soccer team from a hard-to-reach cave in Thailand, and the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia in September that killed thousands.

Obituaries



Albert Eugene "Gene" Louder

Albert Eugene "Gene" Louder, 62, of Stanton, passed on to his new life in Heaven on Friday, December 28, 2018 at his residence. He was a good man who will be missed dearly.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 at the First Baptist Church in Stanton with Rev. David Harp, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

Gene was born May 26, 1956 to Tull Ray and Helen Ruth Louder in Big Spring. He was raised in Stanton, Texas and graduated from Stanton High School with the Class of 1974.

He graduated from Texas Tech University in December 1977. He married Rebecca Sellers of San Angelo February 13, 1982.

His family and friends were his greatest treasures. He was a wonderful Dad, Granddad and Husband.

Gene was a hard worker all his life and taught his kids to do the same. He worked in a variety of jobs and did them all well. He was still close with the White Motor family and recently retired from self employment as an oilfield pumper.

Survivors include his wife, Becca Louder of Stanton; one son, Tullie C. Louder and wife, Jayna of Haslett; two daughters, Carly J. Barnes and husband, Tyler of Oxford, Mississippi and Sarah L. Chaney and husband, James of Midland; one brother, Jim Louder of Stanton; three grandchildren, Caleb Louder, Addie Chaney and Gib Barnes; his mother-in-law, Virgie Sellers of San Angelo; and many close friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, Ray Louder.

The family suggests memorials to Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society, www.dg-adbc.org or the First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 1168, Stanton, Texas 79782.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.npwech.com.



Robert "Bob" Bradshaw

Robert "Bob" Bradshaw, 69, of Midland, passed away on Wednesday, December 26, 2018 in Midland. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 31, 2018 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Bob lived a big life. He was a superb musician who adored and played almost every type of music. He was a master florist who owned his own business for over 30 years. He traveled the world and loved learning about new people, places and things. He received an Associate's Degree in business from Midland College, graduating with honors at an age when most people would not have wanted to put the effort into study and school work while running a successful business.

Bob loved his family and he loved making Christmas special for them. In fact, he loved every aspect of Christmas and his motto was "there is no such thing as too many Christmas decorations!"

Bob enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren swimming, barbequing and generally acting silly. He made up special unique names for them.

Bob enjoyed his friends, cooking, playing music, and going out to eat.

He and Kathy married in 1985 and December 28 in (of course) a Christmas themed wedding. They would have been married 33 years on Dec 28 of this month. They were blessed with wonderful

friends and family and of course their dogs that became "the kids" after the human kids left home.

They were able to travel and enjoy many things together. As Bob's health declined, they spent lots of pleasant evenings with "the kids" watching movies on TV. Bob met his great grandson Ky-Mani James Green only once before he became very ill but said he felt a special connection to the baby and was looking forward to teaching him to play music.

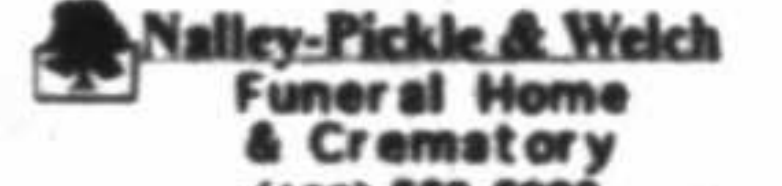
Bob had a big life. He leaves a big hole in our hearts but we know he will live on in the memory of the countless lives he touched.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Bradshaw; daughter, Miranda and husband Bryan Green and their children Amber and Heather, her son, Ky-Mani, and Ginger; daughter, Tabatha and husband, David Rivera, and her children, Evan and Rain; nephew, James and wife, Elizabeth Ryan their children, Josh, Nathan, and Faith; niece, Sabrina Wise and daughter, Kyron; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Christine Bradshaw; sister, Claudia Brown.

Honorary pallbearers are Mark Ehrlich of Flower Mound, TX; Richie Furry of Boulder, CO; Patrick Oliver, Joe Shephard and Marc Howard all of Midland, TX; and Randy Faulkner of California.

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



Robert "Bob" Lee Whaley

Robert "Bob" Lee Whaley may he rest in peace as he departed this world on

December 19, 2018 and moved on to the next to be with his wife of 61 years who preceded him in death on August 7, 2018. He was born in Hopkins, Missouri on May 15, 1935 to Harley Ivan Whaley and Merle Mary O'Riley Whaley and where until recently he still owned half of the family farm that had been in their family over 75 years. He enjoyed the time he spent in Missouri with his brothers and family working on the farm to restore the native tall grass prairie that covered the land before farming began. He started his career working in telecommunications as a line-man and retired as Chief Engineer. After retiring he still consulted as an engineer working in fiber-optics and other means of communications including working at PathTech with his daughter Theresa and husband Bob.

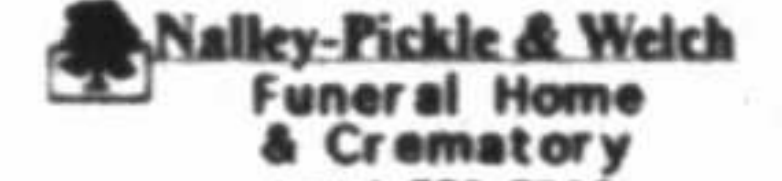
He lived in Andrews, Texas for many years and resided in Midland, Texas for the past 20 years. Robert was a Master Mason, following in the footsteps of his father and uncle, and was a life time member of the Midland Commandery No. 84, Andrews No 1024, and the Eastern Stars Friendship Chapter in Odessa Texas. He was a Colonel in the Desert Squadron of the Confederate Air Force - now the Commemorative Air Force, where he enjoyed barbequing for group functions and being the Bingo caller. He had also been a member of the Mesquite Burners in Andrews.

Robert had been a season pass holder for the Rock Hounds Baseball Team and enjoyed cheering on the Dallas Cowboys. He had been an announcer for Little League Baseball in Andrews Texas during the seventies, he loved golfing, playing baseball, bowling and playing games with his children and grandchildren. Per his wishes a private family viewing was held on Friday, December 21 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and he will be interred at the family plot in Hopkins, Missouri. He was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Andrews and had attended St Luke's United Methodist Church in Midland as health allowed.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife Kathryn and is survived and will be missed by his daughters Sharee Whaley and grandson Phillip and Amy Salonek and great-grandson Louie of Midland, Texas; Theresa and Bobby Halford of Granbury, Texas and granddaughter Angela and Anthony

Taharnkleaw and great grandson Andrew of Houston, Texas; Pamela and Richard Lomax of Murrieta, CA and grandchildren Denise and Ricky Taylor; Adam and Melissa Lomax and great grandchildren Olivia, Isabel, and Ethan, Emily and James Stewart and great grandchildren Gavin, James, Lilly Mae and Owen all of California; and Kelley Whaley of Midland, Texas. Grandchildren Amanda Whaley and fiancée Tommy Schooler and great grandchildren Xander Berry, Thomas and Shirley Schooler of Wolfforth, Texas; Harley and Heather Whaley and great grandchildren Zander & Nicko Morrison and Annika O'Neal of Shallowater, Texas, great granddaughter Lilyan Whaley of Shelton, Washington; Shannon Whaley of Seattle, Washington. He is survived by his brothers Carl Whaley of Oregon and Nelson Whaley of Iowa, sisters-in-law Carolyn Golz of Wisconsin and Beth Kelly of New Mexico and various cousins, nieces and nephews.

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



Russell Clinton Grizzard

A celebration of life service for Russell Clinton Grizzard, 63, of Midland will be held January 2, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the Golf Course Road Church of Christ in Midland, TX. A dessert and visitation reception will follow immediately after the service in the church fellowship hall.

Russell Clinton Grizzard passed away December 23, 2018 at his home in Midland. Russell was born February 21, 1955 in Ballinger, Texas to Clint and Novelyn (Taylor) Grizzard. Russell graduated from Pecos High School and attended Sul Ross State

University on a football scholarship.

He married Lori (Farquhar) Grizzard on May 15, 1987. Russell and Lori celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary earlier this year.

Russell is survived by his mother, Novelyn Grizzard of Odessa.

Russell leaves behind his wife Lori and the legacy of his three children: Kimberly Blake and husband Brandon of Trophy Club, Carson Grizzard and wife Kresha of Midland, and Lauren Grizzard of Abilene. Russell also leaves his four grandchildren that he adored: Camille and Olivia Blake, and Barrett and Aubrey Grizzard.

Russell was preceded in death by his father, Jewel Clinton Grizzard.

Russell worked in the oil and gas industry for 49 years. In 1969, he started roughnecking on holidays and weekends. When he began working full time, he quickly made his way through the ranks becoming a driller and then a tool pusher. He ended his career working as a fishing tool supervisor which was his true passion in the oilfield.

Russell found great joy hunting and fishing with his children and grandson Barrett. He drove many miles and spent many days watching his children play sports. Russell loved his family dearly and enjoyed any time he spent with them.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like donations made to Midland Christian School and or Abilene Young Life.



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

Final goodbye: Roll call of some who died in 2018

By Bernard McGhee
Associated Press

In a year filled with heightened political vitriol, two deaths brought the nation together to remember men who represented a seemingly bygone era of U.S. politics.

George H.W. Bush was a president, vice president, congressman, CIA director and Navy pilot during World War II, where he flew 58 missions and was shot down over the Pacific. As a politician, he had his fair share of critics and was voted out of office after one term as president. But the Republican reinvented himself in the years after his time in the White House, becoming a fundraiser for disaster relief and forming an unlikely friendship with the man who ousted him from office, former President Bill Clinton.

John McCain was a political giant in his own right. He served as a senator for more than 30 years, ran for president twice and spent five years as a prisoner of war after being shot down during the Vietnam War. In captivity, McCain endured torture and even turned down a chance to be released early, denying the North Vietnamese military a propaganda victory.

Bush died in November at age 94, just months after the death of his wife, former first lady Barbara Bush, who died in April. McCain died in August at the age of 81 after a battle with brain cancer.

Their deaths prompted an outpouring of public mourning from across the political spectrum that was at odds with a recent political climate that has been defined by intense partisanship, coarse insults and divisive rhetoric.

The year also saw the death of



Meghan McCain, daughter of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., cries at the casket of her father during a memorial service Aug. 28 at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix.

one of the world's best-known singers, **Aretha Franklin**. The Queen of Soul's death in August prompted a grand send-off during a week of mourning in her hometown of Detroit, including a funeral that featured a who's who list of entertainers, former presidents and prominent preachers.

Others from the world of entertainment who died in 2018 included the two men who created one of the most popular and enduring superheroes of the modern day, **Marvel Comics** icon **Stan Lee**, who died in November, and artist **Steve Ditko**, who died in June, gave the world the web-swinging **Spider-Man** along with a host of other super-powered heroes. Author **Tom Wolfe**, playwright **Nell**

Simon, actor **Burt Reynolds** and screenwriter **William Goldman** also died.

And one of the world's most influential scientists died in 2018. Though his body was paralyzed by disease, theoretical physicist **Stephen Hawking** explained the mysteries of space, time and black holes to a generation of enthusiasts.

Here is a roll call of some of the people who died in 2018. (Cause of death cited for younger people, if available.)

January

Thomas S. Monson, 90. He was considered a prophet by nearly 16 million Mormons worldwide and spent nearly a decade as church president. Jan. 2.

John Young, 87. The legendary astronaut who walked on the moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight. Jan. 5.

Keith Jackson, 89. His signature phrases like "Whoa, Nelly!" made him the down-home voice of college football during more than five decades as a sportscaster. Jan. 12.

John Coleman, 83. He co-founded The Weather Channel and was the original meteorologist on ABC's "Good Morning America" during a six-decade broadcasting career but who later drew people's anger for his open skepticism about climate change being man-made. Jan. 20.

February

John Mahoney, 77. An

actor who played the cranky, blue-collar dad in the TV show "Frasier." Feb. 4.

John Gavin, 86. The tall, strikingly handsome actor who appeared in "Spartacus," "Psycho" and other hit films of the 1960s before forsaking acting to become President Ronald Reagan's ambassador to Mexico. Feb. 9.

The Rev. Billy Graham, 99. He transformed American religious life through his preaching and activism, becoming a counselor to presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history. Feb. 21.

William Henry Trotter Bush, 79. A wealthy investor and the brother and uncle of presidents. Feb. 28.

March

Roger Bannister, 88. He was the first runner to break the 4-minute barrier in the mile. March 3.

Stephen Hawking, 76. A theoretical physicist whose brilliant mind ranged across time and space though his body was paralyzed by disease. March 14.

Charles F. Lazear, 94. The World War II veteran who founded Toys R Us six decades ago and transformed it into an iconic piece of Americana. March 22.

H. Wayne Huelsenga, 80. A college dropout who built a business empire that included Blockbuster Entertainment, AutoNation and three professional sports franchises. March 22.

Linda Brown, 75. As a Kansas girl, she was at the center of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down racial segregation in schools. March 25.

Peter Munk, 90. The founder

Please see DEATHS/3B



Charles Sykes/Invision/AP file

Aretha Franklin performs April 19, 2017, at the world premiere of "Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives" at Radio City Music Hall, during the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival, in New York. Franklin died Aug. 16 at her home in Detroit. She was 76.

DEATHS

From 2B

of Barrick Gold, the world's largest gold mining company. March 28.

April

Milos Forman, 86. A Czech filmmaker whose American movies "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Amadeus" won a deluge of Academy Awards, including best director Oscars. April 14.

Barbara Bush, 92. The snow-haired first lady whose plainspoken manner and utter lack of pretense made her more popular at times than her husband, President George H.W. Bush. April 17.

May

Ernest Medina, 81. A former Army captain who was a key figure in the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam war. May 8.

Philip Roth, 85. The prize-winning novelist and fearless narrator of sex, death, assimilation and fate, from the comic madness of "Portnoy's Complaint" to the elegiac lyricism of "American Pastoral." May 22.

Alan Bean, 86. A former Apollo 12 astronaut who was the fourth man to walk on the moon and later turned to painting to chronicle the moon landings on canvas. May 26.

June

Anthony Bourdain, 61. The celebrity chef and citizen of the world who inspired millions to share his delight in food and the bonds it created. June 8. Suicide.

Joseph Jackson, 89. The fearsome stage dad of Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson and their talented siblings, who took his family from poverty and launched a musical dynasty. June 27.

July

Tab Hunter, 86. The blond actor and singer who was a heartthrob for millions of teenagers in the 1950s with such films as "Battle Cry" and "Damn Yankees!" and received new attention decades later when he revealed he was gay. July 8.

Nancy Sinatra Sr., 101. She was the childhood sweetheart of Frank Sinatra who became the first of his four wives and the mother of his three children. July 13.

Adrian Cronauer, 79. The man whose military radio antics inspired a character played by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam." July 18.

August

Aretha Franklin, 76. The undisputed "Queen of Soul" who sang with matchless style on such classics as "Think," "I Say a Little Prayer" and her signature song, "Respect," and stood as a cultural icon around the globe. Aug. 16. Pancreatic cancer.

John McCain, 81. He

faced down his captors in a Vietnam prisoner of war camp with defiance and later turned his rebellious streak into a 35-year political career that took him to Congress and the Republican presidential nomination. Aug. 25.

Neil Simon, 91. A playwright who was a master of comedy whose laugh-filled hits such as "The Odd Couple," "Barefoot in the Park" and his "Brighton Beach" trilogy dominated Broadway for decades. Aug. 26.

September

Bill Daily, 91. The comic sidekick to leading men on the sitcoms "I Dream of Jeannie" and "The Bob Newhart Show." Sept. 4.

Burt Reynolds, 82. The handsome film and television star known for his acclaimed performances in "Deliverance" and "Boogie Nights," commercial hits such as "Smokey and the Bandit" and for an active off-screen love life. Sept. 6.

Richard DeVos, 92. A billionaire and co-founder of direct-selling giant Amway, owner of the Orlando Magic and father-in-law of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Sept. 6.

October

Will Vinton, 70. An Oscar-winning animator who invented Claymation, a style of stop-motion animation, and brought the California Raisins to TV. Oct. 4.

Paul G. Allen, 65. He co-founded Microsoft with his childhood friend Bill Gates before becoming a billionaire philanthropist who invested in conservation, space travel, arts and culture and professional sports. Oct. 15. Complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

James "Whitey" Bulger, 89. The murderous Boston gangster who benefited from a corrupt relationship with the FBI before spending 16 years as one of America's most wanted men. Oct. 30. Killed in prison.

November

Stan Lee, 95. The creative dynamo who revolutionized comic books and helped make billions for Hollywood by introducing human frailties in superheroes such as Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and the Incredible Hulk. Nov. 12.

Roy Clark, 85. The country star, guitar virtuoso who headlined the cornpone TV show "Hee Haw" for nearly a quarter century and was known for such hits as "Yesterday When I Was Young" and "Honeycomb Feeling." Nov. 15. Complications from pneumonia.

William Goldman, 87. The Oscar-winning screenwriter and Hollywood wise man who won Academy Awards for "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "All the President's Men" and summed up the mystery of making a box office hit by declaring "Nobody knows

anything." Nov. 16.

Robert "Bob" McNair, 81. The founder and owner of the Houston Texans was one of the NFL's most influential owners. Nov. 23.

Bernardo Bertolucci, 77. An Italian filmmaker who won Oscars with "The Last Emperor" and whose erotic drama "Last Tango in Paris" enthralled and shocked the world. Nov. 26.

George H.W. Bush, 94. His presidency soared with the coalition victory over Iraq in Kuwait, but then plummeted in the throes of a weak economy that led voters to turn him out of office after a single term. Nov. 30.

December

Penny Marshall, 75. She starred in the top-rated sitcom "Laverne & Shirley" before becoming the trailblazing director of smash-hit big-screen comedies such as "Big" and "A League of Their Own." Dec. 17. Complications from diabetes.

Peter Masterson, 84. The playwright, filmmaker and actor whose credits ranged from co-writing the Tony-winning musical "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" to directing the movie adaptation of "The Trip to Bountiful." Dec. 18.



Photo credit

Professor Stephen Hawking arrives March 3, 2015, for the Interstellar Live show at the Royal Albert Hall in central London. Hawking, whose brilliant mind ranged across time and space though his body was paralyzed by disease, died March 14.

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Thank You for (our first) 20 Years of Service to Midland!

The Articles of Incorporation that created Helping Hands was accepted by the State of Texas Dec. 7, 1998. At the time there were only a small handful of volunteers. Our helpline was on a desk at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. We came into existence when St. Vincent de Paul was closed temporarily by the main office. Our founder, Fr. James Bridges worried about who would be here to care for the poor and so the phone was moved to the church of which he was pastor. He immediately began taking up a monthly collection for the poor at the church and he spoke to the parishioners endlessly that we must put the legitimate needs of the poor before all others. He claims if we take care of the poor God will take care of us. Clothing and food were collected and a small giveaway station was formed in the garage of one of the volunteers. When St. Vincent de Paul reopened we chose to form our own organization that cannot be dictated by a main office. We chose to be non-denominational and to remain an all-volunteer organization with absolutely no paid salaries.

It was not until Sept. of 2002 that the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts declared Helping Hands to be exempt from payment of franchise tax and we became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency. We moved into what used to be the old Wolfe Nursery building on Scharbauer Drive and opened our thrift store which was stocked from items that had been donated at the church. We acquired a very old box van and (when we would get it to run) began going to homes to pick up larger items that could not be brought to us.

At the time we had three caseworkers and each of us had a budget of \$25 per case that we could use to assist the poor. (But remember, 20 years ago that \$25 went much farther than it does today!)

Over the years we have seen steady growth. While at times we have come close, in those 20 years we have never run out of money. As word got out about our work, more and more people from around the community, churches and businesses began sending us donations of money and merchandise. Likewise our volunteer base has continued to grow. We also began receiving the support of many of our area benevolence foundations. Abell-Hanger assists us generously with support for utility bills, and ATMOS provides funds to assist with gas. Many oil companies provide matching grants to their employees. Don Bennett provided us with four brand new box vans which solved all of our transportation needs.

In our effort to be transparent, we began running a weekly ad in the Midland Reporter-Telegram. We give instances of who we have helped (we feel it is important that you come to know those we help as people). We also break down each week how our money was spent. If you donate money to Helping Hands we feel it is our responsibility to let you know where that money is going.

In our first 20 years we have given \$15,419,319 in assistance to the poor with their rent, utilities, medical bills and legal expenses. We pride ourselves on the fact that we work poor, minimizing expenses wherever we can to free up more money for the poor.

These 20 years have gone by so quickly! Each day we are humbled by the support that you continue to give us that goes so far in helping those in need. We pray that you will continue to support the poor through Helping Hands for years to come. God bless each and every one of you for making our ministry possible!

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Should your life journey lead you to a need for daily assistance, consider the lifestyle of Helen Greathouse Manor.

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Trump's 2018: Meeting with NK leader, Kavanaugh hearing

By Calvin Woodward
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The stranger-than-sitcom American presidency opened 2018 with a big tease about mutual nuclear destruction from two leaders who then found "love" not war. It seems President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un were just playing hard to get.

The presidency ends the year saturated in tumult, with the government in partial shutdown and Trump tweeting a video of himself warbling a parody of the theme song from "Green Acres," a television sitcom from the 1960s, to mark his signing of a farm bill.

Throw in a beer-loving and very angry Supreme Court nominee, an unhappy departing defense secretary, Trump's parallel universe of facts and his zillion tweets, and you can see that the president's world this year was touched by the weird, the traumatic and the fantastical — also known as WTF.

There was no holding back the self-described "very stable genius" with the "very, very large brain."

Some serious and relatively conventional things got done in 2018.

There was a midterm election. Many more Democrats are coming to Congress and not quite all of them plan to run for president. Divided government dawned in January when Democrats take control of the House; Republicans retain their grip on the Senate.

An overhaul of the criminal justice system was accomplished, and in an unusually bipartisan way, though it took a dash of reality TV's Kim Kardashian West to move it along. Gun control actually was tightened a bit, with Trump's unilateral banning of bump stocks.

Trump shocked allies and lost Defense Secretary Jim Mattis over a presidential decision to pull U.S. troops out of Syria, quickly following up with indications that up to half the troops in Afghanistan might be withdrawn, too.

Self-described "Tariff Man" started one trade war, with China, and headed off a second by tweaking the North American



President Donald Trump meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on June 12 on Sentosa Island in Singapore.

Free Trade Agreement and giving it an unpronounceable acronym, USMCA. He withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal, putting action behind his Twitter shout: "WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH."

Trump placed his second justice on the Supreme Court in two years after Brett Kavanaugh, accused of alcohol-fueled sexual assault in his youth, raged against the allegations at a congressional hearing and acknowledged only: "I liked beer, I still like beer," but "I never sexually assaulted anyone."

There were frustrations and fulminations aplenty for the president, particularly about the steaming-ahead Russia-Trump campaign investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller ("special counsel" in some Trump tweets).

Nor did he make much progress on his promised border wall ("border wall"), which he renamed "artistically designed steel slats" in December in what he regarded as a concession to wall-despising, concrete-cursing Democrats. The concession did not work: large parts of the government closed Saturday over the wall-induced budget

impasse. He took heat for a zero-tolerance policy that forced migrant children from their parents until he backed off, inaccurately blaming Democrats for "Child Separation."

It was a very good year for jobs. It was a check-your-smartphone-right-now, pass-the-smelling-salts year for the stock market. Trump, who assailed the unemployment rate as a phony measure when he was a candidate, couldn't speak of it enough as Obama-era job growth continued on his watch. He went mum about the market, a prime subject for his boasting before it took a sustained dive.

Trump's approval rating in polls was one of the few constants on this swiftly tilting planet: 42 percent approval and 56 percent disapproval in The Associated Press-NORC's latest and 38 percent-57 percent via Gallup, neither much different than in January.

Through it all, the mainstreaming of the bizarre proceeded apace and North Korea's Kim set that tone right on Jan. 1 with his New Year cheer to Americans across the ocean: "It's not a mere threat but a reality that I have a nuclear button on the desk in my office. All of the mainland United States is within the range

of our nuclear strike."

Trump responded the next day with a tweet about size and performance. "I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

Once they got that out of their system, things quickly improved, helped along by Kim's letters to Trump, which the U.S. president called "beautiful." There was no more talk about Trump being a "mentally deranged dotard" or Kim being a "maniac," the musty insults of an earlier time. In June, they held history's first meeting between a North Korean leader and a current U.S. president. "We fell in love," Trump later said at a West Virginia rally.

Kim had previously vowed to visit "fire and fury" on the U.S. but the "Fire and Fury" that made Trump livid early this year was the book of the same name, Michael Wolff's insider account of the Trump White House. That was a different sort of missile. The president took particular exception to observations in the book by his former chief strategist, tweeting about "Sloppy Steve Bannon, who cried when he got fired and begged for his job. Now Sloppy Steve has been dumped like a dog by almost everyone. Too bad!"

They are said to be on better

terms now.

Over the course of the year, Trump spoke at more than 40 campaign rallies, kept up his Twitter barrage (40,000 tweets since 2009 on his @realDonaldTrump account) and answered plenty of questions in infrequent but lengthy news conferences and sit-down interviews.

So what stands out in this blizzard of whiteout of unconventional?

How about this farewell to his secretary of state, Rex Tillerson? "He was dumb as a rock and I couldn't get rid of him fast enough. He was lazy as hell." (The president usually reserves "dumb as a rock" for journalists.)

Or his description of Stormy Daniels, paid to stay quiet about their alleged affair, as "horseface?"

Or this description of his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, as "scared stiff and Missing in Action," before Sessions was finally out in November?

Will history long remember that in 2018 the president called Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff "little Adam Schitt" on Twitter and nations in Africa "shithole countries" in a private meeting? Or that he (correctly) predicted Hurricane Florence would be "tremendously wet" or told the AP: "I have a natural instinct for science?"

In July, Trump appeared to side with Russian President Vladimir Putin when he stood by Putin's side at a Helsinki summit news conference and gave weight to Putin's denial that Russia meddled in the 2016 election, despite the firm conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that it had. "I don't see any reason why it would be" Russia, Trump said.

But while it's been hardly noticed in a capital consumed by the shutdown drama, Mattis, Syria, steel slats and market convulsions, 2018 draws to a close as it started — with warnings of a nuclear Armageddon, this time from Putin.

Putin's prompt was Trump's intention to walk away from one arms control treaty and his reluctance to extend another.

That, said Putin, "could lead to the destruction of civilization as a whole and maybe even our planet."

Virtual wall grows as Trump border fight threatens shutdown

By Matt Sedensky
and Julie Watson
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Children torn from their parents, refugees turned away, tear gas fired on asylum-seekers, and a president who says he's willing to shut down the government to make good on his promise for a border wall. In a breathless 2018, they were just a handful of headlines on immigration, one of the year's most dominant issues.

Combined with a relentless stream of administrative memos and changes in regulation and enforcement, it represented a government bombardment on virtually every type of immigration — a bold follow-up to the opening salvo of President Donald Trump's first year in office.

For those who champion Trump and believe that cracking down on immigration translates to better lives for Americans, it has been a year of fulfillment of campaign promises. For those who've watched in horror, it has harkened back to other points in the country's history, when fear of new arrivals led the U.S. to refuse entry to various groups and when open discrimination of certain ethnicities prevailed.

"This is our generation's sort of existential moment," said Frank Sharpy, head of pro-immigration group America's Voice. "Are we going to continue to be a nation that practices 'e pluribus unum' and welcomes people from around the world to make this country better? Or are we going to shut the door?"

Throughout 2018, the answer has largely been the latter.

Even as roundups and deportations persist in targeting those who enter the U.S. illegally, the Trump administration has pushed beyond that to redefine what legal immigration looks like, too. It has slowed down or altogether halted many seeking to come to the country for a job offer or through their relationship to a citizen, and narrowed the chances of finding a home here as a refugee or asylum seeker. Jarring visuals of children in detention centers and other enforcement actions have dissuaded some from seeking to come here at all.

"There has been this constant chip, chip, chipping away at the legal immigration system using every tool of the executive branch," said Doug Rand, who worked in the Obama administration before helping found Boundless Immigration, which helps people navigate the immigration system.

The year neared its close with the administration saying those seeking asylum would be forced to wait in Mexico, a major shift that immediately spurred questions of legality from opponents. Meantime, the possibility of a government shutdown loomed as Trump and Democrats once again butted heads over funding to build a wall along the border with Mexico.

Even without it, though, the policies he's pursued have effectively put up a virtual wall.

"That is far more effective than a border wall ever would be," said Sarah Pierce, a policy analyst with the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute.

Even top-tier computer programmers, architects, engineers and other professionals with job offers in the U.S. saw their applications for H-1-B visas under much more scrutiny; a means of expediting processing of those visas was ended under Trump, and bids for work authorization have been met by what employers and immigration attorneys say seem like endless requests for evidence to prove seemingly straightforward facts.

Still, the odds of those professionals eventually gaining clearance to enter the U.S. are better than for many others.

Trump's so-called "travel ban," the first iteration of which was unveiled in the president's first week in office, was upheld in June by the U.S. Supreme Court, stopping most visas for residents of mostly Muslim Libya, Iran, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, as well as North Korea and Venezuela. Though the policy allows for waivers, initial data showed few such applications were actually approved, effectively shutting the door to most from those nations.

It's had very real consequences for people like Soolmaz Dadgari, an Iranian who came to the U.S. in 2017 so her 4-year-old daughter, Arina, could take part in an experimental study to treat a rare genetic disorder. Dadgari's husband has been unable to get a visa to join them, and sanctions make it hard for him to send money. She alone cares for a child who can't walk or talk and requires 24-hour help, as well as another 11-year-old daughter.

Dadgari has considered returning home but knows she needs to remain for her daughter's treatment. Still, the situation has affected the way she views the U.S., which she had always regarded as the best place in the world.

"I have no hope," she said.

Even as wars, persecution and famine have continued around the world, the U.S. capped refugee admissions at 45,000 for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the lowest ceiling since the State Department began tracking the figure in 1980. Far fewer were actually admitted in that time frame: about 21,000 refugees. The number is likely to fall further, with the cap for the current fiscal year set at 30,000.

Meantime, tens of thousands fleeing violence in Central America sought asylum in the U.S. this year. The Trump administration responded by narrowing who is eligible, declaring that neither those escaping gang violence or domestic abuse nor those who cross the border illegally qualify. Both changes have been blocked by federal courts.

Some seeking refuge in the U.S. are stuck in untenable positions.

Ivis Muñoz, 26, decided to join a caravan leaving Honduras in mid-October. A gang member had shot him in the thigh and threatened to kill him. Muñoz planned to seek asylum in the U.S. but learned along his journey that he was unlikely to be accepted.

His first night in Tijuana, Mexico, he slept on the beach until rocks rained down on him and other migrants and a man shouted in the darkness: "Go back to your country!" Now he's a few hours east in Mexicali, his aching leg full of bullet fragments, overwhelmed and scared by his reality.

"I don't know what to do," said Muñoz, a coffee farmer from the Honduran town of Atitama. "I want to go to the United States, though I'm scared they'll send me back. I'm afraid to be in Honduras, but I don't feel safe here either."

At every turn, there were policy changes. One proposed rule would restrict visas or legal permanent residence for those receiving certain government benefits for low-income people, such as food stamps. Hundreds of immigrant enlistees in the Army were discharged or had their contracts cancelled, though some were later reinstated. Even some U.S. citizens were targeted by a "denaturalization task force" looking for naturalized Americans with past infractions.

More than any other shifts in policy, the Trump administration's move to separate apprehended migrant children from their parents shook people around the world. Though Trump eventually ended widespread use of the practice, the scars remain for those affected.

Evelin Roxana Meyer of La Union, Honduras, thought 2018 would be the year things turned around for her family. They've struggled to pay off a loan for the grocery store they run out of their home, so her husband, Douglas, and son, Eduardo, set off for the United States in hopes of finding work. Instead, the two were picked up by Border Patrol agents and separated.

The father was deported, but it took weeks before the parents knew where Eduardo was taken. He spent four months in detention, turning 12 alone at a facility in Brownsville, Texas. The once-affectionate boy returned home angry in September. He rarely goes out, spending most of his time in his room watching TV. He's refused to go to school and will have to repeat the sixth grade. He talks back to his parents and hits his little sister, whom he used to be close to. The family doesn't know what to do to help him.

"This was the toughest year of all," said 38-year-old Meyer.

Polling finds a big majority of Americans still view the country's openness to immigrants as essential to the nation's identity. But the profound shift in government policies on the subject threatens that idea of the U.S. as a welcoming land of opportunity for all.

Christina Greer, a political science professor at Fordham University, sees Trump's immigration overhaul as the continuation of a tug-of-war that's played out since the nation's founding, between what many see as bedrock American ideals and a pattern of nevertheless being hostile to newcomers.

"The country, unfortunately, has had an incongruence with the myth of America versus the reality of America," said Greer, who authored "Black Ethnicity: Race, Immigration, and the Pursuit of the American Dream." "Trump's really fine with blowing up the myth."

Sharpy thinks the country's reputation suffers when its leaders close the doors to others: "They've put a million people on the road to deportation. They've ripped thousands of kids from their parents. They've gutted refugee protection at our border. They're building and expanding detention centers. They're trying to scare low-income immigrants from using health and other services. They've taken aim at legal immigration. They've slashed refugee admissions. That's a pretty relentless assault on a core principal of the American experiment."

Others see it far differently.

Neil Gouveia came to the U.S. from Guyana as a 7-year-old. His family waited years to earn visas, then waited again to become citizens. His parents made the difficult choice to leave behind his 9-year-old sister, who had cerebral palsy and wasn't granted a visa.

Gouveia considered himself a typical "liberal New Yorker" until 2016, when he was drawn to Trump for what he believed was his strength on national security. Gouveia is gay and said the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, particularly shook him.

He wasn't offended when Trump referred to parts of the world as "shithole countries," and doesn't see anything inherently wrong in separating immigrant children from the adults they arrive with. He thinks, ultimately, it will all lead to greater dialogue and better policies. And he still believes America stands as a beacon for much of the world.

"At the end of the day, people will say what they want to say about America, but there's hardly anyone who still wouldn't want to come here," said Gouveia, 39, a collegiate fundraiser. "They still know it's like winning the lottery."

Daniel Stein heads the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which supports restrictive immigration measures. He agrees the year's immigration imagery has had "a huge political impact on the psyche of the nation," but argues it has moved more people to his side of the debate. And to those who see the year as an extended assault on a cornerstone American value, he's unmoved.

"They have a vivid imagination," Stein said. "We have one of the world's most generous immigration programs."



Cory Morse/The Grand Rapids Press via AP

Eaton County Sheriff's deputies restrain Randall Margraves, father of three victims of Larry Nassar, on Feb. 2 in Eaton County Circuit Court in Charlotte, Mich. The incident came during the third and final sentencing hearing for Nassar on sexual abuse charges.

AP'S TOP PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

A HUMAN TIDE OF WOULD-BE AMERICANS, ROLLING TOWARD THE BORDER. AMERICAN ROCKETS STREAKING ACROSS THE DARKNESS OVER DAMASCUS. STUDENTS FLEEING A GUNMAN AT A FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL, THEIR HANDS RAISED IN THE AIR. ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE THERE TO RECORD A WORLD IN CONSTANT MOTION IN 2018.



Hassan Ammer/AP

Surface to air missile fire lights up the sky over Damascus April 14 as the U.S. launches an attack on Syria. President Donald Trump ordered the airstrikes in retaliation for Syria's alleged use of chemical weapons.



Ludovic Marin/Pool Photo via AP

World leaders, from left, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Morocco's Prince Moulay Hassan, Moroccan King Mohammed VI, first lady Melania Trump, President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Australian Governor-General Peter Cosgrove attend a ceremony Nov. 11 at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris as part of the commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918, armistice, which ended World War I.



David J. Phillip/AP

The flag-draped casket of former President George H.W. Bush passes through Magnolia Dec. 6 along the route from Spring to College Station.



Mike Stocker/South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP

Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., hold their hands in the air Feb. 14 as they are evacuated by police after a shooter opened fire on the campus. The mass shooting which killed 17 students and staff, and sparked nationwide student-led marches for gun control — was the top news story of 2018, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.



Rodrigo Abd/AP

Members of a U.S.-bound migrant caravan stand on a road Oct. 7 after federal police briefly blocked their way outside the town of Arriaga, Mexico.



David Goldman/AP

Bob Riching carries Iris Darden, 64, out of her flooded home Sept. 17 as her daughter-in-law, Pam Darden, gathers her belongings in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence in Spring Lake, N.C.

'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' is AP's top TV show of 2018

The top 10 TV shows of the year by Associated Press writer Alicia Rancillo.

ALICIA RANCILLO
Associated Press



1. **"The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,"** on Amazon Prime. From its costumes to the dialogue to the music to the quirky characters, this show is a delight. Watch it to feel good.

2. **"This Is Us,"** on NBC. Some suggest the third season has lagged but this show is still solid, and we can't discount how invested the public was in just how Milo Ventimiglia's character, Jack, died. The lead-up and reveal earlier this year launched so many theories, memes, hashtags and jokes about crock-pots. Also, those occasional flash-forwards to show characters in the future keeps us guessing and trying to fill in the blanks between now and then.

3. **"Killing Eve,"** on BBC America. This cat-and-mouse chase between Sandra Oh as an MI5 investigator and Jodie Comer's assassin is great fun to watch. Oh has received many accolades for her work on the show, which are deserved, but Comer is also a standout and should be recognized. She mastered various ac-

cents and has a smile that can light up a room, before she pounces to kill you, of course.

4. **"Succession,"** on HBO. This show about a powerful family that owns a major media conglomerate is disturbing, funny, and sad all at once. The characters aren't likable and don't even seem to like each other, but to be a voyeur and watch them interact is worth tuning in for.

5. **"Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan,"** on Amazon Prime. John Krasinski joins Ben Affleck, Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Chris Pine as actors who've portrayed the CIA analyst created by Clancy. In Krasinski's version, he's got brawn and brains and he quickly proves he's a leading man worthy of the role. It's fast-paced, suspenseful, entertaining and season two can't come soon enough.

6. **"You,"** on Lifetime. This show hasn't gotten enough attention. Penn Badgley is masterful as a psychopathic stalker named Joe who charms his way into the heart of a young woman living in Manhattan. There's a scene in the first episode where his character stares at his obsession as she drunkenly teeters on the edge of a subway platform like he's studying an animal in the wild. It's chilling. Catch up because the series is moving to Netflix for its second season.

7. **"Escape at Dannemora,"** on Showtime. The real prison escape that this series portrays was in 2015 and caught the world's attention because of the revelation that the two escapees were helped by a female prison employee. The series, directed by Ben Stiller, is just as interesting. Patricia Arquette,



Nicole Rivelli/Amazon via AP

This image released by Amazon shows Rachel Brosnahan in a scene from "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." The program was named one of the top ten TV shows of 2018 by the Associated Press.

Benicio Del Toro, Paul Dano and Eric Lange dissolve into their characters.

8. **"The Clinton Affair,"** on A&E. This six-part documentary series is an extremely compelling, deep-dive into the events that led up to President Clinton's impeachment. You may remember the news coverage, but there's likely information in this series that will be new.

Many of the major players including Monica Lewinsky are interviewed extensively and to see her now, as a 40-something year-old woman, reflect on that period of her life with candor and grace is heartbreaking,

inspiring and fitting for this #MeToo era.

9. **"grown-ish,"** on Freeform. Zoey, the eldest child on "black-ish" (played by Yara Shahidi) went off to college and it's worth keeping up with this new phase of her life. "grown-ish" doesn't hold back. The show deals with issues that some college kids are faced with, including abusing pills like Adderall and the hook-up culture. Also, Shahidi has major star quality.

10. **"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,"** Netflix. No offense to the original "Queer Eye," which was fun, but the reboot kicks

things up in a major way. For one, tissues are required for viewing because it gets very emotional. The show doesn't just find men who need a new look, but the five experts go deep into why these guys are stuck in a rut. It's positive and heart-warming and feels like a hug.

Honorable mentions: "The Good Place" on NBC, "Wild Wild Country" on Netflix, "The Handmaid's Tale" on Hulu, "Counterpart" on STARZ, "Jane the Virgin" on The CW, "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" on The CW and "13 Reasons Why," Netflix.



OPRAH'S SPEEEECH



RISE AND FALL OF "ROSEANNE"

Top TV moments: 'Roseanne,' Oprah's speech, message funerals

By Lynn Elber
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It was a remarkably dramatic year on television, with much of it unscripted.

While prime-series including "This Is Us" and "Atlanta" reached notable emotional and provocative highs, TV impressively fulfilled its role as witness to gripping real-life events.

We had the chance to see it all unfold: today's barbed politics in unlikely settings, a woman essentially saying MeToo to U.S. senators; the suitably extravagant goodbye to an American queen.

Here are some of the moments with staying power.

OPRAH'S SPEECH

Winfrey's rousing call for social justice in the name of the MeToo movement drew wild cheers in the ballroom at the Golden Globes in January and reverberated across the land. Pundits and Oprah-whisperers proclaimed it a first step toward a presidential run, and #Oprah2020 trended. It's would be a true Hollywood script: an entertainment mogul challenges a reality-show host for the Oval Office. Oprah said no way; the chatter continues.

JACK'S SACRIFICE

The time-shifting series revealed in season one that Jack Pearson (Milo Ventimiglia) was destined to die young, leaving a grieving widow, his unmoored children and viewers tortured by the mystery of what did him in. In episodes airing in January and February, we learned

it was a faulty slow-cooker and Jack's boundless sense of duty. America's tears flowed even as we turned a fearful eye toward our kitchen appliances.

THE RISE AND FALL OF "ROSEANNE"

Three decades after it ended, the comedy about the blue-collar Conner family and its brassy matriarch returned in March as a success for ABC and Roseanne Barr. The revival hit the sweet — or sour — spot of politics and culture today, with a polarizing star whose character mirrored her backing for President Donald Trump. The magic evaporated in May after Barr's racist slam of Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett. ABC called her tweet "abhorrent" and canceled the series.

"ATLANTA" IN WHITE

Donald Glover, whose reimagination of the TV comedy challenges viewers, tested them with a truly unsettling character, Teddy Perkins, depicted in mask-like whiteface (an uncredited performance by Glover, though it remains a mystery who made Teddy's cameo appearance at the Emmys). Was the episode in April a riff on the sad life of a Michael Jackson-like celebrity? A slap at the insulting blackface used by white entertainers past? We're still mulling.

GADSBY'S REVOLUTION

The Australian standup was little known in America when her Netflix special "Hannah Gadsby: Nanette" arrived in June, dissecting culture and the very artform she practices. She was heralded

as a major new voice and her work was labeled "transformative" and "game changing," the kind of awe and admiration granted to enduring comedy greats such as Richard Pryor, George Carlin and Dave Chappelle.

ARETHA'S FAREWELL

The Queen of Soul's memorial was one for the ages, with preachers, Motown and gospel legends and political and religious leaders offering speeches and songs in praise of Franklin's life, artistry and activism on behalf of African-Americans and women. Stevie Wonder sang, and so did Smokey Robinson and Chaka Khan and Shirley Caesar and Gladys Knight and Ariana Grande and ... plenty of others, since the service ran eight hours. Franklin's voice was stilled, but her spirit resonated.

COLIN KAEPRNICK'S STAND

In his "Just Do It" TV spot for Nike that marked the campaign's 30th anniversary in September, the sidelined-by-kneeling NFL quarterback somberly challenged viewers to "believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything." Some responded with anger, cutting or burning Nike gear and calling for boycotts. President Donald Trump slammed the company's move, while LeBron James defended it, saying he stands for those who believe in change.

A SUPREME BATTLE

In schools, at work, in coffee shops, Americans watched on phones, laptops

and any available screen as U.S. Supreme Court appointee Brett Kavanaugh and sexual-misconduct accuser Christine Blasey Ford made their emotional cases in September to a Senate committee. The hearing reinforced the extraordinary power of TV to present an event as it unfolds, allowing us to judge it for ourselves before it's filtered and packaged for consumption and "Saturday Night Live" satire.

BLACKOUT FOR KELLY

Megyn Kelly argued the case for dressing up in Halloween blackface, telling her morning show viewers it was OK when she was a kid if it was an impersonation. The backlash was immediate, with critics accusing Kelly of ignoring the ugly history of white entertainers applying blackface to demean African-Americans. The former Fox News Channel host offered a tearful on-air apology, but NBC fired her in October from the 9 a.m. "Today" slot after just a year.

DEATH AND POLITICS

Funeral services were for mourning and messages. At Sen. John McCain's September memorial, daughter Meghan issued a sharp rebuke to his nemesis President Donald Trump, who was left off the invitation list. "The America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great," she said. President George H.W. Bush's memorial in December was kinder and gentler and Trump attended, but he was the first sitting president in 45 years not asked to eulogize a predecessor.



GADSBY'S REVOLUTION



ARETHA'S FAREWELL

'Burning,' 'Cold War' top AP's best films of 2018

■ Associated Press Film Writers Jake Coyle and Lindsey Bahr name their choices for the best films of 2018

JAKE COYLE

1. **"Burning"**: It was, for sure, an extraordinary movie year. Little to nothing separates my favorite 10 films, or, for that matter, my top 20 or 30. Many of the year's best were found overseas, and none haunted me more than Lee Chang-dong's smoldering slow-burn thriller. An adaptation of a Haruki Murakami short story, "Burning" is about a triangle of young Koreans (Yoo Ah-in, Jeon Jong-seo, Steven Yeun — all astonishing) divided by class but united in heartache and rage. At sunset, with Miles Davis playing, it reaches an aching crescendo.

2. **"Private Life"**: Tamara Jenkins' comic and compassionate fertility drama is like "Waiting for Godot" with two of the best actors around: Kathryn Hahn and Paul Giamatti. In a movie year where love that lasts was hard to find, the searching couple in "Private Life" made for an affectionate and indelible portrait of middle-aged marriage.

3. **"First Reformed"**: Chiseled out of a lifetime of doubt, Paul Schrader's late-in-life masterpiece throbs with an existential despair that has hardened into a taut and tormented religious drama. It's a culmination for Schrader — an anguished bookend to "Taxi Driver," which he wrote — about a priest (a never-better Ethan Hawke) in desperate search for grace.

4. **"Shoplifters"**: The films of Hirokazu Kore-eda unfold so nimbly and breezily that their profundity (and your tears) can come as a surprise. In this, a high-point for Kore-eda and the winner of Cannes' Palme d'Or, the Japanese master depicts the ragtag life of a makeshift, impoverished family that slowly, heartbreakingly gnaws at the question: What makes a family? The answer is more than DNA.

5. **"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"**: Take the Coen brothers for granted at your peril. In this, an anthology of six Western tales of death and storytelling, life is a Poker game where everyone's holding — like the two pair of black aces and eights that Scruggs (Tim Blake Nelson) refuses to play in the film's first chapter — a dead man's hand.

6. **"Cold War"**: A stone-cold stunner, the second straight from Pawel Pawlikowski ("Ida"), about a romance torn between exile and home (and based on the director's parents). Pawlikowski's command is absolute. His smoky, shimmering images — dense with atmosphere, luminous with mystery — are what celluloid was made for.

7. **"The Rider"**: Chloe Zhao's second feature, starring real-life rider Brady Jandreau as an injured South Dakota cowboy forced to give up the only life he knows, is so richly filled with the beauty and struggle of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where it's set. Blending fiction with real life, Zhao achieves something spiritual.

8. **"Paddington 2"**: In an endlessly dispiriting year, Paul King's charm overload was the go-to antidote, a salve of confectionary delight: marmalade for your malady.

9. **"The Favourite"**: It's just such an irresistible acting spectacle. Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone set a torch to the traditional historical drama in Yorgos Lanthimos' wild and caustic period romp.



Well Go USA Entertainment via AP

This image released by Well Go USA Entertainment shows Jeon Jong-seo in a scene from "Burning."

10. **"Zama"**: Argentine filmmaker Lucrecia Martel's elliptical tale of a Spanish magistrate in remote 18th century Argentina, adapted from Antonio di Benedetto's novel, casts a deliriously hypnotic spell. The vivid, formalist imagery unravels the pathetic absurdities of a colonist whose stature, tenuous from the start, is disappearing before his eyes.

Honorable mentions: "You Were Never Really Here," "The Hate U Give," "Eighth Grade," "Black Panther," "Minding the Gap," "Sorry to Bother You," "Roma," "Free Solo," "Support the Girls," "Let the Sunshine In."

LINDSEY BAHR

1. **"Cold War"**: Romantic, passionate, tragic and perfectly unsentimental, filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski's "Cold War" is an intoxicating portrait of an impossible, cruel and undeniable love between a musician, Wiktor (Tomasz Kot) and a singer with an "it factor," Zula (Joanna Kulig). Shot in stunningly crisp black and white, Pawlikowski's film is a triumph in an 85-minute package.

2. **"Can You Ever Forgive Me?"**: Lee Israel is not your typical leading lady, and that's what makes her so great. You can imagine one version of this movie, about a washed up biographer who starts a side hustle forging personal letters of some of the wittiest literary minds of all time, relishing in and exploiting her unglamorous life. But director Marielle Heller and star Melissa McCarthy just let Lee Israel be: Sharp, unpleasant, infuriating, compelling, terrible and heroic. Heller's early '90s New York feels like the real thing too.

3. **"Roma"**: Alfonso Cuarón's deeply personal ode to women who raised him, "Roma" is a film going experience like few others — tranquil but urgent, meditative but exciting, and told with pure love and humanity. Like "Cold War," "Roma" is also shot in black and white, but it rarely feels like it. His images are so vivid and full of life you can almost feel the prism of colors peeking through.

4. **"Wildlife"**: This adaptation of Richard Ford's novel about a family in 1960s Montana feels like it was made by someone much older and much more experienced than 30-something, first-time director Paul Dano. And yet he's made one of the most elegant and heart wrenching examinations of a nuclear American family (Carey Mulligan, Jake Gyllenhaal and Ed Oxenbould) that's dissolving under capitalist systems and gender essentialism.

5. **"BlackKkKlansman"**: Ron Stallworth's story of infiltrating the Ku Klux

Klan is a good one, but Spike Lee made it even better in "BlackKkKlansman," an explosive and essential treatise on racism in America with a rallying score, a surprising amount of humor, and some unforgettable performances (from John David Washington and Adam Driver).

6. **"A Star Is Born"**: Bradley Cooper's achievement with "A Star Is Born" is hard to quantify. As an actor, he's never been better as the self-destructive rock star Jackson Maine, who has one gesture of love left in his pill and alcohol addled body — to help Lady Gaga's Ally reach the heights she deserves. And as a director? This is just the beginning. I'd imagine.

7. **"Private Life"**: Tamara Jenkins found something novel, and wonderfully feminine, to say about middle-class New York intellectuals in this impeccably written and acted story about marriage, fertility and hope in middle age, that is humorous, precise and true, and a great spotlight for the equally excellent Kathryn Hahn and Paul Giamatti.

8. **"The Favourite"**: This movie about power struggles in the court of Queen Anne is deliciously deranged, and wickedly cynical, but somehow more accessible and lighthearted than what we've typically come to expect from Yorgos Lanthimos. With fiercely fun and piercing performances from Olivia Colman, Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz and Nicholas Hoult, it's a fully engrossing experience that will leave you looking for some pearls to clutch (and then smash on the ground in devious glee).

9. **"Juliet, Naked"**: I won't pretend like "Juliet, Naked" has the gravitas or prestige of most of the other films on this list, and yet it is quietly, unassuming one of the more poignant, and straightforwardly enjoyable movies of the year about mid-life second chances, for those who have never made any mistakes (Rose Byrne's small-town character Annie), and those who've made all of them (Ethan Hawke's elusive, cult rock star Tucker Crowe).

10. **"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"**: The Coen brothers show off their best tricks in this deliciously entertaining Western anthology. It's the kind of film that feels new but familiar and nihilistic yet comforting, as you jump between a singing sharpshooter (Tim Blake Nelson), an old prospector (Tom Waits) and his "pocket," to a woman (Zoe Kazan) on a wagon trail getting her first glimmer of happiness.

Honorable Mentions: "First Reformed," "Burning," "Leave No Trace," "If Beale Street Could Talk," "A Simple Favor," "Minding the Gap."



