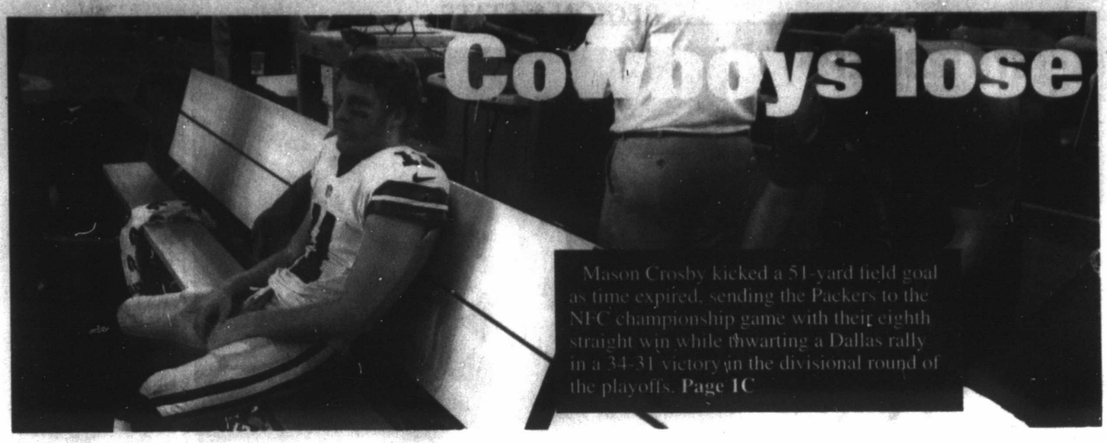


Mason Crosby kicked a 51-yard field goal as time expired, sending the Packers to the NFC championship game with their eighth straight win while thwarting a Dallas rally in a 34-31 victory in the divisional round of the playoffs. Page 1C

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

Study: Midland 'most recovered' from Great Recession

WalletHub analyzes the economic recovery 505 U.S. municipalities across 18 key indicators

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Though the "Great Recession" was declared over in June 2009, the economic recovery has not been spread equally among the nation's metropolitan areas.

Given the economic disparity — over a dozen municipalities have declared bankruptcy since 2008, and more than 60 percent of economists surveyed by the Wall Street Journal say economic uncertainty has risen since the November elections — the personal finance website WalletHub measured the economic recovery of 505 American cities of various sizes.

When it was completed, the study ranked Midland the most recovered city overall and most recovered small city.

The study measured the 505 municipalities across 18 key economic indicators that ranged from home ownership and home price appreciation, to inflow of college-educated workers to share of households receiving public assistance.

Midland ranked No. 1 in home price appreciation, fifth in decrease of the poverty rate and 25th in labor force participation rate. The Tall City ranked average in the ratio of part-time to full-time jobs (229th), unemployment rate (196th) and public assistance rate (253rd).

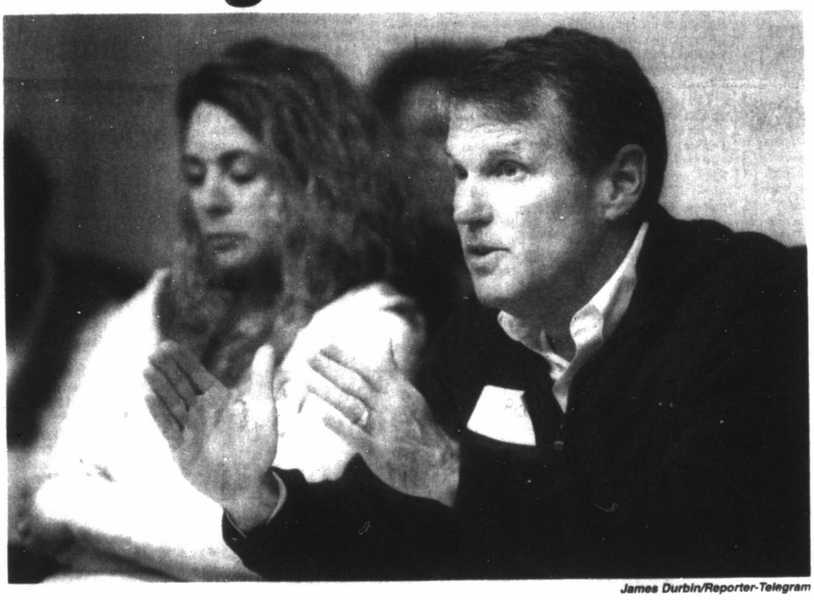
WalletHub analyst Jill Gonzalez offered some in-depth analysis of Midland's performance in an email interview with the Reporter-Telegram.

Q. Obviously, Midland (and second-ranked Odessa) are heavily dependent on oil and gas, which went into a tailspin two years ago. Were you able to measure that impact with these findings?

A. Yes, this report analyzed the change between the city's pre- and post-recession levels, so years up until 2015 were included. We didn't focus specifically on the

Please see **WALLET**/4A

Setting the standards



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Rick Davis speaks during a two-day planning retreat for the Midland Independent School District board members, Saturday at the MISD Office on Missouri Ave.

Superintendent constraints to help MISD board during future search

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Midland ISD leaders on Sunday addressed the 800-pound gorilla in the room as the groundwork was laid for the upcoming superintendent search during the second day of a weekend workshop.

Board members and leading administration staff agreed on three constraints that future superintendents should adhere to when leading staff, teachers and students.

Constraints are defined as "specific prohibitions on superintendent authority that are aligned with the vision and grounded in community values."

MISD leaders believe the following three constraints will result in the change of adult behavior needed in future reform efforts. A general feeling expressed this weekend was that there were times when MISD leaders, including previous superintendents and boards, chose adult convenience over student needs when making key decisions.

The constraints selected were that the superintendent shall not:

- allow any campus to not have a growth mindset and a no-excuses philosophy while fully implementing and maintaining professional learning communities;
- select a principal with fewer than two years in role experience for underperforming campuses;
- allow adult convenience or preference to take priority over student needs.

There was discussion about a fourth constraint: a superintendent would not be allowed to make internal decisions without gathering stakeholder input. This brought an interesting back-and-forth between board and staff members.

Board representatives said this constraint could impact the "kind of person we are trying to attract" during the upcoming superintendent search.

Interim Superintendent Rod Schroder said that this was chosen for the "liberation of the staff." Schroder said the staff has enjoyed being part of the process during recent months under Schroder. He also said the process has been better because of their participation.

Please see **MISD**/4A

Sitton worries about RRC employee shortage

■ Commissioner says Legislature should give agency gas tax to shore up funding shortfall

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton is ready for the 85th legislative session with a message to lawmakers similar to what RRC Chairman Christi Craddick offered last week when she spoke in Midland. Give the cash-strapped agency revenues from the natural gas utility tax it already collects.

The RRC is funded largely by fees paid by the oil and gas industry, not the state, though lawmakers determine how much the agency can spend. Sitton spoke with the Reporter-Telegram on Thursday about the RRC's funding issues, the protesters in Balmorhea and other topics, including why Midland is the best place when it comes to dressing for events. Here are highlights from the conversation.

MRT: RRC Chairman Christi Craddick recently talked with us about the severe employment issues the state's oil and gas regulator faces. The commission is understaffed by 100 people and has 150 employees at or near retirement age. How do you address the issue?

SITTON: I applaud Chairman Craddick for bringing that to light. We're understaffed by about 100 people, and that's being driven by our revenues being down substantially this year. The Legislature granted us the authority to spend about $80 million, but we only had about $64 million to spend because our revenues were down.

We didn't have layoffs, but when people left, we didn't hire the people we needed to replace them, except in very rare cases. What we are all conscientious of is that in the next few years, at $60 a barrel, there's a lot of profitable oil and gas to be developed in this state.

Please see **SITTON**/4A

Weather
Sunny
61/37
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Did you know?
This year's tax season is from
Jan. 23 - Apr. 18
See more information on the upcoming tax season. Page 3A

The big number
The state of Oklahoma had
4 small earthquakes
recorded by the during the weekend. Page 2A

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

Brought to you daily by JimBurrito

Vol. 88, No. 311
Daily $2, Sunday $3

Index Classified 1D | Comics 6C | Dear Abby 7C | Obituaries 2A | Opinion 6A | Puzzles 7C | Sports 1C | TV 3B | World 8A

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DALLAS

Police: 2 in custody after bullets hit officers' car

Dallas police say two suspects have been taken into custody after bullets struck a police vehicle. No officers were injured.

Police say the officers were working when they were fired upon Sunday. Police say the officers didn't return fire and the suspects were taken into custody after a brief chase.

Police say the investigation is continuing and did not immediately release more information.

In July, five law enforcement officers in Dallas were killed and nine others were wounded when a sniper opened fire at the end of what had been a peaceful rally downtown against police brutality.

DALLAS

Police: woman arrested after fatally running over man

Dallas police say a woman has confessed to fatally running over a man with her vehicle after a domestic altercation.

Police said Sunday that 39-year-old Lakinta Cosby has been arrested on a murder charge. Thirty-six-year-old Sherron Berry pronounced dead at a hospital after being struck on Saturday.

A surveillance video released by police showed a sport utility vehicle making a U-turn on a city street and going up onto the sidewalk as a man starts running. The view is then blocked by a building.