Neal Preston/Warner Bros. via AP

This image released by Warner Bros. shows Bradley Cooper, left, and Lady Gaga in a scene from the latest reboot of the film, "A Star Is Born." Surely literal goosebumps are a good sign that you've just seen a pretty stunning movie moment, specifically where Lady Gaga's Ally takes a deep breath and walks out on stage to join Bradley Cooper's Jackson Maine and sing her song in front of thousands of people.

2018's top movie moments, from 'Shallow' to 'The Shining'

By Lindsey Bahr

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A film doesn't have to be great to have a great moment.

They're not mutually exclusive of course, but a great movie moment is something more ephemeral — a few minutes of pure, inexplicable joy, or even jaw-dropping disbelief that you want to revisit immediately. It's the kind of scene you fast-forward to, the kind you want to re-watch with friends and family, the kind that becomes a meme.

Here we look at some of our favorite movie moments from 2018 that stayed with us long after the credits rolled. Possible spoilers may follow.

ALLY TAKES THE STAGE IN "A STAR IS BORN"

Surely literal goosebumps are a good sign that you've just seen a pretty stunning movie moment. That's what happens every time I watch the electric "Shallow" scene in "A Star Is Born," and, specifically where Lady Gaga's Ally takes a deep breath and walks out on stage to join Bradley Cooper's Jackson Maine and sing her song in front of thousands of people.

PAST AND PRESENT MEET IN "MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN"

Ok, so "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" might barely qualify as a movie, but it has enough smile-inducing moments to give it a pass. Plus, is there a more enjoyable ending of a movie this year than when the young and old versions of all the characters meet up to sing and dance to "Super Trouper"? A little voice in your head might be asking: Are they all dead? And why is there so much metallic fabric in heaven? But then Pierce Brosnan, Stellan Skarsgard and Colin Firth emerge from below a bar, beer in hand and tops zipped down to their belly buttons and logical inquiry just sort of drifts away.

RECREATING "THE SHINING" IN "READY PLAYER ONE"

In a film full of fanboy indulgences and movie nostalgia, Steven Spielberg got to geek out with his own idol, Stanley Kubrick, by recreating "The Shining's" Overlook hotel in "Ready Player One" and put his own spin on it. Spielberg would never let homage get in the way of his own storytelling, though, so he settles for a brief wink instead of a full on rehash.

KILLMONGER CHALLENGES T'CHALLA IN "BLACK PANTHER"

It's not often that you find yourself really wondering what is going to happen in a major superhero movie, but "Black Panther" kept audiences guessing and no more so than in one of the tensest and most exciting scenes of the year, when Michael B. Jordan's Erik Killmonger — one of the year's greatest movie villains — challenges Chadwick Boseman's T'Challa for the throne, disarming the sitting ruler first with his words before they fight for the kingdom.

POOL PARTY IN "EIGHTH GRADE"

Is there anything more uncomfort-

able than a middle school pool party? How about one you were only invited to because a popular girl's mom has a crush on your dad? That's what Kayla (Elsie Fisher) is contending with in Bo Burnham's "Eighth Grade." Burnham's camera puts the audience right there with Kayla, as she makes her way through the house and to the carnival of souls outside, and we're left to only cringe and root for her through every agonizing moment.

EXPLAINING HARRY POTTER GANG THEORY IN "THE HATE U GIVE"

"The Hate U Give" is a drama, no doubt, but there are some moments of wonderful, heartfelt levity that audiences might not realize from just the logline or trailer alone. In fact some of the best scenes are the lighter ones, including the moment where Starr Carter's (Amandla Stenberg) no-nonsense dad, Maverick (Russell Hornsby) explains how the Hogwarts houses are like gangs.

JAILHOUSE SPIRIT IN "PADDINGTON 2"

The enormously kind bear from Dark-est Peru meets one of his greatest challenges when he ends up in the slammer with some unsavory cell block mates, but a little marmalade magic in the kitchen raises everyone's spirits, even Brendan Gleeson's Knuckles McGinty.

EDDIE BROCK EATS A LOBSTER IN "VENOM"

Was anyone more fully, totally committed to such a bizarre character this year as Tom Hardy was as Eddie Brock/Venom? Look no further than the so-out-there-it-works scene where, ravenously hungry, Eddie jumps into a live lobster tank at a fancy restaurant and takes a bite out of one of the crustaceans. It's an image I wish I could forget, actually, and yet...

BASTIAN GETS BLOODY IN "GAME NIGHT"

Olivia the West Highland White Terrier solidified her star status in "Widows," but her breakout role was just earlier this year as Jesse Plemons' dog, Bastian, in "Game Night," where she has the misfortune to be in the same room as a bleeding Max (Jason Bateman), one of the funnier moments of the year. Max notices his blood dripping onto the snowy white pup and tries to scrub it off with water. This of course just makes the little Westie pink and wet and itching to shake.

MOTHERHOOD MONTAGE IN "TULLY"

Pump. Feed. Change the diaper. Dis- pose of the diaper. Repeat. Jason Reitman and star Charlize Theron go through the monotonous repetition of life with a new-born in a wonderfully conceived montage in "Tully." It is funny, and dark and true. Because sometimes you're just so tired, you accidentally drop your phone on your baby.

And an honorable mention for a few movie moments that became memes: "I just wanted to take another look at you," from "A Star Is Born"; "Mr. Stark, I don't feel so good," from "Avengers: Infinity War"; Henry Cavill gets ready to fight in "Mission: Impossible — Fallout."

OPINION

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Sunday, December 30, 2018 | Page 8B

President's character could be his downfall

■ Trump's defenders are redefining good character and end up modeling it

For a very long time now, I have been predicting that the Trump presidency will end poorly because character is destiny. I've said it so often, I occasionally need to be reminded that I didn't coin the phrase. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus did when he observed "ethos anthropoi daimon," most often translated as "man's character is his fate."

Character is one of those topics, like culture or morality, that everyone strongly supports yet also argues about. When James Q. Wilson, one of the greatest social scientists of the last half-century, turned his scholarly attention to character, many of his colleagues in academia were repulsed. Even though every one of them surely believed in some notion of good character, it was assumed that to talk of it, let alone seek a definition of it or a plan for how to cultivate it, would be an exercise in lending aid and comfort to the moralizers of the right.

But Wilson, a man of both good and conservative character, had a more humble and universal definition than his colleagues might have expected: decency,

JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service



politeness, self-restraint, commitment, honesty, cooperativeness and the ability to think of others' well-being.

Weirdly, it's gotten to the point that when I say President Trump is not a man of good character, I feel like I should preface it with a trigger warning for many of my fellow conservatives.

Most of the angry responses are clearly rooted in the fact that they do not wish to be reminded of this obvious truth. But others seem to have convinced themselves that Trump is a man of good character, and they take personal offense at the insult, even though I usually offer it as little more than an observation. They rush to rebut the claim, citing banal or debatable propositions: He loves his children! He's loyal to a fault! He's authentic! Never mind that many bad men love their children, that loyalty to people or causes

unworthy of loyalty is not admirable, and that authentic coddishness is not admirable. Moreover, he is not remotely loyal to his wives or the people who work for him.

What's most worrisome is that these defenders are redefining good character in Trump's image, and they end up modeling it.

Others assume that I am referencing the president's style, specifically his insults and Twitter addiction. What his defenders overlook is that his insults are not simply an act; they are the product of astonishing levels of narcissism, insecurity and intellectual incuriosity. Trump's Twitter account is simply a window into his id.

The president who became a celebrity by telling reality-show contestants "you're fired" has not fired any of his Cabinet officials face to face or even on the phone. He relies on others, or on Twitter, to deliver the news. He loves controversy because it keeps him in the center ring, but he hates confrontation.

Nearly all of the controversies that have bedeviled Trump's administration are the direct result of his character, not his ideology. To be sure, ideology plays a role, amplifying both the intensity of anger from his left-wing critics and the intensity of his transactional defenders. Many

of the liberal critics shrieking about the betrayal of the Kurds implicit in Trump's decision to withdraw from Syria would be applauding if a President Clinton had made the same decision. And many of the conservatives celebrating the move would be condemning it.

But Trump's refusal to listen to advisers, his inability to bite his tongue, his demonization and belittling of senators who vote for his agenda but refuse to keep quiet when he does or says things they disagree with, his rants against the First Amendment, his praise for dictators and insults for allies, his need to create new controversies to eclipse old ones and his inexhaustible capacity to lie and fabricate history: All of this springs from his character.

Last weekend, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie offered an odd defense of the president. He's like a "72-year-old relative," Christie said on ABC's "This Week." "When people get older, they become more and more convinced of the fact that what they're doing is the right thing."

Christie has a point. But the reason Trump won't change has little to do with age and everything to do with character.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

OPINION EXTRA

Pence should be preparing for the worst

One good thing about holding a senior position in government is you get a lot of free advice — which brings me to the choice Vice President Mike Pence is about to make when he chooses a new chief of staff.

The vice president should consider taking a different approach from what has become the norm in Washington. Specifically, he should neither elevate a staffer, nor appoint a political generalist or media handler. He should appoint a serious adult with experience in senior positions in government. The vice president's office is already known in Washington as "the pod of normalcy," based primarily on Pence's own sound judgment and calm demeanor. His office is populated with good people who are capable, get along well with each other and are not part of the wild dramas constantly emanating from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

But now, the White House needs ballast. It needs more seasoned experts who bring gravitas to the administration at a time when it seems to be teetering. Think about someone such as former solicitor general Ted Olson. Or maybe Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., who is, until the end of the year, filling the Senate seat of the late John McCain. The point is, we need more experienced people in the government — especially in the White House — in case there is a crisis. A guy such as Olson would be ready and reassuring if we faced a constitutional crisis. Someone such as Kyl, along with acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, would have trust and credibility among congressional leaders from both parties. The vice president's office needs to be prepared for contingencies beyond the ordinary possibilities.

There is precedent for having a senior statesman as a vice president's chief of staff. From 1981 to 1985, Daniel Murphy served as chief of staff for Vice President George H.W. Bush after having already served a long and accomplished career as a four-star Navy admiral, as deputy director of the CIA and as a deputy undersecretary at the Pentagon. He was serious, and everyone knew it.

Given how temperamental President Trump can be, I wonder whether he and those around him would feel threatened by Pence if the vice president were to bring in someone like Murphy — as though recruiting staff with real poise and maturity were somehow disloyal. This is where we are.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is exiting, the markets are in turmoil, and a partial government shutdown is underway. There is uncertainty about trade, friction with our allies, as well as confusion about U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. Putin is becoming ever more emboldened and malicious. And, in reality, the president has few real allies in Congress. Each of these and other circumstances combine to form the recipe for a crisis. They are not the crisis. The crisis or catastrophe caused by the dysfunction has not happened yet. No one knows what the crisis is going to be. But we are living in perilous times.

For hand-wringers such as me, it feels as though we are vulnerable. Something bad is going to happen. No one staff member can change the existing dynamic, but there is no harm in adding some extra horsepower. The vice president can accommodate the president's insecurities and help prepare for the worst. Just hoping for the best isn't what the job requires. We are on notice. Trouble is coming. The vice president would be doing a service by reinforcing his office with an experienced chief of staff, in case something extraordinary happens.

— Ed Rogers, special to The Washington Post

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Trump shouldn't focus on stock market

■ Wages would be a worthy new object of president's attention

RICH LOWRY

King Features Syndicate



Donald Trump may watch the stock market more closely than any day trader. For a president who underlined the increasing importance of working-class whites to the GOP coalition and who trampled so much bipartisan economic orthodoxy during the campaign, to be so overtly obsessed with the stock market is a strange disconnect.

In fact, no president in memory has so publicly staked himself to the market. Trump has, in contrast, paid relatively little public attention to wage growth, which is the measure that more closely tracks with his particular political project (especially considering that his election prospects may again depend on Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin).

Why the focus on the stock market? For one thing, it's impossible to avoid. The stock market numbers run in little boxes in the bottom right-hand corner of cable-news TV screens. Big gains or drops make front-page news. The market's performance affects how people feel about the economy on any given day.

On top of all this, the market clearly acts for Trump like poll numbers or TV ratings — immediate, easily digestible feedback on his perceived worth or that of his economic stewardship.

This isn't how he should view it, and it was shortsighted to be so boastful about the good times.

The stock market goes up and down. Trump didn't have sole responsibility for the run-up in the market after his election (although taking the regulatory boot off the economy helped) and doesn't deserve the blame for the downward trend now (although the contention with China and general sense of chaos don't help).

Trump has lashed out at Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell for being too tight on interest rates, and he might be right. But the president should be less beholden to the gyrations of the market.

Wages would be a worthy new object of his attention. Trump has the ability to shift the public conversation onto ground of his choosing, and it'd be better if wages didn't often take a back seat to the stock market and GDP growth.

Trump has a story to tell here. A historically low unemployment rate is having an effect. Wages grew at a 3.1 percent rate year over year in October and November, the highest level since 2009.

When Trump hears complaints from employers that they are having trouble hiring, his answer should be: "Good. Pay your workers more."

On the other hand, the political downside of focusing on wages is twofold: Like the stock market, it is a metric that the president doesn't have direct control over, and unlike the stock market, it hasn't mostly enjoyed strong upward momentum over the past couple of decades.

Oren Cass of the Manhattan Institute and author of the thought-provoking new book "The Once and Future Worker" argues that the point of comparison shouldn't be whether wages are better than they were in post-crisis 2010, but how they are doing compared with business-cycle peaks in 2007, 2000 and 1989. Here they are lagging.

Wages are ultimately related to productivity growth, which has been growing more slowly than in the golden age of the American economy in the mid-20th century.

Robert Atkinson of the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation argues forcefully that policymakers should make fostering productivity growth their foremost goal.

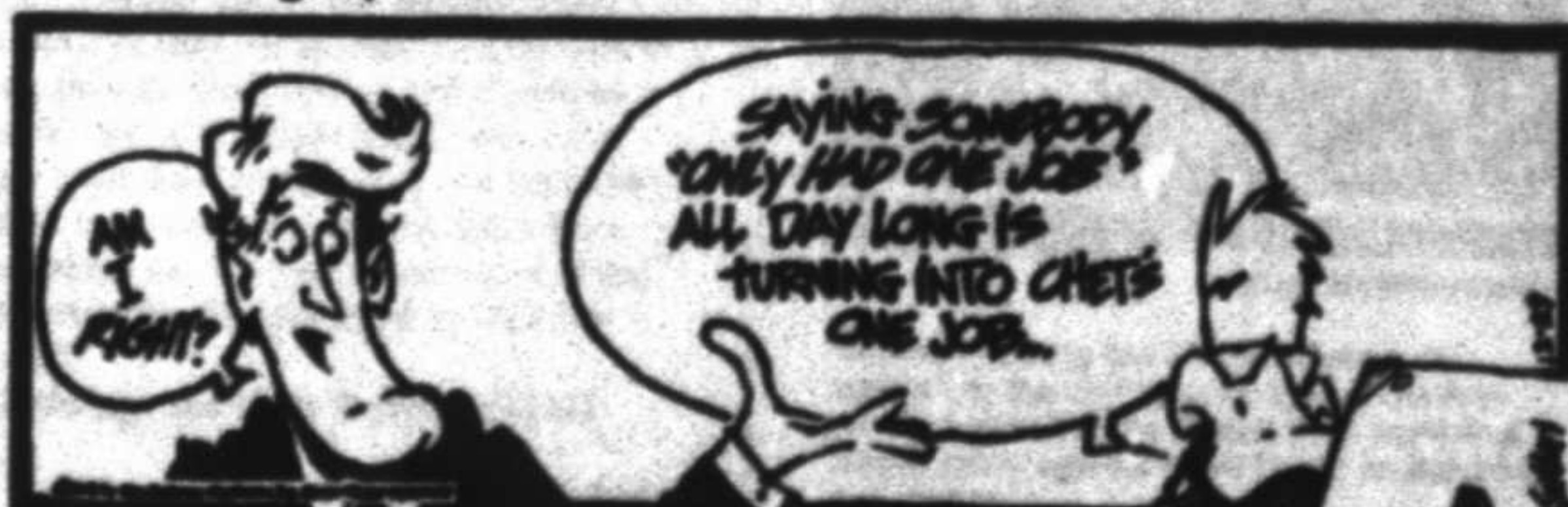
For his part, Cass suggests a worker-friendly, longer-term agenda of reforming education to put more emphasis on the interests of students who won't go on to get a four-year college degree, changing our immigration system to keep the lower end of the labor market as tight as possible, and exploring innovative models of unionization to give workers more leverage.

Maybe these particular initiatives aren't to the liking of the White House, but a working-class Republican should have an agenda very specifically tailored to the interests of workers. Alternately bragging and complaining about the stock market isn't a substitute.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Sunday, December 30, 2018 | Section C

No. 1 Alabama beats No. 4 Oklahoma 45-34

By Steven Wine
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Tua Tagovailoa threw for 318 yards and four touchdowns and No. 1-ranked Alabama beat No. 4 Oklahoma 45-34 on Saturday night in the College Football Playoff semifinal at the Orange Bowl.

The high-scoring Sooners reached the semifinal despite a porous defense that was no match for Alabama's diverse attack, and the Crimson Tide led 28-0 after only 17 minutes.

Alabama (14-0) advanced to the national championship game for the fourth consecutive season and will play Jan. 7 in Santa Clara, California against familiar foe Clemson, which beat Notre Dame 30-3 in the Cotton Bowl. Clemson, ranked No. 2, and Alabama will face off in the playoffs for the fourth year in a row, and have split two title games.

"They've got a great program and a great team," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "I'm sure it'll be a great challenge for us, and I'm sure we'll need to play better than we did today."

Tagovailoa's performance in the semifinal argued for a Florida recount in the Heisman Trophy vote. He finished as the runner-up to Oklahoma's Kyler Murray but won sweet consolation by completing 24 of 27 passes, with scores to four receivers.

"It's always good to see your hard work pay off," said Tagovailoa, who played on a sore left ankle.

While Tagovailoa connected on his first nine passes for 184 yards, Murray was sacked twice before he threw a pass, and his first completion came with his team already down 21-0.

Murray had one brilliant moment, a perfect deep throw on the move to Charleston Rambo in the end zone for a 49-yard score. He passed for 308 yards and ran for 109 but took several jarring hits, including when All-America nose guard Quinnen Williams dislodged his helmet and forced him from the game for one play in the fourth quarter.

The Sooners (12-2) were bowled over by the Crimson Tide. When Robert Barnes tried to stop Josh Jacobs in the open field, the Alabama running back lowered his head for the collision and

continued to the end zone for a 27-yard score while the Sooners safety spun to the turf, dazed and briefly unable to get up.

"Our offense really controlled the tempo of the game," Saban said. "The only time we really got stopped in the game is when we stopped ourselves."

In a matchup between the two highest-scoring offenses in the country, Oklahoma fell too far behind early.

On the first snap, DeVonta Smith turned Tagovailoa's short pass into a 50-yard gain. The Crimson Tide went on to score an Orange Bowl-record 21 points in the opening quarter.

At one point the disparity in yards was 191-0. The most noise the Sooners mustered in the early going was when linebacker Kenneth Murray talked trash with the Alabama bench — with his team trailing by three touchdowns.

Saban wasn't ready to relax, though, spiking his headset during one of his several sideline tirades. And sure enough, the Sooners mounted a rally, closing to within 11 points three times in the final 18 minutes.



Wilfredo Lee/AP

Alabama running back Najee Harris (22) jumps over Oklahoma safety Patrick Fields (10) Saturday during the first half of the Orange Bowl in Miami Gardens, Fla.

A fight to the finish



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Taysha Rushton drives around Midland Classical's Kenna Bayley Saturday in the third place game to finish off the Bryon Johnston Holiday Classic at Chaparral Center.

MHS beats MCA in third place game

By Christopher Hadorn
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Midland High was the one girls basketball team that had Midland Classical's number during its 2017-2018 TAPPS 3A state championship season.

The Lady Bulldogs beat the Lady Knights by a combined 134-76 margin in two wins last year, but Saturday was a chance for MCA to adjust when it faced MHS in the third-place game of the Bryon Johnston Holiday Classic.

The No. 3-ranked Lady Knights made Saturday's affair much more competitive from start to finish. However, the Lady Bulldogs rode a strong defensive performance and an 18-point effort by all-tournament selection Taysha Rushton en route to a 47-34 victory over MCA at Chaparral Center.

MHS (14-9) put a point of emphasis on containing Lady Knights junior point

guard Leia Beattie, the scoring machine who can create separation with her nifty dribbling and strength. Beattie still managed to score 21 points and make all-tournament team honors, but MCA was held to only 20 points total through three quarters.

All-tournament honoree Sadie Govan (eight steals) and Demmi Anders spearheaded the Lady Bulldogs' defensive efforts, which took the Lady Knights out of rhythm early with their physical play.

"We had three girls that we assigned to kind of alternate on Leia because she has a strong body and she is just physical herself," MHS head coach Wes Torres said of the team's defensive strategy against Beattie. "All three had two fouls. We stuck a sophomore on her — Demmi Anders, who did a heck of a job. That will go unnoticed to most people but she was the MVP of defense. She stepped up as a sophomore with minimal varsity experience and defended one of the best

guards in the area and did a dang good job."

Govan scored eight of her 11 points during a first quarter when MHS took control of the game with a 12-7 lead. One of Govan's buckets came on a 3-pointer after the Lady Bulldogs created a fifth-chance opportunity with their offensive rebounding. MHS out-rebounded MCA, 12-6, in the first quarter.

"I feel like we did as coach asked us to do," Govan said. "We locked down the players that we needed to lock down. Even though their best guard (Beattie) scored, we still locked her down. Any other team that she played, she probably would have scored more on them than she did on us. We just came out and had the mentality that we need to lock her down."

Although the Lady Knights (11-4)

Please see MHS/3C

Lawrence lights up Notre Dame, No. 2 Clemson cruises 30-3

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — When Clemson's Dabo Swinney entrusted a team with championship aspirations to freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence in September, this is what the Tigers' coach had in mind.

Lawrence threw for 327 yards and three touchdowns and No. 2 Clemson beat No. 3 Notre Dame 30-3 on Saturday in the Cotton Bowl to reach the College Football Playoff title game. The Tigers (14-0) will play either No. 1 Alabama — for a fourth straight season in the playoff — or No. 4 Oklahoma on Jan. 7 in Santa Clara, California.

"This is what we came here to do," Swinney said. "This senior group just won their 54th game and they're going back to their third national championship in four years."

Clemson's overpowering and experienced defensive line, led by ends Clelin Ferrell and Austin Bryant, smothered Ian Book and the Fighting Irish (12-1), holding them to 248 yards. "Our guys, they got it done in the trenches," Swinney said.

On offense, freshmen led the way. Lawrence, making his 10th career start, was 27 for 39 and did not throw an interception against a Notre Dame defense that had been one of the best on the country. Freshman receiver Justyn Ross had six catches for 148 yards and two long touchdowns.

The Irish hung around for a quarter, with the team's exchanging field goals. But early in the second quarter, Notre Dame All-America cornerback Julian Love went out with what coach Brian Kelly said after the game was a head injury and Lawrence started taking apart the Irish secondary.

Lawrence hooked up with Ross on a deep throw down the sideline and the big receiver beat Love's backup, Donte Vaughn, for a tackle-breaking, 52-yard score early in the second quarter. The Irish looked as if they might be able to keep it close to halftime, but the offense couldn't keep that ferocious Clemson front, even without suspended star tackle Dexter Lawrence, out of the backfield.

In the final 2 minutes, Trevor Lawrence connected with Ross on a 42-yard score and with Tee Higgins for a one-handed, 19-yard touchdown reception — again over Vaughn — with 2 seconds left in the second quarter.

Please see COTTON/3C



Jeffrey Mott/Reuters/AP

Clemson running back Travis Etienne (9) sprints into the end zone for a touchdown in the second half of the Cotton Bowl semi-final playoff game against Notre Dame on Saturday in Arlington.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TV LISTINGS

Baseball
Tomateros de Culiacan vs. Yakus de Obregon, 6 p.m., ESPNDEP

Basketball
Liga ACB: Baskonia vs. Real Madrid, 12:30 p.m., ELVN
College Basketball
Binghamton at Michigan, 11 a.m., BTN

Lipscomb at Clemson, 2 p.m., FSSW
Appalachian State at St. Louis, 2 p.m., FCS

Mount St. Mary's at Minnesota, 3 p.m., ESPNU
New Mexico State at Colorado State, 3 p.m., ATTSW

Alabama at Stephen F. Austin, 5 p.m., ESPNU
UMass at Georgia, 5 p.m., SEC

Cross-Country Skiing
World Cup, Tour de Ski: Men's 15km Interval, 7:30 a.m., OLYHD

Hockey
SHL: Djurgard at Vaxjo Lakers, 8 a.m., ELVN
IHF World Junior Championships

Switzerland vs. Russia, 7 p.m., NHL
Kazakhstan vs. Slovakia, 9:30 p.m., NHL

Men's Soccer
PL: Crystal Palace FC vs. Chelsea FC, 6 a.m., NBCSN
PL: Southampton FC vs. Manchester City FC, 8:10 a.m., NBCSN, UNVSO

PL: Manchester United vs. Bournemouth, 10:25 a.m., NBCSN, TELE

National Basketball Association
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6 p.m., FSSW
National Football League
Jacksonville at Houston, Noon, CBS
Dallas at NY Giants, Noon, FOX

Cleveland at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m., CBS
Philadelphia at Washington, 3:25 p.m., FOX
Indianapolis at Tennessee, 7:20 p.m., NBC

Tennis
Hopman Cup: USA vs. Greece, ATP: Brisbane, Pune, WTA: Brisbane, Auckland, Shenzhen, 6 p.m., TENNIS
Women's College Basketball
Iowa at Michigan State, Noon, ESPN2
Fort Wayne at North Dakota, 1 p.m., FCS

USF at LSU, 3 p.m., SEC
National Basketball Association
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

National Football League
Dallas at NY Giants, Noon, KORY 95.1 FM, KBBT 95.7 FM (Big Spring), KTXC 104.7 FM (Esp)
Jacksonville at Houston, Noon, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

Radio
Oklahoma City at Dallas, 6 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

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Time to expand CFP to make up for boring bowls

As I sat down to write this column on Saturday afternoon, Clemson was playing Notre Dame in a College Football Playoff game at Arlington's AT&T Stadium.

Regardless of the outcome of this game or the one that was played later Saturday night between Oklahoma and Alabama, many college football fans were paying attention.

It's no wonder why some top NFL prospects are deciding to skip the "Who Really Cares" Bowl to avoid a serious injury.

It's time to either expand the playoffs to at least eight teams or get rid of some of these bowl games.

Just like some folks have a problem with having teams with losing records make the high school football playoffs, I don't think 6-6 college football teams deserve to be rewarded unless they play in a super tough conference like the SEC or the Big 12. But even in those cases, I won't be heartbroken if I don't see a 6-6 Texas Tech team in the Snickers Bar Bowl somewhere out in Tennessee.

It's time to make the college football postseason great again.

The bowl system is also extremely watered down and snoozers happen when the system is watered down with too many undeserving teams. Oh, that happened in the Texas high school football playoffs as well. They weren't all classics like the Galena Park North Shore-Duncanville game.

But the College Football

Playoffs have deemed most, if not all the remaining bowl games, meaningless.

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OSCAR LeROY

oleroymrt@gmail.com



But hey, if Eli Manning could find a way to win two Super Bowls, there's hope for Prescott.

Besides, there are no really great teams this year in the NFL. There are plenty of good teams but all seem beatable on any given day. I wouldn't be surprised to see the Patriots in the Super Bowl again just because of Tom Brady.

And that is why fans of the Cowboys should have cautious hope. Could they lose in the first round? You bet. They could also make a run before finding a way to lose on a freak play.

Thus is the life when you root for the Cowboys.

And finally, have a safe and happy New Year.

I've tried the old resolutions thing too many times before and I usually give up before Jan. 3. For those of you that still make resolutions, good luck.

Here's a resolution you should have: Keep reading. Those who read tend to be much smarter than those who don't.

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Cowboys, Giants have same goals heading into final game

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The NFL rushing title will be on the line with Ezekiel Elliott and Saquon Barkley on the field. There is a chance this could be Eli Manning's final start for the team he led to two Super Bowl titles in the last 15 years.

Not bad for a somewhat meaningless regular-season finale between the NFC East champion Dallas Cowboys (9-6) and the struggling New York Giants (5-10) at MetLife Stadium on Sunday.

The big-name interest points don't appeal to Cowboys coach Jason Garrett and Giants coach Pat Shurmur. Both want wins and momentum.

Garrett wants the momentum for the Cowboys' wild-card playoff home game against either Seattle, Minnesota or the Eagles next weekend. He plans on playing just about everyone who is healthy this week.

Finishing his first season as the coach of a team that has missed the playoffs the past two years and six of seven, Shurmur wants to build for next year. The Giants have already won two more games than in 2017, and they are 4-3 since their bye week.

"We think it's important to practice well and go play well in a game like this," said Garrett, whose team has gone 6-1 down the stretch to win the division for the second time in three years. "We've been in the situation a couple times in recent years and you have to handle them a little differently based on the availability that you have of your players, but typically if a player's not healthy enough to play he's not going to play. But the other guys are



Roger Steinman/AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) scores a touchdown on a running play during a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Dec. 23 in Arlington.

going to play."

Garrett said his coaching staff will be finished breaking down the three potential playoff opponents this week.

Shurmur isn't taking any solace that the Giants have lost some close games.

"The fact that we fight until the end is what I think is important," he said. "Now, when there's a victory to be had, we've got to go take it, and I think that's part of learning and part of what we need to do better."

Here are five things to watch:

Ell's own song

Manning has been the Giants' starting quarterback since the middle of his rookie season in 2004. The soon-to-be 38-year-old led New York to Super Bowl titles in the 2007 and '11 seasons. He has one more year on a contract that will pay him more than \$22 million next season. There is no heir apparent on the roster,

but Manning's drawback is his lack of mobility. It will be a focal point to see what the Giants do after the season and how the crowd reacts to Manning on Sunday.

Awards, records

Elliott enters the final week with a 183-yard lead over Todd Gurley and a 236-yard advantage over Barkley for the rushing title. Barkley needs 114 yards from scrimmage to join Eric Dickerson (2,212 yards in 1983) and Edgerrin James (2,139 in 1999) as the only rookies with at least 2,000 scrimmage yards in NFL history. He also needs two catches to surpass Reggie Bush (88 receptions in 2006) for most by rookie running back in league annals.

Guarding Martin

Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones all but said on his radio

show Tuesday that right guard Zack Martin, who has battled a knee injury all season, will sit with nothing on the line for Dallas. Martin missed a game for the first time in his career two weeks ago before returning in the division-clinching win over Tampa Bay. The five-time Pro Bowler hyperextended his left knee in a preseason game. He left both of the games against Philadelphia after aggravating the injury, returning the first time but not the second.

Other sit-or-play questions

Dallas receiver Tavon Austin has been out since Week 6 with a groin injury but is getting close to a return. The question is whether to give him something of a test run before the wild-card game.

Defensive lineman Tyrone Crawford is likely to sit after injuring his neck last weekend. Cornerback Anthony Brown's back flared up late last week, keeping him out of the win over the Bucs. He'll probably rest as well. Brown's injury led the Cowboys to keep linebacker Sean Lee (hamstring) out for the sixth time in seven games against Tampa Bay, so they might decide to save him for the playoffs as well.

About that passing game

The Cowboys need as much time together as possible with a passing attack that's been a work in progress all season. They improved dramatically by adding Amari Cooper in a midseason trade with Oakland. However, he has been held to 32 and 20 yards receiving the past two games after going for a career-high 217 yards with three touchdowns against the Eagles.

Texans need win against Jags to clinch division

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans are already in the playoffs but need a win against Jacksonville on Sunday to clinch the AFC South and have a chance for a first-round bye.

"That's the main thing we're thinking about is clinching this division, nothing else," receiver DeAndre Hopkins said. "In order for us to get to where we want to get we've got to win this game."

Houston (10-5) lost to Philadelphia last week but became the sixth team since 1980 to reach the playoffs after a 0-3 start on Sunday evening when Pittsburgh lost to New Orleans. The Texans would get a bye with a victory and a loss or tie by New England.

The Texans won nine in a row after their winless start to turn their season around, but have lost two of their past three as injuries have started piling up. Hopkins played last week despite an ankle injury and said he's feeling much better this week, and running back Lamar Miller should return after sitting out last week with an injured ankle. But the Texans will be without receiver Demaryius Thomas, who sustained a season-ending Achilles tendon injury last week.

The Jaguars (5-10), who have lost two of their past three, will wrap up a disappointing season on Sunday. A year after winning the division and reaching the AFC championship game, Jacksonville doesn't have much to play for except the chance to keep the Texans from the division crown.

"Playing a spoiler is kind of bittersweet because playing a spoiler means, obviously, you have no chance," safety Tashaun Gipson said.

"But it's always good to play the Grinch and ruin somebody else's Christmas ... getting a win in Houston would be huge and obviously we would mess up a lot of stuff they've got going on over there, which obviously would be fun."

While several Texans are dealing with injuries this week, quarterback Deshaun Watson is much healthier than he was the first time Houston faced the Jaguars this season when he had to ride a bus to Jacksonville because of concerns about his health.

Watson was asked how much better he's feeling now than he was that week when he threw a touchdown pass to help Houston to a 20-7 win on Oct. 21.

"I don't have a collapsed lung or a broken rib, so I guess pretty darn well," he said with a smile. "I feel good, feel solid, able to do everything I want to do and participate, wake up every morning healthy and in good spirits."

Watson has played clean football over the past five games, throwing eight touchdown passes with no interceptions and running for three more scores. He knows this is perhaps the

biggest game of his young NFL career, but insists he doesn't feel any added pressure because of what's on the line.

"There's not really pressure for me or anything because every game is a must-win ... I'm not used to losing," he said. "Every game, I put that mindset in my head that we must go in and win. We understand the stakes of this game is the opportunity to clinch, but ... you can't focus on that. You just have to focus on your job and going out there and performing and let the game come to you. You can't put unnecessary pressure on yourself."

The Jaguars will start Blake Bortles at quarterback against the Texans. Bortles, who has 13 TD passes and 10 interceptions this season, was benched after a loss to Buffalo on Nov. 25.

Some things to know about the Jacksonville-Houston game.

Running on empty

Jacksonville is one of two NFL teams (along with Philadelphia) that haven't had a 100-yard rusher this season. Leonard Fournette gained 95 yards on the ground in consecutive games last month, but hasn't topped 50 yards rushing in the four weeks since.

The Jaguars will try to end the season-long skid against Houston, which ranks fourth in the league against the run and hasn't allowed anyone to top the century mark since Frank Gore ran for 100 yards in the 2017 finale against Indianapolis.

Hopkins chasing records

Hopkins has 103 receptions for 1,425 yards which ranks second in the NFL. He needs just nine catches and 97 yards receiving to surpass his career highs of 111 receptions and 1,521 yards set in 2015. But he's not just close to outdoing his own numbers, he has a chance to pass Andre Johnson for two franchise receiving records with a big game on Sunday.

Hopkins needs 13 catches to move past Johnson (115) for most catches in a season in team history and he's 174 yards away from Johnson's team record of 1,598 yards receiving set in 2012.

O-line shuffle

The Jaguars, who already are down to their fourth left tackle because of injuries, are expected to start their third right tackle of the season. Corey Robinson is planning to step in for backup Josh Wells, who is dealing with a concussion. It would be the eighth different starting O-line combination for Jacksonville in the past 15 games. The Jaguars have allowed 50 sacks this season, including 28 in the past six games.

"I appreciate the effort, but obviously we need more production," coach Doug Marrone said.

Wild season ends with playoff uncertainty

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

In a wild and crazy season, the biggest remaining tumult is in the AFC South. Houston leads and takes the division title by beating struggling Jacksonville. A Texans loss, however, gives the winner of the prime-time game between the Colts and Titans in Nashville the crown, dropping Houston into a wild card.

There are two other AFC division crowns to settle, in the North and West, but at least the Chiefs and Chargers already are into the postseason. So while avoiding having to suit up next weekend — and the likelihood of having the conference's best record — becomes paramount, Kansas City and Los Angeles both have a comfort zone.

Baltimore and Pittsburgh do not. If the Ravens win at home over Cleveland, they take the North. If they lose and the Steelers defeat spiraling Cincinnati, Pittsburgh advances.

Indianapolis (8-8) at Tennessee (8-8)

Advantage Andrew Luck in this rivalry: he is 10-0 in his career starts vs. the Titans. He could become the only player since 1970 with an 11-0 mark against one team.

Colts K Adam Vinatieri can break a tie with Jeff Feagles (352) for third-most games played in league history and can join George Blanda, Morten Andersen and John Carney as the only players to appear in a game at age 46.

Cincinnati (8-8) at Pittsburgh (8-8-1)

Pittsburgh has won 10 of the past 11 meetings with Bengals, while the Bengals are 8-25 vs. the Steelers under coach Marvin Lewis. But last year, the Bengals won at Baltimore 31-27 in the final game, knocking the Ravens out of contention and giving a playoff berth to Buffalo. Of course, those Bengals were a lot healthier than this injury-wrecked group.

Cleveland (7-7-1) at Baltimore (8-8)

Cleveland certainly has lots of incentive, including a winning record after going 0-16 in 2017, and making an emphatic statement about the work of interim coach Gregg Williams.

That doesn't likely trump the motivation of making the playoffs, especially in a season with no overwhelming favorites. The Ravens are 9-1 against Cleveland at home under John Harbaugh, who took over in 2008. Ravens QB Lamar Jackson is 5-1 in his first six career starts, tied for third-best start in NFL history. RB Gus Edwards leads Baltimore with 642 yards rushing.

with Jackson second at 605. Both are rookies.

Philadelphia (8-7) at Washington (7-8)

With last year's hero, Nick Foles, taking over once more for an injured Carson Wentz, the Eagles have made a late playoffs push. They win here and Minnesota falls and the Eagles get a chance to defend their crown.

Chicago (11-4) at Minnesota (8-8-1)

A huge challenge for the Vikings, because a loss could ruin their season one year after making the NFC title game. But the Bears have lost six straight games in Minnesota and doing so again likely sends the Vikings to Soldier Field the following week.

Oakland (4-11) at Kansas City (11-4)

The Chiefs can clinch the AFC West and No. 1 seed in the playoffs with a win and they have handled Oakland in seven of the past eight meetings. But a loss and Chargers win drops Kansas City to fifth seed.

KC's top-ranked offense could be challenged a bit by a Raiders D that has not allowed an opposing QB to throw for 300 yards in nine straight weeks. Raiders QB Derek Carr has an NFL-best streak of 325 passes without an interception.

Los Angeles Chargers (11-4) at Denver (8-8)

LA has in large part made its rush to the playoffs away from its temporary California home. The Chargers have won five straight on the road, tied for the franchise's longest since the merger. Although QB Philip Rivers is 12-15 vs. Denver, including the playoffs, he's having a special season.

San Francisco (4-11) at Los Angeles Rams (12-3)

A win or tie gives LA a wild-card round bye. But the Rams haven't been as dynamic with the ball recently, and star running back Todd Gurley is battling knee issues, though C.J. Anderson filled in well last week against Arizona. DT Aaron Donald leads the NFL with 19½ sacks, and is in striking distance of Michael Strahan's record of 22½. Donald had four sacks in the Rams' first meeting with the Niners.

Carolina (8-8) at New Orleans (12-3)

With nothing to accomplish as a guaranteed top NFC seed, the Saints could rest people. Drew Brees leads the

NFL in completion rate at 74.4 percent (364 of 489), putting him in position to break his own single-season record of 72 percent, set in 2017. New Orleans never has won 14 games in a season, though such an achievement might not be high priority.

New York Jets (4-11) at New England (10-5)

A victory would clinch New England's 13th first-round bye in the AFC playoffs since 2001. The Patriots would also earn a first-round bye with losses by Baltimore, Houston and Tennessee. New England also can clinch home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs with a win and losses by Kansas City and the Los Angeles Chargers. New England has won five in a row over Jets, who have been feisty the past few weeks as rookie quarterback Sam Darnold improves.

Arizona (8-8) at Seattle (9-6)

The Seahawks' superb retooling has landed it an NFC wild card. Coach Pete Carroll signed a contract extension through 2021 season this week.

Russell Wilson is the first QB with a winning record in each of his first seven seasons in the NFL, but this year much of it has been built on the league's top rushing game, protecting the ball — a plus-14 turnover differential — and solid defense.

Miami (7-8) at Buffalo (8-10)

A December road game in Orchard Park never is enviable and the Dolphins have lost five of the past six games there. This could be QB Ryan Tannehill's final game as Miami's quarterback given his inconsistency and frequent injuries.

Atlanta (8-8) at Tampa Bay (8-10)

The Falcons have won four straight in this NFC South rivalry that has little meaning Sunday. Falcons WR Julio Jones leads the NFL with 1,539 receiving yards and has 104 catches.

Bucs WR Mike Evans averages a league-leading 17.7 yards per catch (minimum 50 receptions) and ranks third in the NFL with 1,418 receiving yards.

Detroit (8-10) at Green Bay (8-1)

Two of the NFL's most disappointing teams play out the string. Detroit is trying to win consecutive games at Lambeau Field for the first time since 1990-91.

NFL GLANCE

Associated Press

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
New England	10	5	0	.667	288	323	25	3,400	24
Miami	7	8	0	.467	282	351	11	1,738	17
Buffalo	8	10	0	.444	227	287	11	1,387	20
N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	259	425	5	1,025	10
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Houston	10	5	0	.667	382	313	25	3,400	24
Indianapolis	8	8	0	.500	420	327	11	1,738	17
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
Jacksonville	5	10	0	.333	242	350	5	1,025	10
AFC SOUTH									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Texans	10	5	0	.667	288	323	25	3,400	24
Pittsburgh	8	8	0	.500	420	327	11	1,738	17
Cleveland	7	7	1	.500	259	350	5	1,025	10
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
AFC NORTH									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	320	410	11	1,738	17
Cleveland	7	7	1	.500	259	350	5	1,025	10
Pittsburgh	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
AFC WEST									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	320	410	11	1,738	17
Los Angeles	11	4	0	.733	320	410	11	1,738	17
Denver	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
Oakland	4	11	0	.267	259	425	5	1,025	10
NFC									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	282	351	11	1,738	17
San Francisco	7	8	0	.467	282	351	11	1,738	17
San Diego	7	8	0	.467	282	351	11	1,738	17
Arizona	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
NFC NORTH									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Green Bay	10	5	0	.667	288	323	25	3,400	24
Detroit	8	8	0	.500	420	327	11	1,738	17
Chicago	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
Minnesota	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
NFC SOUTH									
Team	W	L	T	Pct	PP	PA	Comp	Yds	TDs
Atlanta	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
New Orleans	12	3	0	.800	470	320	11	1,738	17
Carolina	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17
Tampa Bay	8	8	0	.500	220	279	11	1,738	17



John Bazemore/AP

Florida running back Kadarius Toney (4) leaps toward the end zone against Michigan defensive back Lavert Hill (24) during the first half of the Peach Bowl Saturday in Atlanta.

Gators rout Michigan to cap comeback year

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Lamical Perine had a 5-yard scoring catch and 53-yard touchdown run to lead No. 10 Florida's strong rushing attack Saturday, helping the Gators cap their comeback season with a 41-15 rout of No. 8 Michigan in the Peach Bowl.

After finishing 4-7 in 2017, Florida enjoyed a dramatic turnaround in Dan Mullen's debut season as coach.

"To know where we were last season to where we are now is something special," Mullen said. "To finish as a 10-win season, one of the top 10 teams in the country, that's pretty special."

Florida (10-3) closed the season with four straight wins.

"I'd call this season a success... I don't know many teams that'd be lining up to play us right now," Mullen said.

Michigan (10-3) closed a promising season with two straight lopsided losses.

Felipe Franks ran and passed for touchdowns to lead Florida's offense. He had a 20-yard scoring run in the second quarter

and finished with 74 yards rushing on 14 carries. Franks passed for 173 yards.

Chauncey Gardner-Johnson led Florida's defense with two interceptions, including one returned 30 yards for a touchdown early in the second half, when Florida led only 13-10, set the tone for the Gators.

The Wolverines faced the unenviable task of having four top starters, including top rusher Karan Higdon and leading tackler Devin Bush, skip the game to focus on the NFL draft.

After giving up 567 yards in a crushing 62-39 loss to Ohio State to close the regular season, Michigan's defense again couldn't play up to its No. 1 ranking.

Coach Jim Harbaugh thought his players recovered from the devastating loss to Ohio State, which ended the Wolverines' hopes for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

"I thought they were ready... I thought they were emotionally ready, yeah," Harbaugh said. "I thought they were still

considered the season to have been 'very good.'"

"It would have been a great season had we won this game," he said. "Didn't get that done."

Harbaugh said he does not plan staff changes.

Florida compiled 427 total yards, including 257 on the ground. Perine led the Gators with 76 yards rushing. Jordan Scarlett ran for 59 yards, including a 1-yard scoring run.

Michigan led 7-3 after Shea Patterson's 9-yard scoring pass to Donovan Peoples-Jones in the first quarter — the Wolverines' only touchdown. Patterson threw two second-half interceptions and completed 22 of 36 passes for 236 yards and a touchdown.

Trailing 13-10, Michigan's first possession of the second half began at its 48. The excellent scoring opportunity was only a prelude for disappointment.

The Wolverines gained one first down before Patterson's deep pass over the middle was intercepted at the 3 by Gardner-Johnson, whose 47-yard return to the Michigan 44 set up the Gators.

Speedy Kadarius Toney gained 30 yards on a fourth-down, end-around

run to the Michigan 5. Franks' 5-yard touchdown pass to Perine pushed the Florida lead to 20-10.

Michigan had two apparent touchdowns negated following video reviews by officials.

On the Wolverines' first possession, Christian Turner's 46-yard touchdown run was turned into a modest 8-yard gain when the review showed he stepped out of bounds at the Florida 38. Michigan came away with no points when fullback Ben Mason was stopped for no gain on fourth-and-1.

Patterson's apparent 8-yard scoring pass to Tarik Black was taken away in the fourth quarter when the review showed Black lost control of the ball when falling back.

The takeaway

Florida: From the start, with players bouncing up and down on the sideline, the Gators seemed intent on capping this feel-good season with a win. Florida made a statement it will be a team to watch in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division in 2019 after it piled up big yards on the nation's top-ranked

defense.

Michigan: After giving up an average of only 262.5 yards per game, the Wolverines allowed 228 yards in just the first half, thanks largely to Franks' running. Tru Wilson made the start as the replacement for Karan Higdon at running back. But Chris Evans had the most carries, as expected. The committee approach couldn't make up for Higdon's departure. Michigan was held to 66 yards rushing, including 32 by Turner.

Up next

Florida: Franks will return for his junior season as Florida will attempt to maintain its momentum. It opens the 2019 season against Miami on Aug. 31 in Orlando.

Michigan: The Wolverines expect to have four returning starters on their offensive line, including left guard Ben Bredeson, when they open the 2019 season Aug. 31 against Middle Tennessee State. Patterson returns for his senior season at quarterback, with Michigan again trying to build an offense to keep pace with its recent string of top-five defenses.

BOWL ROUNDUP

Associated Press

ALAMO BOWL WASHINGTON STATE 28 IOWA STATE 28

SAN ANTONIO — Gardner Minshew II and that glorious mustache conjured up a final bit of magic in a grand finale for Washington State.

The graduate transfer quarterback whose whiskered upper lip was loved and mimicked by Cougars fans all season, threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score in sending No. 12 Washington State to a 28-28 win over No. 25 Iowa State in the Alamo Bowl on Friday night.

Minshew's passing and scrambling earned the Cougars (11-2) a school record for wins in a season.

He threw for 299 yards, none of them bigger than a play made out of desperation when Iowa State had all the momentum.

After watching a 21-10 lead dwindle to 21-20 by early in the fourth quarter, the Cougars stripped the ball from Iowa State running back David Montgomery at the Cyclones' 30. Minshew, who had been held in check in the third quarter, escaped a third-down pass rush to flip a last-second shovel pass to Tay Martin that went for 20 yards.

The play stunned the Cyclones, and Max Borghi scored on a 10-yard run the next play.

It was just another big fourth-quarter moment for the transfer from East Carolina who coach Mike Leach had lured out West with the promise he could lead the nation in passing.

Minshew was the nation's leading passer in yards per game this season and won the Johnny Unitas Award as the nation's top senior quarterback in a season the Cougars fell one game short of playing for the Pac-12 championship.

Nearly all of his completions this season were more orthodox than the flip to Martin. None were bigger for the season and the legacy it set for the program.

"I want to say thank you to these coaches, this university and these fans for taking me in," Minshew said.

"So glad to be a part of this," he said. "One thing I've always been told is to leave a place better than we found it. This place could be really special." The Cyclones did a good job in bottling him up for much of the game. Iowa State's defense held Washington State 10 points and 135 yards below

their season averages and two of the Cougars' touchdowns came on short drives after turnovers.

But after Minshew found a way to get Washington State in the end zone, the Cougars' defense made the one play it had to at the end.

Iowa State's last chance came after quarterback Brock Purdy scored from a yard out with 4:02 left. The Cyclones went for two, but a pass to Montgomery was stopped well short of the goal line after a false-start penalty pushed the line of scrimmage back to the 8.

Iowa State had seven false start penalties and had two players ejected for targeting hits on Minshew.

Purdy passed for 315 yards and Cyclones receiver Hakeem Butler caught nine passes for 192 yards, six yards shy of the Alamo Bowl record. Montgomery rushed for 124 yards.

The Cyclones (8-5) had rallied from a 1-3 start to finish third in the Big 12, the program's best conference finish in 40 years.

"This team never quits, plays with elite attitude and elite effort. The missing piece for us right now is in the detail," Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said. "Now, to take the next step in this program, is detail. It's what got us tonight. Silly mistakes."

BELT BOWL VIRGINIA 28 SOUTH CAROLINA 9

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Shortly after winning the Belt Bowl and earning Virginia its first bowl victory since 2005, quarterback Bryce Perkins raised the bar.

"This is the first step toward making big strides," Perkins said. "Next year we want the Coastal Division — and the ACC championship."

That would mean knocking off perennial ACC power Clemson, which has won four straight conference titles.

For now though, the Cavaliers (8-5) will have to settle for securing a 28-9 victory over South Carolina in the Belt Bowl, a win that snapped the longest bowl drought in the ACC. Perkins threw three touchdown passes to Olanive Zacharias, the game's Most Outstanding Player, and Virginia's 14th-ranked pass defense dominated a South Carolina team that had averaged more than 38 points over its previous five games. Perkins completed 22 of 31 passes

for 208 yards and ran for 81 yards. Zacharias had 12 catches for 100 yards and Jordan Ellis ran for 106 yards and a touchdown as Virginia held more than a 24-minute edge in time of possession.

Perkins said he felt chemistry with Zacharias the first day he transferred in last year from Arizona Western Community College — and his favorite target agreed.

"The biggest thing with me and Bryce is we get along so well off the field — and that just carries over," Zacharias said. "Even when I might not make a play or he might not make a play, it's like, 'Who wants it on the next play? We're the same that way.'"

Virginia's defense was relentless. It put the clamps on quarterback Jake Bentley, who had thrown for 16 touchdowns over the previous five games, including a 510-yard, five-TD performance against Clemson earlier this month. Bentley was limited to 218 yards on 17-of-39 passing and was intercepted twice.

South Carolina (7-6) was 2 of 13 on third down conversions and 2 of 5 on fourth downs.

The Gamecocks clearly weren't the same playing without wide receiver Deebo Samuel, who bypassed the bowl game to begin preparing for the NFL draft.

Coach Will Muschamp said he was "disappointed" in the team's performance, adding "we didn't put on a good show and that's on me."

Bentley said he didn't play well at all. "The interceptions especially and then not executing in the red zone is a tough thing to swallow," said Bentley, who added that he hasn't made a decision on whether he'll enter the NFL draft.

The Gamecocks were shut out for the first time since 2008, when they lost 18-0 to Georgia.

"That's huge," Virginia safety Joey Blount said. "I don't know of many teams that have done that in a bowl. That just shows our defense is for real."