Police say that after getting a tip, detectives recovered the suspect vehicle at a home. Then Cosby arrived there and surrendered to officers.

Cosby was in Dallas County jail on Sunday. Bond was set at $100,000. Jail records did not list an attorney for her.

WACO

Man serving life in prison in 1982 Lake Waco slayings dies

A man who pleaded guilty for his role in the stabbing deaths of three teens at Lake Waco in 1982 has died.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark tells the Waco Tribune-Herald that 57-year-old Anthony Melendez died Friday in prison hospice.

Melendez was serving life in prison after pleading guilty to two counts of murder.

Authorities have said 17-year-old Jill Montgomery and two friends were killed because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Prosecutors said a man hired David Spence to kill a girl but he mistook Montgomery for that girl. According to trial testimony, Melendez and his brother helped Spence carry out the killings.

Gilbert Melendez died in 1998 while serving a life sentence. Spence was executed in 1997.

REGIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

Snow, rain, icy conditions on many roads around New Mexico

Snow, rain and icy conditions have caused havoc on some roads and highways around New Mexico.

A winter storm warning remains in effect until Monday afternoon for numerous mountainous areas, including the Sandias near Albuquerque and ranges near Ruidoso, Taos, Raton and Gallup.

Forecasters say precipitation amounts of 1 to 2 inches are likely, producing minor to moderate rises of water in arroyos and small streams and the Pecos River in eastern New Mexico.

Department of Transportation officials say almost all state roadways are reported wet as of Sunday morning with some slick spots.

NEW MEXICO

State Police: Jal resident dies after a crash in Lea County

Jal -- New Mexico State Police say they're investigating a fatal head-on crash in Lea County.

They say the accident occurred about 3 a.m. Sunday on State Road 18.

Police say a passenger car collided head-on with a semi-tractor.

It's not immediately clear if the crash was weather-related.

The driver of the passenger car was declared dead at the scene.

Police have identified the victim as 27-year-old Elisa Armendariz and was a resident of Jal, New Mexico.

The driver of the semi was not injured.

NEW MEXICO.

Police: Oklahoma man killed in rollover crash

Raton --Authorities say an Oklahoma man is dead after a crash involving a commercial vehicle in northeastern New Mexico.

New Mexico State Police say the accident occurred around 3:00 p.m. Saturday on Interstate 25 near Raton.

They say the vehicle exited the roadway and hit a guard rail on the right shoulder of the roadway, causing the vehicle to roll into its side.

Police say 38-year-old Michael Brad Arrington of Duncan, Oklahoma was driving the commercial vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene.

They say the crash remains under investigation.

FAIRVIEW, OKLA.

Geological survey records small earthquakes

The U.S. Geological Survey has recorded four small earthquakes in Oklahoma during the weekend.

The largest was a magnitude 3.2 quake recorded at 11:19 p.m. Saturday about 20 miles northwest of Fairview, nearly 100 miles northwest of Oklahoma City.

A 2.5 magnitude quake was recorded at 5:04 a.m. Sunday northeast of Mooreland, about 105 miles northwest of Oklahoma City, a magnitude 2.6 quake struck at 1:01 p.m. Sunday near the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond and a 3.0 magnitude temblor was recorded at 3:36 p.m. Saturday southwest of Perry, about 55 miles north of Oklahoma City.

No injuries or damage are reported.

Geologists say earthquakes of magnitude 2.5 to 3.0 are general the smallest that are felt by humans and damage is not likely in earthquakes below magnitude 4.0.

WAGONER, OKLA.

Arrest made after teenager's burned body found

Wagoner County authorities say a man has been arrested after a teenager's body was found on fire near Wagoner.

KJRH-TV reports that the man was arrested for obstruction of justice Sunday after the body of 15-year-old Brennan Davis of Okay was found burning near the Jackson Bay area near Fort Gibson Lake.

Online records show the man is being held in the Wagoner County jail, but formal charges are not listed.

Davis' burning body was found Wednesday and was later identified by the state medical examiner's office using dental records.

Investigators have said residents reported hearing gunshots before the body was found, but a suspected cause of death has not been released.

AP file photo

In a Jan. 9 file photo, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick holds a news conference at the Republican Party of Texas Headquarters, in Austin. Patrick and top conservatives are expected to push through the Senate a voucher bill giving public money to families sending their children to private or religious schools.

What to Watch: Abortion case; draft budget; Trump protest

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN— Rep. Jeff Leach proposed it as a one-word change to internal Texas House rules. But what followed could foreshadow a larger school voucher fight coming soon.

Leach, a tea party Republican from Plano, tried to remove "public" from the name of the House Public Education Committee. The Senate's version is already called simply the Education Committee, Leach argued, and many Texas students attend private schools or are educated at home.