ARIZONA BOWL NEVADA 16 ARKANSAS STATE 13, OT

TUCSON, Ariz. — Reagan Roberson bulldozed through one tackler and dove into the end zone on an 11-yard catch-and-run in overtime, lifting Nevada over Arkansas State 16-13 in the Arizona

Bowl on Saturday. Nevada (8-5) labored against Arkansas State's defensive front all game before coming to life late, going up 10-7 on Devonte Lee's 1-yard touchdown run with 1:06 left.

Arkansas State (8-5) racked up 499 yards, but was 1 for 5 in the red zone with two turnovers before marching quickly down the field at the end of regulation. Blake Grube, who had one field goal blocked and badly missed on another, drilled a 32-yarder to tie it on the final play.

Grube opened overtime with a 24-yard field goal, but Roberson bulled his way into the end zone to send the Wolf Pack rushing onto the field.

Nevada's Ty Gangi had 200 yards and a touchdown on 18-of-34 passing with two interceptions.

Arkansas State's Justice Hansen threw for 275 yards, but also had three interceptions — two in the end zone — after throwing six during the regular season. Warren Wend ran for 140 yards for the Red Wolves.

Nevada and Arkansas State came to the desert known for their prolific quarterbacks and high-scoring ways. Neither showed up in a stuck-in-the-mud first half.

Both quarterbacks aimed for receivers multiple times, including one by Hansen that was intercepted at the Wolf Pack 20.

Gangi opened 1 for 6 and hit a few passes after that, setting up Ramiz Ahmed's 35-yard field goal. Nevada had 72 total yards at halftime, yet only trailed 7-3.

Hansen was a bit more effective despite the pick, setting up the Red Wolves for three scoring chances. They converted one: Marcel Murray's 2-yard TD run.

The earlier field goal fiasco seemed to have an impact on play calling the opening drive the second half. Instead of attempting a field at fourth-and-goal from the 4, the Red Wolves tried a trick play. The Wolf Pack snuffed it out and stuffed offensive lineman Leland Bonner after he caught a back pass from Hansen.

Arkansas State again had the ball inside Nevada's 10 the next series after an interception, but the Wolf Pack intercepted a tipped pass in the end zone.

Next two series, same thing: Arkansas State interception, Nevada interception in the end zone.

2018-19 BOWL GLANCE

Associated Press

Saturday, Dec. 15	Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta	
N.C. A&T 24, Akron State 22	Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.	
Tulane 41, Louisiana-Lafayette 24	New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque	
Utah State 52, North Texas 13	Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno State 31, Arizona State 20	Camel Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.	
Georgia Southern 23, Eastern Michigan 21	New Orleans Bowl
Appalachian State 45, Middle Tennessee 13	
Tuesday, Dec. 18	Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
UAB 37, Northern Illinois 13	
Wednesday, Dec. 19	Princess (Texas) Bowl
Ohio 27, San Diego State 0	
Thursday, Dec. 20	Georgetown Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.	
Marshall 38, South Florida 20	
Friday, Dec. 21	Bohannon Bowl
Nashua	
FU 35, Toledo 32	Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boiler	
BYU 48, Western Michigan 18	
Saturday, Dec. 22	Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Wake Forest 37, Memphis 34	Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas	
Army 70, Houston 14	Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.	
Toy 42, Buffalo 32	Hawai Bowl
Honolulu	
Louisiana Tech 31, Hawaii 14	
Wednesday, Dec. 26	SEC/PSD First Responder Bowl
Dallas	
Boston College vs. Boise State, cont., weather	Quinn Lane Bowl
Detroit	
Minnesota 34, Georgia Tech 10	Chesapeake Bay Bowl
Shirlington, Va.	
TCU 10, California 7, OT	
Thursday, Dec. 27	Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.	
Duke 56, Temple 27	Procter & Gamble Bowl
New York	
Wisconsin 35, Miami 3	Texas Bowl
Houston	
Bayler 45, Vanderbilt 38	
Friday, Dec. 28	Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.	
Auburn 63, Purdue 14	Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.	
Syracuse 34, West Virginia 19	Alamo Bowl
San Antonio	
Washington State 28, West State 26	
Saturday, Dec. 29	Peach Bowl
Atlanta	
Florida 41, Michigan 15	
Both Bowl	
Charlotte, N.C.	
Virginia 28, South Carolina 9	
Arkansas Bowl	
Tucson, Ariz.	
Nevada 16, Arkansas State 13, OT	
Colton Bowl Classic	
Arlington, Texas	
CYP Semifinal, Clemson 35, Notre Dame 3	
Orange Bowl	
Miami Gardens, Fla.	
CYP Semifinal, Oklahoma (13-1) vs. Alabama (13-0), 1:30 p.m.	
Sunday, Dec. 31	Liberty Bowl
Albany Bowl	
Annapolis, Md.	
Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (8-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)	
San Jose, Texas	
Stanford (9-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6), 1 p.m. (CBS)	
Redbox Bowl	
Santa Clara, Calif.	
Michigan State (7-6) vs. Oregon (8-4), 2 p.m. (FOX)	
Liberty Bowl	
Nashville, Tenn.	
Missouri (8-4) vs. Oklahoma State (8-4), 2:45 p.m. (ESPN)	
Holiday Bowl	
San Diego	
Northeastern (8-5) vs. Utah (8-4), 6 p.m. (FS1)	
Gator Bowl	
Jacksonville, Fla.	
N.C. State (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)	
Tuesday, Jan. 1	Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.	
Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)	
Citrus Bowl	
Orlando, Fla.	
Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn State (9-3), Noon (ABC)	
Florida Bowl	
Orlando, Fla.	
LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0), Noon (ESPN)	
Rose Bowl	
Pasadena, Calif.	
Washington (10-3) vs. Ohio State (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN)	
Sugar Bowl	
New Orleans	
Texas (9-4) vs. Georgia (11-2), 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)	
Monday, Jan. 7	College Football Championship
Santa Clara, Calif.	
Clemson (14-0) vs. Georgia Bow series, 7 p.m. (ESPN)	
Saturday, Jan. 19	East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.	
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)	
NFLN College Bowl	
At Pasadena, Calif.	
American vs. National, TBA (NFLN)	
Saturday, Jan. 26	Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.	
North vs. South, 1:30 p.m. (NFLN)	

COTTON From 1C

Lawrence was 13 for 15 for 229 yards in the quarter.

That made it 23-3 at half and once again the Fighting Irish looked outclassed against the best of the best. Not so different from the 42-14 loss to Alabama in the 2012 BCS championship game or the 44-28 loss to Ohio State in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl. In fact, Notre Dame is 0-8 in BCS and New Year's Six games since winning the Cotton Bowl in 1993.

Though to be fair, Clemson has been doing this to everyone since Lawrence settled in. The Tigers haven't had an opponent stay within 20 points since a close call against Syracuse on Sept. 29.

That was Lawrence's first game as a starter, one he didn't finish because of a head injury, and Clemson's first after quarterback Kelly Bryant left the team. Bryant, a senior, led the Tigers to the playoff last season and a semifinal loss to Alabama. He was pivotal in an early victory this season at Texas A&M.



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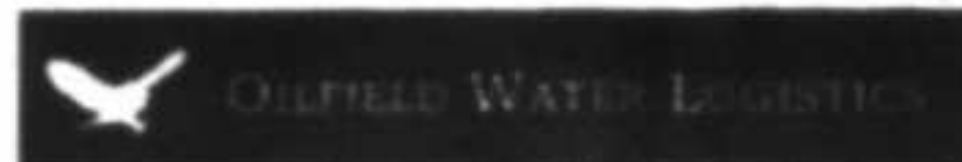
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Owl Energy Services is currently looking for applicants to fill positions open for General Labor/Field Hands and Poly Line Installation.

Since its beginning over 89 years ago, the Midland Reporter-Telegram has been a strong supporter of the first amendment, striving hard in taking the responsibility to be the top trusted news source for providing information about the people, places and happenings in the Permian Basin on a daily basis.

The newspaper is currently looking to fill an opening for a Circulation Clerk.

Responsibilities for the position include assisting the circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volumes, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary of the position is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Other responsibilities include maintaining reports for circulation including tracking of start pressure, volumes, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily

The job hours are Monday through Friday with occasional weekend work.

A valid driver's license is required for the position. Must be able to pass drug test.

Benefits offered with the position include paid holidays, no per

diem, medical coverage and a 401k plan.

No telephone calls are accepted. Applicants must apply in-person to fill out an application at the Midland office located at 2052 Commerce St. Must bring ID's with you.

the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter-Telegram and reporting return information to the accounting department on a timely basis for both papers. Other duties include processing customer and DSM written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries; work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping walk in customers in reference to their account; working with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties; working on special projects and administrative support tasks assigned by circulation managers as needed; serving as the designated back-up for other circulation & finance support staff members as needed; being able to react to change productively and handle other essential tasks as assigned. English speaking skills are vital to communicate with company personnel and customers.

Requirements for the job including having a college degree or equivalent years of experience in office management or related areas required; possessing proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access); experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 35 wpm required. Customer service, computer, analytical skills are needed, as well as being goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Applicants must also be able to react to change productively as this position is instrumental in analyzing data, interacting with all department personnel and resolving customer problems.

A sign-on bonus is available with the position.

Interested applicants can send their resumes by email to Circulation Director Sharon Heckler at sheckler@hearstnp.com.



With over 40 years of providing top quality service to their customers, Agri-Empresa, LLC is known as the Permian Basin's largest privately-owned manufacturer, packager, and distributor of oilfield and industrial use chemicals with operations extending throughout Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The company is currently looking for applicants to fill the position of Transportation Manager in

Midland.

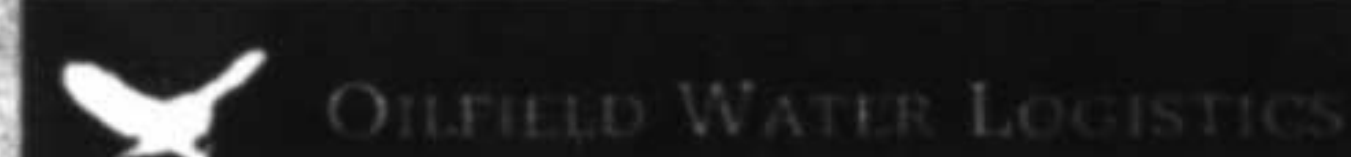
Responsibilities for the position includes being responsible for trucking segment monthly P&L; develop appropriate decision-making processes and protocol to optimize the use of their internal fleet in concert with third party carriers; plan and evaluate capacity and performance utilizing multiple transportation modes including dry bulk, flatbed and tanker; work with driver supervisors and local maintenance to ensure optimum fleet serviceability and utilization;

and effectively communicate across organization and with external suppliers and customers.

The full-time position offers a salary between \$100,000 - \$130,000 plus bonus depending on experience, as well as a full benefits package including medical, dental, vision and a 401k plan.

Interested applicants can send in their resumes by email to careers@agri-empresa.com. For more information about the company, visit their website online at agri-empresa.com.

TOP EMPLOYERS



ACE A 30-MINUTE INTERVIEW



By Kim Thompson

It's no surprise that preparing for an interview combined with your desire to be the best candidate can be somewhat stressful. The pressure builds when your interview is scheduled to last 30 minutes and you need to make a lasting impression.

Recently a friend of mine was invited for an interview, and even though he was excited about the opportunity, he had concerns over the amount of time to discuss his background and skills. The 30-minute time slot seemed to create more angst for him than a half-day of interviews.

We discussed a new strategy he could use to help him focus on the questions being asked rather than the clock ticking behind him. The premise he was feeling was getting him off-focus instead of hanging up his answers he was worried about trying to cram his whole career history into 30 minutes.

He is not alone in admitting the same dilemma that other candidates face - "How do you make a good impression in 30 minutes or less?" The biggest mistake job candidates make during short, structured interviews is failing to prepare and overwhelming the interviewer with too many details.

Here are some tips we discussed that could help you feel less anxious and more confident the next time you are invited for a 30-minute interview.

- Answer questions in terms of broad strokes, overarching contributions that lend credibility to your skills. Stay away from getting too involved with details. When every accomplishment is explained word-by-word you run the risk of losing the interviewer's attention and the momentum.
- Bring your career into themes, look for the common threads you weave throughout your career. Identify the skills you used and make sure they relate to the job description.
- List your accomplishments on a sheet of paper and use the job position as a guide to address the employer's needs. Since you only have 30 minutes each answer counts.
- Listen to the questions asked, if you aren't sure you understand, ask for clarification before answering. Mistakes happen when candidates ramble.
- Highlight your contributions. It's better to focus the interviewer with a handful of significant skills than to overwhelm them with everything you can do.
- Prepare and practice with your introduction. Don't memorize it, just be comfortable in talking about your background with the emphasis on matching the requirements that the employer is looking for.
- Don't let your mind wander. The job and what interests you is exciting for the employer.
- Have at least three or four questions to ask that pertain to the job and employer's needs. Time is valuable and the questions you ask need to send a message that you have researched the company and are interested in contributing.
- Take notes along the way. Before the interview and while the verbal language is being spoken, take notes. Even if your interview is over, the phone, you can come calling when you're looking for a job. Your goal is to make yourself distinguishable from other candidates by having clear answers that convey you are the right candidate for the job. Always prepare about the next step.

Remember your preparation for 30-minute interviews! What better way to ensure your great interview preparation?



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ENERGY AND UTILITIES

UNITED Safety Specialist

United Safety has been a global leader in the safety industry for the past 28 years, providing safety solutions and risk assessment consulting in the Upstream (on-shore/offshore) and downstream sectors of the Oil and Gas industry. We are currently seeking highly motivated candidates looking to start or advance their career in the oilfield industry as an H2S Safety Specialist based out of our Midland, TX office.

The H2S Safety Specialist is responsible for installing and maintaining the quality of United Safety's breathing air and gas detection systems on client production, drilling and service sites throughout the Southern United States. The incumbent will also provide safety supervision and training to on-site personnel while serving as a key client liaison.

- Must be available to work long hours (7-14) in the outdoor elements (heat, rain, sleet, snow, etc.)
- Must be able to work independently for extended periods
- Must be able to effectively identify, assess and correct problems related to equipment and its use on site
- Must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with co-workers and client personnel
- Strong interpersonal and team-based skills are also required

This is a full time position with benefits. Qualified candidates must be 18 years of age with a HS diploma, a clean driving record, willingness to travel and ability to pass our fitness and background screening processes. Previous experience in the oil field is preferred.

\$17 - \$25 DOE

Qualified applicants must e-mail their resume and salary requirements "to usrecruiting@unitedsafety.net."

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Home & Office Cleaners

Home & Office Cleaners wanted \$600/week. Cleaning position available, working days Mon - Fri, 11am-3pm. Minimum requirement. Email: patriciacracy164@gmail.com

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960 E 87th St - Odessa
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2251 Linda Ave - Odessa
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The Midland Reporter Telegram's Circulation Department is looking for independent contractors to deliver newspapers to home delivery subscribers in **Midland city & county areas.**

Applicants must be dependable, service oriented to provide excellent service to our readers. You must also be available early morning hour's 7 days a week [Our Distribution Centers open as early as 1:30 am with route delivery deadlines of 6 am during the week and 7 am on Sunday]. Compensation is dependent on route size and the number of copies delivered with the approximate gross profit potential between \$250 - \$630 every 2 weeks for 2 1/2 - 3 hours per day. The successful applicant must be able to work independently of direct supervision.

Applicants must have a dependable vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

For more information and to be considered for a route please contact the Midland Reporter Telegram representative listed below.

Adam Kahle
432-238-4998

Oscar Ronquillo
432-687-9001



CIRCULATION CLERK

The purpose of this position is to assist Circulation department in reaching goals for start pressure, volume, retention, single copy, and customer service. The primary function of the Circulation Clerk is to handle administrative functions of the department including tracking and analysis.

Maintain reports for Circulation including tracking of start pressure, volume, service and collection statistics, and retention for all properties in West Texas primarily the Plainview Herald and Midland Reporter Telegram. Report return information to the Accounting department on a timely basis for Plainview Herald and the MRT.

Process customer and D&M written and email correspondence, and respond to their phone inquiries. Work with the call center to resolve customer complaints as well as helping walk in customer's in reference to their account.

Work with customers and delivery staff to resolve delivery questions and service issues for our West Texas properties

Special projects and administrative support tasks assigned by Circulation Managers as needed.

Designated back-up for other Circulation & Finance support staff members as needed.

Able to react to change productively and handle other essential tasks as assigned.

In order to communicate with company personnel and customers English is vital.

College degree or equivalent years of experience in office management or related areas required.

Proficient computer skills including Microsoft Office package (Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Access), experience in data entry and typing speed minimum 30wpm required.

Customer Service Skills, computer skills, analytical skills. Must be goal oriented, energetic and have good time management and organizational skills. Must be able to react to change productively.

This position is instrumental in analyzing data, interacting with all department personnel and resolving customer problems.

Sign-On Bonus

Send resumes to shockley@heartstop.com

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

WORKFORCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Accepting applications for the position of Workforce Program Specialist. Position is responsible for monitoring and quality assurance activities for compliance with federal/state regulations and local policies; providing training and/or technical assistance; and coordinating the development and implementation of local policies. Minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in a relevant field is preferred. Two years of full-time experience in eligibility determination, social service work, workforce development, or interpretation of policies in a public or private enterprise. One semester (15 semester hours) of accredited college may be substituted for each six months of required experience. Knowledge of federal and state workforce development program design and operation preferred.

Please submit resume to:
Permian Basin Workforce Board
Gail.dickens@workforcepb.org OR
Fax: 432-681-6785

SALES JOBS

Manager & Cashiers

Smoker's Outlet has SIGNING BONUS for MANAGER TRAINEE & CASHIERS Full-time & Part-time position must have own transportation. Apply in person Mon-Fri 9-5 at either store.
5000 E University, Ste 11, Odessa, TX & 312 N Midland Dr, Midland, TX

SKILLED LABOR

Owl Energy Services

General Labor/Field Hand

Poly Line Installation

Requirements:

Valid DL

Drug Testing

Monday- Friday w/occasional weekend work.
Benefits include 401K & Medical

\$5 Paid Holidays \$5

Apply @ Owl Energy Services, 2052 Commerce St, Midland, Texas 79703. Between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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NO TELEPHONE CALLS ACCEPTED, MUST COME TO IN AND FILL OUT APPLICATION. BRING ID's with You.

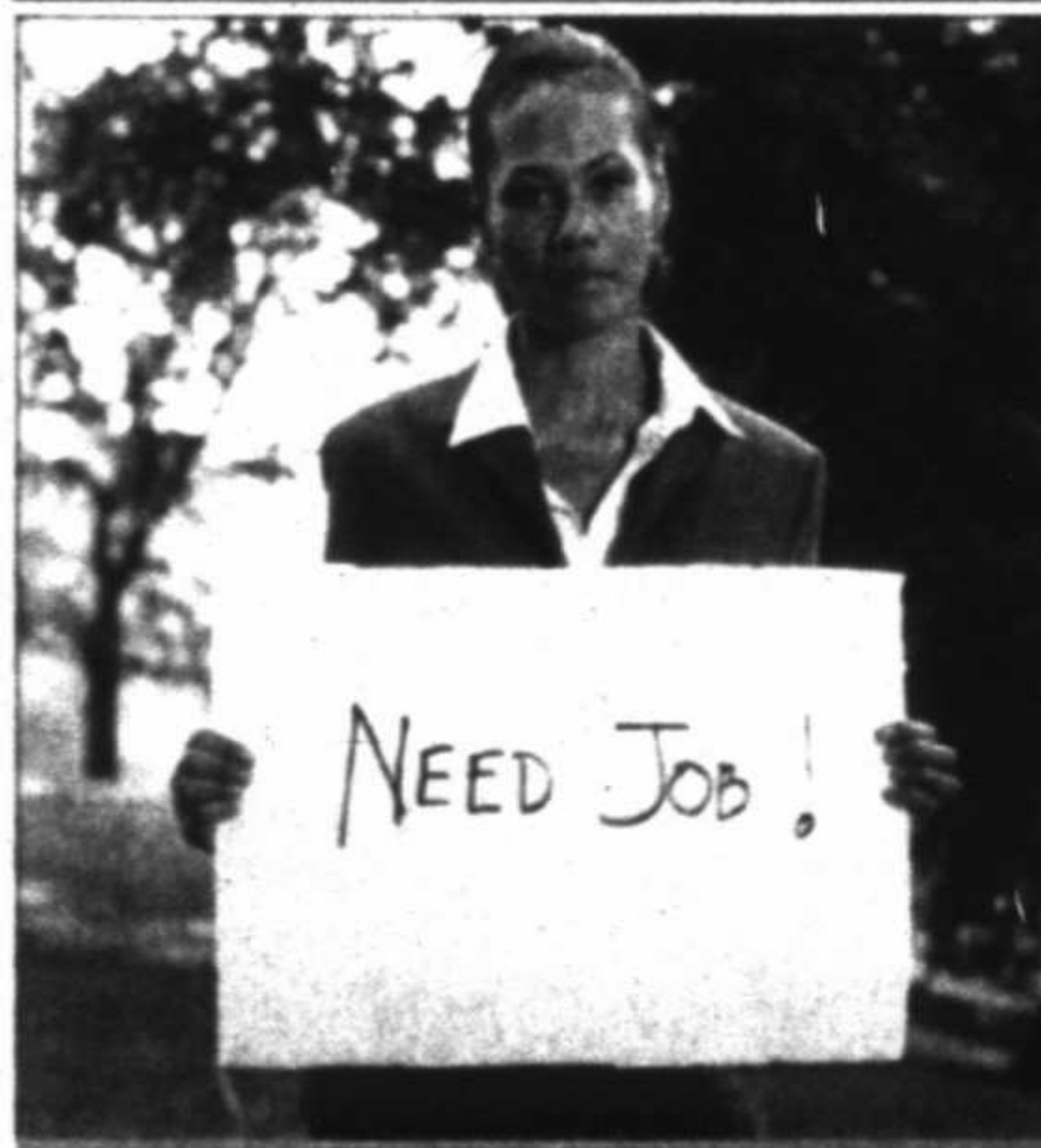
NEPHROLOGIST NEEDED

Nephrologist needed by Midland Kidney Care, PLLC at locations in Midland, TX, Odessa, TX, Big Spring, TX, and Fort Stockton, TX. Requires M.D. or foreign equivalent; completion of residency in Internal Medicine; completion of fellowship in Nephrology; eligibility for medical licensure in Texas. Fax CV to Kristin Kirsch at 949.258.5711.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

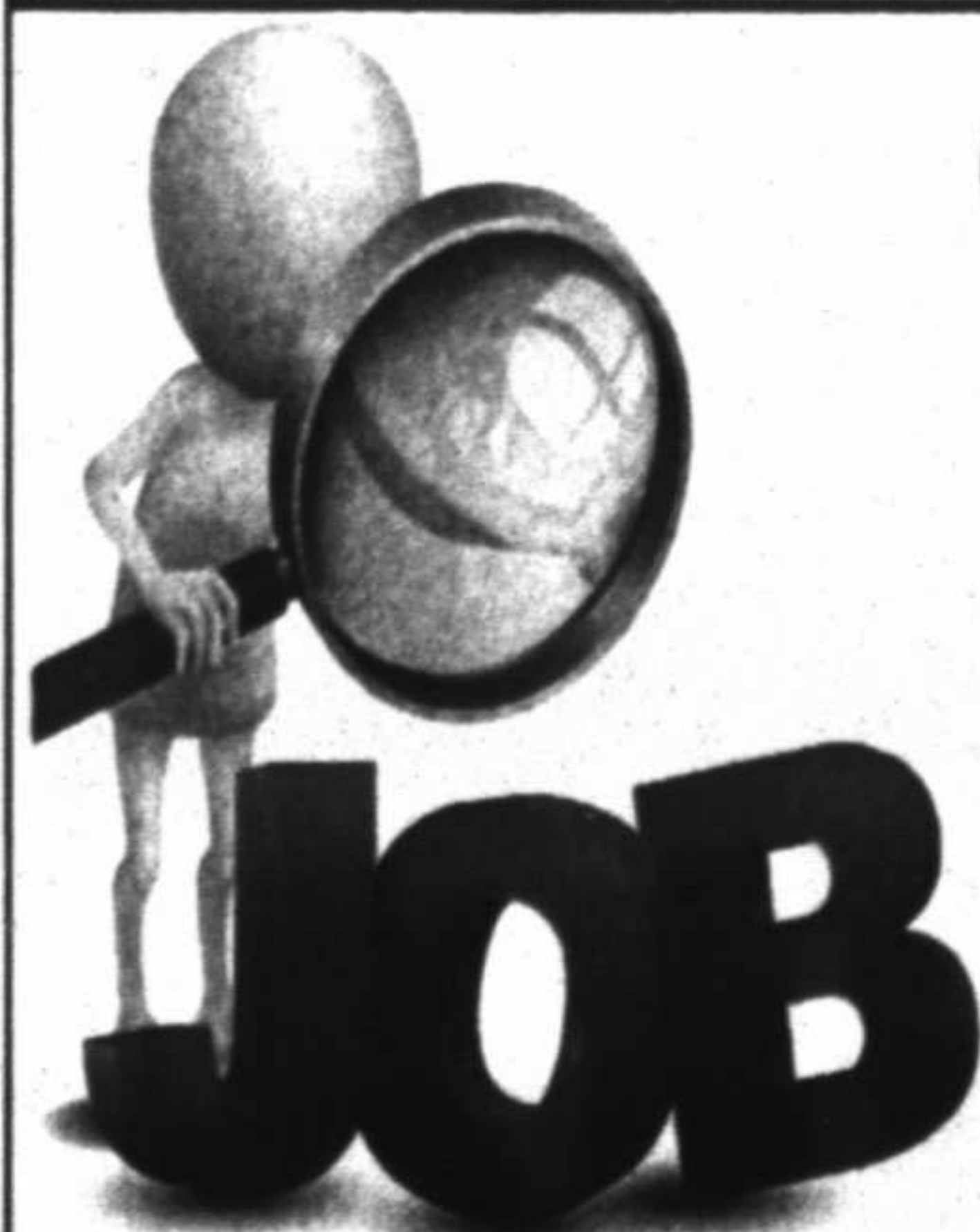
CDL Drivers

Catalyst Oilfield Services is currently hiring for CDL Drivers. Hazmat certification is required for all drivers. Please contact Roman Hernandez at (432) 884-1416.



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Legal and Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting: Housing Authority of the City of Midland
700 W. Scharbauer Drive
Midland, Texas 79705

Date of Meeting: Monday, February 25, 2018

Time of Meeting: 10:00 AM

Purpose: Preview and Public Comments on CFP-5
year Action/Annual Plans for the Public
Housing Program.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain input from the city residents in reference to the Five-Year Plan Submission to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for fiscal year 2019. Total funds being allocated for this year are estimated at \$204,628.00 for Operating Funds and \$141,827.00 for Capital Funds. All residents are encouraged to attend this hearing. All documents are on display at the Midland Housing Authority office from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. prior to public hearing at the address above. Persons can also submit written comments prior to public hearing.

For further information please call Teresa Thompson-Davis, Executive Director at 432-682-0011.



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Legal and Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Honorable Mayor and City Council of Midland, Texas, will be received at the office of the City Secretary, City Hall, Midland, Texas until 2:30 p.m. C.S.T., Wednesday, January 23, 2019 for furnishing all necessary materials, machinery, equipment, superintendence, and labor for constructing certain improvements at Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas. These improvements are contained in the plans and specifications entitled, "Midland International Air & Space Port, Airport Security Access Control Software, Hardware, Cable, and CCTV System Upgrade," dated December 2018.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened.

Principal items of work are set forth in specific detail in the proposal section of these specifications, however, work items may be generally described as: Upgrade Matrix System Access Control Software and Servers, replace CCTV cameras, install new CCTV video software and servers, replace sections of copper cable with fiber optic cable and install miscellaneous hardware, conduit, cabling and supports required to upgrade Access Control and CCTV systems.

Work will also include other miscellaneous materials, equipment, machinery, superintendence, and labor for constructing these improvements for the Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas.

A bid proposal guaranty is to accompany the bid, thereby guaranteeing the good faith of the bidder and that bidder will enter into the written contract. The guaranty is to amount to 5 percent of the total bid and must be in the form of cash or certified check, issued by a bank satisfactory to the City of Midland, or a bid bond.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of work and inform themselves regarding all local conditions.

This project is an AIP Project. The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and to the equal opportunity clause contained in these specifications. The Bidder must supply all the information required by the proposal form.

Successful bidder will be required to submit a Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities prior to award of the contract and notify prospective subcontractors of the requirement of such a Certification where the subcontract exceeds \$10,000.00. Samples of the Certification and the Notice to Subcontractors appear in the specifications.

In all areas of employment, women will be afforded equal opportunity for employment. Employment of women shall not diminish standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Minimum wages and labor rates for construction of proposed work have been established by the Secretary of Labor. A schedule of labor classifications and wage rates to be paid are included in the specifications and will be made a part of the contract. Bid form shall contain a statement that prices bid are based on such wage rates.

This project is subject to Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Minority Business Enterprise Contract Provisions, Foreign Trade Restrictions, Davis-Bacon, Federal Debarment and Suspension, Drug-free Workplace, and other requirements stated in the Instructions to Bidders and other sections of the project specifications and contract documents.

Policy. It is the policy of the Department of Transportation (DOT), that disadvantaged business enterprises as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in performance of contracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

Buy American Provision. Proposed contract is subject to the Buy American Provision under Section 9129 of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990. Details of such requirement are contained in the Specifications.

MAF treats bidder/offers' compliance with good faith efforts' requirements as a matter of responsiveness.

Requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, Regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, apply to this contract. It is the policy of MAF to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in award or performance of this contract. All firms qualifying under this solicitation are encouraged to submit bids/proposals. Award of this contract will be conditioned upon satisfying requirements of this bid specification. These requirements apply to all bidders/offers, including those who qualify as a DBE. A DBE contract goal of 1.5 percent has been established for this contract. Bidder/Officer shall make good faith efforts, as defined in Appendix A, 49 CFR Part 26, to meet the contract goal for DBE participation in performance of this contract.

Successful bidder/offers will be required to submit the following information: (1) names and addresses of DBE firms who will participate in the contract; (2) description of work that each DBE firm will perform; (3) dollar amount of participation of each DBE firm participating; (4) written documentation of bidder/offers' commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet contract goal; (5) written confirmation from the DBE that it is participating in the contract as provided in commitment made under (4); and (6) if contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts. Successful Bidder or Officer must provide written confirmation of participation from each DBE firm the Bidder or Officer lists in their commitment. The successful Bidder or Officer must submit DBE written confirmation of participation within five days of Bid Opening.

Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications, and plans are on file in the office of Director of Airports, Midland International Air & Space Port, Midland, Texas and Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc., (PSC) Consulting Engineers, 1700 West Wall Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701, 432.697.1447.

Paper copies of the plans and specifications may be secured at the PSC office, 1700 West Wall Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701, 432.697.1447, at \$60.00 for a set of specifications and full size plans. The cost for the plans and specifications is NON REFUNDABLE. Download documents (PDF file extension format) can be obtained from the PSC Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with the office issuing paper copies. No cost or deposit required for this option.

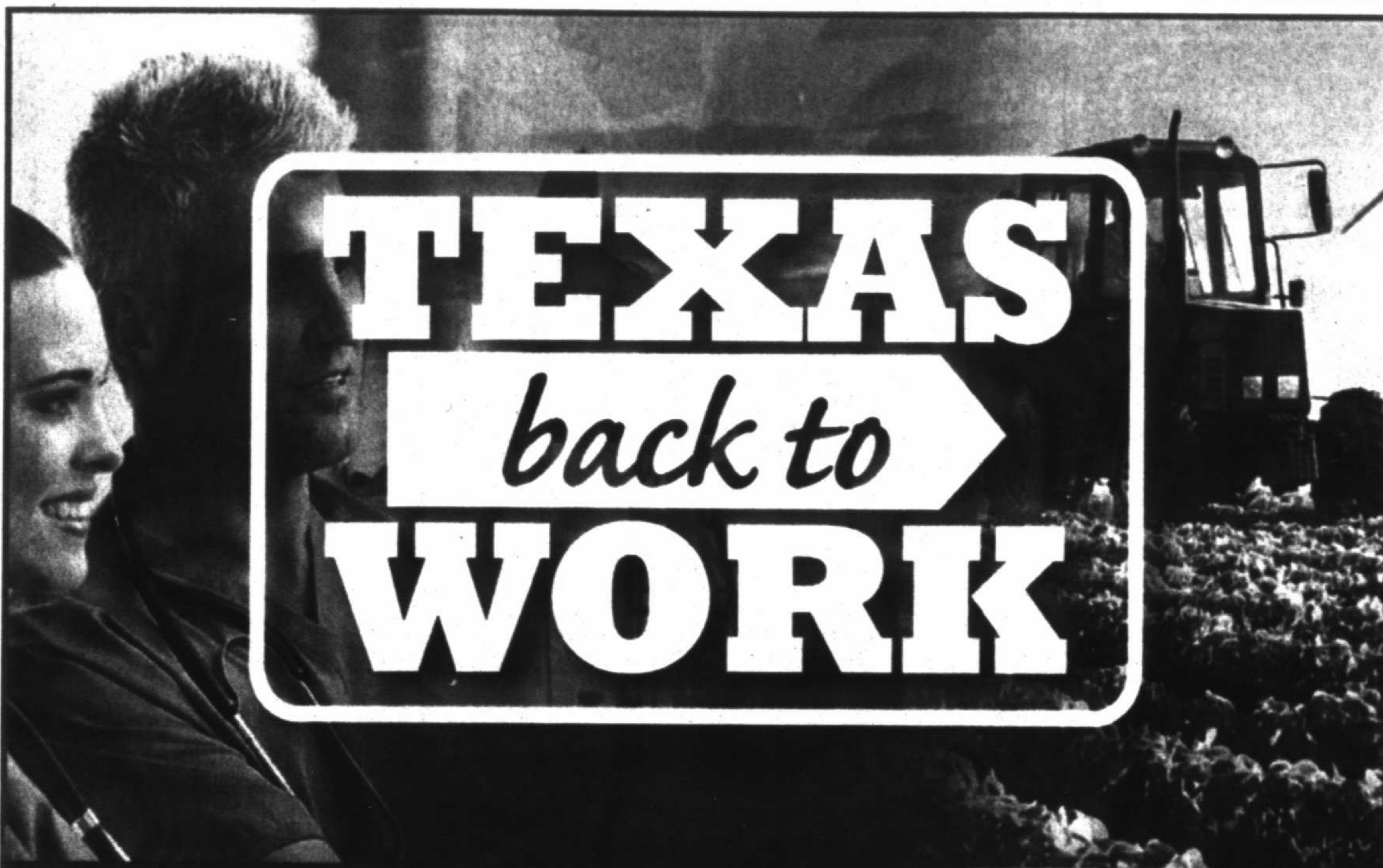
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FEATURED HOME



5103 BINNEY COVE

3 Bedrooms/ 2 Baths/ 3 Car Garage,
Priced @ \$418,500

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Carrasco Homes



5309 Balfour Court

3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths,
3 Car Garage,
Priced @ \$435,000



ASHINGTON HOMES



5303 George Yard Court

3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths,
3 Car Garage,
Priced @ \$559,500

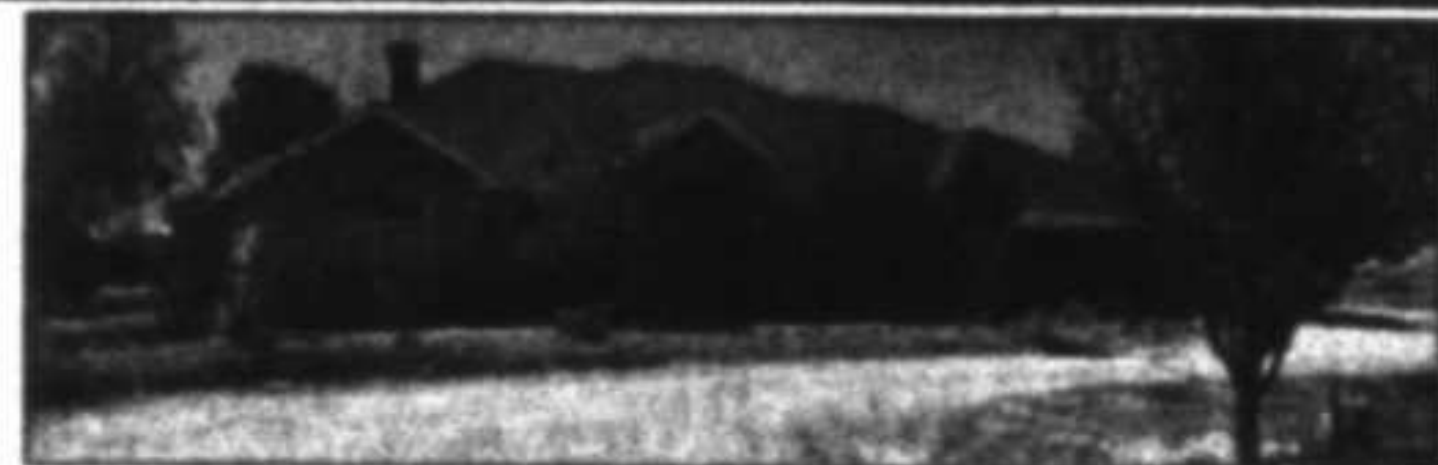
"A strong, positive self-image is the best possible preparation for success."

- Joyce Brothers

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS/HOME SITES/ACREAGE

RESIDENTIAL			COMMERCIAL PROPERTY		
1704 English Drive	3 Bdrm/ 2 Ba	U/C	110 E 20th St	Office/7420 Sq Ft/3 Unit Bldg	\$895,000
5103 Binney Cove	3 Bdrm/ 2 Ba/ 3 Car Garage	\$418,500	302 S. Mainfield	11,800 Sq. Ft.	\$750,000
2511 Colonial Oaks Court	4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/4 Car Garage	\$750,000	3400 Thompson Dr	6,312 Sq. Ft./2 Buildings	\$1,800,000
5417 Secretariat Street	5 Bdrm/4 Ba/4 Car Garage	\$1,375,000	OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES		
4225 Tanager Ave	5 Bdrm/ 6.5 Ba/ 4 Car Garage	\$1,940,101	2043 Co. Rd. 2300	Stands/1.16 Acres	\$98,500
NEW CONSTRUCTION			2045 Co. Rd. 2300	Stands/1.16 Acres	\$98,500
5113 Tremwood Dr	Black Brook Homes/4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	SOLD	2047 Co. Rd. 2300	Stands/1.16 Acres	\$98,500
1203 Sherill Dr	Midland Gallery Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	U/C	2049 Co. Rd. 2300	Stands/1.16 Acres	\$98,500
5307 Balfour Ct	Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	SOLD	Tract C E. Co. Rd. 3001	Stands/0.75 Acres	\$87,500
1208 Burgundy Dr	Wells Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage	\$285,000	Tract DE Co. Rd. 82501	Colorado City Lakes/2000/200/1 Car Garage	\$145,000
1205 Burgundy Dr	Wells Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage	\$425,500	4112 L20 204	Stands/24.76 Acres	\$140,500
1207 Burgundy Dr	Wells Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage	\$425,500	0 Co. Rd. 8 4101	Stands/222 Acres	\$900,000
5303 George Yard Ct	Ashington Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage	\$559,500	Co. Rd. A 4301	Authority/220 Acres	\$1,300,000
7311 E. Co. Rd. 113	Crytal Homes/4 Bdrm/4 Ba/3 Car Garage	\$790,500	0-20 Service Rd	Stands/48.26 Acres	\$1,300,000
SUBURBAN/ACREAGE			0 PW 2001	Lanessa/531 Acres	\$2,800,000
2000 S. Co. Rd. 1000	6.879 Acres	\$80,000			

FEATURED PROPERTIES



7000 S. CO. RD. 1105

3Bdrm/ 3Ba/ 2 Car Garage, Priced @ \$329,000



4225 TANGORAN AVE

5 Bdrm/ 6.5 Ba/ 4 Car Garage, Priced @ \$1,940,101



5417 SECRETARIAT ST.

5 Bdrm/ 4 Ba/ 4 Car Garage, Priced @ \$1,375,000



Tammy Brookshire
Broker/Owner
967-3383



Stacie Neely
Agent
631-4778



Gary Lums
Agent
252-1673



Brandon McManis
Agent
664-8764



Lillian Reynolds
Agent
210-9682



Kendra Meadman
Agent
413-5668



Carolyn Joplin
Agent
557-8882



Kelly Buchanan
Agent
570-780-0004



Brandon Beckett
Agent
312-8177



Tamara Bowden
Broker/Associate
312-9953



Scott Rowden
Broker/Associate
967-1756

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ACTIVE LISTINGS

 5307 AYSHERA LANE \$4,500,000	 604 SOLOMON LANE \$2,950,000	 6401 LOS CONCHOS LANE \$1,750,000	 6016 HOMESTEAD BLVD. \$1,150,000	 2510 COLONIAL OAKS CT. \$845,000	 215 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE \$750,000
 5613 CAMDEN \$699,000	 218 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE \$679,000	 1912 JADEWOOD \$675,000	 3604 CARDINAL LANE \$600,000	 5005 MIRA VISTA CIRCLE \$595,000	 1705 CUTHBERT AVE \$520,000
 2801 MAXWELL DR \$395,000	 5013 MELVILLE DR \$365,000	 4107 W COUNTY RD 184 \$365,000	 2509 STANOLIND AVE \$360,000	 2105 WHITNEY DR. \$350,000	 0 BLUEBIRD LANE \$350,000
 0 BLUEBIRD LANE \$320,000	 0 BLUEBIRD LANE \$320,000	 207 RIDGELEA DR \$300,000	 3010 N CARVER ST \$300,000	 3214 LOCKHEED DR. \$299,000	 4309 COUNTRY CLUB DR \$250,000

LOTS FOR SALE BLACKBIRD ESTATES



4221 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$375,000
4211 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$375,000
4115 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$350,000
4011 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$350,000
4000 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$350,000
4100 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$350,000
4210 BLACKBIRD DR. - \$325,000
4220 BLACKBIRD DR. - SALE PENDING

**THINKING ABOUT BUILDING YOUR DREAM HOME?
DELAURA CAN HELP WITH THAT PROCESS TOO! CALL TODAY!**

UNDER CONTRACT LISTINGS

 SALE PENDING 1904 TELLURIDE DR. \$625,000	 SALE PENDING 3320 LANCEWOOD \$460,000	 SALE PENDING 1403 CERRILLOS AVE \$360,000	 SALE PENDING 2917 S COUNTY RD 1223 1/2 \$330,000	 SALE PENDING 1002 SHEA LANE \$315,000
 SALE PENDING 214 RIDGELEA DR. \$300,000	 SALE PENDING 2205 W SHANDON AVE \$295,000	 SALE PENDING 1113 CEDAR CREEK \$240,000	 SALE PENDING 4012 PLEASANT DR \$225,000	 SALE PENDING 1503 CIMARRON AVE \$175,000

SOLD LISTINGS

 SOLD 3002 CARDINAL LANE \$1,575,000	 ***SOLD*** 7208 E COUNTY RD 113 \$797,000	 ***SOLD*** 11001 W COUNTY RD 60 \$625,000	 ***SOLD*** 2707 MARIE DR \$625,000	 ***SOLD*** 5008 HIGHLAND BLVD \$625,000	 ***SOLD*** 4000 BAYBROOK DR. \$470,000
 SOLD 5315 GREATHOUSE AVE \$400,000	 ***SOLD*** 9009 NOTTINGHAM LN. \$300,000	 ***SOLD*** 2402 BELLECHASSE CT. \$300,000	 ***SOLD*** 2914 MOSS AVE \$200,000	 ***SOLD*** 2904 FAULKNER DR. \$270,000	 ***SOLD*** 1200 PORTERFIELD \$267,000
 SOLD 3021 IMPERIAL AVE. \$265,000	 ***SOLD*** 8000 TEAKWOOD TRCE \$240,000	 ***SOLD*** 1210 CEDAR CREEK RD \$247,000	 ***SOLD*** 3013 CIMARRON AVE. \$220,000	 ***SOLD*** 3215 PRESTON RD \$215,000	 ***SOLD*** 2100 937 WADLEY AVE \$190,000
 SOLD 404 ELM AVE. \$165,000					

Lots and Land



10,436 ac. Motley Co. 100 ac. lake, Big Whitetail, Big Muledeer, exceptional quail, hunters, house, electricity & water.
Joe Wilson 214-784-3725
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• East County
11,155 ac. S. of Snyder: 4 houses, panoramic views, 800 ft. creek, creek, lake, whitetail deer, mule deer and quail. \$795,000
4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail. \$950,000
1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, quail. \$850,000
• Indian County
548 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, quail. \$3,550,000
• 565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, whitetail. \$4,425,000
• Howard County
142 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some off-road traffic. \$750,000
150 ac. big canyon, SOLD mts, cedar/mesquite, great deer, turkey, quail. \$995,000
• Martin County
135 ac. Sulphur Springs, deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal shed. SOLD \$1,150,000
(432) 664-7764 or (432) 934-7777
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Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
Owner Financing Available

Recreational Vehicles

2014 JAYCO GREYHAWK

31FS 32' Motor Home on E450 Ford Chassis 6.8L Gas. 14300 miles-Fully Self Contained. 2 Slides (Living area and Bedroom) 2 TVs-Automatic leveling system-2 Large electric awnings. Roof A/C, Bath w/ shower. This is as nice of a motor home as you will find. Must see to appreciate-Sleeps 8

New \$115,000
Sale Price \$54,500.

Call Brian @ 806-201-0497
or Bill @ 214-675-6474
for more details.

Legal and Public Notices

Public Auction of Items Left by Tenant Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 2:00pm 4810 N. Garfield St. #A-1, Midland, TX 79705

Legal and Public Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Region 18 Education Service Center (Region 18 ESC) is soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Leased Lit Fiber, Internet Access and Leased Lit Transport Only for the EDLINK18 Telecommunications Consortium. Proposal forms and specifications are available from the Region 18 ESC website at <https://www.esc18.net/apps/pages/request-for-proposals>. Sealed proposals must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. CST, January 10, 2019. Region 18 ESC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Paula G. Wooten, Deceased, were issued on December 21, 2018, in Cause No. P-19663, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to Sharla J. McDowell and Gregory L. Wooten, Co-Independent Executors, whose addresses are 4600 Erie Drive, Midland, Texas 79703 and 4506 Thomason Drive, Midland, Texas 79703.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law, in care of the Executor.

DATED the 27th day of December, 2018

STUBBEMAN, MCRAE, SEALY, LAUGHLIN & BROWDER, INC.
550 West Texas, Suite 800
Midland, Texas 79701
(432) 682-1616 Telephone Number
(432) 682-4864 Facsimile

By: Cory R. McDowell
State Bar No. 24051888
Whitney S. Ellis
State Bar No. 24083796
Lindsay N. Owens
State Bar No. 24073477

ATTORNEYS FOR CO-INDEPENDENT EXECUTORS

Legal and Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BID

Midland County Hospital District is accepting proposals for NICU and Pharmacy for Midland Memorial Hospital.

Bidders may contact Aaron Brown and Zachary Stevenson at ADAMS for bid documents and questions on or after Monday, December 24, 2018.

Aaron Brown, Project Manager
ADAMS Management Services Corporation
abrown@adamsmsc.com
Zachary Stevenson, Executive Director
ADAMS Management Services Corporation
zstevenson@adamsmsc.com

A Bid Bond in an amount not less than five percent (5%) will be required for all bids. A Performance Bond and Payment Bond in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required by the Owner.

The successful bidder will be required to enter into a general contract with the Midland County Hospital District.

Three (3) hard sealed copies and One (1) electronic copy of all bids must be received in the Department of Materials Management of Midland Memorial Hospital - Main Campus, 400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway, Midland, Texas, 79701 by 4:00 PM, February 1, 2019.

Send the electronic (PDF) copy of your submission to: amy.fultz@midlandhealth.org. To protect your privacy, you may elect to password protect your electronic submission with the password provided after the submission deadline.

Under no circumstances will bids received beyond 4:00 PM, February 1, 2019 be accepted.

All bids must be sealed and labeled BID # 1255-122418

All bids must be price protected until February 1, 2019.

All bids will remain confidential until after an award has been made. Vendors will then be allowed to review the bids in the purchasing office according to the policies and procedures of Midland Memorial Hospital. Midland County Hospital District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities.

Bids shall be addressed to:

Amy Jean Fultz
Director of Supply Chain
Midland County Hospital District
Midland Memorial Hospital
400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway
Midland, Texas 79701

Pickup Trucks

1997 CHEVROLET 271 extended cab, tool box, dependable good truck, high mileage, premium sound system. \$1,750. See at 201 E. Pecan. Call Richard 432-349-8516



Recreation Vehicles

07 TRAVEL Supreme, 34', 4 slides & 50 amp. Cherrywood, leather, new G tires, 15 A/C, fireplace, awnings, excellent condition. \$16,500. Delivery available. 641-425-5178

Real Estate

2007 KEYSTONE Laredo 5th wheel, 30' trees with 2k miles, new refrigerator, everything works. Asking \$13,500. Located in Midland. 817-694-8780 or 432-589-6921

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1011 DENTON St. Midland, TX 79703. 3bed 2bath \$2,500. Neg. Monthly includes W/D 432-557-4788

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Single Family Homes



7218 RCR 113 A REAL ESTATE STOPPER Parade of Homes Entry by Stevens Construction. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths on one acre in Chaney Ranch. Loads of extras, 2 living, 2 dining, 4 car garage, with over 3600 square feet per plus.

FOR LEASE: 5104 B Rainbow-1 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. UPDATED. \$2,995/month. 2803 W. Loop 1200 office. GREAT LOCATION. \$3,395/month. 4803 Howard. UNDER CONTRACT. 4280 NCR 1130 - HOME ON THE RANGE. UNDER CONTRACT.

FOR LEASE: 5104 B Rainbow-1 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage. UPDATED. \$2,995/month. 2803 W. Loop 1200 office. GREAT LOCATION. \$3,395/month. 4803 Howard. UNDER CONTRACT. 4280 NCR 1130 - HOME ON THE RANGE. UNDER CONTRACT.

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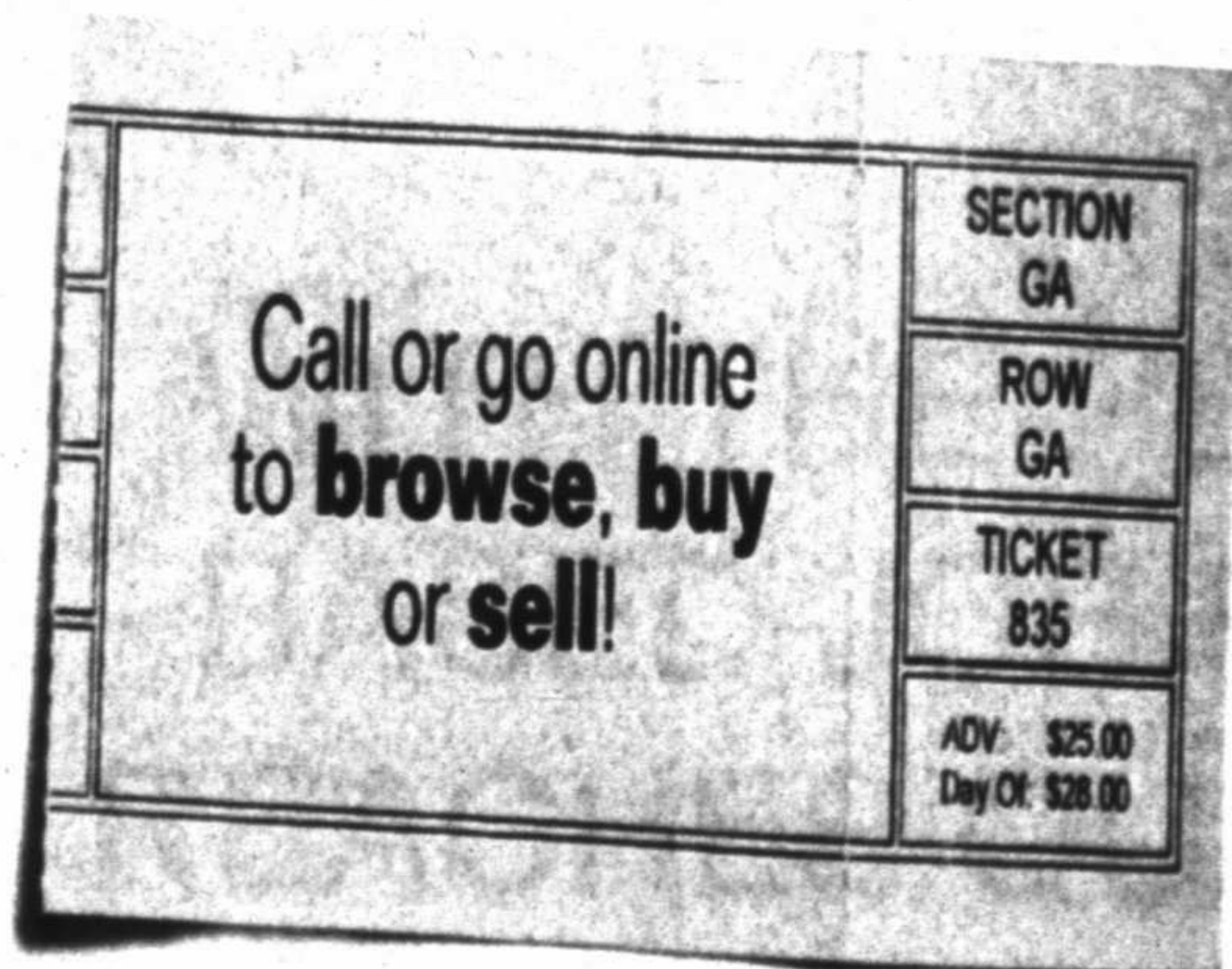
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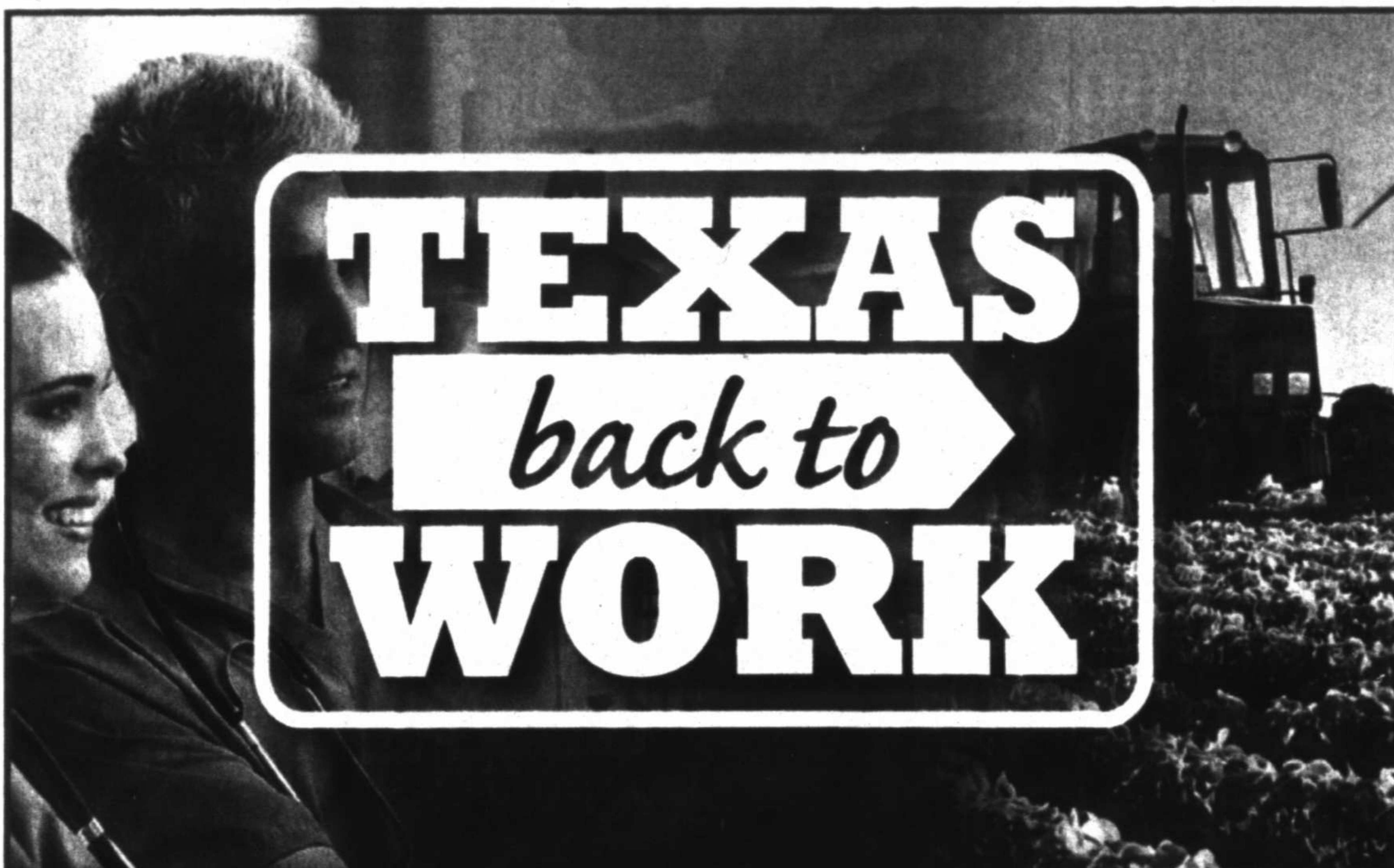
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Wishing God's blessings upon you and your families as you gather to celebrate the new year. I am blessed to count you as friends and family. Happy New Year to You All!

Sandy J. Hanson

FEATURED LISTINGS

3711 Northfield	5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 living, beautiful pool	MLS #50018213	SOLD	\$785,675
1902 E. Co. Rd. 1121	4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2.22 acres in Greenwood	MLS #50018196	UNDER CONTRACT	\$498,900
9708 FM 307	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 6.5 acres in Greenwood	MLS #50015627	UNDER CONTRACT	\$448,900
9708 FM 307	Residential or Commercial Land, 8 acres, owner finance	MLS #50005743		\$430,500
5709 E. Co. Rd. 60	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3+ acres in Greenwood	MLS #50018555	UNDER CONTRACT	\$364,900
9708-A FM 307	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1.26 Acres in Greenwood	MLS #50017805	UNDER CONTRACT	\$295,000
5110 Rice Drive	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, with garage	MLS #50018694	UNDER CONTRACT	\$148,900
5252 Lake Co. Rd. 256	3 Bed, 2 Bath, On Lake Colorado City, owner finance, all closing cost paid	MLS #106038	NEW PRICE	\$88,400

Sandy J. Hanson
REALTOR ASSOCIATE
ABR, GRI, CRS, ASR
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How Do Property Taxes Work?

If you're a new or soon-to-be homeowner, you may be wondering about how property taxes work. Unlike the income tax and the sales tax you pay, the property tax is not based on how much money you earn or how much you spend. Instead, it is based solely on how much the property you own is worth. This is based on a comparison of the properties around you, as well as market factors.

The real property tax is an ad valorem tax, or a tax based on the value of property. Ideally, the owners of property of equal value pay the same amount of property taxes, and the owners of more valuable property pay more in taxes than the owners of less valuable property.

The tax is calculated using a variety of formulas and is based on a property's assessed value - its full market value or a percentage thereof - and the tax rate of the taxing jurisdiction, minus any property tax exemptions, such as those offered for the elderly or veterans.

Property taxes are assessed by city and county governments to generate the bulk of their operating revenues. The taxes help pay for such public services as schools, libraries, roads, and police protection.

Re-valuations of the tax are often done periodically, although the time interval varies from state to state or, in some states, from town to town, and can range from annual reassessments to periods of ten years or more.

As a Member of the Top 5 in Real Estate Network®, I have a wealth of real estate and homeownership information that may be of help to you. Feel free to contact me any time to learn more about this important information, and be sure to forward this article on to any friends or family that may be interested as well.

Sincerely,

Norma Pine & Chris Beckett
npine@live.com
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NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MIDLAND

1400 S. CO. RD. 1120...Jose Rendon 889-8394	MLS #50017229	\$489,300	7210 E. CO. RD. 98...Jose Rendon 889-8394	MLS #50017108	CALL PENDING	7415 ECR DR...Jose Rendon 889-8394	MLS #50018196	CALL PENDING
800 EUGENE...Jose Rendon 889-8394	MLS #50017745	CALL PENDING	7410 ECR DR...Jose Rendon 889-8394	MLS #50018197	\$489,000	1112 E. COWDEN...Jose Rendon 889-8394	MLS #50018046	CALL PENDING

FOUR OR MORE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

5307 ALYSSA LANE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50015038	\$4,500,000	4700 WOODHOLLOW DR...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50018335	\$625,000	8013 MELVILLE DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018375	\$385,000
804 SOLIDOR LANE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50009355	\$2,800,000	4817 BAYBROOK DR...Pam Dodd 413-0780		\$599,500	5001 DANDY DR...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883	MLS #50018292	\$360,000
4211 FM 1208...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50015234	\$1,975,000	7200 ECR 116...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018207	\$599,000	5001 CHAMPIONS DR...Kim Merrill 864-4702	MLS #50018339	CALL PENDING
2005 SHELBY AVE...Lash Watkins 599-2187	MLS #50017581	\$1,775,000	5000 HERR VISTA CIRCLE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018379	\$595,000	3282 REE...Jose Alvarez 286-1385	MLS #50018308	\$364,900
8401 LOS CONCHOS LANE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017736	\$1,750,000	1705 CUTHBERT AVE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018987	\$579,900	2105 WHITNEY DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017202	\$350,000
2916 GLADSTONE DR...Chandler Roberts 634-8529	MLS #50018628	\$1,200,000	4000 Goodland Road...Kay Bivens 834-5995	MLS #50019147	\$565,000	1403 CERRILLOS AVE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018851	\$350,000
8016 HONESTAD BLVD...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017876	\$1,150,000	1802 ECR 1121...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50018196	CALL PENDING	2000 S COUNTY RD 1001...Daria Davis 260-8077	MLS #50018303	\$325,900
5701 DEVIL PLACE...Jerry Leskar 425-1006	MLS #50018172	\$1,100,000	2010 COLEMAN COURT - POLO PARK...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50018282	\$450,000	1310 Rother Lk...Lisa Abino 681-0062	MLS #50017728A	\$327,500
3001 FARMWOOD DRIVE...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50018330	\$990,000	2 STUTZ COURT...Donna Omar 349-1158		\$450,000	5007 RODEO ST...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053	MLS #50018100	CALL PENDING
210 COLUMBIA OAKS CT...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017234	\$940,000	5215 GREATHOUSE AVE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018580	CALL PENDING	6400 VANGUARD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018835	\$319,000
215 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018161A	\$750,000	2001 S. CR 1000...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50018240	\$450,000	3000 STANOLIND AVE...Lisa Russell 741-5864		\$319,000
8345 PHAEGE RIDGE...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276		\$735,000	3329 LANCEWOOD...DESSA...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018889	CALL PENDING	1811 WHANDLER...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50017923	\$319,000
3917 FARMWOOD COURT...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50014785	CALL PENDING	5005 CASA GRANDE TRL...Daria Davis 260-8077	MLS #50018297	\$449,900	214 RIDGELA DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880		\$319,000
210 WINDRIDGE CIRCLE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #5001818A	\$679,000	1313 HIGHTON PLACE...Denny Norwood 413-2784	MLS #50018537	\$449,000	3214 LOCKHEED DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018581	\$299,000
181 JADEWOOD...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018475	\$675,000	2902 S. CO. RD 1004...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50018502	\$419,000	4002 SUNDOWN CIRCLE...Tina Atkins 432-681-0062	MLS #50015039	\$327,500
2101 DEERHILL...Susan Palmer 878-7816	MLS #50013118	\$675,000	5001 FROD DR...Daria Davis 260-8077	MLS #50019100	\$399,900	1100 MOUNTAIN RD...Donna Prasher 889-5022	MLS #50018700	CALL PENDING
			3017 IMPERIAL AVE...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053	MLS #50018881	\$399,000	712 RUBY...Jose Alvarez 286-1385	MLS #50015451	\$314,000
			1711 MORRIS...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50018068	\$399,000			

THREE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

5316 CAMDEN...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017783A	\$609,000	4004 MEADOWWOOD CT...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276	MLS #50018255	\$325,000	1301 INDIANA...Denny Norwood 413-2784	MLS #50018403	\$249,000
8013 CACTUS TR...Betty Hicks 687-8545	MLS #50018951	\$600,000	413 D. ROAD...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276	MLS #50019103	\$320,000	2205 WARD...Betty Hicks 687-8545	MLS #50018311	CALL PENDING
2001 SEABOARD...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018496	CALL PENDING	1002 DREA LANE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018822	CALL PENDING	5101 S COUNTY RD 1142...Daria Davis 260-8077	MLS #50017831	\$239,900
4000 BAYBROOK DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018321	CALL PENDING	907 PINE CT...Susan Palmer 878-7816	MLS #50015319	\$279,000	1113 CEDAR CREEK...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018563	CALL PENDING
3402 FELDSPAR LANE...Lisa Russell 741-5864	MLS #50018810	\$480,000	207 RIDGELA DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018800	\$380,000	3274 FM 3113 Stanton, TX...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50017466	CALL PENDING
1000 SPARKS...Denny Norwood 413-2784		\$439,000	1000 COUNTRY CLUB...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276	MLS #50018879	\$380,000	2905 DOUGLAS...Karen Foster 559-4086	MLS #50017080	CALL PENDING
9700 FM 387...Sandy Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50015627	CALL PENDING	3010 CARVER...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018754	\$380,000	4002 PRINCETON...Kim Merrill 864-4702	MLS #50018791	CALL PENDING
2100 DALLAS...Susan Palmer 878-7816	MLS #50018676	\$379,000	2914 MOSS AVE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018858	CALL PENDING	3304 LOUISIANA...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883	MLS #50017778	CALL PENDING
5412 SAN SABA...Susan Palmer 878-7816	MLS #50018991	\$375,000	2200 SHANDON AVE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50019279	CALL PENDING	4012 PLEASANT DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50019044	CALL PENDING
2707 CALDERA DR...Steve Ferris 294-3336	MLS #50017251	\$360,000	3203 SOUTHWATER...Donna Omar 349-1458	MLS #50018476	\$359,000	4001 CROCKETT AVE...Cheryl Parrish 352-3053		\$349,000
5217 GREEN TREE BLVD...Stephanie Rogers 878-9757	MLS #50015633	\$364,900	6706 SPUR DR...Lisa Russell 741-5864	MLS #50018073	\$374,900	1803 CHIMARRON...DESSA...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018856	\$319,000
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40 CAMBRIDGE...Jose Alvarez 286-1385	MLS #50015990	\$329,000	4015 PALMER DR...Lash Watkins 599-2187	MLS #50018873A	\$327,300	5700-A FM 387...Sandy Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50017805	CALL PENDING
			4009 COUNTRY CLUB DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018906	\$320,000			

ONE/TWO BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

2700 Leeland...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50017641							
2202 WESTERN DR...Ashley St John 352-4254	MLS #50018519							
1210 CEDAR CREEK RD...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018907							
407 N. FT. WORTH...Denny Norwood 413-2784	MLS #50018406							\$314,000

HOMES IN MIDLAND COUNTY

4216 E. CO. RD. 63...Martha Manolis 557-4744	MLS #50017203	2 Acres/\$890,000	2707 MARCE DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018018	CALL PENDING	9700 FM 387...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50015627	CALL PENDING
2100 ECR 1116...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50017703	CALL PENDING	5701 S. CO. RD. 1206...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50017078	\$450,000	4107 W COUNTY RD 104...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018544	\$360,000
9700 FM 387, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50019993	31 Acres & 2 Houses/\$990,000	12200 E. CO. RD. 94, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50018831	\$449,000	2017 S COUNTY RD 1228A...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017520A	CALL PENDING
7209 E. CO. RD. 116, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018207	\$529,999	2902 S. CO. RD 1004...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50018502	\$399,900	7201 ECR DR...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018221	CALL PENDING
11514 WCH RD...Mark Phillips 727-5071	MLS #50018667	3+ Acres/\$520,000	915 ECR 100...Reynolds Glover 563-5362	MLS #50019110	\$399,000	7300 E. CO. RD. 91...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276	CALL PENDING	
			3903 ECR 1105...Susan Palmer 878-7816	MLS #50017865	CALL PENDING	10001 E. CO. RD. 104, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	CALL PENDING	

HOMES OUTSIDE OF MIDLAND COUNTY

9700 FM 387, GREENWOOD...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50015627	\$449,000	COLORADO CITY...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276	MLS #50009413	18 Acres/\$300,000	6311 CHRISTOPHER LN...Donna Prasher 889-5022	MLS #50011032	SALE PENDING
6019 STONEHEDGE RD., DESSA...Wendy Waddell 639-9955	MLS #50018028	CALL PENDING	3029 CO. RD. 310, HUBBARD CREEK LAKE-GREENWICH...Jose Alvarez 286-1385		\$279,000	3032 LCR 792, COLORADO CITY...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50015304	\$89,000
14730 N CHIMARRON, GARDENHILL...Ashley St John 352-4254	MLS #50019306	1.5 Acres/\$675,000	400 E. WITH STREET, DESSA...Armando Gutier 413-7330		\$199,000	8202 LAKE CO. RD. 294...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50018038	\$89,000

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

1400 W. CO. RD. 116...Tina Atkins 432-681-0062	MLS #5001278	12.56 Acres/\$1,800,000	5701 S. CO. RD. 1206...Larry Hatfield 349-4788	MLS #50017078				
4309 S. CO. RD. 1131, GREENWOOD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009725	43 Acres/\$1,375,000	9700 FM 387...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50005743				
9700 FM 387...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50016009	31 Acres & 2 Houses/\$990,000	200 S COLLEGE DR...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018004A				
9700 FM 387...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50016100	17+ Acres/\$990,000						

LAND AND LOTS

4200 FM 1208...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50015227	\$1,975,000	4011 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018003	\$380,000	0215...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018076	10+ Acres/\$990,000
E. CO. RD. 97...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50013484	38.87 Acres/\$990,000	4116 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018004	\$380,000	1010 ECR 100...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50017886	\$77,000
4000 CARROLL LANE...Karen Foster 559-4086	MLS #50009106	\$660,000	0 BLACKBIRD LN...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018009	\$380,000	1000 ECR 100...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50017886	\$77,000
3004 CARROLL LANE...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50015313	\$660,000	4210 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018000	\$329,000	GREENWOOD LOT...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50017840	\$42,000
9700 FM 387, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50016000	17+ Acres/\$990,000	0 BLACKBIRD LN...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50019141	\$329,000	3000 HERR LANE, GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009271	\$34,900
9700 FM 387...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819	MLS #50005743		0 BLACKBIRD LN...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50019142	\$329,000	3270 DENNA LANE, GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009278	\$34,900
4200 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017098	\$379,000	CO. RD. 98 W. AND 1000...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883	MLS #50007445	3 Acres/\$100,000	3270 DENNA LANE, GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009279	\$34,900
4221 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017910	\$379,000	CR1007...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018072	20+ Acres/\$100,000	3004 PEARLVIEW ST., GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009228	\$34,900
4211 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50017911	\$379,000	CR1007...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018073	1.80+ Acres/\$99,000	3077 DENNA LANE, GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009229	\$34,900
4100 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018001	\$380,000	CR1007...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018074	1.80+ Acres/\$99,000	3270 DENNA LANE, GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009225	\$34,900
4000 BLACKBIRD DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880	MLS #50018002	\$380,000	CR1015...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018087	1.80+ Acres/\$99,000	3007 DENNA LANE, GRADY RD...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50009232	\$34,900
			CR1016...Michelle Leskar 230-3633	MLS #50018089	1.80+ Acres/\$99,000	0000 E. CO. RD. 97, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412	MLS #50013484	38.87 Acres/\$990,000 Per Acre

FOR LEASE

1013 MCCALL, ABILEE ST...John 352-4254	MLS #50018731							
4311 ST. ANDREWS...Pam Dodd 413-0780								
3104 TEALWOOD PLACE...Janice Merrill 349-7242	MLS #50018467							
3210 PRESTON DR...DeLara Gammege 288-3880								

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CULTURE

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Sunday, December 30, 2018 | Section E

Another year to be grateful about motherhood

I spent years — years, thinking babies were hard. The late-night feedings, the anxiety their every cold and virus laid on my heart, the danger-danger-danger of pools and playgrounds, light sockets and strangers lurking behind bushes. My inability to breast feed easily. Their constant need and my sense of helplessness at meeting it. I suffered with an ever-constant stream of self-critique — other moms made it look so easy! They weren't losing their ever-loving minds in the grocery store or hiding in the closet with wine and chocolate just to get a few minutes away from their children. And it wasn't until my son was 3 and my daughter was 1 that I found out the truth — there were a bunch of us struggling to be Super

MELANIE NICHOLAS
Columnist



Mom. We just weren't talking about it. It's generational, I suppose. It's popular now to poke fun of the Millennials, the generation that supposedly does nothing but talk about themselves. But my generation, the Gen X'ers, we seem to be the folks that struggle to make everything look perfect on the outside even when our insides are

less-than.

But I don't want to be that kind of parent. I just can't be. Nothing about me or my life or my house is picture perfect. I don't have the energy or the talent for that. And hiding my quirks and fears and failures seems so... disingenuous. How can we relate to one another, how can we share anything like hope or love, when we never reveal our true selves? And how can I grow as a person or wife or mother if I pretend I have nothing to learn?

New Year's is my absolute favorite time of the year. It is the very definition of growing season! I am reminded that life is delicious, full of possibility. Everything still looks magical because I haven't put up Christmas decorations yet, but the

inherent pressure of producing Christmas has disappeared.

This Christmas, well, really, the last three months, have been hard for me. If I thought babies were hard, well, nothing has made me feel more insecure, more vulnerable than parenting a pre-teen. My son will be 11 this summer, and I feel like we are both walking a tightrope. My beautiful little boy, the one who laughed, jumped in puddles and was fearless in the face of oncoming traffic, is starting to grow up.

My mother, who is an amazing mother, told me she loved every stage of childhood. She is a braver mother than me. I

Please see NICHOLAS/4E

A SHAKESPEARE HOLIDAY



Photos by Jacy Lewis/Reporter-Telegram

Members of the Society of Juliets had a Christmas party on Dec. 15 at the home of Barbara Hogan. Corine Berry, from left, Hogan, Beverly McColloch, Juanita Pyler, Esther Sofge and, sitting, Delores Schuler.

The Society of Juliets celebrate Christmas and look back on history at the Globe

By Jacy Lewis
jlewis@mrt.com

Juliet members have been ushering people for plays at the Globe of the Southwest for over 43 years. But before there were the Juliets there was Marjorie Morris, an English teacher at Odessa High School and then a professor at Odessa College. Morris wanted to bring a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to Odessa College.

Juliet member Beverly McColloch has Morris as a teach at Odessa High School and Odessa College. She remembers Morris' love for Shakespeare's plays.

"If you ever wanted to learn Shakespeare that is where you would learn it," McColloch said.

Morris raised all the money for the construction through big donations and asking students at Odessa College for one dollar at a time, Juliet member Esther Sofge said. The Globe of the Great Southwest started showing plays in 1968. The Juliet Fine Art Society was organized in 1975, seven years later.

"The Juliets started out as a fundraising organization for the Globe," Delores Schuler the current president said.

Allie Taylor was the first president in 1975. Nobody could remember who started the Juliets but they have records showing the past presidents.

On a pamphlet among the records the Juliets keep, was a description of 'What is a Juliet?'

"She is a student, career woman, teacher, wife, nurse, mother or grandmother. She has a special love of the GLOBE THEATRE, other Juliets and friends of the theatre.

"She is a valuable asset to the Globe Theatre and its productions, handling the patron house management, ushering, being a ticket greeter, program greeter and managing the concession/barter booth and the Anne Hathaway Cottage when needed. The Juliet Society, for their fundraisers, gives teas for organizations of the community, state conferences and conventions. They also help serve at receptions and parties at the Globe Theater when needed and they have volunteer time available. Money received by the organization is used to benefit the Globe Theatre."

Barbara Hogan joined the Juliets in 2009 after she moved back to Odessa from the Gulf Coast. Hogan said she



Juanita Pyler holds an undated picture of Marjorie Morris posing in front of the Globe of the Great Southwest. Morris helped get donations to build the Globe.

misses serving patrons out of the barter booth.

"We could get everybody out and hand them hot chocolate on cold days," Hogan said. "I like being part of this group because it's a fun group and I think it's just amazing that there is an exact replica of the Globe Theatre in Odessa, Texas."

The Globe of the Great Southwest is located on 2308 Shakespeare Rd on the Odessa College campus. It is an exact replica, minus the roof as McColloch pointed out, of the Globe Theatre in London.

Recently, the Globe of the Great Southwest has come under the full management of Odessa College. Before, it operated independently with a board of directors. Now the Juliets are only called upon to usher for productions not put on by Odessa College. They recently helped with the Shakespeare festival during Apocalypse.

"They used to have two dresses, one pink, short sleeved for summer months and a cranberry colored dress for the winter," Schuler said. "Several years ago

we went to the capes."

The capes are cooler and allow members to wear any white shirt they desire underneath, Hogan said. New members wouldn't have to buy or make dresses either, Schuler said.

Schuler said she remembers when attendees would find a Juliet in a red or pink dress and pay them 10 dollars for admittance to the production of the night. From 1979-2013, the Juliets helped usher about 250 plays on top of the monthly showings of the Brand New Opry on Saturday nights and annual Shakespeare Festival, records show.

Juliet membership numbers have fluctuated over the years with the Juliets numbering 40 at one time but recent membership is at 14 active members. Anyone can become a member, they just have to volunteer, Sofge said.

McColloch said it would be wonderful to get more young women involved with the Juliets. Hogan said she would like to start having teas again, which were once a fundraiser for the Globe of the Great Southwest.

TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Columnist



Andrews man's pigeons find their way home

It was raining when I visited Mike Sutton of Andrews. He has a series of tin-roofed buildings where he keeps hundreds of homing pigeons. Rain on a tin roof makes a pleasing sound, which mixed well with the cooing of the pigeons.

"We have a 600-mile race here once a year and we have four or five 500-mile races," says Mike. "We had a race from Shreveport, Louisiana, and two of my pigeons were turned out on a Saturday morning at 7 o'clock and they got here in Andrews at 5 p.m. That's 503 miles."

He takes them further from home each training session.

"I start at a mile, let them come home, then I move up to 5 miles and let them come home. I'm training a new group right now and they went 11 miles. Next... I hope to get them out to 25 or 30 miles. I need to get them out to about 60 miles before the races. Our first race will be 100 miles, but they don't need to be trained that far. Once they come home from 60 miles, they can come home from just about anywhere."

There are several theories why homing pigeons always return home.

"Some say they use a magnetic field. There are some who say they use their strong sense of smell. They have put contact lenses on them to cover their eyes so they couldn't see, then turned them loose and they still came home."

In a race, times are registered by computer, a big change from earlier days when the birds carried bands on their legs that had to be removed, causing some pain.

"I put a chip in their legs and I have a scanner. When they cross that scanner, it scans their number into a clock, which indicates the time they got here. After the race is over and all the birds have come home, we take this computer clock over to the clubhouse and we have a computer over there. We enter everybody's clocks into the computer and the computer generates a race sheet that tells who won the race."

Mike says racing pigeons started in Europe.

"China has come into pigeon racing in the last few years and now has some 300,000 — more pigeon fliers than any other country. They go to Europe and buy birds. Last year, a bird was sold for \$400,000 to a Chinese man."

Mike said there are a couple of races that pay \$50,000 to the first-place bird.

He paid \$5 for a pigeon that beat a pigeon that cost his competitor \$20,000.

Mike also has some roller pigeons.

"They are birds that fly real high and turn summer salts on the way down. They tumble head first and they're fun to watch."

NAMES & FACES

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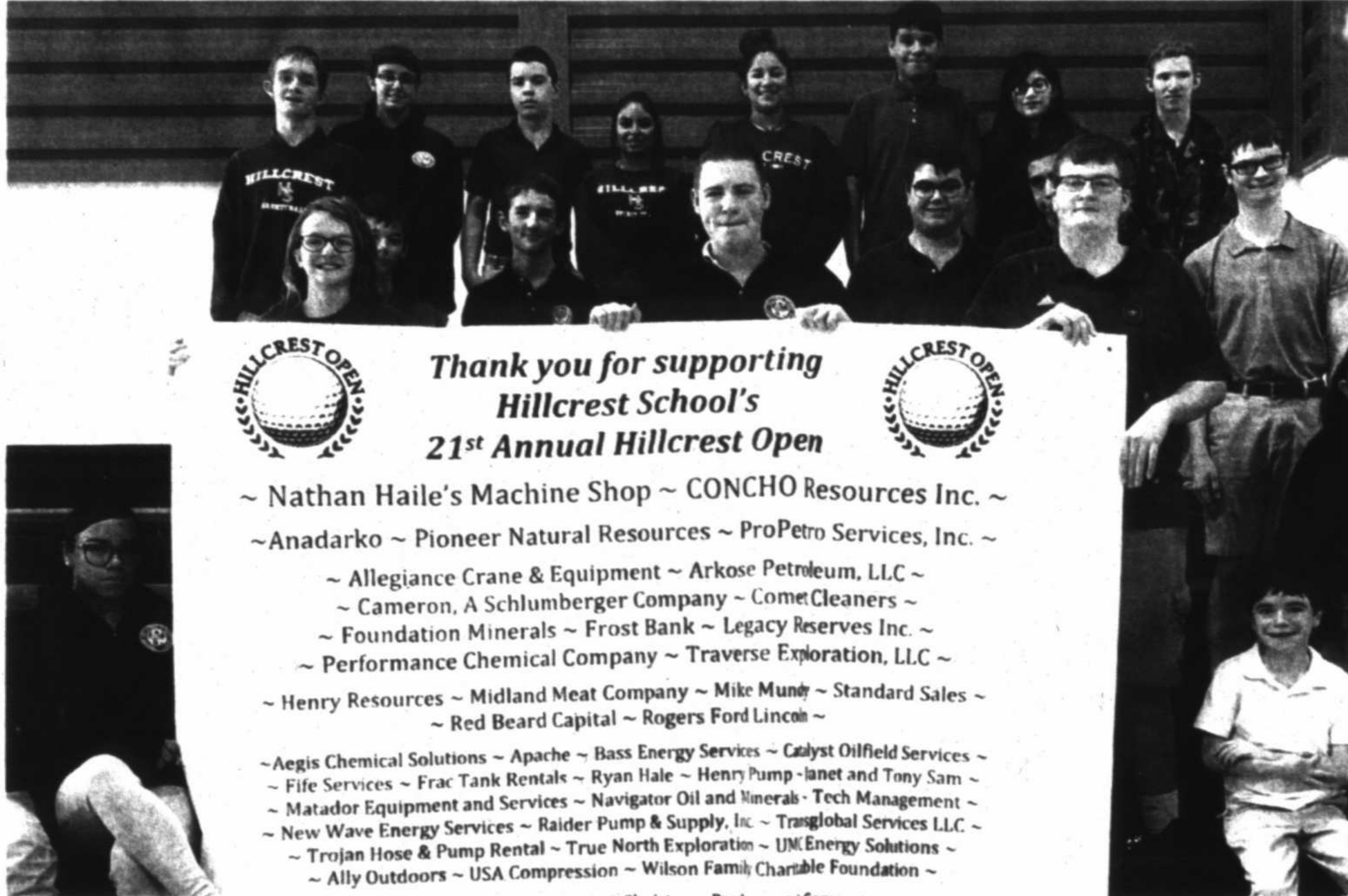
OUT&ABOUT

by Julie Donnelly



GOLFERS TEE OFF FOR HILLCREST SCHOOL

Almost 200 golfers teed off to help raise money for Hillcrest School during the 21st annual Hillcrest Open at Green Tree Country Club. All the money raised from the four-person scramble went directly to the school, which provides specialized educational programs for students with learning differences such as ADHD and dyslexia. Golfers enjoyed a deli lunch, which was underwritten by Concho, and prizes provided by ProPetro.



HILLCREST OPEN

Students show their appreciation.



REUNION

Chad and Jenny Knight, from left, and Julie and Zach Inman

MHS-LHS ALUMNI GATHER FOR 20TH REUNION

Lee High and Midland High teamed up recently to celebrate the 20th reunion for the schools' Class of 1998. To kick off the reunion weekend, several alumni gathered at the MHS vs. LHS football game. After the game, Midland High grads had a Bull-dog-only gathering at Steak 42. Heavy hors d'oeuvres were served throughout the night.

The next day, the former Midland High students toured their old school, many had not seen the newest addition before.

On the evening of the joint reunion, alumni and their spouses gathered at Mac's BBQ to catch up with former classmates. The event featured a photo booth and dancing to the live music of The Vegas Stars of Dallas.

Midland High graduates Jason Bose, Ashley McPherrin, Holly Gilkerson Lawrence and Summer Van were the reunion weekend organizers.



REUNION

Joey Schlaffer, from left, Traue Silverman Conder and Luke Conder



HILLCREST OPEN

Rich Fontenot, from left, Ross Roach, Adrian Arguello and Steven Lowry



HILLCREST OPEN

Brian Arnold, from left, Noble Starnes, Walker Meadows and Samantha Durham



REUNION

Candice Russell Baker and Jeff Baker, back row; and Jeremy Ingmire and Misty Burrell Ingmire



HILLCREST OPEN

Jennifer Ready, from left, Denise Strickland and Jennifer McNew



HILLCREST OPEN

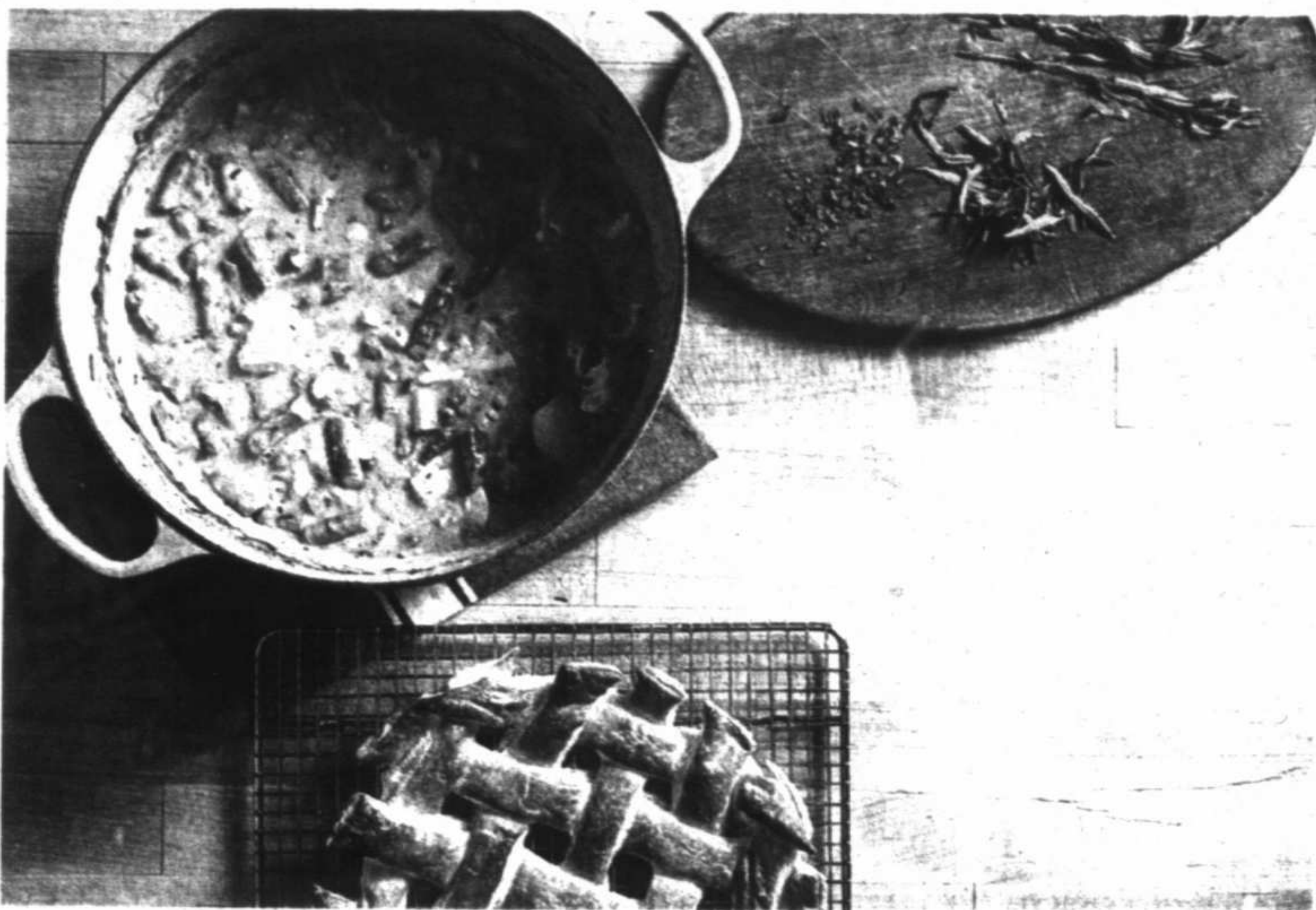
Jamie Hatfield, left, and Kentara McDonald



HILLCREST OPEN

Jeff Alsop, left, and Bobby Kincaid





Carl Tremblay/America's Test Kitchen via AP

This undated photo provided by America's Test Kitchen in December 2018 shows Chicken Pot Pie in Brookline, Mass. This recipe appears in the book "Cook It In Your Dutch Oven."

Make a stress-free classic chicken pot pie with only 1 pot

By America's Test Kitchen

The delights of classic chicken pot pie are many — from the burnished, flaky crust to the luscious, savory filling.

But putting it together can be a chore: Often requiring pulling out a food processor, poaching chicken in one pot and building a gravy in another, and then transferring the filling and crust to a pie plate to bake, this comfort food requires a major time commitment, not to mention a battery of pots and pans.

We wanted an easier way and found our trusty Dutch oven to be just the ticket to get us there using only one pot.

Boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into pieces, were easy to work with and stayed moist through cooking. While tasters liked the deeper flavor provided by browning the chicken, they weren't keen on the crusty, browned exterior on the pieces — it didn't jive with the luxurious, creamy filling.

Instead, we simply stirred bite-sized pieces of chicken right into the gravy and turned to two powerhouse ingredients — tomato paste and soy sauce — to boost savoriness without being distinguishable in their own right.

To give our pot pie fresh spring flavor we swapped in leeks for onions and stirred in some fresh asparagus, peas, and tarragon after pulling the pot from the oven.

With our one-pot filling perfected, we turned to the crust. Instead of labor-intensive home-made pastry, we decided to use buttery store-bought puff pastry and wove it into a simple but stunning lattice. But no matter what we tried, baking the crust on top of the filling inevitably led to soggy, soggy results.

In the past we skirted this problem by baking the crust separately on a baking sheet, but we were hesitant to add more dishes to our recipe. We realized, however, that the lid of the Dutch oven could act as a stand-in baking sheet. We simply turned the lid upside down before covering the

Chicken pot pie with spring vegetables

Servings: 6

Start to finish: 1 hour, 30 minutes

- 1 (9 1/2-by-9 inch) sheet puff pastry, thawed
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 pound leeks, white and light green parts only, halved lengthwise, cut into 1/2 inch pieces, and washed thoroughly
- 4 carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon tomato paste
- 3 cups chicken broth, plus extra as needed
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed and cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut on bias into 1 inch lengths
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh tarragon or parsley
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest plus 2 teaspoons juice

Cut sheet of parchment paper to match outline of Dutch oven lid and place on large plate or upturned rimmed baking sheet. Roll puff pastry sheet into 15-by-11-inch rectangle on lightly floured counter. Using pizza cutter or sharp knife, cut pastry widthwise into ten 1 1/2 inch-wide strips.

Space 5 pastry strips parallel and evenly across parchment circle. Fold back first, third, and fifth strips almost completely. Lay additional pastry strip perpendicular to second and fourth strips, keeping it snug to folded edges of pastry, then unfold strips. Repeat laying remaining 4 pastry strips evenly

across parchment circle, alternating between folding back second and fourth strips and first, third, and fifth strips to create lattice pattern. Using pizza cutter, trim edges of pastry following outline of parchment circle. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and refrigerate while preparing filling.

Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 400 F. Melt butter in Dutch oven over medium heat. Add leeks, carrots, and 1 teaspoon salt and cook until vegetables are softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in flour, garlic, and tomato paste and cook for 1 minute.

Slowly stir in broth, scraping up any browned bits and smoothing out any lumps. Stir in cream, soy sauce, and bay leaves. Bring to simmer and cook until mixture is thickened, about 3 minutes. Stir in chicken and return to simmer.

Off heat, cover pot with inverted lid and carefully place parchment with pastry on lid. Brush pastry with egg and sprinkle with salt. Transfer pot to oven and bake until pastry is puffed and golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes, rotating pot halfway through baking.

Remove pot from oven. Transfer parchment with pastry to wire rack, discard parchment. Remove lid and discard bay leaves. Stir asparagus into filling and cook over medium heat until crisp-tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Off heat, stir in peas and let sit until heated through, about 5 minutes. Adjust filling consistency with extra hot broth as needed. Stir in tarragon and lemon zest and juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Set pastry on top of filling and serve.

Nutrition information per serving: 631 calories; 308 calories from fat; 34 g fat (11 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 212 mg cholesterol; 768 mg sodium; 40 g carbohydrate; 5 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 40 g protein.

them over individual portions of the filling.

For more recipes, cooking tips and ingredient and product reviews, visit <https://www.americastestkitchen.com>. Find more recipes like Fool-proof Holiday Cookies in "The Perfect Cookie."

America's Test Kitchen provided this article to The Associated Press

Add uncooked instant mashed potatoes, oatmeal to thicken soups

Dear Heloise: Please repeat your Chicken Tortilla Soup recipe. I lost mine when we moved, and my family has always loved that soup in the cold winter months. — Lilly D., Twin Falls, Idaho
Lilly, here it is:

CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP

- 12 corn tortillas
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1/2 cup tomato puree
- 4 quarts rich chicken stock
- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro
- Dash of cayenne pepper and Parmesan cheese

Cut tortillas into strips and fry in oil until crisp. Drain and set aside. Sauté onions in olive oil. Add tomato puree and stock. Add chicken, cilantro and tortillas. Cook over medium heat for about an hour. Top each serving with a sprinkle of cayenne pepper and Parmesan cheese.

If you enjoy a nice, warm bowl of soup on those cold winter days, you'll love my pamphlet. For this recipe and others, including Garden Cheddar, Meme's Potato and Tortellini and Bean soups, get "Heloise's Spectacular Soups" by ordering

HINTS FROM HELOISE

King Features Syndicate

online at Heloise.com.

FYI: To thicken a soup, just use instant mashed potatoes or uncooked oatmeal. Add a little at a time until it is just right. — Heloise

HEALTHY DIET HINTS

Dear Heloise: Shopping for cooking oils for butter? Keep this in mind: The U.S. Department of Agriculture says there are three types of fatty acid — saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated.

When looking for an oil or fat to cook with, go with polyunsaturated. Saturated fatty acids, found in large amounts in meat fat, poultry fat, cream, lard, cocoa butter, coconut oil, palm kernel oil and palm oil, are the least healthy for people who are protecting their heart health. Polyunsaturated oils include safflower, soybean, corn, sunflower, cottonseed

and sesame. Also good are monounsaturated fatty acids such as olive oil, peanut oil and canola oil.

Remember, it's never too late to start eating a healthy diet. Watching the fatty acids you consume is a good place to start. — Jordan K., Ann Arbor, Mich.

LEFTOVER PIE CRUST

Dear Heloise: My kids love it when I have leftover pie crust. I roll it out and sprinkle sugar and cinnamon on the dough. If I have chocolate chips or raisins, I add those, too. Then I roll it up, slice the roll into 1-inch segments and place each segment on a cookie sheet, and bake it with the pie for about 15 minutes or until golden brown, depending on the temperature used for baking the pie. — Kimberly Z., Sitka, Alaska

TEA BAGS

Dear Readers: Did you know that tea bags were invented by Thomas Sullivan in 1908? They were meant to be used as samples and were packaged for that purpose until people started dunking the entire packet in hot water. — Heloise

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 60440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.
Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.



Boyfriend raises doubts for concerned parents

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is a professional woman in her mid-20s. She works in a demanding field with a lot of overtime. She lives an hour away from us and is financially independent, but often depends on us for favors.

She has been dating a man for a year and a half who doesn't even call her his "girlfriend." We have never met him. He sees her when it's convenient for him, sometimes for an hour at 11 p.m. on a Sunday night after he's spent the weekend with his friends. (We both know what to call that.) She has never asked him to feed or baby-sit her cat, help her move furniture, pick up an item from a store or anything. She asks us.

We are in our 60s. We feel it's time for her to find a loving, considerate life partner, but she's content with her present "relationship." She has had relationships before with thoughtful, helpful guys, so I'm not sure why she is rationalizing this man's self-centered behavior.

He is now moving 600 miles away but plans to continue seeing her. He hasn't asked her to join him, although she considered uprooting herself from her job and family to do so. How can I make her see that she has no future with this man and needs to find a real partner in life? — WONT' BE AROUND FOREVER

DEAR WONT' BE: Are you sure he isn't married or in a long-term relationship with someone else? I don't blame you for being a concerned parent, but this is a realization your daughter is going to have to arrive at in her own time. Badgering her is counterproductive.

Could it be your independent daughter likes the "freedom" this relationship provides? If you are doing your daughter favors the "boyfriend" should be providing, cut it out. It's possible that the move he's making will cause him to drift out of her life so things can end naturally. Cross your fingers.

DEAR ABBY: I am a morning person, and my newly retired husband is the opposite. At night in our bedroom, he reads on his iPad for several hours while I try to sleep. I am in bed by 11, while my husband usually stays up till 1 or 2 a.m. If I wake up, he's on our couch in the bedroom with a glow of light from the iPad. But it bothers me that he is in the same room staying up to read.

We have been married 45 years and usually went to bed at the same time because of work, but now that he's retired, he says he likes reading, watching movies or watching videos on YouTube. I think he should read in another room (better for his eyes) and not the room I am sleeping in. He doesn't want to sit in our living room.

Bottom line: It bothers me that one person is doing an activity while the other sleeps or tries to sleep. What would be your advice? — DISORDERED SLEEP IN COLORADO

DEAR DISORDERED SLEEP: Because you need a solid night's sleep in order to function properly the next day, your husband should move to a different room if he wants to read so he won't disturb you. It's called demonstrating consideration for one's spouse.

NICHOLAS

From IE

confess that I don't always like this giant pre-pubescent baby-teen living with me. He is prone to mood swings and I don't always know who I will be waking up to. Is it going to be the sweet, tender boy that is kind to his little sister or the always hungry, angry he has to stop playing Fortnite, and argumentative little Mr. Hyde? I have had more Mr. Hyde here lately than I care for. And I know it is all hormones, brain chemistry, growing pains and 10-year-old egocentricity butting up against a tired mom who just wants him to eat something besides cereal and not complain about his chores. It is normal and all part of growing up — the rational side of me knows this — but the irrational side of me refuses to recognize it.

And I wish, oh God do I wish, that I could tell you all that I have taken this all in stride, that I haven't met his anger with my own. I want to bask in motherly bliss and tell you that I haven't threatened to pull the Xbox out of the wall or sent him to his room because he wouldn't eat his Christmas dinner. That I haven't bitten my tongue because on at least two occasions last month there were no words of kindness in my mouth. But that would be a lie. I want to tell you that I am a perfect mother, but I am so very far from it some days that it breaks my heart.

But I am telling you the truth when I say that I hate that we are going through this life stage during the holidays. Christmas always makes me reflective about motherhood. You may know that we tried for several years to get pregnant, but that by 2007, I had given up on being able to successfully carry a baby. The Hubs and I had some tearful conversations and finally agreed that we could be happy together, even without children. But that grief was still very fresh when I turned down the starring role of Mary in the church Christmas pageant. How could I sit there

and embody the mother of Christ when my body just couldn't seem to embody any body? But that year I had my own Christmas Eve miracle when, just hours before the play, I learned that I was pregnant with my son.

Last week, I forced that same little miracle to accompany me at church. We were sitting quietly, his head on my shoulder and his not-so-little hand in mine when I heard the Christmas song "Why Does God Have to Look so Human" by Waterdeep for the first time.

Why does god have to look so human? Why so just like every other? He was supposed to look like lightning/And instead he looks like his mother.

The lyrics laid me bare, because in them I heard God reminding me that, like Mary, He trusted me enough to be a mother to a precious boy. He trusted ME, this imperfect, sometimes-mess of a woman, to be the kind of mother that can loves like He loves. Unconditionally, relentlessly, fearlessly. He chose me for this little boy, this little piece of me that is still becoming. He reminded me that every day I have a chance to love and to act with less anger and more forgiveness. What a sacred gift. I am so very grateful for the reminder, Lord, thankful for another year of motherhood.

You can hear my favorite cover of Waterdeep's "Why Does God Have to Look so Human" performed by Sarah Herbert and The Rising Band on Facebook @MelNicholas13 or online at TheBathwaterBlogs.com

Melanie Nicholas is a full-time momma, writer and mommy blogger. She and The Hubs have two amazing children, Parksalot, 10, and Bodacious, 7. You can follow her amazing adventures fighting grime and insecurity on Facebook @MelNicholas13 and at TheBathwaterBlogs.com. Her column appears in the Midland Reporter-Telegram every other week.

Secretive gray fox is equally at home in desert, grasslands

MICHAEL PRICE
Wild About Texas



When mentioning wild canine species, most people think of wolves, coyotes and feral house pets. But very few think of one delightful and stunning canid that is not much larger than a house cat and roams the countryside with adept secrecy.

The gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) is a small canine that can be observed throughout myriad habitats in most of the United States, including the entire state of Texas. It prefers to live in grasslands and open desert, although it apparently also thrives in heavily vegetated areas and even within the confines of human metropolitan areas.

The gray fox is the second smallest of all North American foxes and is only slightly larger than the kit (swift) fox. Adult male grays, the larger of the two sexes, can achieve a total length of almost 4 feet; more than one-third is the tail. The maximum weight is just shy of 20 pounds, although the average weight is about 13 pounds.

The fur on the upper parts is sandy in coloration, highlighted with white and black, giving it the appearance of being grayish. The back of the ears is a distinctive yellowish brown. The sides of the muzzle are highlighted with black, as is the angle from the eye to the base of the ear, although these are not necessarily always distinctive. The tail is gray on top, white underneath and ends in a black tip. The legs are usually reddish.

The gray fox is a dietary generalist; small mammals make up the majority of the animal's diet. It has been known



Courtesy photo

Gray fox.

to feed on kangaroo rats, rabbits, mice, lizards, amphibians, fish, small birds and insects. Unlike their closely related competitor, the red fox, fruits and even vegetables comprise a large portion of the gray fox's diet.