Democrats objected, and Leach eventually withdrew his proposal, which he conceded was largely symbolic.

Still, the small exchange could eventually loom large. As they did last session, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and top conservatives are expected to push through the Senate a voucher bill giving public money to families sending their children to private or religious schools.

The issue has for years remained a non-starter in the House, however, where Democrats have traditionally teamed with rural Republicans — who are afraid of harming schools that are the lifeblood of the small communities they represent — to keep public funding in public classrooms.

Approval in the Senate eventually thwarted by House resistance could well doom any new voucher plan again this session.

And if Leach's attempted tweak to House rules is any indication, emotions will run high, fast — but the end result may actually be no change.

Here are some other issues likely to make news in Texas politics this week, all of which may preview larger legal, policy or ideological clashes down the road.

Planned Parenthood in federal court

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks begins hearing arguments in Austin on Tuesday about whether Texas can boot Planned Parenthood from its Medicaid program.

Planned Parenthood had received more than $3 million to provide family planning and other women's medical services — but not abortions — to nearly 11,000 low-income women statewide. But Texas, like a host of other Republican-controlled states, moved to sever all funding to the organization following the 2015 release of secretly recorded and heavily edited videos by an anti-abortion group.

Federal judges already have stopped Arkansas, Alabama, Kansas and Mississippi from similarly excluding Planned Parenthood from Medicaid reimbursements in wake of the videos. Texas could cut off Planned Parenthood by Jan. 21, unless Sparks grants an injunction after hearing arguments in the case.

Senate draft budget

Senate Finance Committee Chairwoman Jane Nelson could unveil a draft of the upper chamber's 2017-2018 state budget as early as this week. Patrick and other top Republicans promise to extend roughly $4 billion in tax cuts for homeowners and businesses approved last session. The prolonged oil price slump has sapped state revenue, though, leaving lawmakers with a potential shortfall of $5-plus billion just to fund basic services at current levels.

The lieutenant governor has said he'd like to make up the deficit by cutting the budget's two biggest-ticket items, schools and public health — but funding reductions to both, even if it's to cover a new round of popular tax cuts, could prove a tough sell.

Inauguration protest

Donald Trump is being inaugurated on Friday and organizations opposing the president-elect are organizing protests around the country.

In Austin, nearly 50 minority activist groups, environmental organizations and assorted community organizing nonprofits are sponsoring a "One Resistance" rally where demonstrators will march to the steps of the state Capitol late Friday. Of course, lawmakers won't be in session by the time they get there — and some top Republicans, notably Patrick, will be in Washington attending Trump's inauguration.

New Mexico town steps up for nuclear borehole project

By Rebecca Moss
The New Mexican

NARA VISTA, N.M. — They say the price of gas was the last straw. It was too costly to bring fuel to this tiny speck of a town 50 miles northeast of Tucumcari along the Texas border. And too few buyers were interested once it got here.

When the last truck stop, the Red-X, closed down, the cafe and one of two motels followed. People started leaving. Kids grew up and moved away with too few jobs available for miles along these vast, desert plains that turn purple like a bruise in winter. They didn't bring their families back. That was 11 years ago.

Nara Visa was never big to begin with, but fewer than 100 people remain.

This near emptiness, however, has attracted a new business to the community, one that promises, like a honey-toned traveling salesman, to bring jobs — and maybe even a grocery store — by way of the nuclear waste industry.

The U.S. Energy Department, Quay County and two energy development companies say the nation's latest nuclear waste experiment could inject as much as $40 million into the county's economy. Nara Visa residents just have to agree to let the companies drill a three-mile-deep borehole — seven times deeper than the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad — into the crystalline, granite crust of the earth a few miles outside of town, on land currently occupied by fat, black cattle.

Right now, the project is pegged as a scientific experiment. The Energy Department says no nuclear waste will be placed in the test borehole.

The ultimate goal is to find a permanent place to dispose of the ever-growing and deadly stockpile of spent nuclear fuel rods and high-level radioactive waste collected at nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons laboratories nationwide.

Until this year, no town in the U.S. had agreed to the proposal. But when the Quay County Commission approved the plan in October, it put Nara Visa on track to become the first.

About seven miles outside Nara Visa, there is a small, gravel roadside park where semi-truck drivers pull off U.S. 54 to sleep. Below the earth, the granite is devoid of oil but just right for deep drilling.

These 10 acres belong to Louis and Elaine James, who've agreed to lease it to the government.

"I think it' exciting," said Elaine James, 65. "A lot of the people's concerns are what might happen in the future, because of the type of experiments they are doing, but basically it is just a science project."

She raised four children in Nara Visa and said it would be nice for future generations to learn about fields outside of ranching, like science and math. "Kids are limited to what careers might be available because we don't have industry."