The reproductive habits of this species consist of males and females pairing up for a season of monogamous breeding in October and November, although the pairs generally only stay together for one season. Breeding takes place during the late winter months, and most litters are born

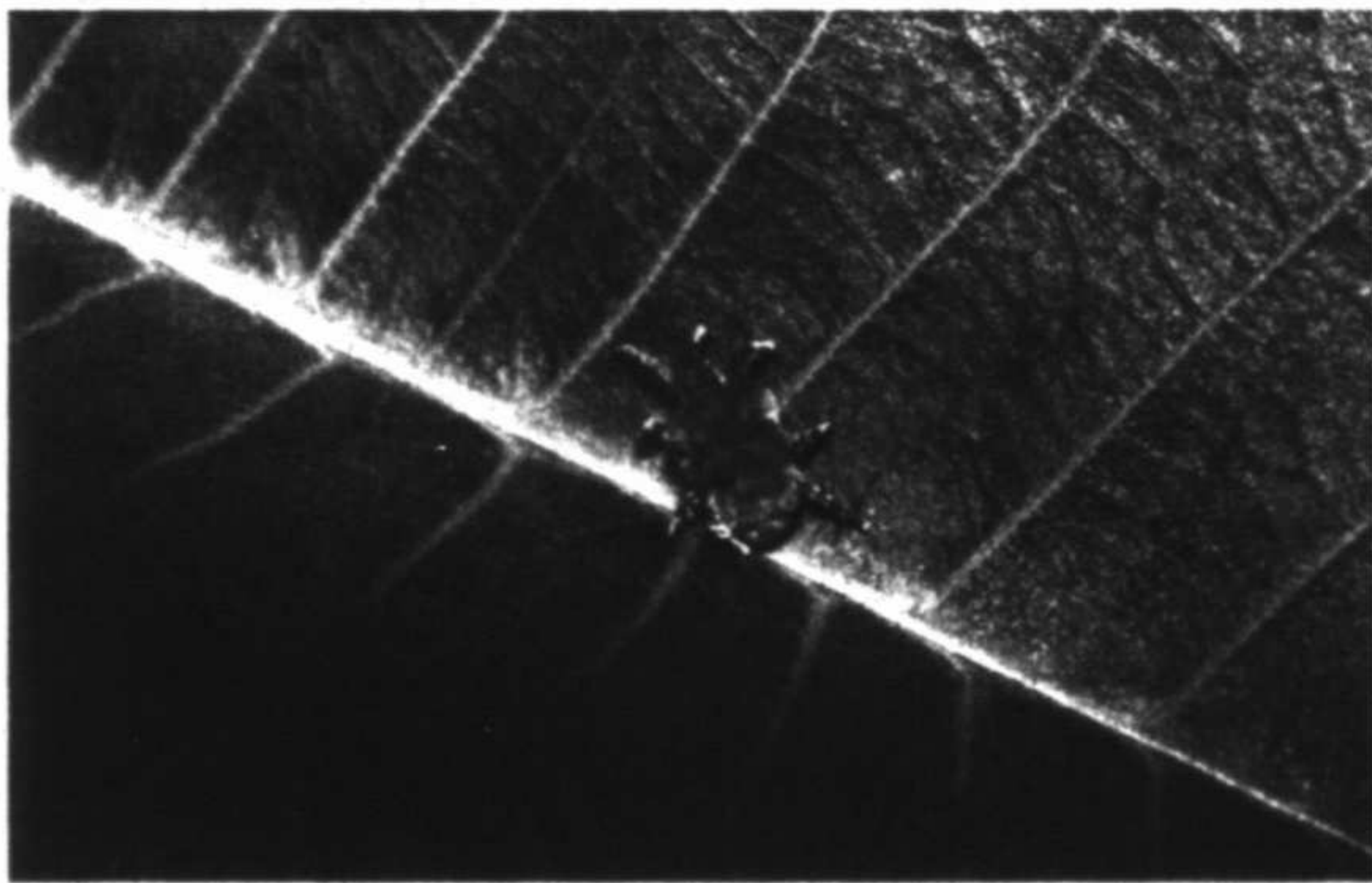
in late April or early May. The number of young depends greatly on the condition of the female. Large rotund females can give birth to as many as seven, while less hefty females give birth to three or fewer.

The birthing place is typically a small den. Here, the young, known as kits, will be reared while the female leaves to gather food, usually only at night or early mornings.

Kits often will begin to hunt alongside their parents as young as 3 months, and are capable to hunt and forage on their

own during their fourth month of life. The kits will remain in the presence of the adults as a family unit until the fall, when they will begin to disperse into a life of solitude until the following breeding season.

Gray fox pelts play a significant role in the fur trade, and although demand waxes from year to year, the population densities of this charming little canine have remained stable because of their ability to adapt to altered habitats and even to live in metropolitan areas.



Courtesy photo

Spider mite.

Spider mites come out with higher temperatures

There are bad bugs, and there are terrible bugs. Spider mites fall in the latter. Spider mites are less than 0.04 of an inch in size, and thus, are difficult to see with the naked eye. They range in color from red and brown to yellow and green.

Spider mites love hot, dry weather. They won't be a problem now but it's good to be aware that they'll be seen before too long. Temperatures around 80 degrees are considered optimal for the two-spotted spider mite — which is common in our area — to hatch in as little as three days.

Spider mites are considered a serious pest on both indoor and outdoor plants. They congregate on the underside of the leaf where they feed off the plant fluids while stealing the plant's chlorophyll in

KAREN MILLER
Permian Basin
Master Gardener

the process. Visible signs of spider mite damage include webbing and white or yellow speckles on plant leaves.

A severe infestation can cause leaves to become discolored, giving a gray or bronze look to the plant. Leaves and needles can become scorched and drop prematurely. Spider mites frequently kill plants or cause serious stress to them.

One reason the spider mite has become such a problem in our yards and gardens is the use of insecticides that destroy their natural enemies.

Because of their rapid reproduction rate, the spider mite can adapt quickly to resist certain pesticides, especially when used over a long period. Miticides or acaricides are a good chemical control of spider mites. These are pesticides developed specifically for spider mite control. Be aware though, miticides do not affect the eggs, so repeat the application again in approximately 10 to 14 days for complete control.

Stressed or weak plants are the likely target of the spider mite. Plants stressed by drought can produce changes in their chemistry that make them more appealing to spider mites. Adequate watering during dry conditions can limit a plant's drought stress. Just a periodic hosing of your plants with a forceful jet of water can physically remove and kill many mites.

On Gardening: Lemon Lime leading nandina revival

NORMAN WINTER

Tribune News Service

Lemon Lime is leading the way in what appears to be a nandina revival. It is one of four great nandinas found in the Southern Living Plant Collection. You'll find Flirt, Obsession, Blush Pink, and the electrifying Lemon Lime.

Lemon Lime stands out in dramatic fashion with its chartreuse colored foliage. You can spot it a mile away. So, whether you are growing with cool season pansies or warm season summer snapdragons you'll find everything seems to pop when you combine it with Lemon Lime.

Botanically speaking, Lemon Lime is a selection of Nandina domestica which has the common name Heavenly Bamboo. You commonly think of using nandinas for the red foliage that stands out particularly in the cool season. Lemon Lime is different in that it is always making a flashy, if not zesty statement.

Cluster an odd-numbered group by an entrance and you'll find that the sea of lime incredibly stands out against the typical dark green of hollies or yew. You'll also find that Lemon Lime is an all-purpose color that looks great with every other color you choose to partner it with.

Lemon Lime is recommended for zones 6-9 and is cold hardy to minus 10 degrees. It will reach 3 to 4 feet high and wide. You will treasure the fact that

it is pest free and easy to grow.

Successful establishment of your nandinas in the landscape often depends on planting techniques and care. They prefer to be placed in a shrub bed that is well-drained to moist, loose, nutrient- and humus-rich. Cover with a layer of mulch added to prevent loss of moisture, deter weeds and moderate summer temperatures.

When preparing a new shrub bed for nandinas or other container-grown shrubs, use metal edging, landscape timbers, or brick to separate turf from beds and to raise the soil with organic matter for good drainage.

Try to plant in bold curves and avoid planting in straight lines whenever possible to create a mystery as to what lies around the curve. Plant Lemon Lime in groupings of odd numbers like three, five or seven.

As mentioned, Lemon Lime works best as a colorful foreground to taller evergreen plants like hollies, ligustrums, and cleyera. You also can create a spectacular look using them in combination with ornamental grass. Lemon Lime and all of

the Southern Living Plant Collection nandinas work well in mixed containers too. You'll find the typical potting soil blends will allow them to quickly become established and thrive in all seasons.

For winter or early spring color, plant pansies with Lemon Lime. No matter the color of your favorite pansies, they will partner well. If you choose one of the other selections of nandinas that has strong red overtones, then I highly recommend blue, white, or yellow.

For the rest of the year, we can use them as a background for pockets of our favorite summer flowers like angelonias, begonias, or petunias. As a tropical plant nut, I love the way Lemon Lime partners with bananas, elephant ears, and ginger. There is a reason the common name is heavenly bamboo.

Use the holidays to do a little planning to improve the landscape. Spring planting season is closer than you think and incorporating some Lemon Lime nandinas will surely make your garden pop.

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of "Tough as Nails: Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency



James Winter/TNS

Lemon Lime nandina also works well in mixed containers. Here it is partnered with pansies and other cool season annuals.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Desperation/Imagination

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 3
♥ 10 9 5
♦ K 9 5 3
♣ A Q 10

WEST
♠ A K 8 5
♥ J 8
♦ A Q J 4
♣ K 7 6

EAST
♠ Q 4 2
♥ Q 3
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ 8 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ J 7 6
♥ A K 7 6 4 2
♦ 7
♣ J 9 5

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
30 DM 30 DM
Pass DM All pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

What would you bid with the East hand after partner doubled for a second time? Some credited East with great imagination when he chose to pass at a Scandinavian tournament some years ago. In truth, he was desperate, and at bridge, desperation is often the mother of imagination. East couldn't imagine getting a plus score if he bid something, so he passed and prayed that something good would happen.

Something good did happen, as West, the true hero of this deal showed great imagination and great judgment in the defense. East played an encouraging spade on partner's ace at trick one. West

judged that partner wasn't trying to show a doubleton spade, so he under led his king of spades to East's queen at trick two. East returned a spade to the king and West had another chance to shine.

West reasoned that East would likely have bid a five-card suit, if he had one, so he cashed his ace of diamonds before continuing with a fourth spade. He knew this was giving South a ruff-stuff, but it was the key play to defeat the contract. East ruffed with his queen of hearts and West's jack of trumps was now the setting trick. It helps to have a skillful partner when you make a decision out of desperation. East was grateful to have one.

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephem Group

	3	2						5
			3				7	
	7							8
1			9		7			
5				4				6
			2		6			
	6							5
		1		3				
8			7			9	2	

Level
1 2
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk

Solution to Last Week's puzzle

1	5	2	7	4	6	3	8	9
8	9	7	3	2	5	4	1	6
3	4	6	1	9	8	2	7	5
7	2	5	6	1	9	8	4	3
9	1	4	2	8	3	6	5	7
6	3	8	4	5	7	9	2	1
2	8	3	5	6	1	7	9	4
5	7	9	8	3	4	1	6	2
4	6	1	9	7	2	5	3	8

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

TURFHO

PAXNED

CRONEE

AARRUO

RTRWIE

MULVEO

WHEN CANADA REPLACED ITS FLAG IN 1965 WITH ITS CURRENT FLAG, THEY ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

O O O O O O A O O O O O

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JUMBLE

Answer:

FOURTH ENCORE WRITER
EXPAND AURORA VOLUME

When Canada replaced its flag in 1965 with its current flag, they ---

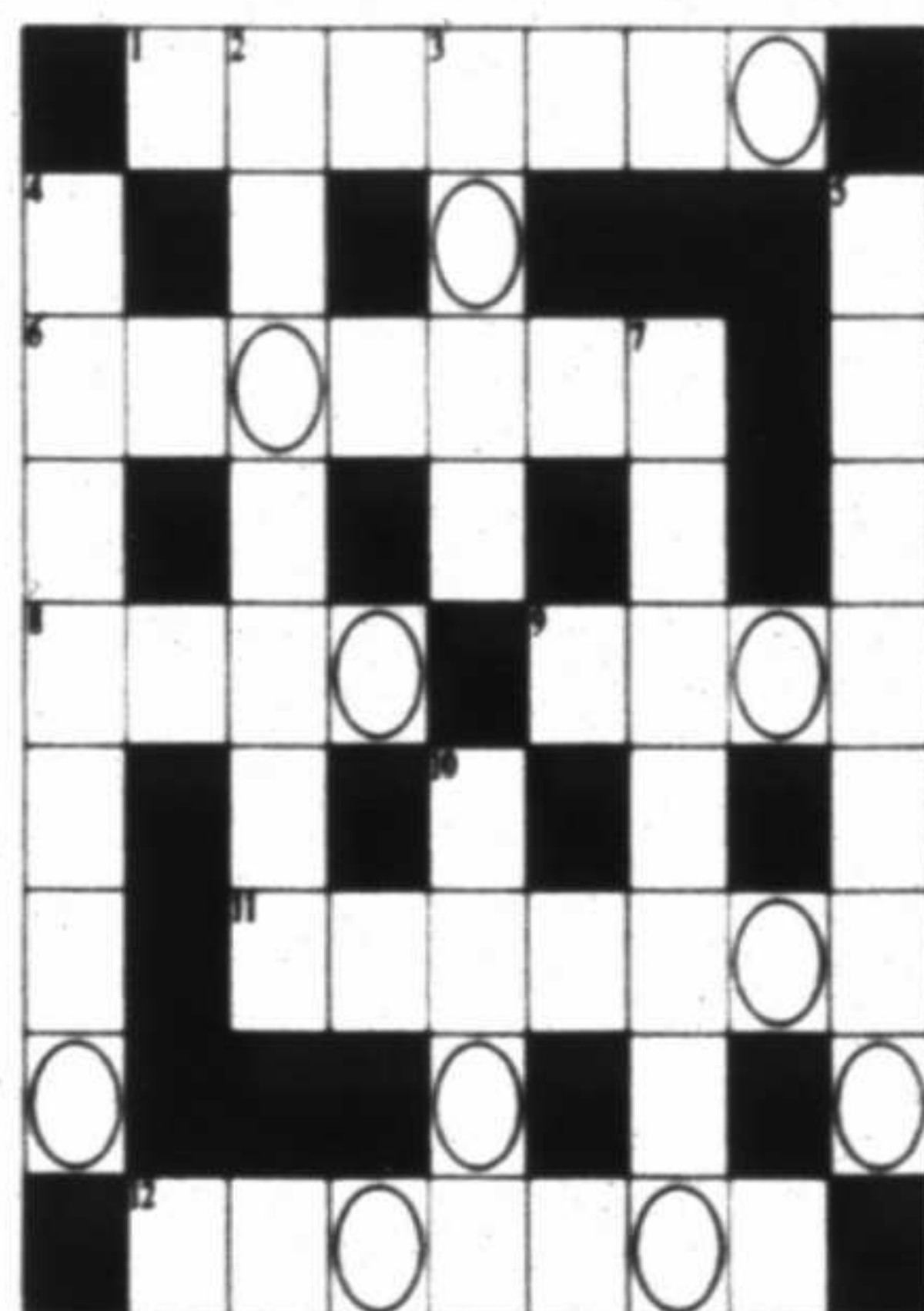
TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF

DECEMBER 30, 2018

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt

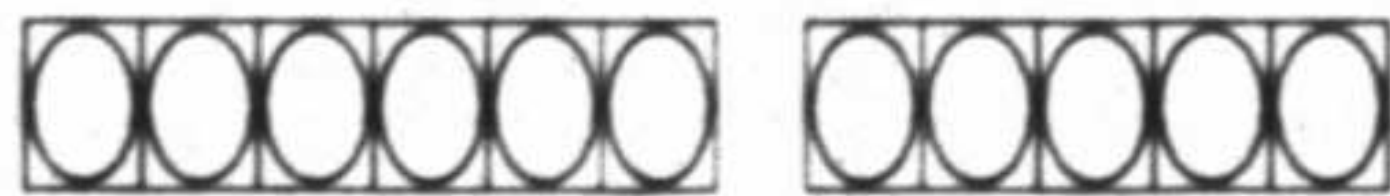
Sunday Puzzle



12-30-18

BONUS

CLUE: Julie Andrews, Glen Campbell and Bob Hope were in attendance at the grand opening of _____



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Send comments to TCA, 160 N. State St., Chicago, Illinois 60601 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

- ACROSS**
- CLUE ANSWER
1. Emperor NIUGENP
6. Elated FLUEGLE
8. Pull AHLU
9. ranch DEDU
11. Peru neighbor RAODCEU
12. Beatles song: "___ Man" HREWONE

- DOWN**
- CLUE ANSWER
2. Carry out XTUEEEC
3. Present FIGHT
4. Intellectual DGAHEEG
5. Mermaking YRLVREE
7. Wish RUALNED
10. Pulp, slush, better SUMH

How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"CALLING FORTH"
By GARY LARSON

ACROSS

1 Close to closed

5 Salad veggie

11 Its "M" stands for "Molotov"

14 Betty

18 Ashton's spouse

19 2002 "Friends" Emmy winner

21 French monarch

22 Barbarian

23 Off-season at a nudist camp?

25 Stock female

27 Caribbean getaway

28 Doohouse

30 Reveal, poetically

31 Sale limitation word

32 Early Indo-European

33 Hot

36 Abandon

38 Silver and gold

43 Defrost in the microwave?

45 Cakes for cooking

48 Longtime Dolphins coach

49 Rapper's name

50 Ham, to Norel

51 Two, for most folks?

53 English critic

56 Folks

60 Worker in a garden

61 Apple variety

62 Capital south of Vienna

64 Linka prop

65 Broom

67 "As Time Goes By" pianist

68 Area moment sensation?

73 Pops

76 Frozen summer coolers

77 Proper, in a way

78 Words to live by

82 Biblical prophet

84 Grab a bite

85 Type of plant

88 One of a family reunion

89 Geek chic?

92 Minor player

94 Win

130-Across, weekly U.S. magazine with a cryptic crossword

95 Best out

DOWN

1 Gummies and Pac-Man

2 Abandon at the altar

3 Heaps

4 Filthy quarters

5 Duds, old-style

6 Kourmavos of tennis

7 Quarters

8 Novel ending?

9 Mushroom stems

10 Went deep at the park

11 Pipe material

12 Blank contents

13 Early American home

14 Ready to serve

15 Contents of a jar

16 Be a bundle of nerves

17 Radio host

18 John

20 Society page word since 1924

24 Optimist

26 The "E" in E. & J. Gallo

ACROSS

29 Strapped-on accessory

31 Nave seal

33 Phelps broke his gold-medal record

34 Stiller Harding

35 Because of, with "to"

36 Copenhagen native

37 Confirmation

38 Horse god associated with storms

40 Jam ingredients

41 Ancient wood source

42 "The Crucible" setting

44 Letters after "I"

45 Jazz pianist

46 Common sense

47 Obsolete

48 One of the Beatles since 1924

49 Hurling

57 Elevator

58 Carriage holder

DOWN

59 Colorful blocks

63 Piano music, informally

65 German title

66 Before long, quantity

69 Some loes

70 One vodka brand

71 Lucrative, contractually

72 VW hatchback

73 Friend of Pythons

74 Appliance maker since 1934

75 Gendarm, often

79 Wyoming's Range

80 Former #1 LPGA golfer

81 Goes after

83 Evade

85 One of the Beatles since 1924

86 Hurling

87 John in London

89 Separately

91 Ganicky sauce

93 Chewed persistently

97 Former name of Myanmar's most populous city

98 Asian celebration

99 Welcome

100 They may empty in a brawl

102 Actress

104 NATO acronym

107 Rainwater

108 Cars of "Pam"

111 Bangers partner

112 Gym tile

113 She's at

114 Put in a position

115 Sympathetic sounds

116 Done in Verdur

117 Jarred of "Suicide Squad"

118 Where Cork is

119 Dudley

120 Do-Right's org.

123 No longer working

124

12/30/18 norrisd@att.net © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY TOM

TAKE IT

Think Idea

3. The Weekly "Brain Breaker"

E

Print Your Answers Here:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Today's Answers are on Page 60

Created by Tom Underwood © North America Syndicate 2018

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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

12-30

1. Take it on the chin
 2. Think over the idea
 3. Edgy
WUZZLES
 Answers

Be sure to check out Sunday's edition to read weekly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION

SUNDAY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 30, 2018 For Complete Information

SUNDAY PRIME TIME DECEMBER 30, 2018 For Complete Information

1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	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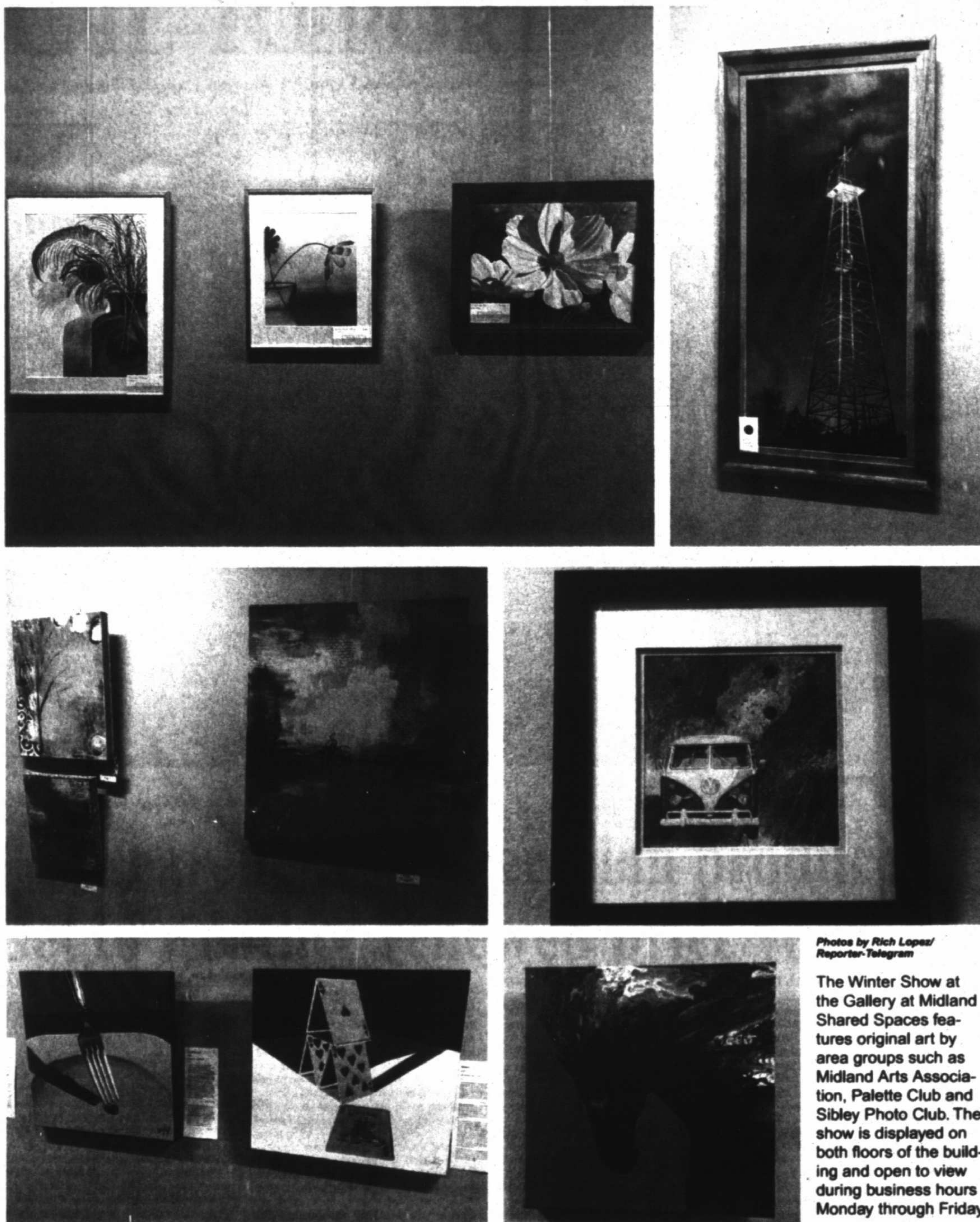
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Reporter-Telegram

The Winter Show at the Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces features original art by area groups such as Midland Arts Association, Palette Club and Sibley Photo Club. The show is displayed on both floors of the building and open to view during business hours Monday through Friday.

CALENDAR

COMPILED BY STAFF REPORTS AND THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MIDLAND | ACMIDLAND.ORG

DEC. 30-JAN. 5

With the holiday schedule, recurring events may be postponed

TODAY

CLOSING: Starbright Village. View one of the largest displays in the area with more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays. 6-11 p.m. through Tuesday at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparke.org.

MONDAY

Open Shop Nights hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public, 6:30-9 p.m., 602 S. Main St. midlandgemandmineral.org. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects.

Bridge game play, 6-45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call

682-8595.

New Year's Eve Party with party favors, games and blackout skates. 7 p.m. at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 Andrews Highway. \$16 admission, \$1 skate rental, \$5 blades. Cash only. kcsnuttyroller.com.

New Year's Bash will feature all-you-can-play attractions, bowling, games and a chef-prepared buffet. For ages 10 and older, 7:30 p.m., Cinergy Odessa, 8250 State Highway 191. \$24.99. cinergy.com.

TUESDAY

Sandhills Stock Show and Rodeo, through Jan. 12. Ector County Coliseum, 4201 Andrews Highway, Odessa. \$16-\$20. sandhillssr.com. The full schedule of shows and performances can be found online.

Palette Club Painting, 9 a.m. to noon, the Palette Club, 907 W. Wadley Ave. paletteclubmidland.com.

Permian Basin Dance Club with live country music, 7:30 p.m., Midland Downtown Lions Club, 200 Plaza St. \$8. For more information, call 638-3707.

Crossing the Line: West Texas Line Dancing weekly meetup, 7:30-9 p.m., MLK Community Center, 2300 Butternut Lane. Classes are free but there is a \$1 center entry fee. 713-876-9097. bbberesik@gmail.com. meetup.com/CrossingTheLineWestTexas.

WEDNESDAY

Story Time, 9:30 a.m. for ages up to 2 years; 10:30 a.m. for ages 2-6; Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2511 W. Loop 250 N.

Wednesday Storytime with crafts for preschool children, 11 a.m., Barnes and Noble, 2617 West Loop 250 N. barnesandnoble.com.

West Texas Dance Club with live country

music, 7:30-10 p.m., 208 W. VFW Way in Odessa. 218-8322.

THURSDAY

Mason Lively, 8 p.m., Rockin' Roden, 4400 N. Big Spring St. rockinrodeomidland.com.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

"Sesame Street Live! Let's Party," 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Jan. 6; Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$23-\$53. wagnernoel.com.

OPENING: Art by Daiken Asakawa. Opening reception at 6 p.m. at the Black Hen Gallery, 2034 W. Cuthbert Ave.

ON DISPLAY

COMPILED BY STAFF REPORTS AND THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MIDLAND | ACMIDLAND.ORG

DEC. 23-29

OPENING: Midland Arts Association lobby show: Geoff Browne. During business hours through January at Community National Bank, 401 W. Texas Ave.

"A Legacy of Leadership: Winston Churchill" through Jan. 19. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

"Into the Great White Sands: Photographs by Craig Varjabedian. On display through Jan. 29. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"Golden Age of Hollywood: Costumes from the Gene London Cinema Collection." This exhibition features more than 50 costumes and personal effects of vintage movie stars such as Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Doris Day, Tallulah Bankhead, Greta Garbo, Judy Garland, Katharine Hepburn, Grace Kelly, John Wayne, Tyrone Power, Elizabeth Taylor and Marilyn Monroe. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays (open to 8 p.m. Thursdays), 2-5 p.m. Sundays. Runs through March 10 at the Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

Blakemore Planetarium at the Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dome shows Tuesdays-Saturdays. Closed Sunday and Monday. museumsw.org.

George Bush Childhood Home. Tours and gift shop hours are 2-5 p.m. Sundays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays. Admission charged. 1412 W. Ohio Ave. 685-1112.

Midland Army Airfield Museum. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. 9600 Wright Drive. Free admission. highskywing.org.

Midland County Historical Society's Z. Taylor Brown-Sara Doney Medallion Home, oldest restored home in Midland. Open by appointment. 213 N. Weatherford

St. 682-5447.

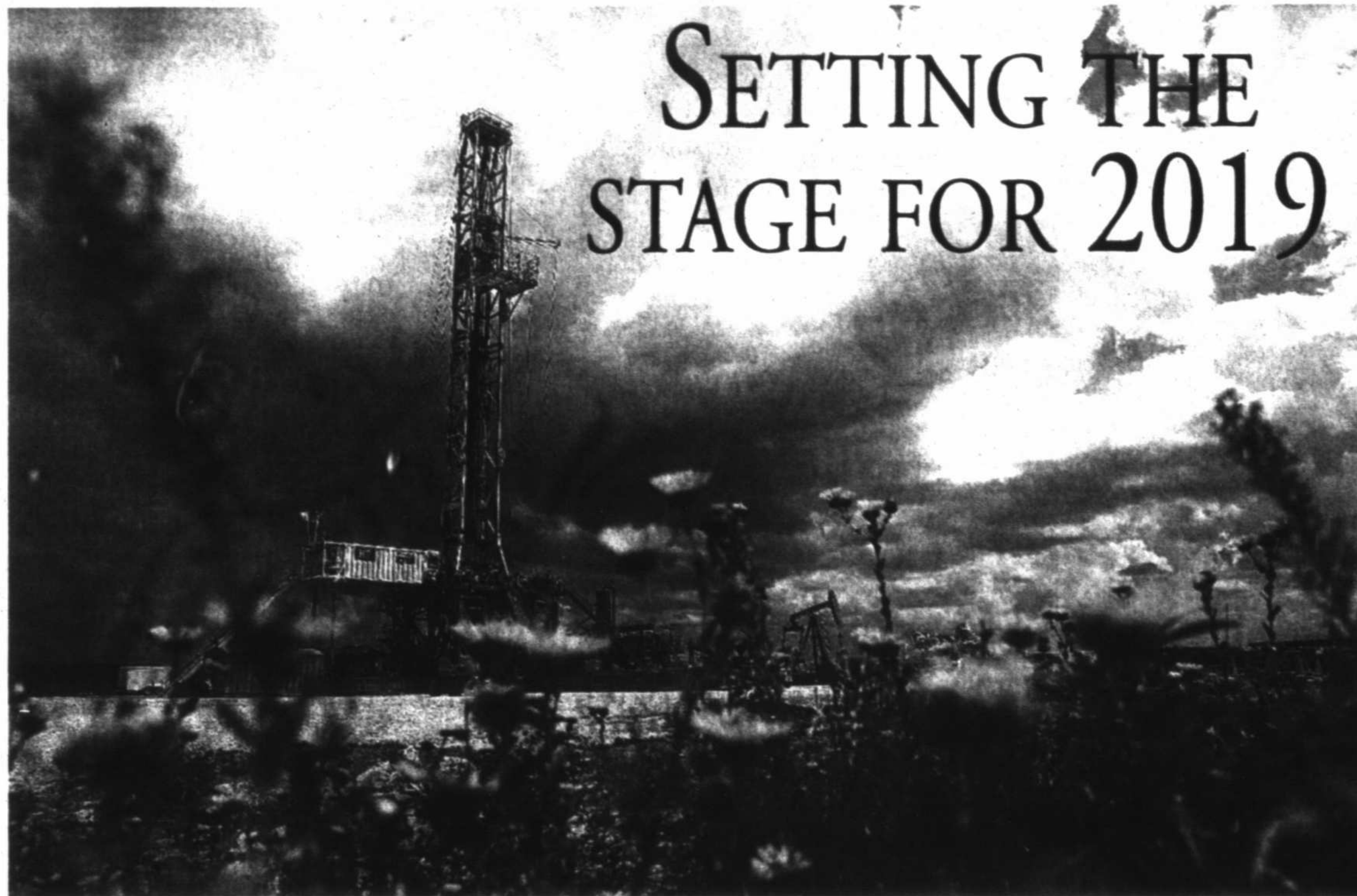
Options Gallery, Odessa College, 201 W. University Blvd. Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday 2-5 p.m. Free. 335-6640. odessa.edu.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West. Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 2-5 p.m. 683-4403. pbpetro.org.

Scarborough-Lineberry House, 802 S. Main St. Call for appointment. Available for rental for weddings and special occasions. 685-7368. midlandtexas.gov.

OIL REPORT

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Sunday, December 30, 2018 | Section F



Houston Chronicle file photo

A Diamondback Energy oil rig drills for oil and gas Sept. 14, 2016, outside of Midland.

Researchers say Permian producers set to weather renewed price volatility

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

A year filled with mega-deals and resurgent geopolitical tensions and price volatility is setting the stage for what the energy research and consulting firm Wood Mackenzie says will be a "fascinating" 2019 for the upstream oil and gas industry. The recent plunge in crude oil prices justifies the sector's conservative mindset in setting their portfolios to weather low prices, said Tom Ellacott, senior vice president. That has positioned the sector to adapt and thrive in what has become tumultuous times, he said.

One area where that conservative mindset may not apply will be tight oil, especially in the Permian Basin and particularly by the majors, Ellacott said.

"There could be as many as half a dozen multi-billion-dollar Permian deals alone in

2019 as the race for scale continues," he told the Reporter-Telegram by email from his London office. "We expect more consolidation among the independents. Some of the majors may also look to scale-up and consolidate existing positions."

Wood Mackenzie estimates nearly \$35 billion was spent on tight oil acquisitions by the super-majors and large independents in 2018.

As the year was coming to a close, crude prices were roiled by a rising perception that economies worldwide were slowing, possibly reducing demand for crude oil at a time when producing nations, primarily the United States, Saudi Arabia and Russia, were producing oil at record levels. That has sent prices tumbling \$30 from their four-year highs above \$76 a barrel, in early October.

"We expect world oil demand growth to average close to 1.1 million barrels a day in 2018 and 2019," Ellacott said.

"This sits against a backdrop of rapid non-OPEC production growth of around 2.4 million barrels a day year-on-year in 2018 and 2019. This growth is mainly due to gains in the U.S. for both years. The strength of non-OPEC production growth creates pressure on OPEC to curtail its output for 2019 from recent levels."

Because of above-ground challenges, his company expects Permian tight oil growth moderating in 2019 to just 650,000 barrels a day after surpassing 1 million barrels per day of growth in 2018. Wood Mackenzie said those challenges should continue until at least the third quarter of 2019, when new pipeline capacity begins entering service.

Ellacott predicted that operators will not budge from their commitment to capital discipline in 2019. Should crude prices recover, and especially if they return to \$70 a barrel or above, it will generate a huge cash windfall that could test that

commitment. That huge cash windfall could drive sentiment back toward growth, he said, but also could increase pressure to return that surplus cash to shareholders. Despite that pressure, he said companies will be cautious about raising shareholder distributions and investment too quickly. Many will "favour deleveraging to absorb future shocks and keep their powder dry for opportunistic mergers and acquisitions," Ellacott said.

That conservatism could have a negative impact on future investment, he said.

"We forecast an oil supply gap of 26 million barrels a day in 2030, and conventional pre-Final Investment Decision projects have an important role in meeting this. There is a risk that more extensive greenfield oil projects do not proceed because of disciplined screening criteria. We expect prices to rise post-2026 because of the need for higher cost sources of supply," he said.

Permian natural gas offers tremendous potential

■ Rising natural gas production could turn area into 'Marcellus West'

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Already among the world's dominant oil-producing regions, the Permian Basin has the potential to add natural gas production dominance to its resume.

As Industrial Info Resources put it, the Permian Basin could turn into "Marcellus West" as natural gas production has doubled over the last three years to just shy of 13 million cubic feet per day, a trend the company expects to continue.

There are, however, some barriers to achieving that distinction, according to Jesus Davis, vice president, research for the oil and gas industry at Industrial Info and IIR Energy.

"The monkey wrench is the

decline in oil prices," Davis said in a phone interview from his Sugar Land office.

"I think the biggest concern I have for gas production in the Permian Basin is oil prices," he said.

If prices fall further or remain low for an extended period, that would not only affect crude production but natural gas production and natural gas liquids production, Davis said.

"We'd see a significant slowdown," he said.

Operators in the coming months could decide their capital is better spent on mergers and acquisitions than drilling, he said.

Infrastructure is another concern, as Permian natural gas production threatens to overwhelm takeaway capacity just as crude oil production has done, Davis said. But that is an issue that will solve itself, he said.

Davis estimates there are four huge pipeline projects proposed

with 60 billion cubic feet of natural gas takeaway capacity, compared a potential of 10 to 15 million cubic feet of daily production, he said.

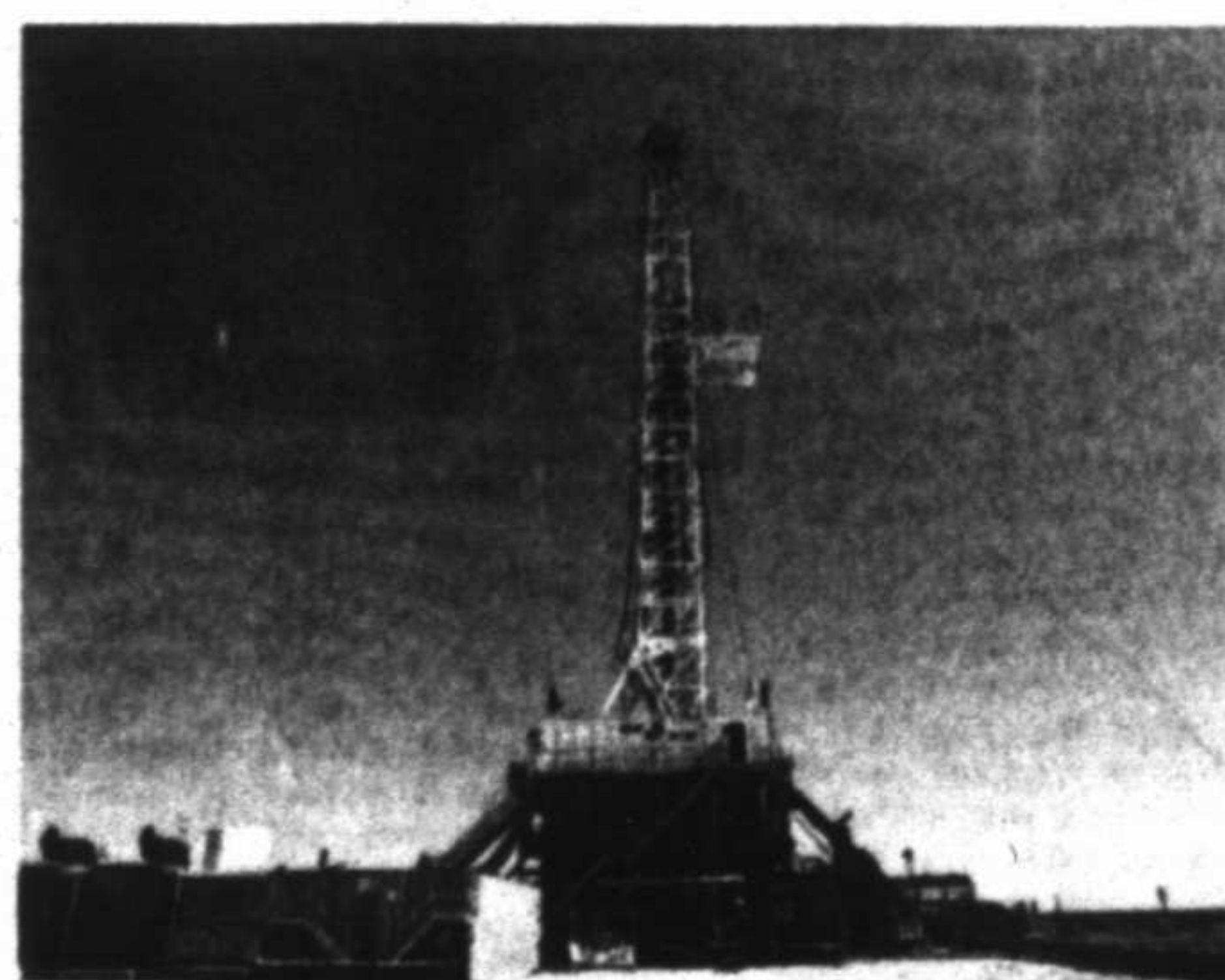
"It's definitely adequate — maybe too much for natural gas and for oil," he said. "If it all gets built, it's too much. But that's how it works — you go from none to too much."

What stymied development in the Marcellus is similar to what's happening now in the Permian, Davis said: Production grew so fast, takeaway capacity couldn't keep up. And efforts to build new pipelines met opposition from residents and environmentalists, he said.

"Projects proposed four years ago are still waiting for permits," he said.

In Texas, the environment is friendlier and, because the proposed pipelines are intrastate, "It's a Texas issue. With the Texas

Please see GAS/2F



Houston Chronicle file photo

Scandill, a Houston drilling contractor, has an oil rig named Scan Pride on June 28, 2017, in Oris. Scandill has found one way to deal with the excess gas, they use it to power the rigs that drill for oil.

PRECISION
PIPE RENTALS

Tubing Sizes - 1", 1 1/4", 1 1/2", 2 1/16", 2 3/8", 2 7/8", 3 1/2"
Drill Pipe, Pipe Racks, Handling Tools, Blowout Preventers
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Pump-In Subs, Crossover Subs, Bowl & Slip, Stabbing Guides & Drifts
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Petroleum Professional Development Center

All classes will be held at the Midland College PPDC building, 221 N. Main St.
To register, go to Midland College PPDC's Website: <https://mccpe.midland.edu>
Midland College will close for Christmas break on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 and will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2019.

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 4 of 6: Oil & Gas Calculations
Instructor: Sherry Robinson
Start Date: January 3, 2019
End Date: January 30, 2019
Registration Deadline: 11:59 p.m., January 2, 2019
Cost: \$612.50. Out of State, \$637.50 - the required text is the NADOA Study Guide, which is \$75 (one-time charge). Students need to join NADOA for \$75 to download the "no cost" manual only available to members.

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 4 of 6: Oil & Gas Law and its Impacts on Land Practices
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: January 3, 2019
End Date: January 30, 2019
Registration Deadline: 11:59 p.m., January 2, 2019
Cost: \$612.50. Out of State, \$637.50.

Petra Fundamentals
Instructor: Greg Hinterlong
Start Date: January 8-9, 2019
- Tuesday - Wednesday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$625. Out of State \$650.

Production Operations
Instructor: Ralph A. Sankar
Start Date: January 14-18, 2019 - Monday - Friday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$2,750. Out of State \$2,775.

Petroleum Geology for Non-Geologists
Instructor: Paul Pausé
Start Date: January 21-24, 2019 - Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$1835. Out of State \$1860.

Introduction to Log Interpretation and Quality
Instructor: Gary Batcheller
Start Date: January 21-23, 2019 - Monday - Wednesday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$1,095. Out of State \$1,120.

Oilfield Terminology
Instructor: Tommy Lent
Start Date: January 22-23, 2019 - Tuesday - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$430. Out of State \$455.

IHS: Eneredge Browser Training
Instructor: Keith Ina
Start Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 - 9 a.m. to Noon
Cost: Complimentary.

Introduction to Well Completion Design
Instructor: Gary Batcheller
Start Date: January 24-25, 2019 - Thursday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. to Noon, Friday
Cost: \$695. Out of State \$720.

Well Control Drilling/Workover (WellSharp)
Instructor: Larry Chapman
Start Date: January 28 - Feb. 1, 2019 - Monday - Friday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$1,200. Out of State \$1,225.

IHS: Kingdom Geology - Getting Started
Instructor: Amber King
Start Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2019 - 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Cost: Complimentary.

IHS: Kingdom Geophysics - Getting Started
Instructor: Amber King
Start Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2019 - 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: Complimentary.

4 Day CO2 EOR and ROZ School - Includes Field Visit
Day 1 of 4: Residual Oil Zones and Commercial Exploitation
Day 2 of 4: Horizontal Well Reservoir Depressuring of the ROZ
Day 3 of 4: Field Visit plus CO2 Recycle Processing for CO2 Flooding
Day 4 of 4: CO2 EOR Fundamentals
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Ron Wackowski, David Vance, Mark Nicholas, Russell K. Hall, Bryan Hargrove
Start Date: January 29, 2019

- February 1, 2019 - Tuesday - Friday - see website for times and instructors
Cost: \$2,000. Out of State \$2,025.

CO2 EOR and ROZ School - Day 1 of 4 Only
Day 1: Residual Oil Zones and Commercial Exploitation
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, David Vance
Start Date: January 29, 2019
- Tuesday - 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$550. Out of State \$575.

CO2 EOR and ROZ School - Day 2 of 4 Only
Day 2: Horizontal Well Reservoir Depressuring of the ROZ
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Russell K. Hall
Start Date: January 30, 2019
- Wednesday - 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$550. Out of State \$575.

CO2 EOR and ROZ School - Day 3 of 4 Only (Field Visit Included)
Day 3: Field Visit plus CO2 Recycle Processing for CO2 Flooding
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Mark Nicholas
Start Date: January 31, 2019
- Thursday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$575. Out of State \$600.

CO2 EOR and ROZ School - Day 4 of 4 Only
Day 4: CO2 EOR Fundamentals
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Bryan Hargrove, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, David Vance, Ron Wackowski
Start Date: February 1, 2019
- Friday - 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$550. Out of State \$575.

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 5 of 6: Oil & Gas Law
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 5, 2019
End Date: February 28, 2019
Registration Deadline: 11:59 p.m., February 4, 2019
Cost: \$612.50. Out of State, \$637.50 - the required text is the NADOA Study Guide, which is \$75 (one-time charge). Students need to join NADOA for \$75 to download the "no cost" manual only available to members.

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 5 of 6: Legally Enforceable Oil & Gas Contracts
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 5, 2019
End Date: February 28, 2019
Registration Deadline: 11:59 p.m., February 4, 2019
Cost: \$612.50. Out of State, \$637.50.

Completions and Workovers
Instructor: Ralph A. Sankar
Start Date: February 11-15, 2019 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$2,750. Out of State \$2,775.

Basic Oilfield Operations
Instructor: Albert Garza
Start Date: February 12-13, 2019 - Tuesday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$475. Out of State \$500.

Managing Sucker Rod Lift Well Failures
Instructor: Albert Garza
Start Date: February 14, 2019 - Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$350. Out of State \$375.

Basic Drilling for Non-Drilling Engineers
Instructor: Tommy Lent, Jr.
Start Date: February 19-20, 2019 - Tuesday - Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$430. Out of State \$455.

Gas Lift Design and Operations
Instructor: Michael K. Johnson
Start Date: February 18 - 21, 2019 - Monday - Thursday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: \$1,800. Out of State \$1,825.

SOL
Instructor: Mark Edgar
Start Date: February 26, 2019 - Tuesday - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: \$375. Out of State \$400.

Advanced SOL
Instructor: Mark Edgar
Start Date: February 27, 2019 - Wednesday - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: \$450. Out of State \$475.

GAS

From IF

Commission on Environmental Quality and Railroad Commission, permitting is more straightforward.

That additional capacity doesn't take into consideration the pipelines moving natural gas south to Mexico, Davis said.

"We have capacity just waiting to turn an industry around," Davis said. Though the same shale formations Texas is busily developing are found in Mexico as well, he said the country hasn't invested in its infrastructure.

"Mexico doesn't have the capital or the technology to develop those shales," he said. "Their problem is they're expanding into new areas and they need money just to stem the slowdown in the industry. I think they'll still be dependent on outside energy resources."

Beyond supplying natural gas in its gaseous or liquefied form, America is preparing to turn its new-found natural gas riches into other resources like ethane and ethylene, much for export. "The U.S. has always been an importer, we've never been a supplier, now we are," Davis commented. That has translated into investment in export infrastructure for crude, natural gas, natural gas liquids, refined products, liquid propane gases, liquefied natural gas, ethanes and ethylenes, he said.

"We need to open our eyes and look at the world, not just here," he said.

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Courtesy Photos

A recently renovated dock at Moda Midstream's crude oil export terminal at the Port of Corpus Christi. The Ingleside facility received a VLCC-sized tanker on Dec. 20 that was loaded with 1.2 million barrels of crude oil from the Permian Basin of West Texas. The super tanker is taking the shipment to Europe.

Moda Midstream loads first supertanker at Port of Corpus Christi facility

■ Shipment will be first VLCC-sized tanker to deliver Permian Basin crude oil to Europe

By Sergio Chapa
Houston Chronicle

Moda Midstream has started loading its first supertanker at the Houston company's Port of Corpus Christi export terminal.

A Greek-flagged crude oil tanker named the Nasiriyah arrived at Moda's facility and Moda confirmed that the VLCC-sized tanker was being loaded with 1.2 million barrels of crude oil from the Permian Basin of West Texas.

Occidental Petroleum Senior Vice President of Midstream and Marketing Cynthia Walker said that the Houston oil company arranged for the supertanker to arrive Moda's facility. Walker said the Nasiriyah will become the first VLCC-sized tanker to deliver U.S. crude oil to Europe where Permian Basin crude oil is in high demand.

Calling the shipment a "significant milestone" for the company, Walker said the Port of Corpus Christi facility is well-positioned to receive and ship crude oil from the Permian Basin.

"Loading VLCCs with Permian Basin crude oil builds on our posi-



Aerial view of Moda Midstream's crude oil export terminal at the Port of Corpus Christi. The Ingleside facility received a VLCC-sized tanker that loaded up with 1.2 million barrels of oil.

tion as the largest oil producer in the basin and one of the largest exporters of light sweet crude in the United States," Walker said in a statement.

Touted as some of the largest tankers in the world, Very Large Crude Carriers, or VLCCs, are capable of holding up to 2 million barrels of crude oil but the 45-foot depth of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel prevents them from being fully loaded. The Port of Corpus Christi plans to deepen and widen the ship channel to support two-way supertanker traffic.

Moda bought the facility from Houston-based Occidental Petroleum in August. Since that time,

Moda has made dock modifications and installed loading arms that can load VLCC-sized tankers at a rate of 80,000 barrels per hour.

Before it sold the facility to Moda, Occidental Petroleum tested a VLCC-sized tanker at the Port of Corpus Christi terminal in May 2017. Although the dock and equipment tests were successful, the crude oil tanker left the facility without a shipment.

San Antonio-based NuStar Energy performed a similar test using a Suezmax-sized tanker at its Port of Corpus Christi facility in September. Suezmax tankers are one size below VLCC tankers.

Exxon in 'bull's-eye' as its worst year since 1981 limps to a close

By Kevin Crowley
Bloomberg

Things haven't been this bad for the world's biggest oil stock since Ronald Reagan became president. But brace yourself, 2019 may not be much better.

Exxon Mobil, down 22 percent for the year, is headed for its worst annual performance since 1981, when the U.S. was in recession and a 20-year crude glut was just beginning. The decline comes as Exxon pursues one of the largest restructurings in its modern history, a seven-year, \$200 billion push for oil in South America and natural gas in Mozambique and Papua New Guinea.

With one of corporate America's strongest balance sheets, the concern isn't whether Exxon can fund the rebuild. The question from investors: What can you do for me in the meantime? The awkward answer may be "not much," at a time when oil prices are plummeting.

As rivals restrain growth and buy back stock, Exxon is the one "with the bull's-eye on their back," said Mark Stoecle, who manages \$2.6 billion including Exxon shares at Adams Express Co. "They weren't terribly efficient in the last cycle. What do they do differently? This time it has to work."

That may be more difficult with Venezuela making aggressive naval maneuvers targeting the company's ships in Guyana, where Exxon is pursuing one of its much-

needed sources of new oil production. Perhaps more importantly, oil prices in New York have fallen more than 40 percent since reaching a high of \$76.41 on Oct. 3.

It's a double-edged sword for the architect of the restructuring, Chief Executive Officer Darren Woods.

On one side, it validates his strategy to build lower-cost oil and gas assets abroad that can withstand the uncertainties that come with the shale boom, as well as the transition to cleaner energy sources. On the other, it puts him at odds with investors who, seeing the uncertainty, want companies to return as much profit to shareholders now as possible.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc, for instance, is down less than 10 percent for the year after stepping up its buyback program at the end of October, when oil prices were still high. The company said it will repurchase \$2.5 billion of shares, compared with \$2 billion in the previous year. Exxon has made no similar effort.

Exxon has "the longest view of any company," said Stoecle, who supports Woods's strategy. "Investors need to either ignore the fact they're going to do what they're going to do, and stop complaining."

Exxon's problems largely stem from flag-planting deals made at the peak of commodity prices over the past decade.

Exxon spent \$35 billion on U.S. shale gas producer

XTO Energy Inc. in 2010 when the real money was to be found in shale oil. It invested \$16 billion in Canadian oil sands since 2009, only to de-book much of the reserves. Meanwhile, former CEO Rex Tillerson's 2013 exploration pact signed with Russia was caught behind a wall of sanctions and later abandoned.

The history of Big Oil shows that when faced with declining production or reserves, executives tend to bulk up with mergers or acquisitions. Instead, at least publicly, Woods's answer is to go back to basics: buy or discover what he believes to be the world's biggest and lowest-cost resources, develop and operate them, and then move the resulting oil and gas into Exxon's global refining and chemicals supply chain.

The five key development areas -- deepwater oil in Guyana and Brazil, liquefied natural gas in Mozambique and Papua New Guinea and shale oil in the U.S. -- were not in Exxon's portfolio in 2014. Woods says they will generate half of upstream earnings by 2025.

"The resource base wasn't up to scratch for the post-2014 oil price environment so they needed to move down the cost curve," said Fernando Valle, a New York-based analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. "It will take a lot of time and investment for them to catch up, but it's something they have to do."

Shale oil holds the most

promise for the short-term. Exxon this year overtook its rivals to become the most active driller in the prolific Permian Basin, where the company has said it shale wells can make double-digit returns with oil at just \$35 a barrel. Still the 40 percent drop in oil prices since October have pushed oil sold in New York below \$45, leaving less and less room for profit.

Meanwhile, investors are worried the projects abroad will take years to fully develop. "I'm not sure how much of the market is moving on a 20-30 year time horizon," Woods said in an interview in May. "There's a little bit of a disconnect between how the business thinks about the business and values it in the time frame that it's using, versus what we have to do internally."

Perhaps to gain time, Woods has made some efforts this year to win over Wall Street. After being attacked by analysts for being one of the only companies not to put executives on quarterly conference calls, Exxon changed its policy, with one member of the management committee, known as the "God Pod", now taking questions.

Famously secretive, the company also gave shareholders more financial information and access to board members. But those efforts have had little effect on the stock price in the face of earnings reports that disappointed investors. Year-on-year production has declined nine of the last 10 quarters and earnings have missed estimates four of the last six.

Exxon's production of 3.65 million barrels a day in the second quarter was the lowest in a decade.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE PERMIAN BASIN!

NO, DEAR! THE CALENDAR
DIDN'T RUN OUT OF PAGES.
WE HAVE JUST RUN OUT
OF YEAR!



MID-WEEK WTI AVERAGE PRICES

Posted	\$41.05	Shell Trading	\$42.80
Energy Transfer Partners	\$42.50	Nymex futures	\$44.55
Filint Hills Resources	\$42.75		
Phillips 66	\$42.84		
Plains	\$42.50		

Note: Posted prices as of December 26

COMPLETIONS

Courtesy Drilling Info

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

Citation Oil & Gas Corp.
E.F. King #35
Fuhman (Glorieta), 1264
ft., 1972 ft., Sec. 10, Bk.
A-42, Abst. 1961, PSL, 7.6
sw Andrews, TD 6218, Comp
11/20/2018, producing from
5545-6124, treated with acid;
pump 135 BO, 13 MCF, 203
BW, 29.2 Oil Gravity, API #42-
003-47846

Howard County

Citation Oil & Gas Corp.
S.T. Eason #29
Howard Glasscock (Con-
solidated), 759 ft., 969 ft.,
Sec. 16, Bk. 32, T-2-S, Abst.
1490, T&P RR, 3.1 sw Forsan,
TD 2725, Comp 11/23/2018,
producing from 2183-2314,
treated with acid, pump 35 BO,
28.1 Oil Gravity, API #42-227-
39683

Midland County

Apache Corporation
June Tippett 1213 HZ Unit
#14HS
Spraberry (Trend Area),
Horizontal, 479 ft., 2208 ft.,
Sec. 1, Bk. 41, T-4-S, Abst.
391, T&P RR, 20.5 w Midland,
TD 8753 TVD, 16919 MD,
Comp 11/29/2018, producing
from 9078-16820, fracture
stimulated, pump 667 BO, 624
MCF, 2430 BW, 42 Oil Gravity,
API #42-329-42211

Winkler County

Sundown Permian LP
Sealy Sun #861
Wickett (Pennsylvania),
Horizontal, 670 ft., Sec. 86, Bk.
A, Abst. 65, G&MMB&A, 8 nw
Monahans, TD 9786, Comp
11/27/2018, producing from
8250-9416, fracture stimu-
lated, flow 43 BO, 150 MCF,
328 BW on 30/64 inch choke,
FTP 125 psi, 39 Oil Gravity,
API #42-495-34220

New Mexico

Eddy County

Kaiser-Francis Oil Co.
Wildcat-Horizontal, 16193
ft., 6889 ft., Sec. 65, Bk. F,
Abst. 33, G&MMB&A, 4.94
ne Pyle, TD 14000, API
#42-475-37774 Permit issued
12/19

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

O'Ryan Oil and Gas
Todd #9
Wildcat, 990 ft., 990 ft.,
Sec. 66, Bk. UV, Abst. 5195,
GC&SF RR, 22 nw Ozona,
TD 2500, API #42-105-41667
Permit issued 12/17

Irion County

Fossil Petroleum LLC
Hamilton #20
Wildcat, 1977 ft., 568 ft.,
Sec. 69S-1/2, Abst. 1117, J.
Lindley, 1 n Merton, TD 9000,
API #42-235-36354 Permit
issued 12/19

Fossil Petroleum LLC
Hamilton #20
Wildcat, 10 ft., 302 ft.,
Sec. 69A-1/2, Abst. 164, F.
Lambrecht, 1.5 n Merton,
TD 9000, API #42-235-36360
Permit issued 12/20

Texas RRCD 8

Ward County

323 Exploration LLC
Sealy B #501H

Midland County

Metador Production Co.
Stebbins 20 Federal #124
Wildcat, Sec. 20 T20S R29E,
361/S & 130/W BHL, 1859/S &
240/E, EL 3246 GL, TD 12,675
MD, 8006 TVD, PBTD 12,567,
Spud 8-10-17, comp 11-18-17,
production is through treated
perfs, 8093-11253, Treat:
22490# 100 mesh total prop
22490#, 840 gals 15% acid &
177849 gals fresh & slickwater
in 21 stages, IP: 12-2-17 Pump
24 hrs 756 BO, 1379 BW, 532
MCF, Cag. 20 @ 396 w/1234
sx, 13 3/8 @ 1181 w/993 sx, 9
5/8 @ 3097 w/1504 sx, 5 1/2
@ 12663 w/2346 sx, API #30-
015-44185

Chisholm Energy Operat-
ing LLC
Black River 3 10 Fed Com
WCA #4
Purple Sage, Sec. 3 T24S
R26E, 150/N & 244/W BHL,
Sec. 10 324/S & 2203/W, EL
3325 GL, TD 18360 MD, 8626
TVD, PBTD 18320 MD, 8626
TVD, Spud 6-24-18, Comp
8-29-18, production is through
treated perfs, 8675-18305,
Treat: 1153 bbls HCL, 278515
bbls SW w/9267620# 100
mesh, 523965# 2040 ad, IP:
9-27-18 Flow 24 hrs 765 BO,
2099 BW, 2065 MCF, 45/655
Ch, CP 1110, GOR 2699, Gly
48, Cag. 13 3/8 @ 463 w/450
sx, 9 5/8 @ 2185 w/834 sx,
5 1/2 @ 18341 w/506 sx, API
#30-015-44971

EOG Resources Inc.
Hearns 34 State Com #710
Wildcat, Sec. 34 T24S R33E,
300/S & 1273/E BHL, Sec.
27 135/N & 1874/E, EL 3482
GR, TD 22,725 MD, 12,462
TVD, PBTD 22,701 MD,
12,462 TVD, Spud 5-28-18,
Comp 10-6-18, production is
through treated perfs, 12,727-
22,701, Treat: Frac w/23,629#
proppant, 352,401 bbls load
fluid, IP: 10-11-18 Flow 24
hrs 3913 BO, 6365 BW, 6883
MCF, 64 Ch, CP 1855, GOR
1759, Gly 40, Cag. 13 3/8 @
1292 w/1300 x, 9 5/8 @ 5102
w/1440 sx, 7 5/8 @ 11840
w/1400 sx, 5 1/2 @ 22705
w/1045 sx, API #30-025-43860

EOG Resources Inc.
Condor 32 State Com #714
Hardin Tank, Sec. 32 T25S
R34E, 326/S & 2027/W BHL,
Sec. 29 241/O & 2080/W,
EL 3340 GR, TD 19,849 MD,
12,420 TVD, PBTD 19,809
MD, 12,420 TVD, Spud 4-18-
18, Comp 9-16-18, production
is through treated perfs,
12,690-19,809, Treat: Frac
w/18,490,700# proppant,
288,731 bbls load fluid, IP:
9-25-18 Flow 24 hrs 257 BO,
9096 BW, 4345 MCF, 54 Ch,
CP 1812, GOR 1925, Gly 40,
Cag. 13 3/8 @ 971 w/835 sx,
9 5/8 @ 5210 w/1550 sx, 7
5/8 @ 11973 w/515 sx, 5 1/2
@ 19840 w/750 sx, API #30-025-
44674

COG Operating LLC
Square Bill Fed Com #21-V
Dodge Draw, Sec. 31

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #706
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45318

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #707
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45319

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #708
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45320

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #709
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45321

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #710
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45322

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #711
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45323

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #712
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45324

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #713
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45325

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #714
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45326

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #715
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45327

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #716
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45328

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #717
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45329

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #718
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45330

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #719
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45331

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #720
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45332

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #721
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45333

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #722
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45334

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #723
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45335

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #724
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45336

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #725
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45337

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #726
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45338

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #727
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45339

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #728
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45340

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #729
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45341

EOG Resources Inc.
Mamba 30 State Com #730
Wildcat, Sec. 30 T24S R33E,
1039/S & 1889/W, 10 mi W
Ochoa, Rot 17452 Wolfcamp,
API #30-025-45342

DEVELOPMENT WELLS

Courtesy Drilling Info

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

O'Ryan Oil and Gas
Todd #10
Wildcat, 990 ft., 330 ft.,
Sec. 66, Bk. UV, Abst. 5195,
GC&SF RR, 22 nw Ozona,
TD 2999, API #42-105-41851
Permit issued 12/17

Irion County

Sable Permian Resources
Land LLC
Woods 213-216 Alloc 12
#11HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
323 ft., 4621 ft., Sec. 213, Bk.
1, Abst. 632, T&P RR, 7.15
nw Barnhart, TD 9000, API
#42-235-36352 Permit issued
12/17

Sable Permian Resources
Land LLC
Woods 213-216 Alloc 02
#36HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
323 ft., 4621 ft., Sec. 213, Bk.
1, Abst. 632, T&P RR, 7.15
nw Barnhart, TD 9000, API
#42-235-36359 Permit issued
12/20

Sable Permian Resources
Land LLC
Woods 213-216 Alloc 04
#31HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
323 ft., 2132 ft., Sec. 213, Bk.
1, Abst. 632, T&P RR, 7.15
nw Barnhart, TD 9000, API
#42-235-36358 Permit issued
12/20

Sable Permian Resources
Land LLC
Woods 213-216 Alloc 06
#26HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
323 ft., 2152 ft., Sec. 213, Bk.
1, Abst. 632, T&P RR, 7.15
nw Barnhart, TD 9000, API
#42-235-36357 Permit issued
12/20

Sable Permian Resources
Land LLC
Woods 213-216 Alloc 08
#21HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
324 ft., 3452 ft., Sec. 213, Bk.
1, Abst. 632, T&P RR, 7.15
nw Barnhart, TD 9000, API
#42-235-36356 Permit issued
12/20

Sable Permian Resources
Land LLC
Woods 213-216 Alloc 10
#16HS
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
324 ft., 3472 ft., Sec. 213, Bk.
1, Abst. 632, T&P RR, 7.15
nw Barnhart, TD 9000, API
#42-235-36355 Permit issued
12/20

SEM Operating Company
LLC
Linthicum B #01WC
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal,
306 ft., 306 ft., Sec. 1140,
Abst. 802, C&M RR, 8.8 e
Barnhart, TD 10000, API
#42-235-36353 Permit issued
12/18

Tracker Resource Develop-
ment III LLC
Barnhart 103S101 #6UL
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Hor-
izontal, 1862 ft., 869 ft., Sec.
103, Bk. 14, Abst. 406, H&TC
RR, 22 nw Merton, TD 7500,
API #42-235-36349 Permit
issued 12/17

Tracker Resource Develop-
ment III LLC
Barnhart 103S101 #7UM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Hor-
izontal, 1852 ft., 870 ft., Sec.
103, Bk. 14, Abst. 406, H&TC
RR, 22 nw Merton, TD 7500,
API #42-235-36350 Permit
issued 12/17

Tracker Resource Develop-
ment III LLC
Barnhart 103S101 #8UL
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Hor-
izontal, 1841 ft., 870 ft., Sec.
103, Bk. 14, Abst. 406, H&TC
RR, 22 nw Merton, TD 7500,
API #42-235-36351 Permit
issued 12/17

Tom Green County
Banner Operating LLC
Turner Ranch West #2407
June Ann (Pennsylvania),
4644 ft., 660 ft., Sec. 24, Bk.
5, Abst. 8597, H&TC RR, 18
nw San Angelo, TD 9000, API
#42-451-32887 Permit issued
12/20

Upton County

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #8HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R
40 EXC-Horizontal, 204 ft.,
1915 ft., Sec. 38, Bk. 39, T-5-S,
Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.6
nw Rankin, TD 10000, API
#42-461-41054 Permit issued
12/17

Apache Corporation
Connell 47 #10HM
Spraberry (Trend Area) R
40 EXC-Horizontal, 204 ft.,
1885 ft., Sec. 38, Bk. 39, T-5-S,
Abst. 1181, T&P RR, 22.6
nw Rankin, TD 10000, API
#42-461-41055 Permit issued
12/17

Pioneer Natural Resources
USA Inc.
Brook D-W17A #2H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R
40 EXC-Horizontal, 830 ft.,
1145 ft., Sec. 17, Bk. D, Abst.
140, EL&RR, 8.9 s Midiff, TD
10100, API #42-461-41027
Permit issued 12/19

Pioneer Natural Resources
USA Inc.
Brook D-W17C #4H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R
40 EXC-Horizontal, 830 ft.,
1185 ft., Sec. 17, Bk. D, Abst.
140, EL&RR, 8.9 s Midiff, TD
10100, API #42-461-41028
Permit issued 12/19

XTO Energy Inc.

Frank Powell 30-31
#3113AH
Spraberry (Trend Area) R
40 EXC-Horizontal, 1750 ft.,
500 ft., Sec. 19, Bk. C, Abst.
297, L&SV RR, 29 nw Big
Lake, TD 10750, API #42-461-
41053 Permit issued 12/18

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

Callon Petroleum Operat-
ing Co.
Casselman 32 #8UL
Spraberry (Trend Area)-
Horizontal, 258 ft., 1150 ft.,
Sec. 32, Bk. 40, Abst. 778, T&P
RR, 10.2 n Midland, TD 9500,
API #42-003-47959 Permit
issued 12/18

Callon Petroleum Operat-
ing Co.
Casselman 32 #9UL
Spraberry (Trend Area)-
Horizontal, 228 ft., 1150 ft.,
Sec. 32, Bk. 40, Abst. 778, T&P
RR, 10.2 n Midland, TD 9500,
API #42-003-47960 Permit
issued 12/20

Callon Petroleum Operat-
ing Co.
Casselman 32 #10UL
Spraberry (Trend Area)-
Horizontal, 288 ft., 1150 ft.,
Sec. 32, Bk. 40, Abst. 778, T&P
RR, 10.2 n Midland, TD 9500,
API #42-003-47962 Permit
issued 12/18

Callon Petroleum Operat-
ing Co.
Casselman 32 #11LL
Spraberry (Trend Area)-
Horizontal, 258 ft., 1142 ft.,
Sec. 32, Bk. 40, Abst. 778, T&P
RR, 10.2 n Midland, TD 9500,
API #42-003-47961 Permit
issued 12/18

Culberson County
Ring Energy Inc.
Hugin #2H
Matthews (Brushy Canyon)-
Horizontal, 558 ft., 1320 ft.,
Sec. 23, Bk. 58, T-1, Abst.
2650, T&P RR, 79 ne Van
Horn, TD 6070, API #42-109-
33433 Permit issued 12/20

Ring Energy Inc.
Hippogriff #5H
Matthews (Brushy Canyon)-
Horizontal, 271 ft., 1320 ft.,
Sec. 23, Bk. 58, T-1, Abst.
2650, T&P RR, 79 ne Van
Horn, TD 6070, API #42-109-
33434 Permit issued 12/20

Ector County
Fasken Oil and Ranch Ltd.
Fee "BK" #1812
Lowe West (Strawn), 4404
ft., 3889 ft., Sec. 18, Bk. 41,
T-1-N, Abst. 8, G&MMB&A, 4.1
ne Gardendale, TD 13500, API
#42-135-43662 Permit issued
12/17

Fasken Oil and Ranch Ltd.
Fee "BK" #1814
Lowe West (Strawn), 4329
ft., 3304 ft., Sec. 18, Bk. 41,
T-1-N, Abst. 8, G&MMB&A, 3.9
ne Gardendale, TD 13500, API
#42-135-43663 Permit issued
12/18

Fasken Oil and Ranch Ltd.
Fee "BK" #1816
Lowe West (Strawn), 4329
ft., 880 ft., Sec. 18, Bk. 41,
T-1-N, Abst. 8, G&MMB&A, 3.5
ne Gardendale, TD 13500, API
#42-135-43664 Permit issued
12/18

Glasscock County
CrownQuest Operating LLC
Foster 4344 #4HD
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Hor-
izontal, 250 ft., 4981 ft., Sec.
39, Bk. 30, Abst. 508, W&NW
RR,

DEVELOPMENT WELLS

Courtesy Drilling Info

From 3F

Sycamore #10LS
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 670 fml, 449 fwl, Sec 40, Blk A, Abst. 589, Bauer & Cockrell, 4 sw Knott, TD 9800, API #42-227-39934 Permit issued 12/20

Grenadier Energy Partners II LLC
Oldham Trust #3875LS
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 500 fml, 1907 fwl, Sec 43, Blk 27, Abst. 37, H&TC RR, 8.79 nw Coahoma, TD 14000, API #42-227-39921 Permit issued 12/17

Grenadier Energy Partners II LLC
Oldham Trust #3876WA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 500 fml, 1867 fwl, Sec 43, Blk 27, Abst. 37, H&TC RR, 8.79 nw Coahoma, TD 14000, API #42-227-39922 Permit issued 12/17

Murchison Oil & Gas LLC
Deacon Jim Unit 6-7 #1HA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 450 fml, 2281 fwl, Sec 43, Blk 31, Abst. 200, T&P RR, 15.5 n Big Spring, TD 7305, API #42-227-39929 Permit issued 12/20

Murchison Oil & Gas LLC
Deacon Jim Unit 6-7 #2HA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 450 fml, 2261 fwl, Sec 43, Blk 31, Abst. 200, T&P RR, 15.5 n Big Spring, TD 7305, API #42-227-39930 Permit issued 12/20

Oxy USA Inc.
Weber 3502 #1WA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 280 fml, 1104 fwl, Sec 35, Blk 33, T-2-N, Abst. 335, T&P RR, 10.9 n Big Spring, TD 9000, API #42-227-39928 Permit issued 12/18

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Guitar South 1-5-G #4214H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 385 fml, 1260 fwl, Sec 4, Blk A, Abst. 553, Bauer & Cockrell, 4.8 w Big Spring, TD 7941, API #42-227-39924 Permit issued 12/17

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Guitar South 1-5-F #4311H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 415 fml, 1260 fwl, Sec 4, Blk A, Abst. 553, Bauer & Cockrell, 4.8 w Big Spring, TD 8148, API #42-227-39925 Permit issued 12/17

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Guitar South 1-5-E #4209H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 445 fml, 1260 fwl, Sec 4, Blk A, Abst. 553, Bauer & Cockrell, 4.8 w Big Spring, TD 7953, API #42-227-39926 Permit issued 12/17

SM Energy Company
Tackberry 43-42 A
#4243WA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 486 fml, 978 fwl, Sec 42, Blk 33, T-2-N, Abst. 1434, T&P RR, 10.7 nw Big Spring, TD 10500, API #42-227-39899 Permit issued 12/17

SM Energy Company
Lucky #4749WA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 359 fml, 365 fwl, Sec 2, Blk 32, T-1-S, Abst. 615, T&P RR, 4.36 se Big Spring, TD 10500, API #42-227-39927 Permit issued 12/18

Loving County

Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC
Mesquite Heat 28-41 Unit A #6H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 159 fml, 878 fwl, Sec 41, Blk 28, Abst. 1055, PSL, 14.2 ne Mentone, TD 13000, API #42-301-34240 Permit issued 12/17

BTA Oil Producers LLC
Escopeta 21901 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 929 fml, 505 fwl, Sec 85, Blk 1, Abst. 197, W&NW RR, 1.8 ne Mentone, TD 11500, API #42-301-34251 Permit issued 12/20

BTA Oil Producers LLC
Escopeta 21901 #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 959 fml, 505 fwl, Sec 85, Blk 1, Abst. 197, W&NW RR, 1.8 ne Mentone, TD 11500, API #42-301-34252 Permit issued 12/20

BTA Oil Producers LLC
Escopeta 21901 #3H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 989 fml, 505 fwl, Sec 85, Blk 1, Abst. 197, W&NW RR, 1.8 ne Mentone, TD 11775, API #42-301-34255 Permit issued 12/20

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 360 fml, 403 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34241 Permit issued 12/17

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 360 fml, 436 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34242 Permit issued 12/17

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #3H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 360 fml, 1509 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34243

Permit issued 12/17

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #4H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 360 fml, 1542 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34248 Permit issued 12/19

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #5H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 300 fml, 2595 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34249 Permit issued 12/19

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #6H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 300 fml, 2562 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34250 Permit issued 12/19

Shell Western E&P
Sevengills 55-2-11 LOV #3H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 382 fml, 1299 fwl, Sec 11, Blk 55, Abst. 121, T&P RR, 12.6 ne Mentone, TD 11500, API #42-301-34244 Permit issued 12/18

Shell Western E&P
Sevengills 55-2-11 LOV #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 402 fml, 1299 fwl, Sec 11, Blk 55, Abst. 121, T&P RR, 12.6 ne Mentone, TD 11350, API #42-301-34245 Permit issued 12/18

Shell Western E&P
Sevengills 55-2-11 LOV #4H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 422 fml, 1299 fwl, Sec 11, Blk 55, Abst. 121, T&P RR, 12.6 ne Mentone, TD 11350, API #42-301-34246 Permit issued 12/18

Shell Western E&P
Sevengills 55-2-11 LOV #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 442 fml, 1298 fwl, Sec 11, Blk 55, Abst. 121, T&P RR, 12.6 ne Mentone, TD 11500, API #42-301-34247 Permit issued 12/18

Martin County

Lario Oil & Gas Company
Doolittle 5 #103
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 279 fml, 937 fwl, Sec 33, Blk 35, T-1-N, Abst. 57, T&P RR, 6.7 ne Stanton, TD 10605, API #42-317-41977 Permit issued 12/19

Lario Oil & Gas Company
Doolittle 6 #102
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 249 fml, 908 fwl, Sec 33, Blk 35, T-1-N, Abst. 57, T&P RR, 6.7 ne Stanton, TD 10605, API #42-317-41978 Permit issued 12/19

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Straub 7 #2
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 5436 fml, 1811 fwl, Sec 323, Abst. 426, La Salle CSL, 21.7 nw Stanton, TD 11144, API #42-317-41973 Permit issued 12/19

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc.
Scharbauer Ranch 20J #10H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 5436 fml, 1811 fwl, Sec 323, Abst. 426, La Salle CSL, 21.7 nw Stanton, TD 11144, API #42-317-41973 Permit issued 12/19

Midland County

Apache Corporation
Driver-Schrock 1423 East D #10HA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 270 fml, 2265 fwl, Sec 14, Blk 37, T-4-S, Abst. 890, T&P RR, 22.7 e Midland, TD 11000, API #42-329-43010 Permit issued 12/18

Apache Corporation
Driver-Schrock 1423 East D #11HM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 270 fml, 2315 fwl, Sec 14, Blk 37, T-4-S, Abst. 890, T&P RR, 22.7 e Midland, TD 11000, API #42-329-43011 Permit issued 12/18

Earthstone Operating LLC
Mid-States Unit 37-5 #1BU
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 896 fml, 663 fwl, Sec 37, Abst. 936, H.M. Horton, 7.7 se Midland, TD 11000, API #42-329-42981 Permit issued 12/18

Permian Deep Rock Oil Co. LLC
Bulldog #H110WB
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 1134 fml, 591 fml, Sec 12, Blk 39, T-2-S, Abst. 662, J.E. Gardner, 2.4 se Midland, TD 11800, API #42-329-43013 Permit issued 12/20

XTO Energy Inc.
TXL Unit 33 1 3311 #3311AH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 254 fml, 498 fwl, Sec 21, Blk 39, T-4-S, Abst. 228, T&P RR, 20.9 se Midland, TD 9500, API #42-329-42943 Permit issued 12/18

Pecos County

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Magnolia State Unit #4315BH
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 4954 fml, 255 fwl, Sec 49, Blk 8, Abst. 218, H&GN RR, 5.3 ne Coynose, TD 10300, API #42-371-39938 Permit issued 12/20

EOG Resources Inc.
Atlas 7 Unit #3H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 360 fml, 1509 fwl, Sec 23, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 55, T&P RR, 16.4 ne Mentone, TD 14000, API #42-301-34243

XTO Energy Inc.
Daedalus OW-61-60 #513H
Hoefs T-K (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 334 fml, 539 fwl, Sec 61, Blk OW, Abst. 4544, Mrs. S. Claunch, 26.3 nw Fort Stockton, TD 9200, API #42-371-39940 Permit issued 12/20

Reeves County

Apache Corporation
Pine State #108AH
Alpine High (Consolidated)-Horizontal; 418 fml, 1702 fwl, Sec 36, Blk 58, T-6-S, Abst. 4411, T&P RR, 13.2 w Toyah, TD 16000, API #42-389-37864 Permit issued 12/17

Apache Corporation
Chinook #204AH
Alpine High (Consolidated)-Horizontal; 311 fml, 250 fwl, Sec 36, Blk 58, T-7-S, Abst. 4802, T&P RR, 10.1 s Toyah, TD 16000, API #42-389-37866 Permit issued 12/19

BHP Billiton Pet (T&L) Op Co.
State Lee Way 57-T2-10 #W208H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 688 fml, 675 fwl, Sec 10, Blk 57, T-2, Abst. 2359, T&P RR, 2.97 nw Orio, TD 14000, API #42-389-37852 Permit issued 12/18

Centennial Resource Production LLC
Iron Eagle Unit A #U 30H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 300 fml, 6 fwl, Sec 25, Blk C-8, Abst. 4469, PSL, 11.2 sw Pecos, TD 10200, API #42-389-37877 Permit issued 12/19

Centennial Resource Production LLC
Iron Eagle Unit B #U 21H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 300 fml, 24 fwl, Sec 25, Blk C-8, Abst. 4469, PSL, 11.2 sw Pecos, TD 10300, API #42-389-37881 Permit issued 12/19

Centennial Resource Production LLC
Iron Eagle Unit B #U 05H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 300 fml, 960 fwl, Sec 25, Blk C-8, Abst. 4469, PSL, 11.5 sw Pecos, TD 10300, API #42-389-37882 Permit issued 12/19

Centennial Resource Production LLC
Weaver State F #7H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 800 fml, 600 fwl, Sec 32, Blk 6, Abst. 3412, H&GN RR, 5.5 se Pecos, TD 9600, API #42-389-37875 Permit issued 12/17

EOG Resources Inc.
State Aspen C Unit #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 596 fml, 735 fwl, Sec 31, Blk 57, Abst. 5035, PSL, 20.6 se Orio, TD 14000, API #42-389-37872 Permit issued 12/17

EOG Resources Inc.
State Aspen C Unit #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 596 fml, 623 fwl, Sec 31, Blk 57, Abst. 5035, PSL, 20.6 se Orio, TD 14000, API #42-389-37873 Permit issued 12/17

EOG Resources Inc.
State Aspen C Unit #3H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 596 fml, 623 fwl, Sec 31, Blk 57, Abst. 5035, PSL, 20.6 se Orio, TD 14000, API #42-389-37874 Permit issued 12/17

MDC Texas Operator LLC
Smarty Jones 26 #10H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 787 fml, 1736 fwl, Sec 43, Blk 5, Abst. 442, H&GN RR, 4.16 se Arad, TD 15000, API #42-389-37854 Permit issued 12/17

Noble Energy Inc.
Luke Short 38 #12H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 961 fml, 1219 fwl, Sec 38, Blk 5, Abst. 1389, H&GN RR, 4.6 se Pecos, TD 13000, API #42-389-37876 Permit issued 12/19

PRI Operating LLC
Viper 14N11 #11H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 370 fml, 924 fwl, Sec 23, Blk C-1, Abst. 4548, PSL, 20.7 se Pecos, TD 13000, API #42-389-37861 Permit issued 12/19

PRI Operating LLC
Viper 14N12 #12H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 370 fml, 964 fwl, Sec 23, Blk C-1, Abst. 4548, PSL, 20.7 se Pecos, TD 13000, API #42-389-37862 Permit issued 12/19

Primex Operating Corporation
Angelina 302-303E #9H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 325 fml, 680 fwl, Sec 303, Blk 13, Abst. 340, H&GN RR, 6.21 ne Saragosa, TD 13000, API #42-389-37874 Permit issued 12/17

Primex Operating Corporation
Nimitz Unit A 186-188 #10H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2 fml, 2623 fwl, Sec 188, Blk 13, Abst. 4426, H&GN RR, 2.83 ne Verhalen, TD 13000, API #42-389-37864 Permit issued 12/19

Primex Operating Corporation
Rouine 57 #10H
Hoefs T-K (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 395 fml, 430 fwl, Sec 57, Blk 13, Abst. 472, H&GN RR, 10.8 se Verhalen, TD 13000,

API #42-389-37885 Permit issued 12/19

Rio Oil and Gas (Permian) II LLC
Brown State 44-2 #13H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 338 fml, 1680 fwl, Sec 44, Blk 56, T-2, Abst. 2217, T&P RR, 3.35 se Orio, TD 22000, API #42-389-37869 Permit issued 12/19

WPX Energy Permian LLC
Tasha 17-20B #440H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 379 fml, 909 fwl, Sec 17, Blk C-8, Abst. 5722, PSL, 9.8 sw Lindsay, TD 16000, API #42-389-37887 Permit issued 12/19

Ward County

Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC
Refined 34-187 Unit #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 400 fml, 2530 fml, Sec 188, Blk 34, Abst. 816, H&TC RR, 3.5 ne Barstow, TD 11700, API #42-475-37746 Permit issued 12/20

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
UL Willow 3636-16 #8H
Two Georges (Bone Spring)-Horizontal; 1167 fml, 761 fml, Sec 38, Blk 16, Abst. 38U, ULS, 2.8 sw Pyote, TD 12000, API #42-475-37779 Permit issued 12/20

Jagged Peak Energy LLC
State Eiland 14 A GG Houston #31H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 315 fml, 1119 fml, Sec 14, Abst. 1481, G.G. Houston, 10.4 se Pyote, TD 15000, API #42-475-37757 Permit issued 12/17

Luxe Operating LLC
Danielle 183 Unit #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 390 fml, 923 fml, Sec 184, Blk 34, Abst. 351, H&TC RR, 1.4 ne Barstow, TD 12000, API #42-475-37778 Permit issued 12/20

Manti Tarka Permian Operating LLC
Barbaro 119-120 C #1HA
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 567 fml, 829 fml, Sec 119, Blk 34, Abst. 237, H&TC RR, 12.5 e Barstow, TD 10450, API #42-475-37768 Permit issued 12/17

Manti Tarka Permian Operating LLC
Barbaro 119-120 D #2HA
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 553 fml, 850 fml, Sec 119, Blk 34, Abst. 237, H&TC RR, 12.5 e Barstow, TD 10360, API #42-475-37769 Permit issued 12/18

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
Shoshone A 34-166-165 #5201H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 311 fml, 313 fml, Sec 165, Blk 34, Abst. 1349, H&TC RR, 15.7 ne Pecos, TD 12500, API #42-475-37596 Permit issued 12/18

XTO Energy Inc.
Kate 33-40 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 320 fml, 1194 fwl, Abst. 376, J.T. Adams, 0.8 sw Barstow, TD 11100, API #42-475-37772 Permit issued 12/17

XTO Energy Inc.
Kate 33-40 #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 990 fml, 314 fml, Abst. 376, J.T. Adams, 0.8 sw Barstow, TD 11100, API #42-475-37773 Permit issued 12/17

Winkler County

Blackboard Operating LLC
Spry 10 23A #101
Monahans North (Clearfork)-Horizontal; 467 fml, Sec 23, Blk B-10, Abst. 1704, PSL, 10.3 n Monahans, TD 7000, API #42-495-34267 Permit issued 12/20

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
UL Gillette 20-36 #5102H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 320 fml, 217 fml, Sec 36, Blk 20, Abst. 31U, ULS, 7.3 sw Wink, TD 12500, API #42-495-34263 Permit issued 12/20

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
UL Gillette 20-36 #5203H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 320 fml, 247 fml, Sec 36, Blk 20, Abst. 31U, ULS, 7.3 sw Wink, TD 12500, API #42-495-34264 Permit issued 12/20

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
UL Gillette 20-36 #5104H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1292 fml, 220 fml, Sec 36, Blk 20, Abst. 31U, ULS, 7.3 sw Wink, TD 12500, API #42-495-34266 Permit issued 12/20

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
UL Gillette 20-36 #5205H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1319 fml, 220 fml, Sec 36, Blk 20, Abst. 31U, ULS, 7.3 sw Wink, TD 12500, API #42-495-34268 Permit issued 12/20

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
UL Gillette 20-36 #5106H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1288 fml, 220 fml, Sec 36, Blk 20, Abst. 31U, ULS, 7.3 sw Wink, TD 12500, API #42-495-34265 Permit issued 12/20

Oasis Petroleum Permian LLC
UL Gillette 20-36 #5107H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1288 fml, 220 fml, Sec 36, Blk 20, Abst. 31U, ULS, 7.3 sw Wink, TD 12500, API #42-495-34265 Permit issued 12/20

Texas RECD 8A

Borden County

Surge Operating LLC

Leviathan Unit A 29-17 #5AH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 439 fml, 628 fwl, Sec 29, Blk 31, Abst. 230, T&P RR, 8.1 ne Vealmoor, TD 9000, API #42-033-32504 Permit issued 12/19

Dawson County

Steadfast Oil & Gas LLC
Changes in Latitudes #37H
Welch-Horizontal; 527 fml, 330 fml, Sec 65, Blk M, Abst. 299, EL&RR, 13.7 nw Lamesa, TD 5000, API #42-115-33789 Permit issued 12/20

New Mexico

Chaves County

Mack Energy Corp.
Dawson Creek St Com #1 Round Tank; Sec 36 T15S R28E; 765N & 1675W; 17 1/2 mi NE Artesia, Rot 8649 San Andres, API #30-005-64319

Eddy County

Percussion Petroleum Operating
Red Lake 32 State #3
Red Lake; Sec 32 T17S R27E; 780S & 150E; 6 mi SE Artesia, Rot 9558 Glo/Yeso, API #30-015-45374

Percussion Petroleum Operating
Red Lake 32 State #4
Red Lake; Sec 32 T17S R27E; 800S & 150E; 6 mi SE Artesia, Rot 8489 Glo/Yeso, API #30-015-45375

Apache Corp.
Palmito 14 15 State #303
SW Palmito; Sec 14 T19S R28E; 1796S & 321W; 13 mi NE Lakewood, Rot 18587 Bone Spring, API #30-015-45380

Apache Corp.
Palmito 14 15 State #307
SW Palmito; Sec 14 T19S R28E; 631S & 351W; 13 mi NE Lakewood, Rot 13839 Bone Spring, API #30-015-45381

Apache Corp.
Palmito 14 15 State #306
SW Palmito; Sec 14 T19S R28E; 819N & 210W; 13 mi NE Lakewood, Rot 18642 Bone Spring, API #30-015-45382

Newbourne Oil Co.
Vicksburg 26 B3PM St SOM #1
Winchester; Sec 26 T19S R28E; 1310S & 205E; 13 mi Lakewood, Rot 13837 Bone Spring, API #30-015-45370

Matador Production Co.
SST 6 State Com #122
East Palmito; Sec 6 T19S R29E; 960N & 350W; 12 mi S Loco Hills, Rot 12350 Bone Spring, API #30-015-45369

Newbourne Oil Co.

ENERGYBRIEFS

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

AADE hosts operator forum

The Permian Basin chapter, American Association of Drilling Engineers, will host its 2019 Operator Forum January 8 at Greentree Country Club from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Operators represented include Anadarko, Apache, Concho, Diamondback, Endeavor, Fasken, Guidon and Laredo.

Cost is \$75 for members with advanced registration, \$100 at the door. More information and advance registration is available on the chapter's website at <http://www.aade.org/permian/index.htm>.

DALLAS

Wolf Midstream launches open season for Gray Wolf crude connector

Wolf Midstream Partners, LLC has launched a binding open season to solicit long-term, firm shipper commitments for the proposed Gray Wolf Crude Connector, a new crude oil pipeline to serve the Midland Basin.

Through the open season, Wolf plans to construct the approximately 55-mile Gray Wolf Crude Connector, with an initial capacity of 120,000 barrels per day, originating near Big Spring and connecting to Midland, with multiple joint tariff options to access the Corpus Christi/Ingleside export market. The open season ends January 21, 2019.

As part of a broader strategy to better serve Midland Basin producers, the Gray Wolf Crude Connector will connect to Wolf's previously-announced Red Wolf Crude Connector near Big Spring. The Red Wolf Crude Connector connects to Wolf's existing crude oil terminal near Colorado City, providing access to multiple long-haul, large-volume pipelines for access to nearly all major downstream markets.

Construction activities have begun and pending the results of the open season, Wolf expects the Gray Wolf Crude Connector to commence commercial operations in the fourth quarter of 2019.

In addition to launching a binding open season for the Gray Wolf Crude Connector, Wolf is extending the binding open season

for the Red Wolf Crude Connector. Due to ongoing customer negotiations and a high demand for combined Midland connectivity, Wolf has extended the binding open season to solicit long-term, firm shipper commitments for the Red Wolf Crude Connector to January 21, 2019.

FORT STOCKTON

MMEX Resources Corp. partners with Texas Solar Power Association

MMEX Resources Corp. has joined The Texas Solar Power Association (TSPA).

The statewide industry trade organization is made up of member companies that are committed to the development of solar photovoltaic products and projects in Texas, cost-competitively serving customers in both wholesale and retail markets.

"MMEX Resources is committed to developing a solar power plan to provide the electric power to our planned 10,000 barrel-per-day crude distillation unit and its full-scale crude oil refinery in Pecos County near Fort

Stockton, Texas," said Jack W. Hanks, President and CEO of MMEX Resources Corp. "TSPA's mission and vision closely aligns with our project development, and we look forward to connecting with other like-minded association members committed to seeking alternative sources of energy to power their businesses and surrounding communities."

In July, MMEX announced the formation of MMEX Solar Resources, LLC and filed a trademark to develop a solar power project to potentially supply solar power renewable energy to its refinery projects.

NORTH DAKOTA

Record natural gas flared this year

BISMARCK, N.D. — Regulators say the volume of natural gas flared this year in North Dakota reached an unprecedented level. Operators burned off the natural gas associated with oil production due to the lack of plant and pipeline capacity in the state. The volume flared was 527 million cubic feet per day. In October alone, that's enough to heat 4 million average homes.

the oil patch

To appear in *Around the Oil Patch* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Oil Report account executive at 682-5311.

The FlexGrid microgrid plugs producers into electrical freedom, reliability on remote wells

With the daily addition of pumps and other grid-straining electrical equipment, producers face power shortages and disturbances almost daily as well. At times, it can take weeks to get grid power installed, delaying production in new wells.

This is why more companies are turning to the FlexGrid microgrid solution from Flex Leasing Power and Service for reliable power at installations of all types and sizes.

Here are the top five reasons you'll want to learn more about the FlexGrid solution. They are:

Clean. The Flex Turbine® is the only microturbine that meets the stringent standards of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The Flex Turbine is 8-10 times cleaner than reciprocating engine gensets, which often burn diesel. Flex's

system needs no exhaust catalysts or chemicals.

Reliable. Rugged Flex Turbines have a long track record of 99-percent-plus uptime, with more than 2.5 million documented runtime hours in the US and Canada. Reliable uptime reduces the potential for unexpected hard stops that can damage production equipment and stop production. This also means FlexGrid keeps units maintained and repaired without relying on replacement.

Rugged. Flex Turbines are built to withstand harsh operating environments, including offshore, deep winter and desert conditions.

Scalable. The grid's modular design lets any number of Flex Turbines be installed on a single site. This allows for full field development. The unit count can be adjusted up or down as a field's power needs change.

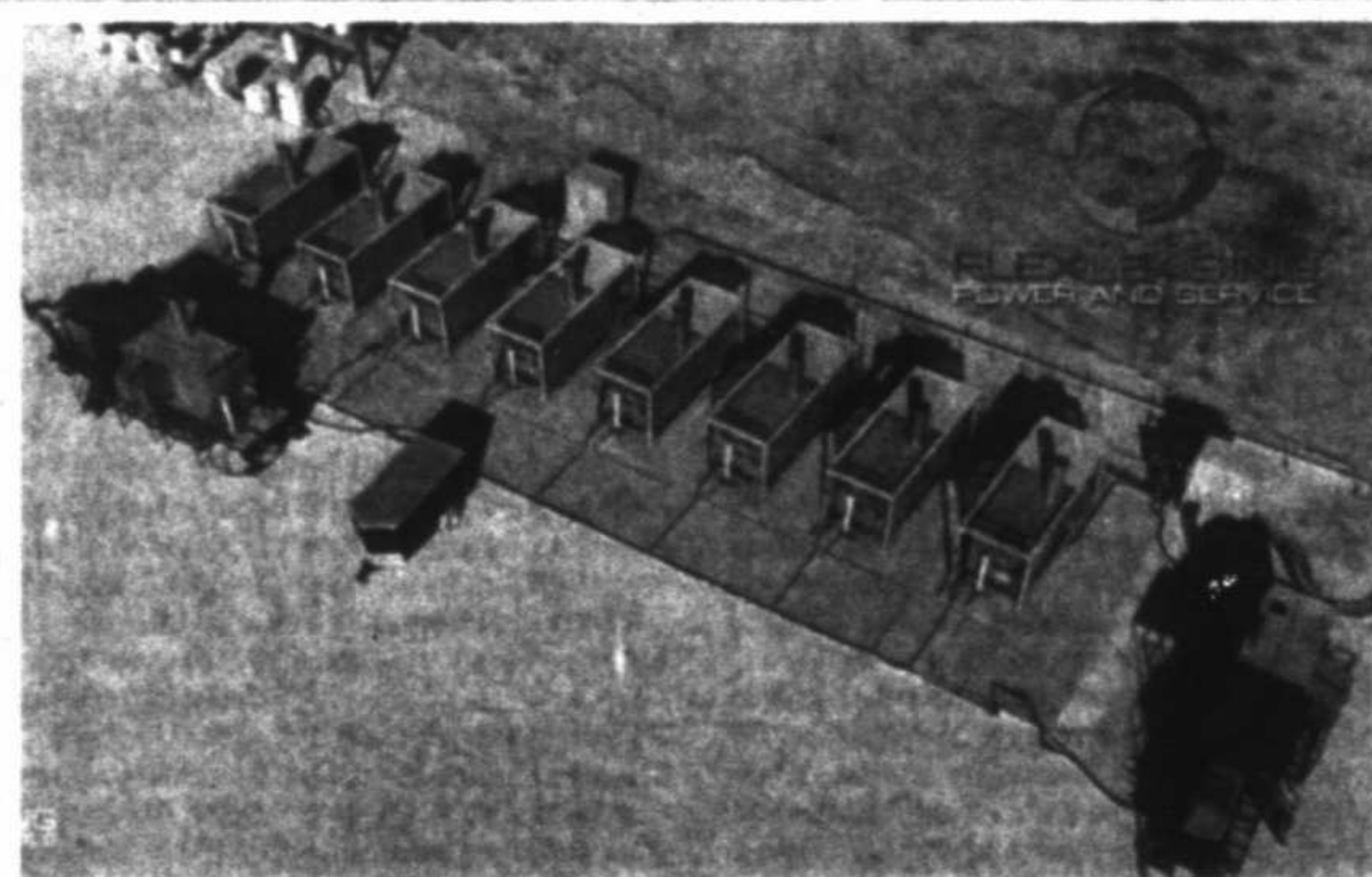
Wide fuel tolerance.

While most wells produce plenty of natural gas to run turbines, the quality and content of the gas varies widely. Flex Turbines run on whatever gas is produced on site or on tank vapors. Without any special configuration they can use gas with BTU content up to 2500, H2S up to 10,000 ppm and CO2 of 70 percent.

Reduces flaring. Using rich tank vapor gas as a primary fuel source significantly reduces flaring and emissions of VOCs and NOx. In many cases it can eliminate or mitigate regulatory constraints.

High-quality power. FlexGrid generates electric power with voltage that varies only 0.1%.

Easy to maintain. The Flex Turbine requires only one 8-hour scheduled maintenance interval per year, and smart FlexGrid technology automatically balances the load between units as



Use your own site's produced gas or tank gas to generate reliable power and reduce emissions. Call FlexGrid today at 720-573-7664.

one is taken offline.

Rapid response. Local rapid response teams are on-call 24/7 to handle any unexpected service interruptions.

Analytics. Flex monitors the performance of individual units and the FlexGrid remotely, collecting operating data and providing automatic notification of alarms and trips.

Turnkey solution. Flex handles the entire FlexGrid solution from design, devel-

opment, construction and operation. From the Flex Turbines, power poles, transmission systems, switchgear and maintenance. Flex has the solution covered.

Capital efficient. There is no up-front capital investment required. Flex Leasing Power and Service provides a leasing option giving operators one monthly lease payment during the term of service.

In short, the FlexGrid of-

fers E&P operators a cost-effective, clean and reliable power solution for field development. Call Flex Leasing today to learn how to harness this power.

Contact Flex today at 720.573.7664 or Info@FlexLeasingPower.com to speak with a specialist and evaluate whether the FlexGrid solution is right for your field development plan.

'I can see clearly now, my wells are on'

Zedi's visual monitoring adds more insight to site automation

For many producers, just having sensors report basic well site facts is a huge leap forward. With on-your-desk (or on-your-device) information on pump operation, line pressures, tank levels and more, they're able to react more quickly to problems and to save thousands of miles a year in windshield time. Zedi Access and Zedi Go are streamlining operations across the continent in exactly those ways and many more.

But lurking in the back of the mind is the concern—rightly so—that there's still something to be said for having eyes on the site to learn even more. But sending people back out to the site in person would be crazy.

This is why Zedi is excited to add visual monitoring to its growing package of well site information.

It's really the best of both worlds—the eyeballs of the pumper combined with the deeper machine information from sensors. With visuals you can add the "why" to the "what" many times, getting an even better handle on what's wrong (if anything) and how to dispatch the right people with the

right tools, equipment and supplies.

Maybe you've looked into visual monitoring before and been put off by the cost of equipment and bandwidth. In the past, these were indeed the issues. But with Moore's Law fully in effect (which says that computers double in speed and capacity every two years, while getting cheaper in the process), Zedi's latest generation technology is much more efficient and cost effective than older systems.

In fact, when added to Zedi Access, the company's amazingly flexible and informative database and monitoring system, visual

monitoring involves only a small incremental cost.

And with Zedi Go, which puts all this information on smart devices, your people can respond to alarms, getting complete technical and visual data, wherever they are—in the office, in the field or on call at home. They can make decisions in minutes and quickly get on with other tasks, when armed with these tools.

Zedi's visual monitoring is getting even better. Soon there'll be recognition technology that can catch license numbers of service vehicles and tankers; equipment identification such as compressors, tanks, pump

jacks and more, for inventory and location purposes; even face recognition so you'll know if the person onsite is authorized or not, or to clarify which location the technician visited first.

It's not all too much, though. Zedi Access understands that, when everything is okay, you don't need

to know the details. You can set alarms based on actual issues, alarms that are trained to ignore insignificant anomalies so your people are not fighting false alarms. It's truly a "need-to-know" system.

Ready to learn more—not just about Zedi visual monitoring, but about your

installations' status? Call Zedi this week!

Zedi's Permian Basin Office is located at 7907 W. Industrial in Midland. The phone number is 432-242-3041. See Zedi on the web at www.zedisolutions.com. Follow Zedi on LinkedIn.



Zedi's visual monitoring combines sensors with visuals to give you the complete wellsite picture. Call Zedi's Permian Basin office at 432-242-3041.

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Realize Production Potential



AP file photo

In this June 6, 2016, file aerial video image taken from a drone, crumpled oil tankers lie beside the railroad tracks after a fiery train derailment that prompted evacuations from the tiny Columbia River Gorge town of Mosier, Ore. The Trump administration vastly understated the potential benefits of installing more advanced brakes on trains that haul explosive fuels when it cancelled a requirement for railroads to begin using the equipment. A government analysis used by the administration to justify the cancellation omitted up to \$117 million in potential reduced damages from using electronic brakes. Department of Transportation officials acknowledged the error after it was discovered by The Associated Press during a review of federal documents but said it would not have changed their decision.

US miscalculated benefit of better train brakes

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — President Donald Trump's administration miscalculated the potential benefits of putting better brakes on trains that haul explosive fuels when it scrapped an Obama-era rule over cost concerns, The Associated Press has found.

A government analysis used to justify the cancellation omitted up to \$117 million in estimated future damages from train derailments that could be avoided by using electronic brakes. Revelation of the error stoked renewed criticism from the rule's supporters, who called the analysis biased.

Department of Transportation officials acknowledged the mistake after it was discovered by the AP during a review of federal documents. They said a correction will be published to the federal register.

But transportation spokesman Bobby Fraser said the decision not to require the brakes would stand under a Congressional act that said the costs couldn't exceed the rule's benefits.

"This was an unintentional error," Fraser said. "With the correction, in all scenarios costs still outweigh benefits."

Safety advocates, transportation union leaders and Democratic lawmakers oppose the administration's decision to kill the brake rule, which was included in a package of rail safety measures enacted in 2015 under President Barack Obama following dozens of accidents by trains hauling oil and ethanol in the U.S. and Canada.

The deadliest happened in Canada in 2013, when an unattended train carrying crude oil rolled down an incline, came off

the tracks in the town of Lac-Mégantic and exploded into a massive ball of fire, killing 47 people and obliterating much of the Quebec community's downtown.

There have been other fiery crashes and fuel spills in Alabama, Oregon, Montana, Virginia, West Virginia, North Dakota, Illinois and elsewhere.

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley said the administration should reconsider the brake rule in light of its miscalculation.

"The omission of \$117 million from the rule's anticipated benefits is further proof that the Trump administration is willing to cut corners to put industry profits ahead of the American people's safety," said Merkley, a Democrat. He called for "a new cost-benefit analysis that is full and transparent."

After the brake rule was enacted, lobbyists for the railroad and oil industries pushed to cancel it, citing the high cost of installing so-called electronic pneumatic brakes and questioning their effectiveness.

But supporters of the brakes said the issue should be reconsidered given the miscalculation and concerns about other benefits that may have been ignored, including reducing the frequency of runaway trains and severity of train-on-train collisions, said Robert Duff, a senior adviser to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat.

"This is not theoretical risk. We've actually seen these derailments," Duff said.

Unlike other systems where brakes are applied sequentially along the length of a train, electronic pneumatic brakes, or ECP, work on all cars simultaneously. That can reduce the distance and time a train needs to stop and cause fewer cars to derail.

"These ECP brakes are very important for oil trains," said Steven Dittmeyer, a rail safety expert and former senior official at the Federal Railroad Administration. "It makes a great deal of sense: All the brakes get applied immediately, and there would be fewer cars in the pileup."

Under Obama, the Transportation Department determined the brakes would cost up to \$664 million over 20 years and save between \$470 million and \$1.1 billion from accidents that would be avoided.