"For me, it's kind of like our space program," she continued. "A lot of people thought that was a waste of money, but so much of our technology and medical fields have benefited from the space program."

As far as the nuclear waste component is concerned, Louis James, 69, said, "I have more of a problem with it sitting over at Pantex 100 miles away than I do with it being under the ground, because you know it will get you if they ever attack those spots." He was referring to the Pantex Plant, a nuclear weapons assembly facility outside Amarillo.

Although he doesn't think the nuclear waste will necessarily come to Nara Visa, he said, "the atomic bomb has made us a free nation now, so it's gotta be put somewhere."

The test hole planned

Please see NUCLEAR/4A

Obituaries

Hazel Clyrene Smart

Hazel Clyrene Smart, 88, passed away on Friday, January 13, 2017 in Midland. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory in Midland. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Hazel was born on February 7, 1928 to Alpha and Edwin Huelster in Balmorhea, Texas. She married Robert A. Smart, Jr., on May 7, 1957 in Big Spring, Texas.

She is survived by her children, Edwin O'Bannon, Nora Atwood and husband, Randy, Robbie Smart and Boyce, Danny Smart and wife, Barthina; sister, Pearline and Kenneth Gray; sister-in-law, Dotty Huelster; sister, Flora Zanvettorri; eight grandchildren; great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Robert A. Smart, Jr.; parents, Alpha and Edwin B. Huelster; brother, Edwin Herman Huelster.

Pallbearers will be Ben Moore, Steven Smart, Mark Wendler, Jaime Hernandez, Thomas White and Tyler White.

The family would like to express their gratitude towards Valley View Baptist Church and Brookdale Senior Living.

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

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

Man on FBI's 10 most-wanted list arrested in El Paso

Associated Press

EL PASO— A man placed on the FBI's list of 10 most-wanted fugitives after authorities said he killed two men in Milwaukee was arrested Sunday in Texas, the FBI said.

Terry A.D. Strickland, 24, was arrested in El Paso and booked into the jail. He has been charged in Milwaukee with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide and with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Jail records do not list an attorney to comment on his behalf.

Authorities said Strickland was among a group of men arguing in front of a Milwaukee home July 17. Witnesses saw him go inside the house, emerge with a gun and fire into the small crowd. Authorities said Strickland fatally shot Maurice Brown Jr., 38, who was on the ground, then turned to Michael Allen Reed, 39, and shot him in the head.

"It was vicious," Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn said when Strickland was added to the FBI's most-wanted list last month. "It was unnecessary. Neither individual posed the slightest threat to Mr. Strickland, but they paid with their lives for occupying the same space."

Authorities have said Strickland fled from the shooting in a black SUV, abandoning his 18-month-old daughter inside the house, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

The FBI said agents were led to Strickland after receiving a tip that he may be temporarily living in El Paso. The FBI in El Paso and the El Paso Police Department arrested Strickland early Sunday morning during a traffic stop. He was taken into custody without incident.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JumBurrito
catastrophic
[kat-*uh*-strof-ik]
adjective
1. of the nature of a catastrophe, or disastrous event; calamitous

Midland Reporter-Telegram
AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-5932
A Hearst Newspaper
Published each morning by the Hearst, Midland Reporter-Telegram Division, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701. Periodicals postage paid at Midland, TX 79711. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701

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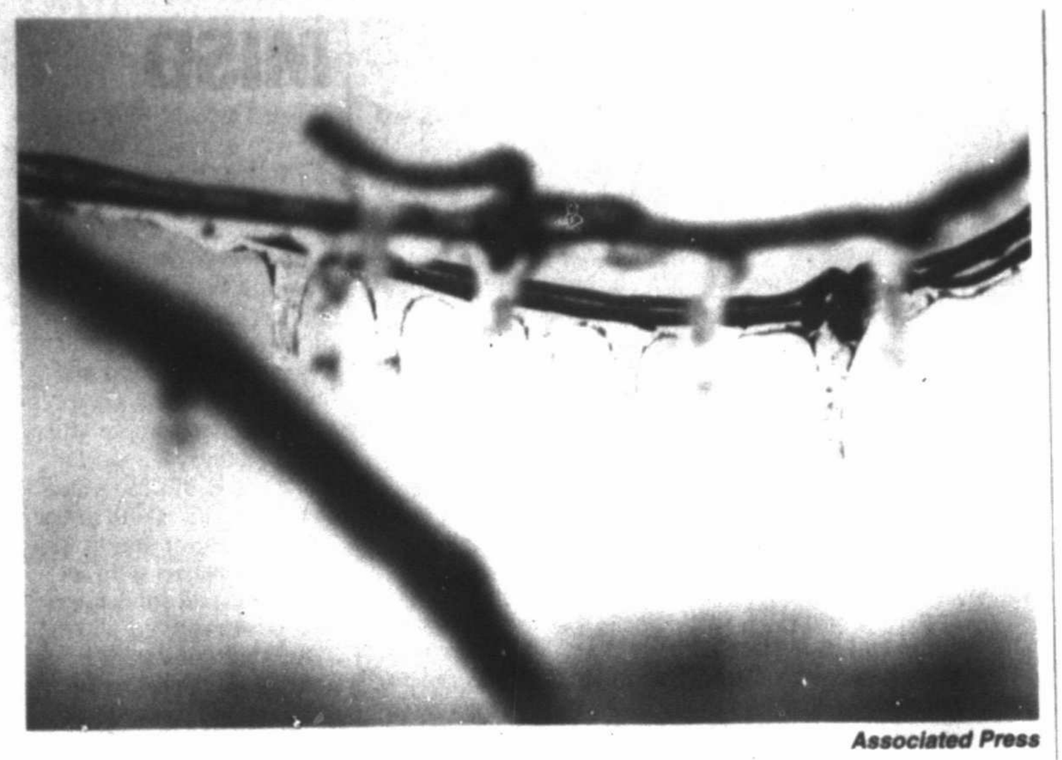