The Trump administration reduced the range of benefits to between \$131 million and \$374 million.

Transportation Department economists said in their analysis that the change was prompted in part by a reduction in oil train traffic in recent years.

Even as ethanol shipments on U.S. railroads have continued to grow, reaching about 500,000 carloads annually, crude shipments peaked in 2014 and fell to about 200,000 carloads last year.

But in making their cost-benefit calculations, government economists left out the most common type of derailments in which spilled and burning fuel causes property damage but no mass casualties, the AP found. Equipping fuel trains with electronic brakes would reduce damages from those derailments by an estimated \$48 million to \$117 million, according to Department of Transportation estimates that were left out of the administration's final tally.

Including the omitted benefits reduces the net cost of the requirement to as low as \$63 million under one scenario laid out by the agency. Other scenarios put the net cost at

more than \$200 million.

Transportation spokesman Fraser said that would not have changed September's decision to cancel the electronic brake requirement because of the cost.

The Association of American Railroads declined comment on the agency's cost-benefit calculations. Spokeswoman Jessica Kahanek said the move to rescind the Obama rule was in line with the requirements set forth by Congress, which passed a 2015 measure saying the Department of Transportation must repeal the braking requirement if expected costs exceed benefits.

The biggest share of oil now moved by rail goes from the Bakken oil patch of North Dakota and Montana to the West Coast, where fears of an accident were realized two years ago when 16 tank cars carrying Bakken oil derailed, igniting a fire that burned for 14 hours along the banks of the Columbia River near Mosier, Oregon.

The accident was caused by track problems. An investigation by the Federal Railroad Administration concluded electronic brakes would have made it less severe.

John Risch, national legislative director for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers, said electronic brakes also would have prevented the deaths at Lac-Mégantic.

He added that the omission of benefits from the government's findings further tilted a study that was otherwise flawed.

"It flies in the face of earlier, much more comprehensive studies," Risch said. "We are using a 120-year-old technology with mechanical brakes. They've come to the peak of what you can do with them."

Shell Midstream Partners LP to reinvest profits in growth

By Sergio Chapa
Houston Chronicle

The Houston pipeline and storage terminal operator Shell Midstream Partners LP will have more money to reinvest in new pipeline and terminal projects after one of its two parent companies agreed to give up its share of the company's profits.

In a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Shell Midstream Partners reported that its general partner Shell Midstream Partners GP LLC is waiving its incentive distribution rights in 2019.

Known as IDRs in the investing world, incentive distribution rights are a parent company's share of profits that are taken out before the remaining profits are divided by shareholders.

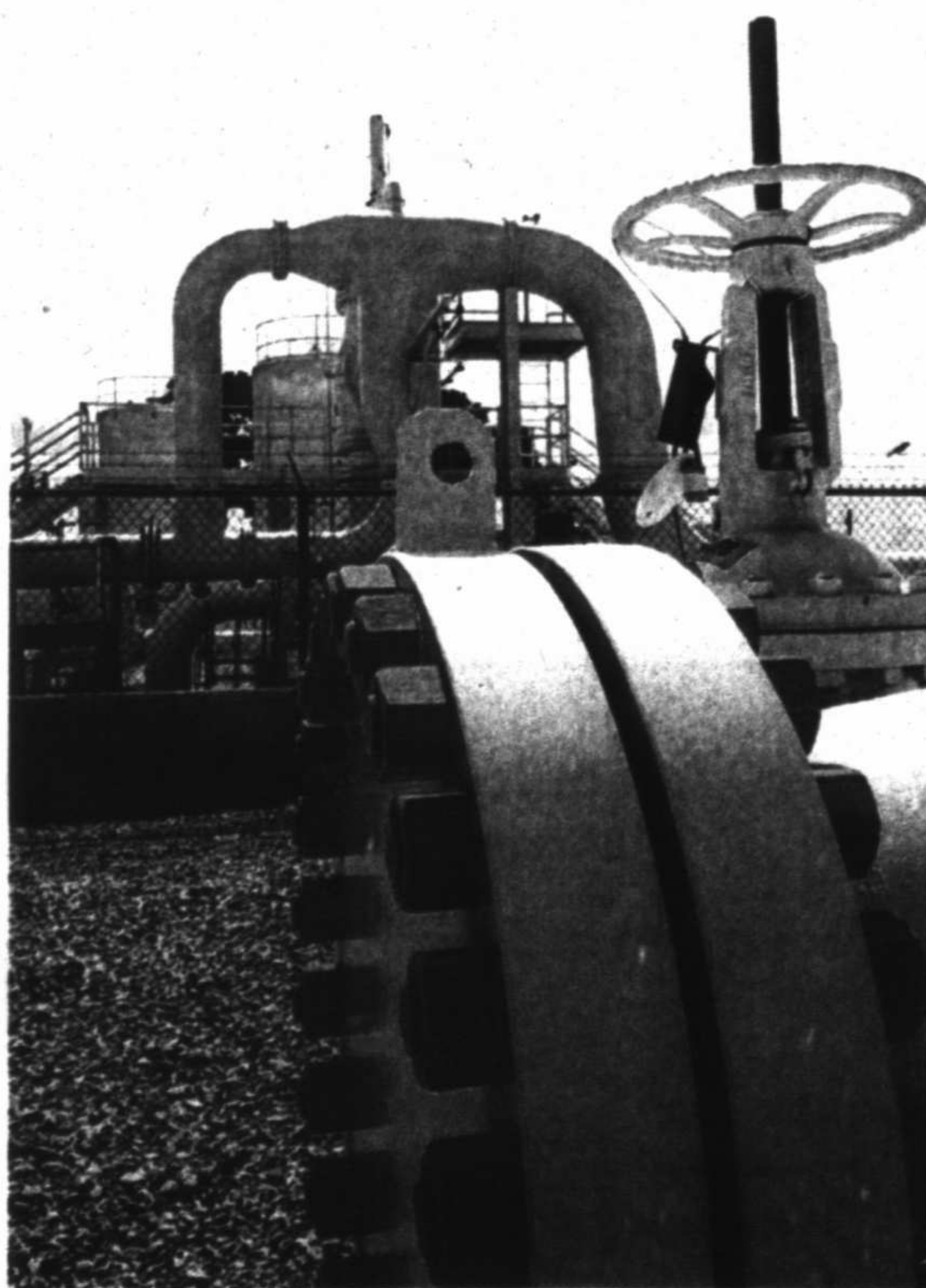
Formed in 2014, Shell Midstream Partners is owned by two subsidiaries

of oil giant Royal Dutch Shell — Shell Midstream Partners GP LLC and Shell Midstream Holdings LP.

Shell Midstream Partners owns and operates a network of pipelines and storage terminals in more than a dozen states and in the Gulf of Mexico. Traded under its stock ticker symbol SHLX, the company reported a \$148.3 million profit on \$153.5 million of revenue during the third quarter.

The waiver by Shell Midstream Partners GP LLC will free up an extra \$50 million in cash throughout 2019 that Shell Midstream Partners plans to reinvest in projects.

"We believe this waiver is evidence of strong sponsor support and further demonstrates Royal Dutch Shell's commitment to grow its midstream footprint through Shell Midstream Partners," Shell Midstream Partners GP LLC Kevin Nichols said in a statement.



Courtesy photos

Shell Midstream infrastructure is shown.



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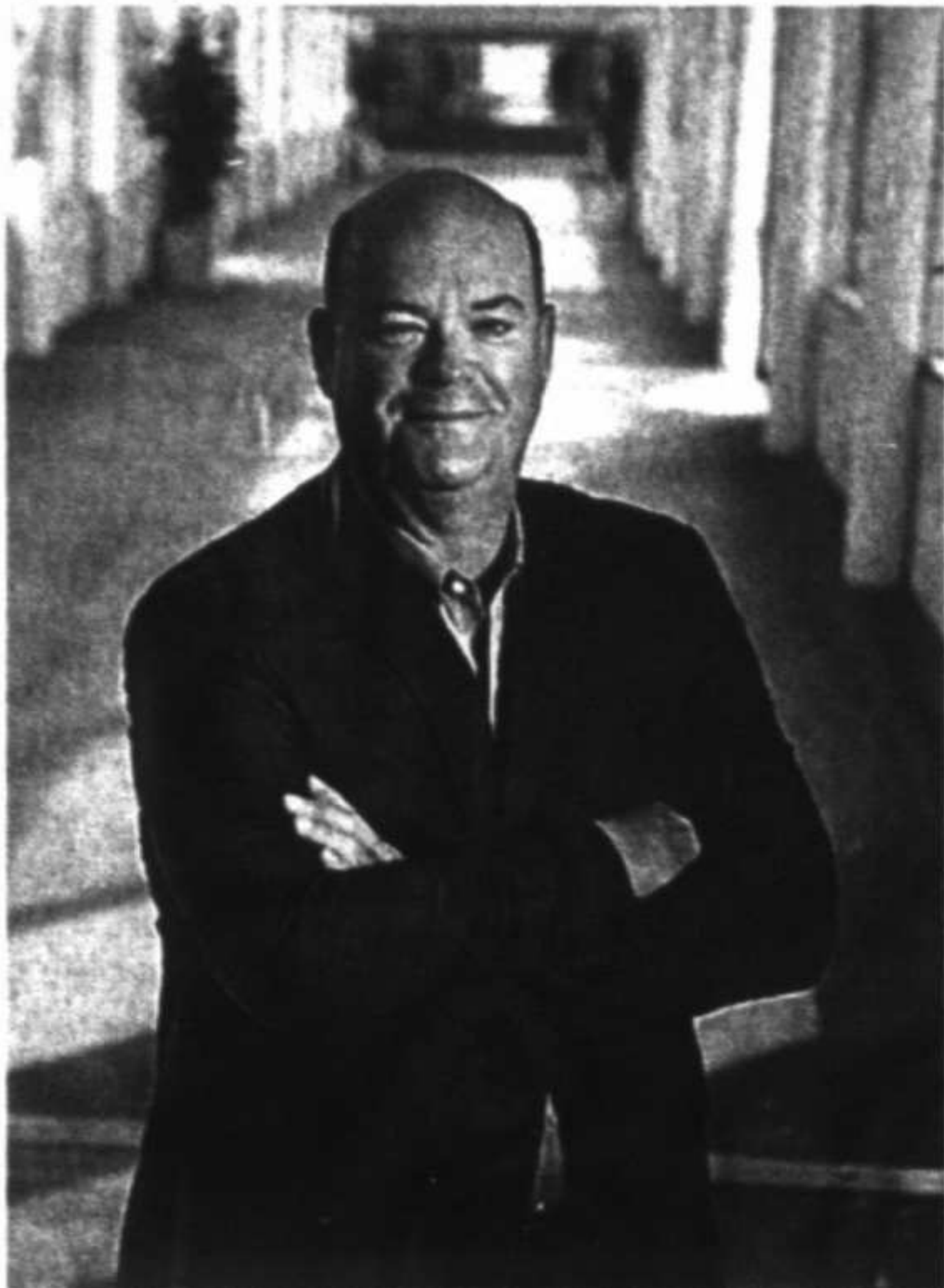
Chesapeake surges after board member buys 2.1 million shares

By Ryan Collins
Bloomberg

Chesapeake Energy shares rose as much as 17 percent in their biggest intraday rally since February after a board member bought more than \$4 million in additional stock. Archie Dunham purchased 2.1 million shares Dec. 21, increasing his position to more than 1 percent of the company, according to a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Together, Dunham and Chesapeake Chairman R. Brad Martin have bought shares six times this month. The company's shares have fallen 36 percent since the end of November.

The shale driller has seen its market capitalization fall to just \$1.7 billion in the last five months from almost \$5 billion. Despite a recent surge in natural gas prices, the whole sector has felt the weight of falling crude prices and the broader equities rout. Chesapeake is in the midst of a strategy change, intending to focus more on oil production and being less reliant on gas. It agreed to buy WildHorse Resource Development Corp., a crude driller in Texas and Louisiana, in October for \$2.27 billion.

Gordon Pennoyer, a spokesman for Chesapeake, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.



Melissa Phillip/Houston Chronicle

Ryan Lance, ConocoPhillips CEO, is shown Oct. 19 in Houston.

ConocoPhillips only company in S&P's 500 Energy Index up for the year

By Simon Casey
Bloomberg

In a measure of how badly U.S. energy equities have fared this year, only one company in Standard and Poor's 500 Energy Index has posted a year-to-date gain.

ConocoPhillips is up 3.9 percent this year through Monday's close, while the other 29 members of the index are in negative territory. The gauge itself has dropped 25 percent so far in 2018 and is on course to have its worst year since the financial crisis.

The tumble in crude

prices in the past several weeks is largely to blame, but even before the slump, energy was an unloved sector.

Conoco is doing its best to curry favor with investors wary of the industry's reputation for overspending and poor returns. Earlier this month, the company said it planned to buy back \$3 billion of shares in 2019, bringing investor payouts, including dividends, to half its cash from operations if oil averages \$50 a barrel (although Brent dipped below \$50 on Wednesday for the first time since July 2017).



RING
ENERGY, INC.

Ring Energy closes Andrews County acquisition

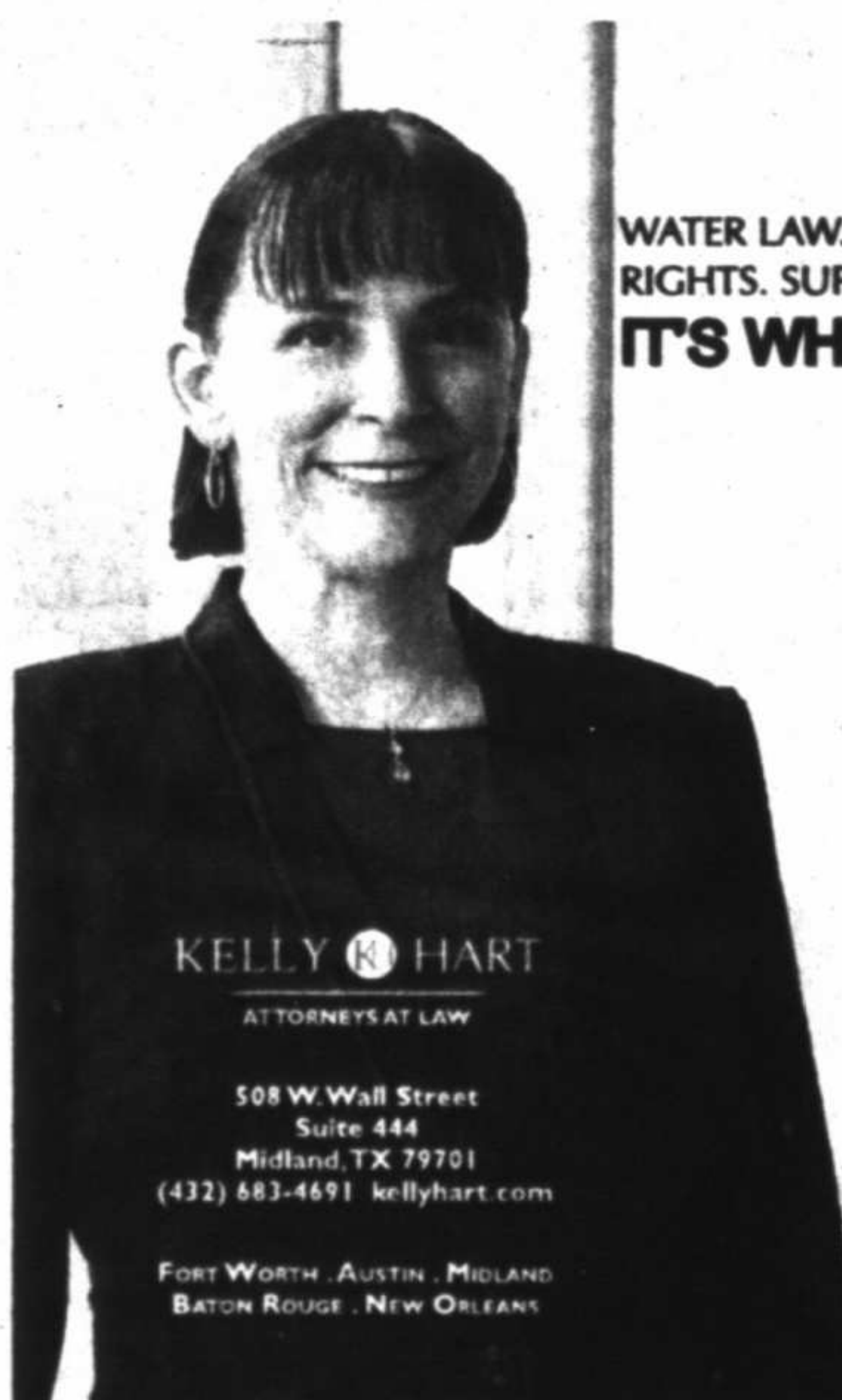
From staff reports

MIDLAND — Ring Energy has closed its transaction with Tessara Petroleum Resources, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Carlyle Group L.P., for assets located in Andrews County.

Ring issued 2,623,948 million shares of its common stock valued at \$5.80 per share. The transaction has an effective date of November 1, 2018.

The assets consist of 4,763 net acres.

Ring will be the operator, have a 100 percent working interest and 75 percent net revenue interest. The acreage is in, around and contiguous to the company's core assets on the Central Basin Platform and offsets the majority of the company's top producing wells. Management estimates that this acquisition, in combination with additional smaller surrounding leases the company has acquired, will add 5,313 net acres and 55 new gross horizontal drilling locations.



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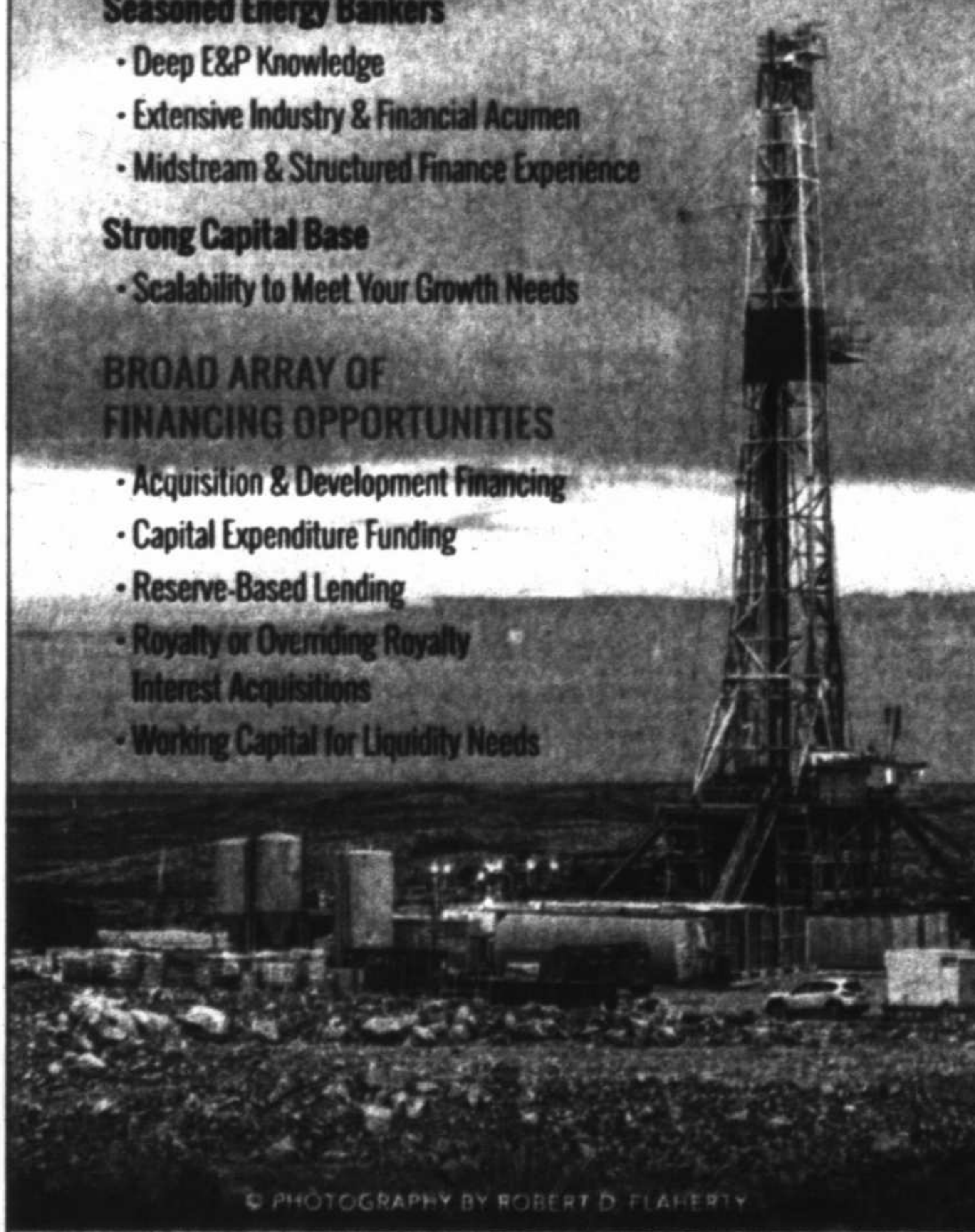
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2018 YEAR END REVIEW

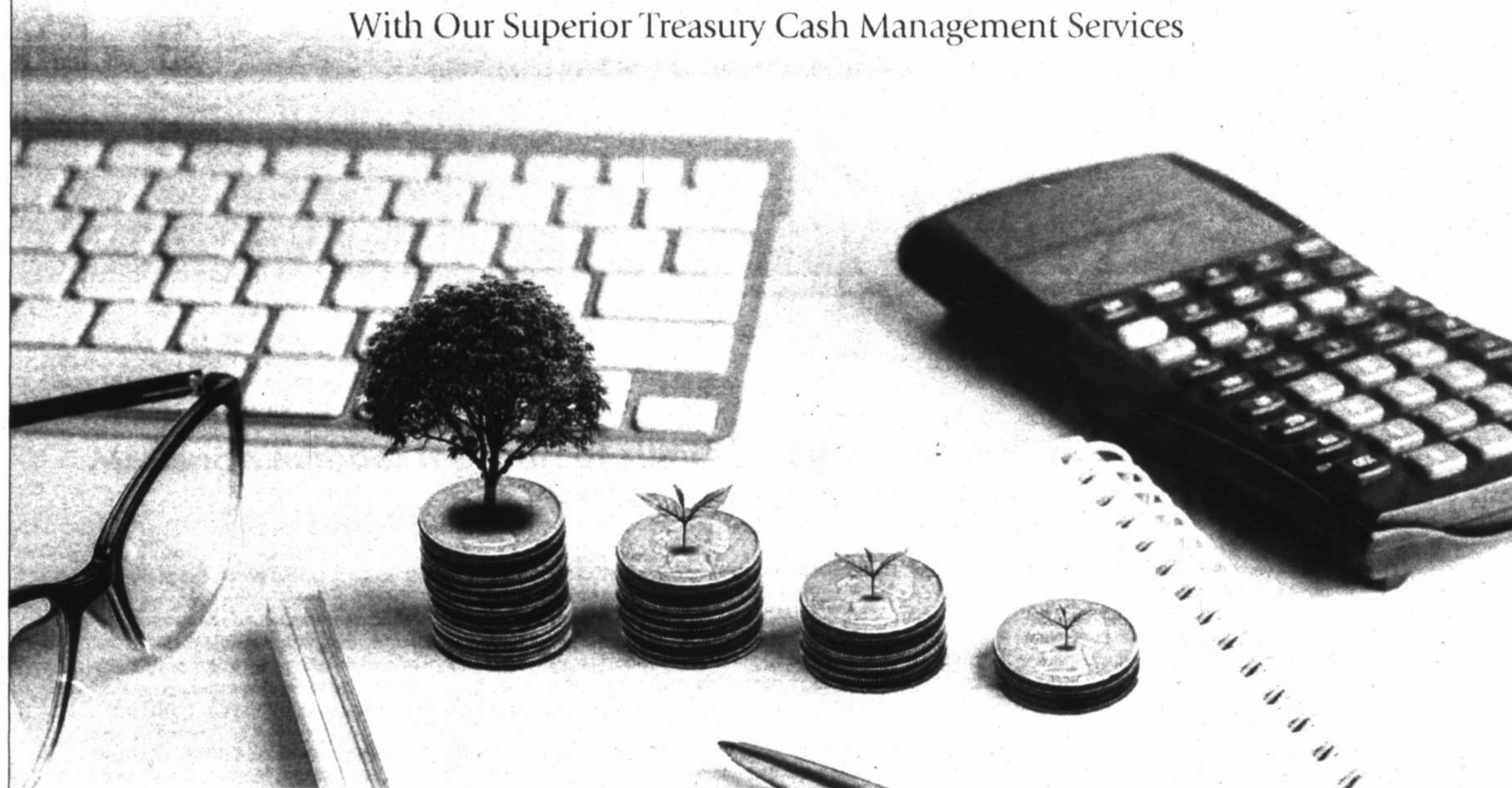
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Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Travis Stice, director and CEO of Diamondback Energy, Jody Elliott, president of Oxy Oil and Gas and Tim Dove president and CEO Pioneer Natural Resources, talk with Steven Pruett, president and CEO of Elevation Resources LLC on Jan. 23 at the inaugural State of Oil & Gas put on by the Midland Chamber of Commerce.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland Chamber outgoing chairman Susan Spratlen passes the gavel to incoming board chair Robert Rendall after installing the new and returning board members Sept. 18 at the annual Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Midland Chamber is proud of significant ground work that took place in 2018

Midland Chamber of Commerce

It may appear to the casual observer that 2018 was a year filled with a "hurry up and wait" agenda. Appearances can be deceiving. Perhaps increased oilfield activity kept everyone so busy that they didn't have time to notice the significant groundwork taking place. Next year promises noteworthy progress in infrastructure, economic development, education and quality of place. The fact is that Midland is at a tipping point. We truly are on the verge of becoming the world-class city we strive to be thanks to the foundation that has been laid.

The Chamber has always served as a convener for the community. To that end, we have hosted meetings of the five taxing entities throughout 2018, in an effort to increase collaboration and address our challenges together. Education continues to be a top priority for Midland. As such, the Chamber has explored a variety of ways to engage the community in helping our schools be successful. This past year, we launched the Teacher Adoption Program (TAP) to offer support for our classroom teachers. TAP is a natural extension of Midland ISD's Partners in Education (PIE) program. We believe the two programs will enhance the district's efforts to recruit and retain the best teachers — the key to academic success.

In 2018, the Chamber launched a new installment in our "State of" luncheon series — the State of Oil &

Gas. The inaugural event allowed industry leaders to share their predictions for a bright, more stable economic future for our region. With the Permian as the most cost-efficient location for oil production, the general consensus is that we have moved from an industry model of exploration to one of manufacturing. While this is excellent news from a purely economic standpoint, it is not without inherent challenges. The accompanying population increase demands creative solutions to address infrastructure and other community needs.

Transportation infrastructure is another critical area of concern. Again, collaborative efforts are the key to successfully addressing our challenges. The recent road bond allowed the city to begin addressing some of the most urgent needs on our streets. Midland Development Corp. worked with several entities to leverage local dollars in order to capture additional state funds for roadways. We are excited to see the enhancements to Loop 250 come to fruition as well as other projects for expanded economic development opportunities. By prioritizing the needs of our community and working together, Midland will see substantial changes to our transportation infrastructure in 2019.

A number of new businesses have opened in the downtown area over the past year in anticipation of the Midland Convention Center's opening. The Cham-

ber has long believed that a new convention center would serve as a catalyst for downtown development. With the addition of a completely redesigned Centennial Park, we believe this will only cause further growth, creating a vibrant and prosperous downtown. Not only will this yield economic opportunities for business owners, but it will provide our citizens with enhanced amenities to rival larger cities.

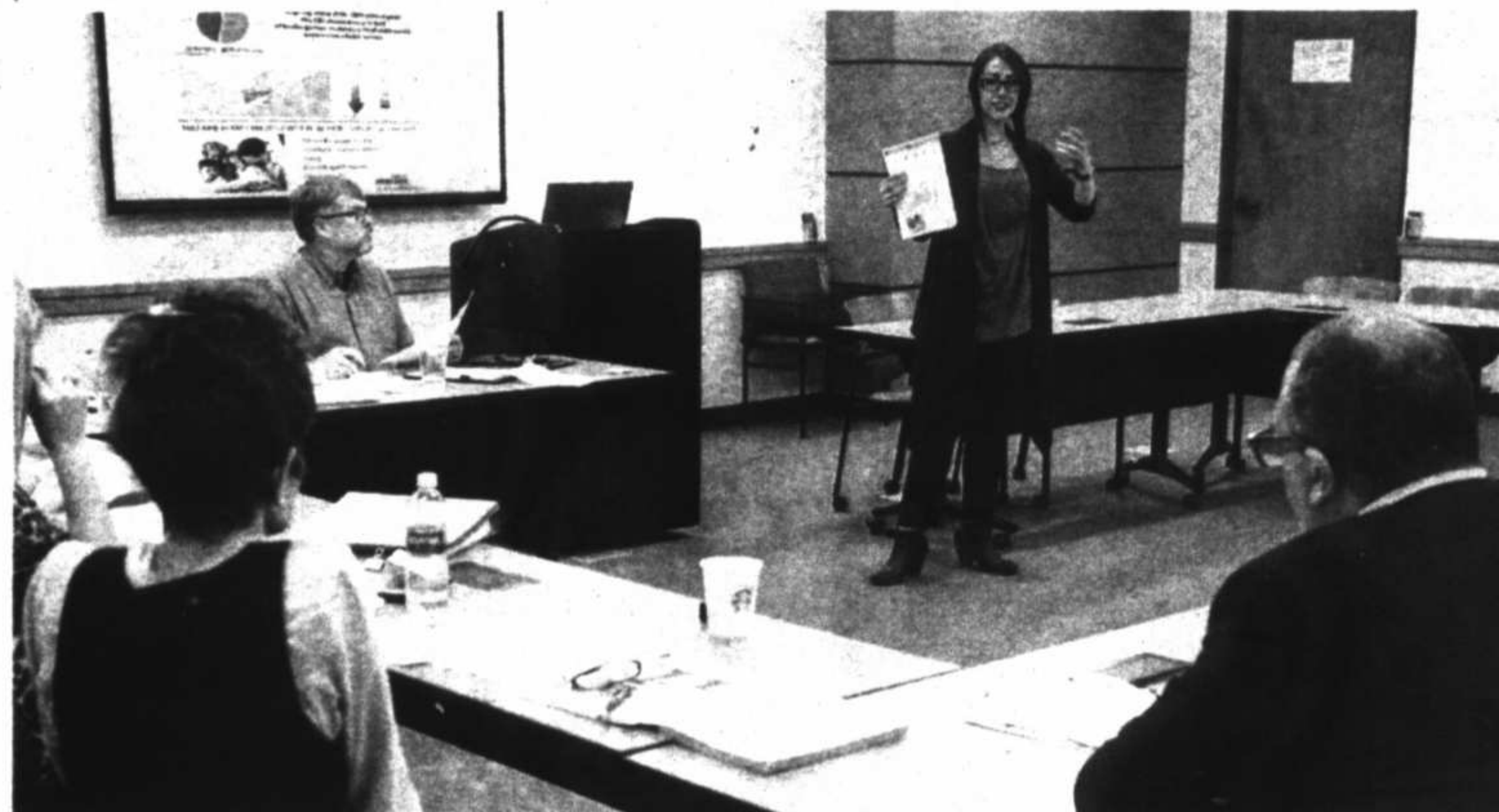
Despite the significant changes resulting from growth, some things remain the same. Midland has always been known for its friendly people and true sense of community. To keep that spirit alive, the Chamber is honored to host the largest single-day event in Midland each year, the Star-Spangled Salute. This past year, we were thrilled to raise "Old Glory" once again and light up the skies with a spectacular fireworks display at Hogan Park. The event continues to bring people together and remind us all of what makes Midland such a special place to call home.

The Chamber has seen our elected officials and community leaders come together with a renewed sense of excitement and cooperation this past year. Midland is certainly facing a number of challenges — but our community and our leaders are up to the task. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better 2019.

Growth, change, community empowerment highlight year for Educate Midland

Pervis Evans

Educate Midland executive director



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Becca Myers, data manager with Educate Midland, speaks April 4 during a meeting with Early Childhood Action Network members.

Everything we need for students to thrive can be found in our own community. This principle is a driving force behind the work of Educate Midland, a nonprofit organization and collaborative effort to improve the Midland education system. While systems transformation can take years to achieve, 2018 has been a year of growth, change, and community empowerment.

Educate Midland grew the size of its staff and board of directors this year and added new partners to its 48-member leadership team. This year, we released a baseline report that laid out eight student success indicators that the leadership team chose to monitor over time. The indicators include: kindergarten readiness, third-grade reading, fourth-grade math, Algebra I, high school graduation, college and career readiness, college enrollment and college completion.

In order to improve the rate of kindergarten readiness and early literacy, our Early Childhood Action Network (ECAN) began strategizing ways to address the needs for more child care and early learning centers. The conversation has extended beyond the ECAN to community stakeholders who are acting upon creative solutions to child care access for our early learners.

One of the major projects of Educate Midland's ECAN was the May 2018 release of the "I am my child's first teacher" campaign. The awareness campaign was created in response to a recent study showing that nearly half of our children were not ready for kindergarten. The campaign was meant to encourage

parents and caregivers of young children and to provide them with resources for healthy early childhood development. In six months, the campaign reached over 300,000 people in the region.

Parents were not the only ones Educate Midland sought to encourage. In April, nearly 700 local teachers and education support staff gathered for our Celebrating Champions of Education event. The celebratory event was organized by several partnering organizations and consisted of a free dinner, a resource fair, door prizes, and an energizing presentation from keynote and educator, Tim Brown.

For many students, formal learning opportunities carried over into the summer. This year, Educate Midland helped align community partners offering summer programs with a collective project to prevent "summer slide." Participating organizations partnered with Midland ISD to incorporate their online reading and math tools into their summer curriculum so that students could maintain or grow in their reading and math proficiency.

Educate Midland does not only focus on early childhood and middle grade education. It is equally as important to help adolescents and young adults successfully complete high school, ready for college, career or military endeavors. This year, a new action network was started to help students develop and carry out their educational and career plans, the Community Secondary and Postsecondary Action Network (CSPAN). Collective efforts to increase the number of

our students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has already resulted in steady improvement, but there is still much work to be done.

Additionally, Educate Midland has partnered with 1 TO 1 Focused Learning, a volunteer community program that connects churches with neighboring schools for after school tutoring. The program now includes campuses from both Midland ISD and Greenwood ISD and continues to expand.

These programs and initiatives are important for connecting our community around student achievement, but we must continuously ask ourselves if any of them are making an impact. The only way we will know is by using data to track continuous improvement. Educate Midland makes it a priority to collect and assess the impact of these activities on our community goals. We have added a data dashboard to our website to help tell the story of progress over time.

It has been an exciting year for Educate Midland, and we are just getting started. In the months to come we plan to do a better job of engaging our entire community. We plan to be more inclusive of students, parents, teachers and our diverse languages and ethnic groups. We will continue to work with partners to develop, attract and retain quality educators in our region, and we will strive to find and leverage our existing resources for the benefit of students.

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Permian Basin MPO's commitment to transportation results in needing funding

Permian Basin Metropolitan
Planning Organization



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Road closures and construction underway Nov. 13 at the overpass for Fairgrounds Road and North Loop 250.

The Permian Basin MPO is a public agency; it is the Midland Odessa region's transportation planning leader. The agency has existed since 1965. The MPO is a federally mandated agency that sets the priorities for planning and funding for transportation infrastructure in a defined geographic area that includes the cities of Odessa and Midland, major portions of Ector and Midland Counties and a portion of Martin County.

The MPO has historically received its funding from federal and state sources and since 2017, other funding assistance has come from the Midland and Odessa Economic Development Corps. Major projects completed, or under construction in the region, include the ramp reconstruction on I-20 at W. Loop 250 and at Farm-to-Market Road 1788; road widening of North Fairgrounds Road; an overpass to improve safety and mobility conditions at Loop 250/Fairgrounds Road; a section of North Big Spring Street from Loop 250 extending northward to the Martin County line to add medians, a center left-turn lane and improve drainage conditions; widening and adding a center left-turn lane on FM 1788 (State Highway 349) from SH 191 to 1 mile north of SH 158.

Beginning in 2019 through 2022, the MPO has committed its funds for the following priority projects:

- \$21.5 million, which includes \$2 million of Midland Development Corp. (MDC) funds for an interchange at County Road 1150/Elkins Road at Loop 250 (beginning 2019);
- Complete reconstruction of Midkiff Road at I-20 for \$28.16 million, which includes \$2

million of MDC funds (beginning 2020);

- A new interchange at CR 1250 at I-20 for \$19.84 million (2020);
- A new interchange at CR 1140 at Loop 250 for \$20.015 million (2020) which includes \$3 million of MDC funds;
- I-20 improvements from the John Ben Sheppard interchange to West Loop 250 in the amount of \$104.9 million, including a new interchange at Faudree Road in western Midland County (2022);
- A total of \$627,038 of Federal and city of Midland funds for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements downtown (2019);
- Ramp reconfigurations for \$26.26 million including \$3 million of MDC funds to improve congestion and safety at Loop 250 at SH 191 (2021).

In addition to these important transportation projects in the city of Midland and Midland County, several critically needed projects are also programmed in Odessa and Ector County. The MPO is taking a lead role with TxDOT and consultants to modernize the I-20 corridor along the entire 42-mile portion lying in the MPO boundary. This important project will be completed in phases and will likely include existing bridge reconstruction, frontage road conversion to one-way, U-turns, and new bridge locations. This work is in a planning stage with initial construction occurring on a 12-mile portion as shown above.

The MPO is responsible for leading planning efforts across multiple modes of transportation. The general manager of EZ Rider assists with the development of priority projects which have a direct impact on transit operations. In addition to this coordination effort, the MPO has also established a bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee to help staff and the public to be informed of the needs of non-motorized users of the transportation system. The MPO has funded a study to determine where potential inter-city bicycle/pedestrian corridor alignments designed to connect the cities of Odessa and Midland may be constructed. The study will be completed by March 2019; funds are not identified for construction at this time.

As the region grows and needs are identified, the MPO will continue to work with its decision-making partners which include the city of Midland, the City of Odessa, Midland, Ector and Martin Counties, TxDOT and EZ Rider to prioritize funding for projects and improve the transportation system and quality of life for residents and visitors. It is important to note that the commitment of additional funds from the development corporations indicates to the MPO's Policy Board and the Texas Transportation Commission just how important projects are at the local level. Many of the MPO's long range projects have been expedited by the funding commitments coming from the development corporations.

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Welcome to the 2018 Year in Review.

MRT Media would like to thank the taxing entities, non-profits and other organizations that helped us provide the information for this special section. We believe that the more we know about what happens in our community, the more prepared our community will be for the future.

At MRT Media, this marks the last special section/custom publication of the year. On that note, it has been a record year. This year's publications include four MRT Magazines, Business Insider, Oil Report Special Edition, Discover, Readers' Choice, Health & Wellness, the real estate publication Sold and All-American.

Our special sections and custom publications provide a different format for getting you the articles, features and information that will make you more knowledgeable about the place where you live.

You never know what the new year will bring. However, if you are wanting to submit content for publication, just send an email to news@mrt.com. We are always looking for news, pictures and quality information about the people in our community.

There was plenty happening in 2018, the following entities participated in telling their stories in their own words. They include: Midland College, Midland County, the Midland and Odessa chambers of commerce, Midland and Ector ISDs, Educate Midland, Midland Community Theatre, Museum of the Southwest, Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance, Permian Basin MPO, Midland-Odessa Symphony Chorale and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

We hope you enjoy.

Stewart Doreen



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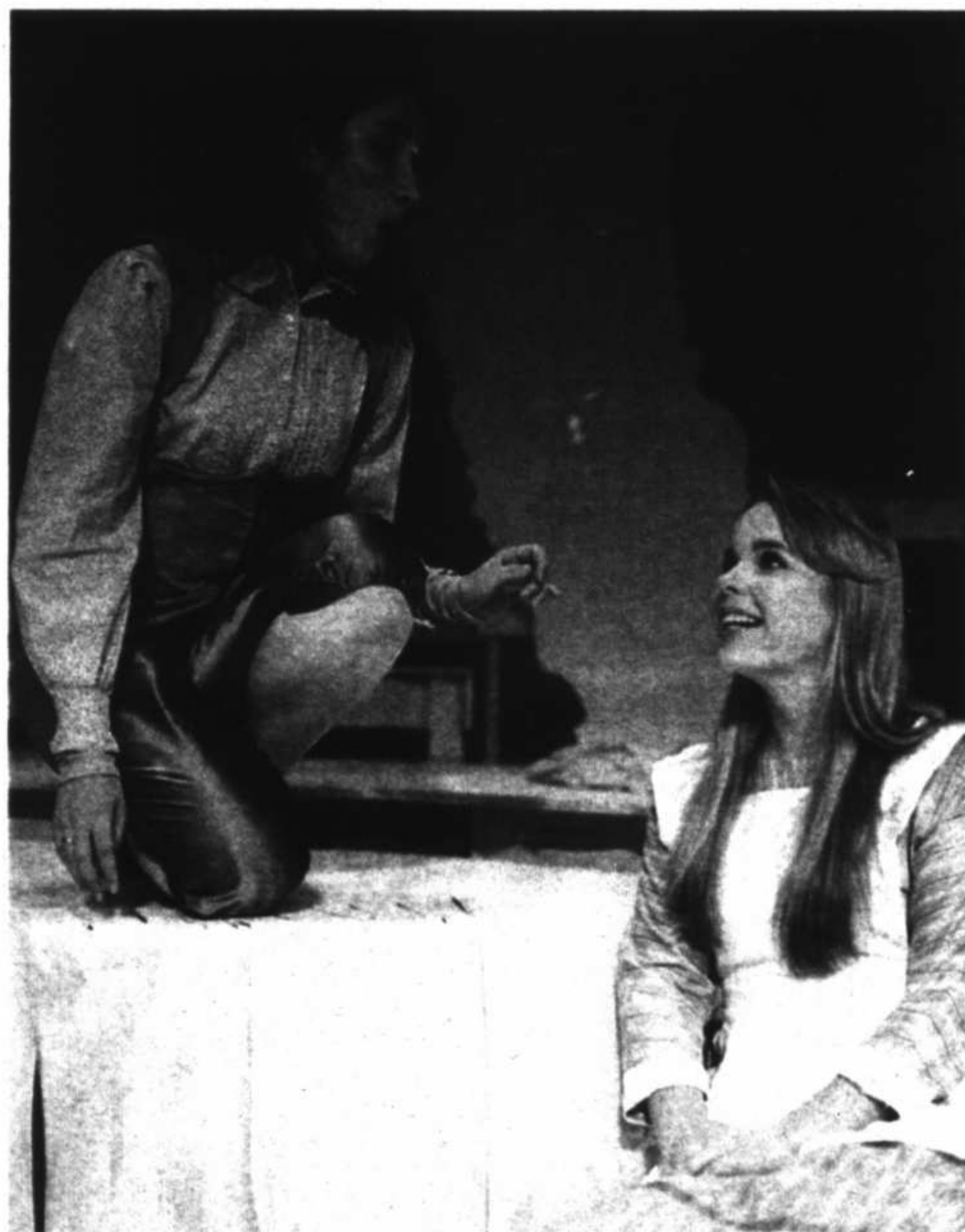
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Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Above: Scenes from "Clue", photographed Aug. 30, 2018, at Midland Community Theater.
Below: Alice (Abi Cheek) tries to communicate with a Fawn (Camryn Matheson) during a Sept. 27, rehearsal for the upcoming Pickwick Players production "Alice In Wonderland", at MCT.

2018 was prosperous, productive year for Midland Community Theatre

Midland Community Theatre

Midland Community Theatre would like to thank Midlanders and those in the Permian Basin for continuing to support local theatre arts and education this past year. In 2018, MCT was honored to be one of the first community theatres in the United States to produce the award-winning musical, Mamma Mia. Likewise, MCT also had a few other new shows for the community on the roster including the 2016 McLaren winner, No Business Like It, A Comedy of Tenors, Clue the Musical and the holiday favorite Elf The Musical.

The shows sounded much different this year, thanks to a generous grant from the Scharbauer Foundation, Inc. which allowed MCT to upgrade all of the sound equipment in the Davis and Mabee theatres as well as purchase additional wireless microphones for those on stage. A grant from The Paul and Katherine Morrow Family Foundation also helped MCT's Education Department to expand the Applause! Players program to two weekly classes. Applause! Players was started in 2013 to engage students on the spectrum and is offered free of charge to families.

MCT, along with a partnership with MISD, engaged more than 10,000 students through theatre education this year. Grants from the Permian Basin Area Foundation and Warren Charitable Trust assisted in providing free school tours and performances to thousands of elementary school students this fall with the Pickwick Players presentation of Alice in Wonderland. Likewise, MCT also welcomed students from Fort Stockton, Monahans, Hobbs and Andrews for performances throughout the year and more than 3,000 participated in our Reach Out program, made possible by the Abell-Hanger Foundation, which offers free performances to 40 area nonprofits and service organizations.

The Pickwick Players were able to grow in

the field of dance this year, thanks to a grant from the FMH Foundation to put on a week-long dance intensive workshop. The workshop brought back three former Pickwicks – Sarah Newton, Clayton Cross, and Tyler Rhoads – to teach different dance and theatre techniques to the students.

Since the Legacy Society was started in 2008 at MCT by Rosalind Redfern Grover, Helen Joan Holt and Paula Cahoon, each year, a portion of Legacy Society memberships is given to support the MCT Endowment Fund. Next year, the Legacy Society members will have contributed more than \$1 million to the endowment for Midland Community Theatre.

In 2019, MCT is excited to announce that Beauty and the Beast will be the opening musical and will run from February 1 through March 2. Other shows for 2019 include The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Second Samuel (produced with help from Midland College), Beer for Breakfast, Newsies, The Great American Trailer Park Musical, Frankenstein, The Kitchen Witches and the holiday musical Seussical.

Midland Community Theatre will also gear up for its 75th anniversary celebrations in 2020 and is looking forward to celebrating with the community. On behalf of the board of trustees and governors at MCT, we thank everyone in the community for continuing to support your community theatre and allowing us to continue to entertain and provide quality theatre arts, education and volunteer opportunities.

MIDLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE
MCT



Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Top: The Cheshire Cat (Danielle Bryden) tries to explain the workings of Wonderland to Alice (Abigail Nichols) during a Sept. 27, rehearsal for the upcoming Pickwick Players production "Alice In Wonderland" at MCT.
Bottom Left: Rehearsal for the production "No Business Like It" April 19, at MCT.
Bottom Right: Scenes from "Clue", photographed Aug. 30, at MCT.

Odessa community shows support for ECISD with TRE passage

Ector County ISD

For Ector County Independent School District, 2018 can be summed up in three letters — TRE. On Nov. 6, voters approved a tax ratification election increasing the school district's maintenance and operations tax rate by 13 cents to the state maximum of \$1.17. The measure passed with nearly 62 percent voting for it. The successful campaign came one year after voters defeated a similar proposition and a school bond package. In the immediate, the TRE means an additional \$18 million in local and state revenue for ECISD this year. In the long-term it lays the foundation to prepare for the growth that is projected for the district. The first priority for the TRE funds is across-the-board raises. The starting salary for teachers will jump to \$50,000, a move school district officials hope will help address the need to fill more than 200 teacher vacancies.

The success of the TRE campaign really hinged on the hard work of the community members who supported it and spent months learning about school finance, ECISD's circumstances and then promoting the issue through meetings and door-to-door canvassing.

That wave of community support for its schools shone through as new partnerships grew and impacted students in a positive way in 2018. The ACCESS partnership aligned local medical institutions with middle schools to provide speakers, mentors, career exploration, and eventually internships for students. A drop in the teen pregnancy rate led to The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy bestowing its Community Partnership Award to ECISD, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and The Life Center. The district joined with the Boys & Girls Club of Odessa to be-



Local eighth- through 12th-grade students had the opportunity to visit with more than 50 colleges and universities 10/3/18 as part of Ector County ISD's annual College Night.

gin building a new Club facility on the campus of E.K. Downing Elementary. A Chevron grant for \$150,000 supported engineering courses and PICK Education, Southwest Bank gave \$78,000 to buy 300 Chromebook laptops for Crockett Middle School. December brought an incredible gift of \$300,000 from Medical Center Health System and the MCHS Foundation to buy 1,170 Chromebooks for four other middle schools.

As 2019 approaches, the ECISD board of trustees is beginning the search for a new superintendent of schools. In May, then Superintendent Tom Crowe announced his retirement. The school board hired Jim Nelson to lead the district through the 2019-2020 school year, and help transition to the new superintendent. The search for that new superintendent officially began in late November. Nelson, an attorney by trade, served on the ECISD board of trustees from 1984-1995 was appointed as the commissioner of Education of the Texas Education Agency, worked as the superintendent of Richardson Independent School District for two years, and from there became the executive director-chief executive officer for AVID Center. He has served on numerous state and national education advisory boards.

A few other highlights from 2018:

- ECISD reached an all-time high in August when student enrollment topped 33,000.
- The school district's two early college high schools welcomed their first senior classes this year and look forward to those first graduation ceremonies in May.
- In an effort to address low performing schools, the school district began an in-district charter school at Ector Middle School through an arrangement with a newly formed non-profit organization, Ector Middle School College Prep Success Academy. In addition, Travis-Zavala and Noel-Pease elementary schools became sets of partner schools with reconfigured with grade levels focused on meeting early education needs of the community.
- District officials altered the boundary zones for a dozen elementary and middle schools in order to address overcrowding due to population growth and shifting.
- The ECISD Innovation Department took students to new heights — literally — by arranging an invitation to take part in the Student Space-flight Experiments Program (SSEP). A team of students from Falcon Early College High School

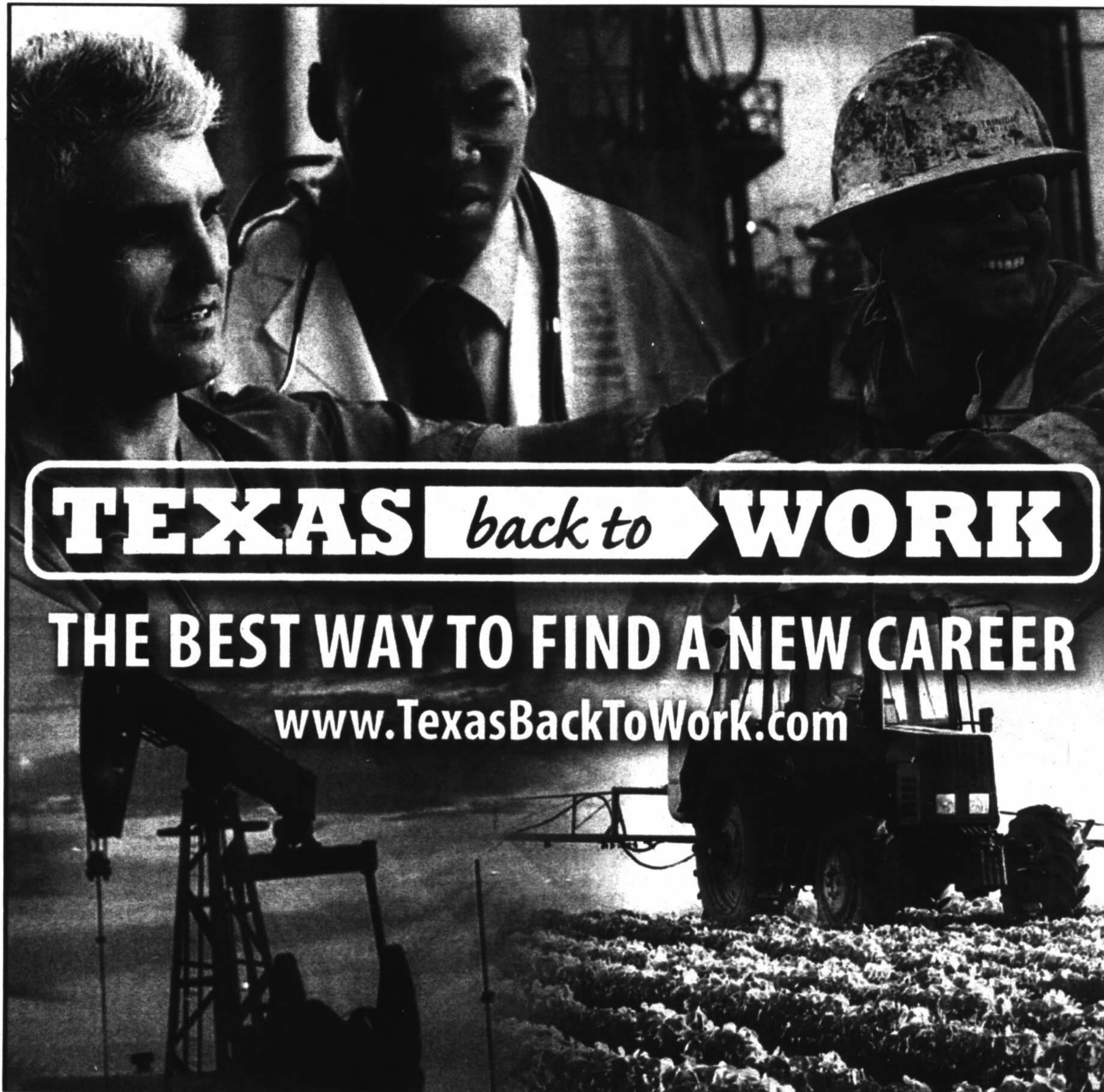


Photos by Tori Aldana/191 News

Local eighth- through 12th-grade students had the opportunity to visit with more than 50 colleges and universities Oct. 3 as part of Ector County ISD's annual College Night. The event was in the University of Texas of the Permian Basin's gymnasium and organized by ECISD's secondary counselors and college and career advisors. Parents and students had the chance to talk with college representatives about everything from admissions standards to fields of study to financial aid. Separate financial aid forums were held in both English and Spanish.

designed "The Efficacy of Ideonella Sakaiensis in a Microgravity Environment" which looked at how that bacteria will decompose poly(ethylene terephthalate) in microgravity and compare it to Earth. In July, their experiment was flown to the International Space Station where it was conducted by astronauts. ECISD has been accepted into the program again for 2019.

- The Innovation Department also expanded its PICK Education initiative by connecting teachers and students with real world research projects, arranging presentations by world-renowned researchers, and creating new partnerships with Tulane University School of Medicine, San Francisco State University, Southern Methodist University and The University of Texas. The Innovation Department also planned and executed the first TEDx event for Odessa, Moonshot Madness, featuring seven speakers.
- For the fourth year in a row, ECISD received distinction as one of the nation's Best Communities for Music Education. This prestigious designation comes from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.
- Odessa High School earned revalidation as an AVID National Demonstration School, an honor that goes to only about 1 percent of AVID schools nationwide.
- OHS student Mayely Carrasco won a Student Hero award from the State Board of Education for starting a suicide prevention program at the school.



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Collaboration, partnerships help Midland College meet challenges in 2018

By Steve Thomas | Midland College president

Midland College was faced with many challenges and opportunities to serve our community in 2018, but as I reflect on this past year, two words come to mind when thinking about how we approached these challenges and opportunities — collaboration and partnerships.

The Permian Basin's robust oil and gas industry has propelled workforce education and training at MC. The college is constantly assessing the workforce needs of our community, and it is no surprise that business leaders look to MC for qualified employees. To meet local and regional demand, the college offers customized training in welding, truck driving, energy technology, information technology and diesel and automotive mechanics, to name a few. The Petroleum Professional Development Center offered a variety of continuing education for professionals in the industry, and demand for these courses was at an all-time high.

Our partnership with the Midland Independent School District has never been stronger. Of particular note is the College and Career Academies with the MISD that began in fall 2017. As a result of this collaboration, three transformative academies — Petroleum Academy, Health Sciences Academy and Business, Management and Information Technology Academy — are now offered to high school students. Thanks to funding from the Midland Development Corp. and Abell-Hanger Foundation, high school students are able to embark on pathways that enable them to fulfill high school graduation requirements and earn college credits leading to industry certifications and university transfer programs. During the 2018-2019 academic year, 868 high school students are enrolled in one of the three academies. This is an increase of 567 above the starting enrollment in fall 2017. In addition, MC's recent partnership with the Midland Development Corp. and the Texas Workforce Commission allowed the college to expand the MC Transportation Training Program.

Midland College's commitment to education continues to expand to inspire learning in younger students and offer them pathways to college. Early College High School at MC (ECHS@MC) gives students the opportunity to earn an associate degree and high school diploma at the same time. In fact, ECHS@MC has one of the highest percentages of students receiving both an associate degree and a high school diploma in the state.

In 2018, MC continued to connect students with four-year university programs through articulation agreements that outline guaranteed transferable coursework. A 2018 agreement now allows MC engineering students to seamlessly transfer to UTPB. Thanks to generous support from Concho Resources, in fall 2019, MC will partner with Texas A&M to offer the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Midland College. MC also works closely with all of our regional university partners, including Texas Tech University, Angelo State University and Sul Ross State University.

Even more new residents have moved to our area in 2018, and they have brought increased healthcare demands. Midland College continues to train nurses and health care professionals, and MC is in its third year of the Primary Care Pathway Program, an accelerated medical program that partners with the University of North Texas and Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine allowing students to become a physician in just seven years.

After numerous discussions with community stakeholders, it is evident that more quality childcare is sorely needed in Midland, and MC is planning to expand the Helen L. Greathouse Children's Center to serve more children. In addition, we are closely following opportunities to partner with MISD in their quest to revitalize primary school education. To help the district meet their needs for teachers, MC is considering starting a Pre-K (4-year-old) charter school.

This year also brought exciting updates and expansion. A groundbreaking was held for the new June and Frank Cowden, Jr. Dining Hall that is scheduled for completion in 2020. It will accommodate 480 people, and a Community Room will seat 90 people.

The community enjoyed a variety of free lectures, art exhibits, performances and special events on campus in 2018. Thanks to the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series and the Phyllis and Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series thousands of West Texans heard lectures from documentary filmmaker Barak Goodman and U.S. Military General (ret.) David Petraeus. The community also enjoyed musical performances by Grammy-winners Mariachi Los Camperos and Emmylou Harris.

Midland College is ever mindful of our unique role in the community to offer quality education for our students and cultural enrichment for the community,



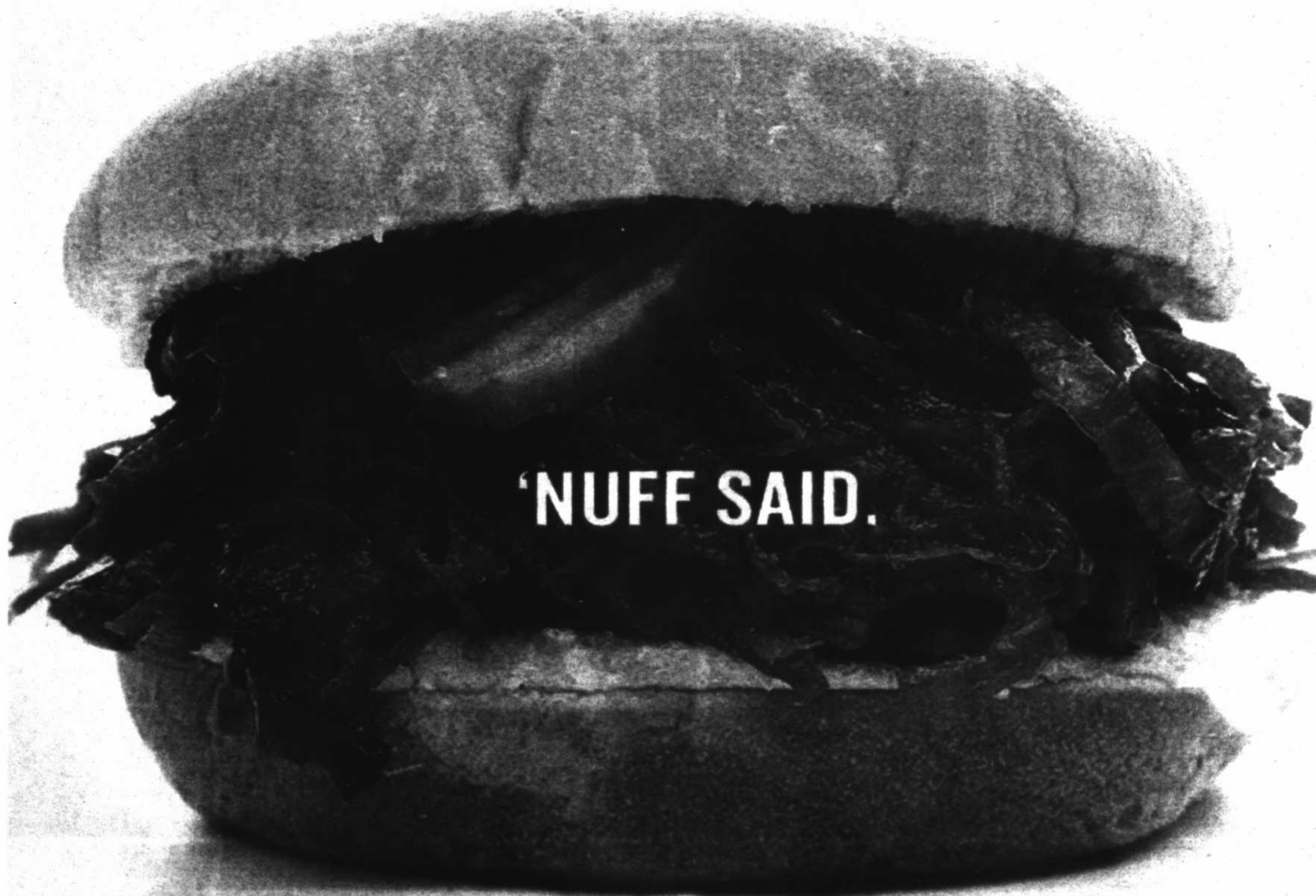
Photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Members of the Cowden family and Midland College board members dig ceremonial dirt Sept. 10 during the ground breaking event for the new June and Frank Cowden, Jr. Dining Hall.



Gen. Tommy Franks, Ret. and his friend Joe Crookham, owner of Musco Lighting, speak to students in the Midland Young Leaders Challenge June 14 at the Gen. Tommy Franks Leadership Institute seminar on Midland College campus.

and we are so fortunate to live in such a philanthropic community. As an example, thanks to the generosity of community donors, in 2018 MC students received more than 200 general scholarships totaling approximately \$1 million. We are proud to be your college, and MC's outstanding faculty and staff are eager to meet the challenges in 2019 and beyond.



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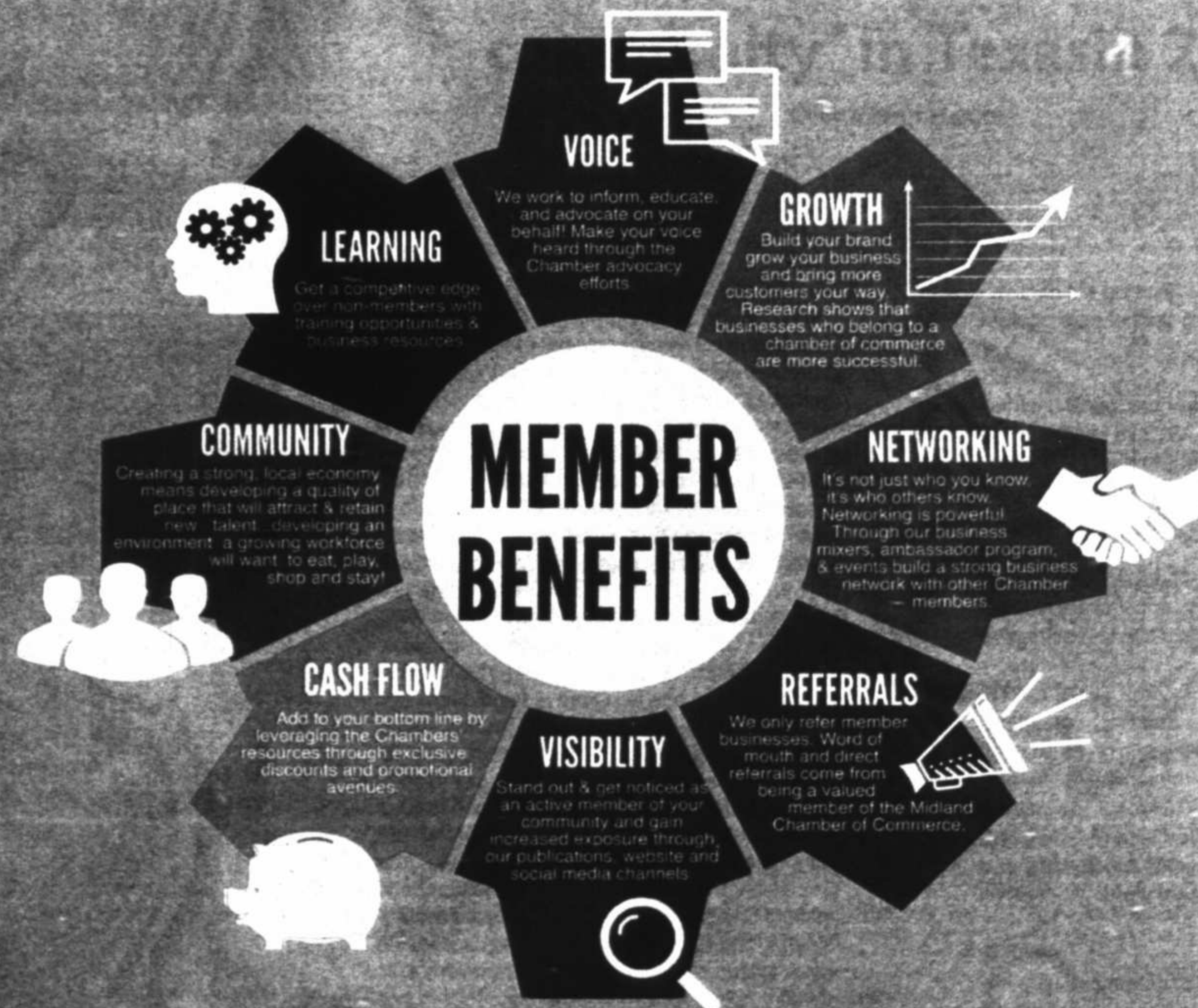
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Photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Above: Russell Meyers, Midland Memorial Hospital president and CEO, speaks Sept. 24 during a press conference announcing the expansion of the 68-NURSE call line to include mental health concerns and the Okay to Say campaign to raise awareness of mental health options in the community.

Center: Families stroll through Grafa Park past tables decorated with information about local health and family services Aug. 4 during the Midland Wellness Tour.

Below: Dr. Harshad Shah, M.D., P.A. examines Michaelle Jean Marie's eyes 06/08/18 in his office at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

Midland Health continues its mission to be 'healthiest community' in Texas in 2019

By Midland Health

In 2018, we continued on our path to make Midland the healthiest community in Texas.

Our Lifestyle Medicine Center expanded their program offerings to include yoga sessions, Community CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program), weekly educational classes on various lifestyle medicine topics, and a special Eat to Beat Cancer class series. The center is also the only facility in Texas to offer the Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease — a noninvasive and scientifically-proven program shown to reverse heart disease through diet and lifestyle.

Twelve new providers were brought to our area including five hospitalists, a urologist, a cardiologist, a family medicine physician, an orthopedic surgeon, a dermatologist, a maternal and fetal medicine physician, and an otolaryngologist — a joint effort with Midland Development Corp. to expand our network of health care providers and specialties. Stay tuned in Spring 2019 for the roll-out of BasinMD.com, a new telehealth service that will allow patients to visit with a provider 24/7 using their smartphone, tablet, or computer.

More providers signed up for Midland Quality Alliance, a clinically integrated network of health care delivery that ties payments to quality metrics and cost of care. MQA allows for synergy between hospital staff, primary care providers and post-acute care facilities to ensure each patient has a coordinated plan of care. This was made possible with the implementation of Beacon, our new electronic health record that launched in June.

Also this year, we received accreditation as a Level II NIC, and a full build-out of a Level III NICU space will begin in 2019, fully funded by charitable donations from our community. We also partnered with Midland County Public Library Foundation to launch the Born to Read initiative, to provide a new

book to every baby born at our hospital and encourage parents to read to their children.

QUALITY

- Certified Knee and Hip Replacement Center of Excellence by DNV
- Total Joint Center Blue Distinction Center+ by Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Three-Time Pathway to Excellence Designated
- Level II NICU Accredited
- Breast Center is the only center in Texas to be certified by ACR, NAPBC, and NQMCB

CONSTRUCTION

- Completed Cath Lab renovations
- Completed Auxiliary Gift Shop expansion
- Completed buildout of new Employee Fitness Center
- Completed Phase 1 of Wayfinding Plan: installed colored entrance graphics, parking lot banners, and internal signage

FINANCIAL

- Net gain before capital contributions was \$396,424.
- Contributed Capital and Gifts was \$1,528,971, compared to prior year of \$2,088,922.
- Admissions decreased from the prior year by 4.9%, for total admissions of 10,562 compared to prior year total admissions of 11,113.
- Net Operating Revenue was \$258,700,429, a decrease of \$183,880 from the prior year.
- Uncompensated care increased 24% from the prior fiscal year.



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County government will face challenges in 2019

By Mike Bradford | Midland County Judge

As Midland County looks forward to the coming calendar year there will always be the benchmark issues: more road construction, road repair, maintaining a well-paid workforce, and providing exceptional facilities for the public to conduct their business in. However, there are substantial new challenges that pose the biggest threats to good local government.

1. A proposed 2.5 percent rollback rate is unrealistic for Midland County. If this occurs, the public would constantly be paying for elections because of the

necessity to go above this to meet the demands of our rapidly growing community. Because of the nature of our economy, Midland County does not fit the conversation of a very steady, methodical, growing community. This rollback concept didn't work in California and ultimately resulted in much higher property taxes and very possible that episode would be repeated here in Texas. It's a good sound bite, and it's a fairytale world proposal by some extreme organizations. Currently, a taxpayer can come to any open hearing and protest,

organize a recall election for any elected, or simply go vote in the primary and general elections. The best government is always local control as expressed by those citizens within that community not some organizations out of Austin.

2. Look behind the conversation of rollback and ask, "How are school finances going to be paid for?" This materially affects the community as a whole. People at the capitol have suggested using the additional severance tax from oil and gas production to pay for schools. If this occurs, then those additional monies would be redirected from TXDOT where it's used for infrastructure. This means there would probably be less monies available to help West Texas in its infrastructure needs that result in this ability to increase oil and gas severance tax. Therefore, you have increased pressure on Midland County to increase taxes and pay for infrastructure.

Affordable housing must be addressed. I believe Midland County, through public/private partnerships, could provide perhaps roads and streets and the developments in Midland County (outside city limits) and be repaid for this work as the properties are sold.

4. Substantial need for primary medical professionals. This could be accomplished by partnership between Midland Memorial, Midland County, and the city of Midland coming together to fund graduate medical physicians at the hospital to attract new medical residence.

Some of these are not traditional roles of county government but are necessary in a rocket style economy to continuously provide the quality of life and workforce needed for our community.

A recent survey by the major oil companies' employees in our market revealed a surprising first choice of what they wanted. Their first request was more venues and activities for them and their families — not new roads, not lower taxes. This was their first request. So, this request could be fulfilled by sponsoring events or other activities the Commissioners feel comfortable supporting.

The current Commissioners have always shown innovation and determination in providing the best for Midland County. As we move forward, I believe the community will learn to appreciate these Commissioners even more.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland County Library director John Trischitti talks about the renovation plans for the downtown library during the celebration of the 5-year anniversary of the Centennial Branch of Midland County Library April 13.

UT Permian Basin moves forward to better serve region

UTPB

2018 for The University of Texas Permian Basin can be summed up in two words: moving forward. The university is moving into its next chapter with big plans.

The year began with a "topping out" ceremony for the Engineering Building — a tradition celebrating a major structural milestone in the construction of significant buildings.

The \$55 million three-story facility will house the College of Engineering. The building will include space for classrooms, instructional labs, research, administrative offices and student support services.

UT Permian Basin President Sandra Woodley says the space will be state-of-the-art.

"There is so much happening around the energy industry. This gives the University an opportunity to provide a workforce and innovation that's needed," Woodley said.

A key player to take innovation to the next level is the new College of Engineering Dean George Nnanna.

Before coming to UTPB, Nnanna led the mechanical and civil engineering departments at Purdue University Northwest in Indiana.

"My experience as founding director of Purdue Water Institute will help me in developing strategic initiatives necessary for the growth of the College," Nnanna said. "UT Permian Basin Engineering is well-positioned to be an academic leader in the energy

industry."

Another area of growth — the College of Business. Steve Beach came on board as the new dean of the College of Business. Beach comes to UT Permian Basin after serving as associate dean and professor of Finance in the College of Business and Economics at Radford University.

"We are assembling a team of talented and innovative people to lead this University into the future. Steve Beach and George Nnanna are the kind of leaders we need to ensure that graduates from UT Permian are highly recruited and well prepared for the workforce," Woodley said.

The university also broke ground on the D. Kirk Edwards Human Performance Center in September.

"We believe upgraded facilities will instill a sense of pride in our athletic programs while inspiring research and advanced learning for our students," she said. "Our students and athletes deserve a facility like this. We expect the best from them in the classroom, at practice and at game-time. They should expect the same from us."

The 63,000-square-foot facility will house the Kinesiology Department including classrooms and labs. It will also give all student athletes a new space to train and coaches a place to recruit.

The year ended with a historic Investiture Ceremony — an official conferring of President Woodley. At the



ceremony, Woodley laid out her plan for the future of the University.

"Our strategic plan is outward focused. It is truly focused on the value we can bring to the community," Woodley said. "That's how we win. That is how we achieve success — we focus on our value and we focus on doing the work every day that will make a difference in the community."

Those goals include doubling the number of people who earn a degree, doubling research, a campus transformation plan and growing our own workforce — including K-12 teachers.

"These professionals are so badly needed in the Permian Basin," she said. "We have a responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that our public school students receive the quality education they deserve."

The university also plans to create an internship program to give students in every field of study "real-world" experience and more hands-on learning.

"This is a win-win for our students and our industry partners. Internships and co-ops, along with capstone projects that connect our students to their careers long before they graduate, will be a differentiator for UT Permian Basin," Woodley said. "This program will provide us an opportunity to gain a deep understanding of what our industry leaders need from our graduates and we will deliver on that service."

The Permian Basin is one of the most important places on Earth — and this is no overstatement. The Texas Tribune reports that the U.S. just surpassed Russia as the world's top oil producer. The paper states that oil from our area will account for 80 percent of the growth in global supply over the next seven years.

"The University of Texas Permian Basin has a major role to play in the future success of West Texas and beyond — and we are up for the challenge," Woodley said. "This is your university and we are here to serve."



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Bottom Left: Construction on the UTPB engineering building is shown April 5.

Top Right: Chancellor James Milliken, The University of Texas System, presents Sandra Woodley, UTPB President, with the Presidential Medallion and the University Mace on Nov. 5 as her husband, Stan Woodley and father, Jack Green, look on. **Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram**



MISD Convocation Aug. 10 at Chapparral Center.
James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Commitment to community remains strong for MISD in 2018

Midland ISD

Midland ISD is transforming through our Midland on the Move initiative. Last year, we began our transformation by reaching out to our community with our Listen & Learn Tour that gathered feedback about what our community wanted to stop, start and keep. Our goal has been to make that reality occur. We have taken action and already have experienced success.

We began this year with a zero-based budgeting process. Our campuses now build their own budgets based on the unique needs of their student population and inform district leadership about what they require to accomplish their academic goals. We want our campuses to have more autonomy so they can best serve their students, which is why Midland ISD is determined to become a System of Great Schools by 2027.

Every Midland child deserves a great school in their neighborhood that meets their individual needs and maximizes their potential. Changing Central Office's role from a managed-instruction model to one of guidance and support will help campuses better serve our children. It's a large task, and achieving it requires steadfast determination.

Midland ISD continues to develop our teacher and staff leadership. Our team continues our professional learning communities (PLC) as a major driver for teacher-to-teacher learning. We have seen outcomes from our PLC work both academically and aspirationally. As an example, Milam Elementary is now a No Excuses University campus. Thirteen other schools have taken steps to become NEU campuses, and Midland ISD is working to become an NEU district. NEU is a network that fosters professional development to help pave the way for all students to attend college. This summer, Midland will be the site for NEU's national

training seminar.

Central office staff, principals and aspiring leaders are participating in Rice University's Executive Education Academy in order to develop leadership skills with some of the most prominent educators in the nation. Our own Diane Lopez, executive director of elementary education, was selected this year to participate in Leadership Midland's program. Midland ISD was recently named a finalist to participate in the Holdsworth Center's next leadership cohort, which focuses on building a talent pipeline and leadership development system for our teachers, principals and Central Office staff.

Our Midland ISD board of trustees also is teaching others how to be leaders. The district has accepted the Texas Education Agency's invitation to serve as a mentor district in its inaugural Lone Star Governance Exemplar Cohort. Midland ISD will mentor other school district boards as they, too, pursue instituting campus autonomy programs, a reflection on the great success we already have achieved.

Getting every student prepared and ready for college or career requires best-in-class faculty and staff. Fiscal efficiencies gained through the implementation of zero-based budgeting, changing the fiscal year start date and using a new financial software system have enabled the district to hire 31 additional teaching positions, two additional non-special-education behavioral therapists, nine balanced literacy teachers and two additional school resource officers.

Despite the constraint of a \$57.5 million Chapter 41 recapture payment, the district provided a 2 percent pay increase for all auxiliary, clerical, instructional, support and administrative staff. The minimum begin-

ning teacher pay was raised to \$50,000, which continues to keep pace with the rest of the state. Midland ISD is also one of the few remaining school districts that pays 100 percent of base health care coverage for all employees and did not increase the benefit cost, despite the rise in health care costs.

Midland's strong economy is drawing families from around the world, which has put a strain on child-care services throughout the Tall City. To ease this burden felt by Midland ISD employees and to strengthen our recruitment efforts, the district transformed our Early Learning Center to include children of teachers and staff. It's a major relief for our growing families and helps educators focus on teaching the next generation of successful leaders while we take care of their most precious gifts.

Through the District of Innovation concept implemented this year, Midland ISD is working to better individualize instruction at the campus level and improve academic performance. Midland ISD wants to create its own standard to determine qualifications for staff such as qualified experiences and work history — all in an effort to increase staffing flexibility locally and to bring highly experienced specialists into the classroom.

Midland is growing, and our school district is evolving. We are ready to work side by side with industry and community leaders to help us create educational opportunities today that will keep Midland strong well into the future as the next generation of leaders takes the reins.

Thank you for allowing Midland ISD to share just a portion of what our commitment is to our community.



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Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale continues enriching community through music

Midland-Odessa Symphony & Chorale

Serving the community with another year of enriching lives through music, MOSC reflects on a year of providing symphonic orchestral music performed by professional musicians that touched the lives of children and adults of all ages. Five-Thousand elementary school students from MISD and ECISD experienced a live symphonic concert, "Marvelous Melodies" at the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center along with special performances in their schools. The students enjoyed conducting the orchestra from their seats and swaying along to the music. Their favorite moment was guessing the musical piece that was about to be performed while only hearing the first seven notes of the "Harry Potter" theme.

Continuing to present the great symphonies by such composers as Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Debussy, these Masterworks concerts also featured stellar guest artists such as internationally renowned timpanist Michael Tetreault and opera singer Amy Burton. The MOSC took advantage of some of the Basin's amazing local music talent in the global celebration of "Bernstein at 100," featuring opera singer David Corman and singers from the UPTB choir. This special celebration of the 100th birthday of America's most esteemed conductor, composer and humanitarian Leonard Bernstein proved an excellent opening of MOSC's 56th season.

Permian Basin audiences also enjoyed pops concerts designed to appeal to a variety of musical tastes

featuring the music of Chicago performed by Brass Transit, the Grammy Award-winning Indigo Girls and a patriotic salute to our local heroes entitled "Celebrating Our Heroes."

The winter and spring lineup includes a Basin favorite, Rachmaninoff's piano concerto #3 performed by David Korevaar in January along with Shostakovich's Symphony #9. April's symphonic concert will feature saxophonist Timothy McAllister performing recently recorded "Rush" along with the ever popular "Pines of Rome" by Respighi. "Dancing and Romancing" in March will feature Broadway stars Joan Hess and Kirby Ward performing an evening of song and dance inspired by the likes of Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and Gene Kelly. MOSC will conclude the 56th season with the symphony chorale joining the orchestra for a memorable concert featuring "Jeans 'n Classics Music of Elton John & Billy Joel."

MOSC kept the Lone Star Brass, West Texas Winds and Permian Basin String Quartet busy with a total of six chamber concerts, performed in the Rea-Great-house Concert Hall. Concertmaster John Madura and his wife principal viola Melissa Madura moved to Wisconsin in June. MOSC is fortunate to have them continue to play during the 56th season, with auditions for these coveted positions to be held in March.

In addition to performing two concerts in the First Presbyterian Church of Midland, the 70-plus member Symphony Chorale under the direction of Gregory M.

Pysh traveled to the British Isles this past summer performing in some of the great cathedrals of that part of the world. The 80-plus Voices of the Permian Basin under the direction of Emily Baker enjoyed performing a variety of music in their spring concert "We Sing!" Both choirs always look forward to singing in the traditional holiday concert "Sounds of the Season."

With the retirement of long standing co-principal trumpet, Michael Santorelli and principal piano, Shari Santorelli, MOSC is proud to announce the endowed chairs in their honor supported by Karen and Spencer Beal. MOSC also celebrated the newly endowed principal viola chair supported by Mary de Compiegne and Rosalind Redfern Grover.

MOSC looks forward to next season. With the continued support of the board of directors, the Midland Symphony Guild, Odessa Symphony Guild, sponsors, foundations and audience members, MOSC will continue to develop the fine artistry of this wonderful orchestra under the baton of Music Director and Conductor Gary Lewis. The 57th Season is underway and will be announced in April. Without giving too much away until the official announcement, MOSC will continue to feature world-class guest artists performing some of the world's greatest symphonic music along with more family concert events that are designed to delight film-goers of all ages.



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2018 Serves as example of MOTRAN's commitment to transportation in region

Midland-Odessa Transportation Alliance

In 2017, MOTRAN celebrated 15 years of service to Midland-Odessa and the Permian Basin, with over \$1.5 billion in additional funding for the region during that time. Our volunteer board made a decision that we would double our efforts in 2018, and it has been a remarkable year. This year alone has seen nearly \$100 million in additional funding applied toward projects in our area.

We started the year off trying to address the lack of freight traffic attributed to the area in state funding formulas. The more truck miles you have, the more funding the area receives, so getting accurate truck traffic and daily truck miles means much needed improvements and additional infrastructure funding for our region. We began a survey with energy companies and trucking surveys to collect better data. We believe that ultimately this effort could improve funding for our region by as much as 40 percent.

We have continued our work with the Midland and Odessa Development Corps. to leverage local funds to complete projects like east Loop 250 in Midland and improvements to Loop 338 in Odessa to accommodate truck traffic. That effort has already led to a 75 percent increase in area funding over the current 10 year (2017-26) transportation plan, and in the coming year, we expect those efforts to grow.

We also realize that activity levels are increasing exponentially and that traffic can drive the need for

improvements. That's why we also undertook our own in-house traffic study for the region to identify and map increases in traffic, significant traffic levels, crashes, fatalities and commercial vehicle-related crashes and fatalities, as well as, researching the underlying causes and commonalities of those incidents. From that work, we have identified efficiencies that can be implemented by companies, operational improvements to roads and highways to reduce waits and improve safety, and finally, corridors that have long term capacity needs for current and future growth.

In addition to our past efforts to expand SH 349 and SH 158, work is currently underway on the expansion of US 385 south of Odessa to four-lane divided between Crane and McCamey. We are also working on the expansion of SH 302 between Odessa and US 285, as well as, expanding our efforts to see a higher level of improvement on SH 349, south of Midland, as four lanes to Rankin. We are also working with the Texas Department of Transportation to raise awareness of the issues we see throughout the Permian Basin from Pecos to Big Spring on Interstate 20.

Part of how we have made the case to state officials for the need of addition infrastructure investment in the Permian Basin was by creating our own analysis of the economic impact of the Permian Basin on our state and nation. That case was provided to nearly 150 officials from throughout the region and is being used

by many organizations to make that same case in a number of areas. Our commitment through our Permian Basin Coalition has been to provide the data and information to help communities throughout our region better advocate for themselves and for the region. In 2019, we are expanding that partnership to other communities in eastern New Mexico. That data can be found on our website: www.energybasin.com.

We have used that venue to talk about the need to support pipelines, transmission lines and other infrastructure necessary to support our economy and transport goods without additional trucks.

Finally, we often hear from many in the Midland-Odessa area and throughout the region who want to let officials know about a pothole, or other roadway issues, but it can be frustrating if you don't know if the roadway is by the city, county or TXDOT. We have recently added a page to our website (www.motran.org) to allow individuals to report these issues and will direct their reports to the appropriate entities. We want the Permian Basin to be known for our opportunities and not unfilled potholes.

While we are not a taxing entity, we work with many of them. Our staff and board are comprised entirely of local residents, who call our area home and are committed to making the Permian Basin an even better place to live.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Traffic backs up at the light at Big Spring and Loop 250 heading north Dec. 17 as construction north of the loop has closed one lane of the roadway.

City Highlights 2018

By Courtney Sharp, city manager, city of Midland

2018 has been a year of growth for the City of Midland.

We have shattered recent records for airplane enplanement (up 16% over 2017), sales tax collections (first \$4 million collection in city history), and even unemployment rates (lowest state-wide).

We have planned for the future with the construction of the Midland Center, a state-of-the-art convention and meeting center large enough to attract conferences; the creation of a storm-water utility system to address flooding; and more parking and security checkpoint space at Midland International Airport to accommodate the increasing air travelers.

We have entered into ground-breaking public-private partnerships with Concho and the Scharbauer Foundation at Centennial Park, a destination public park downtown; with Pioneer Natural Resources at the Wastewater Plant for needed improvements and updates; and with the Midland Development Corporation on numerous infrastructure projects.

Finally, we have not forgotten that first things should come first. 2018 saw the city successfully execute Year 1 Road Bond paving and utility projects. These investments over-hauled some of the city's most deteriorated roads and utility lines. More projects are planned for the next four years. Simultaneously, maintenance and repair work continued on the 1,015 miles of roads and alleys within City limits.

What can residents expect for 2019?

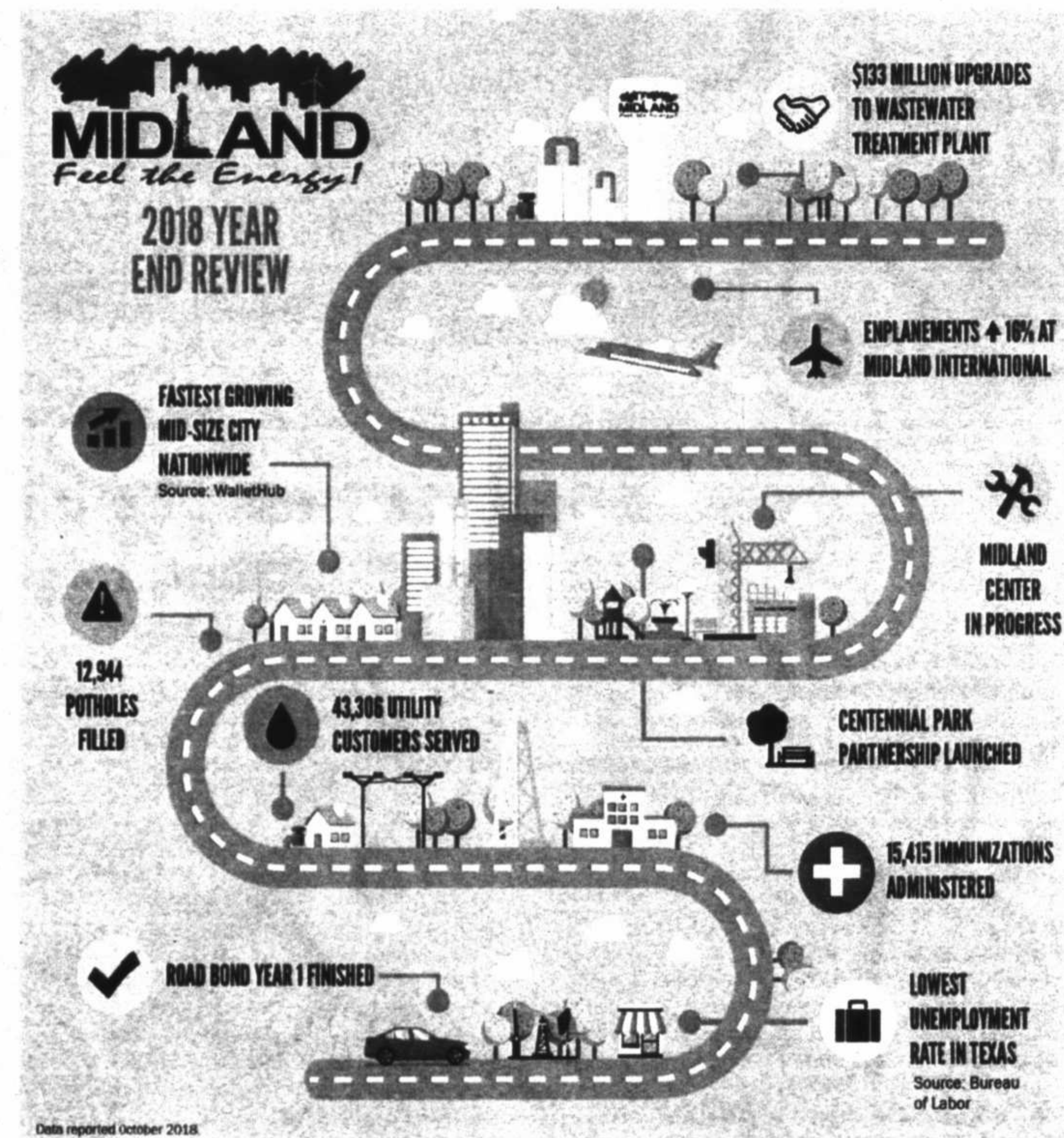
The city of Midland will continue working to meet their needs. It starts with a strong financial position. In 2018, Midland received three of the highest possible credit ratings: AA+ from Standard & Poors, AAA from Fitch, and Aa1 from Moody's. These ratings are not awarded by accident. They happen because we maintain a healthy reserve to carry us through the ups and downs of a resource-driven economy, along with financial controls and experienced management.

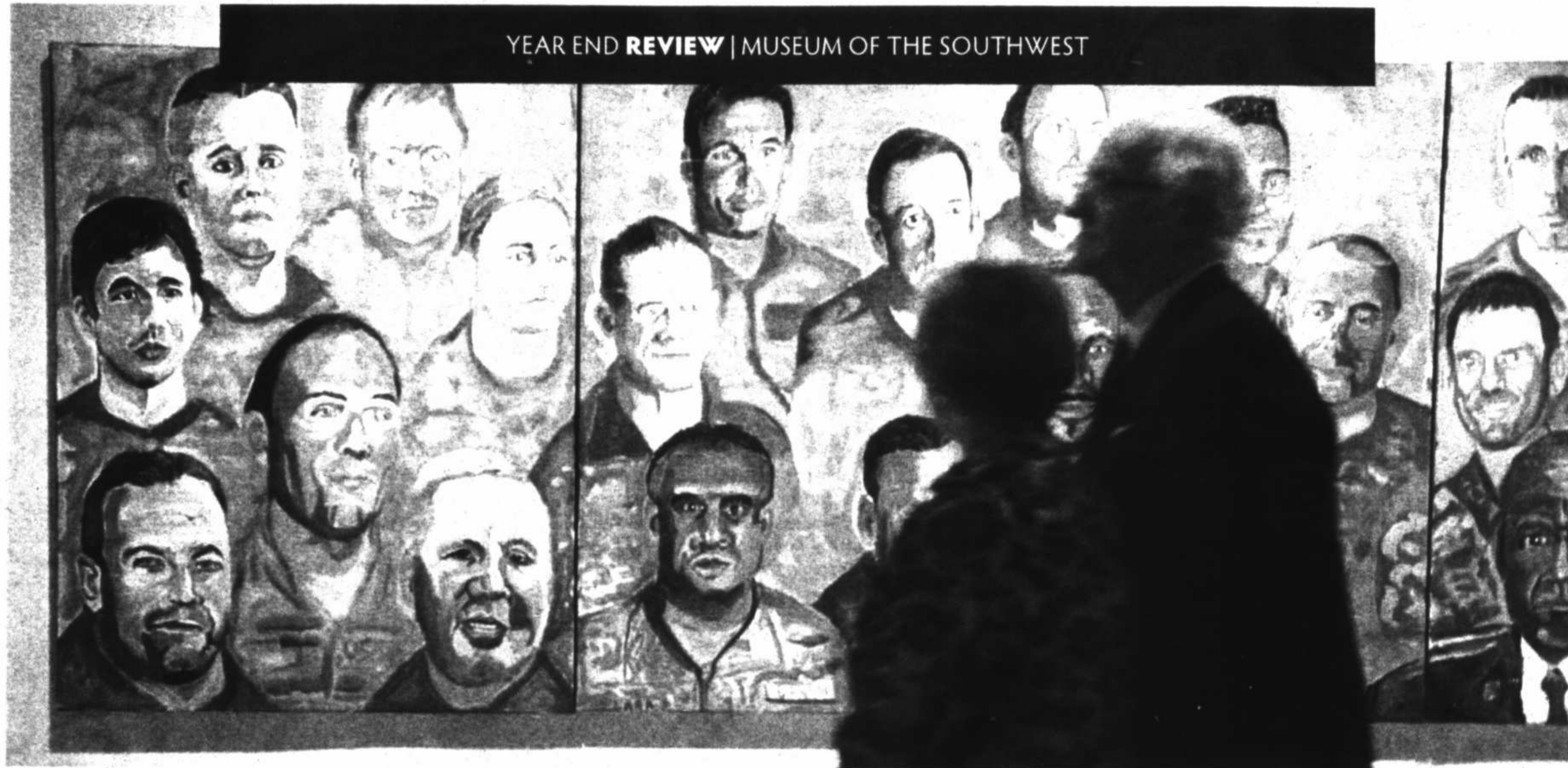
Residents can expect that the city will continue to invest in the future. Growth is not going away. We have allocated \$10 million, the largest-ever amount, to road maintenance in order to protect the investment taxpayers are making in our streets. We are looking at how to extend our water infrastructure to areas of new growth, while maintaining pressure and reliability in older parts of town. We are making plans to remove eyesores downtown, and construct new facilities like a modern Animal Services Center.

Finally, residents can expect a well-run city. New

Assistant City Manager Morris Williams, will step into His role Jan. 1, and Seth Herman is now officially at the helm of the Police Department. Both men have devoted their careers to Midland, and each have 20 or more years of experience here. The city's Department

directors, council appointees and staff are dedicated to serving this world-class city. Whether in uniform or behind a desk, city workers will continue striving to keep Midland a great place to live and work.





Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midlanders and others come to look at artwork by former President George W. Bush on Jan. 19 at the exhibit, Portraits of Courage, at Museum of the Southwest.

Museum of the Southwest reflects on new beginnings, opportunities for growth

Museum of the Southwest

The Museum of the Southwest is proud to be an integral part of Midland's thriving arts scene as well as a cultural hub serving Midlanders and all of West Texas for more than 50 years. In 2017, the Museum welcomed 113,068 guests — and this year is on track to be the fourth consecutive year attendance will surpass 100,000. That number is comprised of families who experimented with watercolors or print-making techniques during the Family Friday program, students of all ages who toured the Museum's galleries and community members who spent their Sunday evenings this summer relaxing and listening to live music on the Museum lawn.

This has been a year of new beginnings and incredible opportunities at the Museum from exhibitions in the Turner Memorial Art Museum to programming in the Blakemore Planetarium. In January, the Museum was honored to be the first in the nation to host

George W. Bush's "Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors" in collaboration with the George W. Bush Presidential Center. Through the generosity of sponsors such as Concho Resources, Cimarex Energy Co., Donna and Robert Landreth, Roni and Wes Perry, Rea Charitable Trust and others, the Museum had the enormous pleasure of sharing this exhibition with the community.

Spring at the Museum campus brought crowds of students and families participating in the Think. Make. Spring Break program. The Museum's annual student art show allowed spring breakers to see works of art created by their friends and family members on view in the Turner Memorial Art Museum. Also in the spring, the Museum hosted Col. Eileen Collins, the first female commander of an American Space Shuttle. Collins spoke to a standing-room only crowd inside the Brown Science Center at the Blakemore Planetarium

during the Museum's International Astronomy Day: Celebrating Women in Science event.

Summer kicked off with the Museum's annual Summer Sunday Lawn Concert series and the opportunity to partner with West Texas Food Bank to serve as a location for the Food Bank's Summer Food Service Program. Replacing Midland County Public Library's downtown building during its temporary closure, the Museum welcomed children to the Brown Science Center for a no-cost meal.

The Museum welcomed a new executive director in June. With a background in university and museum leadership, Daniel Eck's passion for education, the arts and science aligns with the Museum's mission to promote exploration of art, science, culture and history.

Fall is always a busy time at the Museum as volunteer committees, board members and staff prepare for

MSW's biggest annual event and fundraiser. SeptemberFest 2018: The Grand Exhibition presented by Chevron featured more than 80 artists' booths, KinderFest crafts and games, a petting zoo, live entertainment, bouncy houses, a rock wall and more. To make the festival more affordable for families, the Museum offered a \$15 wristband this year that included all activities for children and families.

In October, the education department welcomed MISD fourth graders to campus to participate in a curated tour that included a dome show and two activities focusing on the theme of story-telling. Permian Basin Area Foundation generously supports the Fourth Grade Tour program.

The same month brought an opportunity to collaborate with Marfa Public Radio on an event to boost MPRI's membership and audience in the Permian Basin. Marfa Comes to Midland: An Evening with Marfa Public Radio brought in new faces to the Museum and opened the door to future collaborative projects bridg-

ing the gap between the two communities.

Christmas at the Mansion 2018: A White Christmas allowed the Museum to share beauty, tradition and fun with West Texans as we opened our doors for Preview Party in late November, Mother-Daughter Brunch with a special performance by Midland Festival Ballet and a free Gingerbread House Workshop on Dec. 1, the eighth annual ReinBeer on Dec. 5 and the Holiday Open House on Dec. 8. With the holiday season wrapping up, the Museum Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and staff look forward to the exciting opportunities 2019 holds.

Thanks to the generosity of Cimarex Energy Co. and Abell-Hanger Foundation, the Museum will install West Texas' only Science on a Sphere interactive display inside the Blakemore Planetarium. Museum staff also are working to move all programming for children and families into the Blakemore Planetarium or the Turner Memorial Art Museum as the Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum closes while we finalize

plans for renovation.

With Science on a Sphere, expanded programming for children and families and an exciting lineup of exhibitions for 2019, the Museum looks forward to growing with the community and continuing to serve Midland and all West Texas for generations to come.



Above: Christmas at the Mansion open house event Dec. 8, 2018, at the Museum of the Southwest.

Below: Austin-based photographer Greg Davis sells art after winning Best of Show at the 49th annual art festival Sept. 8, 2018, at the Museum of the Southwest.

Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Odessa Chamber continues to work hard for a thriving Community

Renee Earls - President-CEO

Odessa Chamber of Commerce

Odessa is "Booming With Pride"! It's been a year of significant challenges and opportunities, as we've experienced tremendous growth from a robust economy. Through it all, the Odessa Chamber of Commerce has proudly stood behind our mission: To further develop and market the city of Odessa, Ector County, and the Permian Basin. We've made great strides to position Odessa as a more attractive location for capital investment, thus growth has followed. The Chamber has convened integral groups to address key community issues, including housing, education and transportation, among others.

With this major growth spurt, our community faces some struggles. The high price and lack of housing have certainly impeded our community's ability to attract more workforce, making this our number one community priority. We are currently working on a housing study, which will provide short and long-term solutions for additional reasonably-priced workforce housing for teachers, public servants and service industry employees, as well as those in other professions.

Education is a priority in Odessa, as the Chamber is working with Ector County ISD to get more businesses directly involved in the classroom. It is imperative that our community works together and shows support of our students, encouraging them to obtain a certification or degree beyond a high school diploma. These students are our future workforce that will carry our community into the next generation and beyond.

With more vehicles on the road than ever before, the Odessa Chamber of Commerce is proud to work with MOTRAN officials in studying the safety of our local roads. Our Transportation Committee regularly convenes local leaders to prioritize road development, improvement and expansion, allowing infrastructure to



Tori Aldana/191 News

Odessa Chamber of Commerce's annual Basin BBQ Blowout was Oct. 4 at Ector County Coliseum. Local businesses competed for the title Best BBQ of the Basin. Competitors brought their own equipment and set up side-by-side to compete in one or more of the following categories: best chicken, best ribs, best brisket and best "other" meat.

be in place for future growth.

With a major upswing in our economy, it's an exceptional time for new businesses. The Chamber's Economic Development Department welcomed several new businesses to the area, as well as some local expansions. Glazer's recently moved their distribution warehouse to Odessa, employing more than 100 people in a modern, high-tech facility.

Our city continues to see an increase of new hotels and attractions, and our Convention and Visitor's Bureau staff works hard to spread the news about our community and the unique opportunities we can offer visitors. Our downtown landscape will soon be changing, as the new Downtown Marriott Hotel and Conference Center opens in Summer 2019, allowing Odessa to offer more meeting space and hotel rooms.

Our Chamber represents almost 800 businesses and organizations, which includes more than 27,500 employees. As part of providing added value to our members, we now offer an e-blast advertising program for the membership, opening up a new marketing avenue to promote business and services. We also created a new, user-friendly website to allow users to easily find content related to membership, programs and events. The Odessa Chamber spearheaded the launch of the "Our Odessa" mobile app, to serve as a mobile guide for visitors and residents. For the benefit of our members, the Chamber also hosted numerous

networking events, seminars and recognition luncheons, all focused on business relations and positive corporate citizenry.

Our Leadership Odessa class graduated 47 professionals from the nine-month program focusing on various community aspects. Additionally, the Chamber worked with high school juniors through our Junior Leadership program, in which 41 students completed the six-week program.

Looking to 2019, The Odessa Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the Midland Chamber of Commerce as we travel to our State Capitol in February for Midland-Odessa Legislative Days in Austin. The Chamber is rounding up elected officials and community leaders to make the trip in support of Odessa's legislative priorities and discuss matters that impact our members and overall community. Odessa and the Permian Basin is the hotbed of energy activity, and it's paramount that our state officials realize and understand just what a major impact our area has not only on Texas and our Country, but on the World.

There is no better time to be in Odessa and the Permian Basin. Surrounded by opportunities abound, the Odessa Chamber and our hundreds of committed volunteers continue to work hard to ensure a strong, thriving community for generations to come. Come be part of this exciting journey.



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Since 1957, Centers for Children and Families has served the mental health and wellness needs of the Permian Basin.

COUNSELING

The counseling program provides individual, couple, play and group counseling for ages 3 and up. Counseling is available to anyone in need on a sliding fee scale, and military counseling is offered free of charge for military and their family members.

POST ADOPTION SUPPORT

Designed to keep adoptive families intact, our Post Adoption program focuses on building a strong family foundation.

KIDS FIRST

As the only Supervised Visitation and Exchange program in the area, Kids First aims to shield children from unnecessary risk and stress while preserving the bond with the non-custodial parent.

PARENT EDUCATION

Parent Power and Parent Education are designed to increase parenting skills while enhancing self-esteem and confidence levels.

A HOME OF OUR OWN

Centers moved into its new Midland home at 3701 Andrews Highway in October 2016. Thank you to all of the generous donors and volunteers who worked to make this dream a reality.

Centers for Children and Families exists to improve quality of life and strengthen the communities we serve through counseling, educational and support services.

Centers

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432-570-4069 (fax)

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