Associated Press

Icicles hang from a branch of a tree in Tulsa on Saturday.

Central US ice storm falls short of dire forecasts

By Jim Suhr
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Sleet and drizzle glazed swaths of the central U.S. on Sunday, extending icy weather that some meteorologists acknowledged fell short of dire forecasts.

Much of the region remained under an ice storm warning on the eve of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as stretches continued getting pelted by rain, often in areas where temperatures hovered around freezing. A National Weather Service ice storm warning for the Kansas City and St. Louis areas expired Sunday afternoon as temperatures exceeded freezing. An identical warning remained in effect until Monday morning to the north, as the storm pressed into Nebraska and Iowa.

The freeze made roads harrowing. In Kansas near Kansas City, two troopers escaped injury when their vehicles were struck while working a crash along northbound Interstate 635. And in central Nebraska, authorities believe icy conditions contributed to a fiery crash involving two tractor-trailers shortly before 9 a.m. Sunday on Interstate 80, forcing a three-hour closure of 15 miles of Interstate 80. There were no injuries.

Authorities say ice contributed to a southwestern Kansas wreck Saturday night that killed a 35-year-old Oklahoma man and injured several others. The Kansas Highway Patrol said Thay Torres-Ocacio of Guymon, Oklahoma, died after the sport utility vehicle in which he was riding went out of control on an overpass and eventually overturned several times.

Some people lost power amid the storm. Nearly 11,000 electric customers were without power in Oklahoma, nearly all in northwestern part of the state. Woodward County Emergency Management Director Matt Lehenbauer said Sunday that the county was likely the hardest hit. He said that as some power is restored, the ice that's bent tree limbs begins to melt and the limbs snap back into place, sometimes knocking down additional power lines.

South of Kansas City, the latest round of storms dumped three-quarters of an inch of precipitation overnight, resulting in about one-quarter of an inch of ice.

Jared Leighton, a National Weather Service meteorologist near Kansas City, Missouri, said Sunday that while the breadth of the ice accumulations fell short of expectations, "that shouldn't distract from the impact of the storm."

"The amounts were never really the story, the impacts were," Leighton told The Associated Press. "The roads are still a mess, and the Highway Patrol is having their vehicles run into."

Becky Allmeroth, a state maintenance engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation, said ice is "the most difficult storm to fight."

"We are keeping up with the changing conditions, but it is a continual battle," she said of the department's around-the-clock scrambling to treat the glazed roads. "The precipitation is coming in waves, and we have to apply more salt."

Many residents had prepared for the storms by stocking up on bread, milk and other necessities and by buying flashlights and generators to have on hand in case power gets knocked out.

The storm prompted the NFL to move the AFC divisional playoff game in Kansas City between the Chiefs and the Pittsburgh Steelers to Sunday evening to allow more time to treat roads and parking lots at Arrowhead Stadium. The game was scheduled to kick off at noon but now will start at 7:20 p.m.

Hours before that game, rain that continued falling didn't dampen the tailgating that was in full swing outside of Arrowhead, where a gray tarp covered the field and hot air was being pumped under the tarp to keep the turf warm. The Chiefs put new sod on the field earlier this week.

The bald and the bold: Eagles' resurgence comes at a price

By Patrick Whittle
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — The eagle has landed — on chickens and rare birds, with talons at the ready.

The resurgence of the bald eagle is one of America's greatest conservation success stories. They have come back so strong that in some areas, they are interfering with efforts to preserve more jeopardized species, such as loons and cormorants, wildlife biologists say. And their proliferation is leading to encounters at livestock farms that sometimes end badly — and illegally — for the eagles.

Federal protections mean farmers can do little to keep them away, said Ken Klippen, a poultry scientist and former farmer who heads the National Association of Egg Farmers.

"It's a fully protected bird. If you have foxes, coyotes, raccoons, a farmer can do something about that," he said. "But if it's a bald eagle? His hands are tied."

The Pennsylvania Game Commission investigated a case in which an eagle was shot dead in the East Penn Township area in 2015. In Steuben County, New York, a sheep farmer and two other people were accused of poisoning sheep carcasses to kill eagles that threatened lambs. And authorities investigated suspicious deaths of 18 bald eagles in Maryland and Delaware last year.

Bald eagles were chosen as an American symbol in 1782 and underwent a steep decline in the early and middle 20th century, pushed to the brink of extinction by pesticides, habitat loss and indiscriminate hunting.

A 1930 issue of Popular Science stated that the birds had died off so much that it was possible they would soon "be seen only on coins and the coat of arms of the United States unless drastic action" saved them.

Such action came in the form of federal protections, including the 1940 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which prevents almost everyone from so much as disturbing the birds and still stands today. The eagles recovered so much that they were removed from the endangered species list in 2007.

Today, Audubon Society bird counts show their numbers are climbing, and scientists with the society say they will probably continue to do so. Counters found about 30,000 of them in 2015, more than double the 1995 count. They live in every state but Hawaii.

In Maine, where the breeding population of great cormorants is small

Please see **EAGLES**/5A

Thousands rally to resist Republican health law repeal drive

By Corey Williams
Associated Press

WARREN, Mich. — Thousands of people showed up in freezing temperatures on Sunday in Michigan to hear Sen. Bernie Sanders denounce Republican efforts to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, one of dozens of rallies Democrats staged across the country to highlight opposition.

Labor unions were a strong presence at the demonstration in a parking lot at Macomb Community College in the Detroit suburb of Warren, where some people carried signs saying "Save our Health Care."

Lisa Bible, 55, of Bancroft, Michigan, said she has an autoimmune disease and high cholesterol. She said the existing law has been an answer to her and her husband's prayers, but she worries that if it's repealed her family may get stuck with her medical bills.

"I'm going to get really sick and my life will be at risk," said Bible, an online antique dealer.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to overturn and replace the Affordable Care Act and majority Republicans in Congress this week began the process of repealing it using a budget maneuver that requires a bare majority in the Senate.

"This is the wealthiest country in the history of the world. It is time we got our national priorities right," Sanders told the Michigan rally.

The law has delivered health coverage to about 20 million people but is saddled with problems such as rapidly rising premiums and large co-payments.

Britt Waligorski, 31, a health care administrator for a dental practice, said she didn't get health insurance through work but has been covered through the health law for three years. While the premiums have gone up, she said she is concerned that services for women will be taken away if it is repealed.

"It's done a lot for women for their annual check-ups, for mammograms — women's health in general. If this gets repealed, we're going to go back to the old days when that's not covered," she said.

The health law has provided subsidies and Medicaid coverage for millions who don't get insurance at work. It has required insurers to cover certain services such as family planning and people who are already ill, and has placed limits on the amount that the sick and elderly can be billed for health care.

Please see **HEALTH**/5A

What you need to know now about the upcoming tax season

By Sarah Skidmore Sell,
Associated Press

It's a new year and time to put the last one to bed, which means filing your taxes.

The Internal Revenue Service says to expect a few changes when the nation's individual income tax filing season opens on Jan. 23.

Here are some of the changes you should be aware of:

NEW DATE: Taxes are usually due on April 15, but this year that falls on a Saturday. And Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington, D.C., will be observed on Monday, April 17.

So that pushes the nation's deadline to file returns and pay any amount due to April 18.

You don't have to wait until then to meet with a tax professional or start the process though.

DELAYED REFUNDS: A new law may delay refunds for some low to moderate income taxpayers who file early.

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act, known as the PATH Act, requires the IRS to withhold refunds on tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit until mid-February. The change is designed to give the IRS more time to detect and prevent tax fraud.

The affected refunds will start being released on Feb. 15 but they may not arrive in bank accounts until the week of Feb. 27, as it will take more time for financial institutions to accept and deposit the refunds. The three-day holiday weekend involving President's Day on Feb. 20 may also affect the timing of when funds are available.

The IRS said it still anticipates issuing more than nine out of 10 refunds in less than 21 days.

Those with questions can use the "Where's My Refund?" tool on the ?on IRS.gov website and the IRS2Go phone app to find projected deposit dates for early EITC and ACTC refund filers a few days after Feb. 15.

NEW ID NUMBERS: The PATH Act also requires that certain individual taxpayer identification numbers, known as ITINs, be renewed.

Any ITIN that hasn't been used on a tax return at least once in the past three years, as well as any ITIN with middle digits of 78 or 79, must be renewed before a return can be processed. Anyone filing a tax return with an expired ITIN could experience return processing and refund delays, as well as denial of some tax benefits until the number is renewed. An ITIN renewal application could take up to 11 weeks to process during tax filing season.

ITINs are used by people who have tax-filing or payment obligations under U.S. law but are not eligible for a Social Security number.

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Things to do

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

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. permianbridgeclub.com.

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

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

■ All-Day Skate, KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 Andrews Highway, $6 admission, rentals $1 skates, $5 rollerblades. kcsnuttyroller.com.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

■ Today is Martin Luther King Day, a federal holiday observed on the third Monday of January. It celebrates the life and achievements of American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. He is most well-known for his campaigns to end racial segregation on public transport and for racial equality in the United States.

Martin Luther King Day, which was first observed in 1986, is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans, regardless of their background.

Source: timeanddate.com

Speed limit changes

■ Motorists may have noticed that the speed limit on some Midland streets has changed. The change was done in conjunction with a Dec. 13 City Council agenda item "where some (speed limits) around town were raised and some were lowered," city spokeswoman Sara Bustilloz said Thursday in an email.

She said that all of Wadley Avenue was set to 40 mph, where previously the roadway "had a mix of 40 and 45 mph segments. Most of Illinois west of 'A' Street, was set to 35 mph, where it previously had a mix of varying speed limits."

The changes, which went into effect at the end of 2016, were meant "to have as much consistency as possible along each continuous corridor," Bustilloz said. The speed limits would be different if there "was a significant change in the character of the road," such as type of development and traffic volume.

Know a member of the military coming home?

■ Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vickie Gomez (zemogv@cableone.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into Midland International Airport so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet them.

Honor those who served

There are many organizations in operation right here in the Permian Basin that are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:

■ Show of Support (687-2167)

■ Honor Our Troops (889-0177)

Reel Thanx (528-6633)

■ Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)

■ Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (685-4511)

■ Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (366-3458)

■ Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (631-3429)

Today in history

Today is Monday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2017. There are 349 days left in the year. This is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

On this date:

In 1865, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. (The order, later revoked by President Andrew Johnson, is believed to have inspired the expression "Forty acres and a mule.")

In 1920, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

In 1957, three B-52's took off from Castle Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, which lasted 45 hours and 19 minutes.

In 1978, NASA named 35 candidates to fly on the space shuttle, including Sally K. Ride, who became America's first woman in space, and Guion S. Bluford Jr., who became America's first black astronaut in space.

In 1991, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. (Allied forces prevailed on Feb. 28, 1991.)

One year ago: The U.N. nuclear agency certified that Iran had met all of its commitments under a landmark deal, prompting the West to lift economic sanctions that had been in place for years.

Today's birthdays: Hall of Fame auto racer A.J. Foyt is 82. Country singer Ronnie Milsap is 74. Actor/playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda (Stage: "Hamilton") is 37. NFL quarterback Joe Flacco is 32.

WALLET

From 1A

city's dependency on oil and gas, but we did see an increase in the unemployment rate. In Midland the unemployment rate between 2007 and 2015 has increased by 0.50 percent, while in Odessa it rose by 0.80 percent.

Q. Midland did pretty well with decreasing the poverty rate. To what do you attribute that decline?

A. Midland ranked fifth for this metric with a decrease of 5 percent. This can be attributed to the fact that its median household income increased at the highest rate in the country — by more than 47 percent — between 2007 and 2015.

Q. Midland ranked middle-of-the pack in the decline of the ratio of part-time to full-time jobs, decrease in unemployment and public assistance. Should this be a concern to Midland officials?

A. It's not necessarily a cause for concern as the increases are marginal and might have something to do with the standstill in the oil and gas industry.

Q. What are your thoughts on Midland's strength in home ownership and home price appreciation and its impact on the overall economy, if any?

A. The median home price in Midland increased by 77 percent between 2007 and 2015, again the highest rate of any other city analyzed. Yet, its home ownership rate has slightly decreased by 0.16 percent. The opposing relationship between the two metrics as it stands now is understandable. Midland needs to find the balance between a booming housing industry and current residents who risk relocating due to rising home prices.

For the full report, please visit: https://wallethub.com/edu/most-least-recession-recovered-cities/5219/

NUCLEAR

From 2A

the James' property is meant to be just 8 1/2 inches wide but would go deep below ground, first through the water table and a mile through sediment before hitting the top of a crystalline rock layer. From there, the hole would be drilled another two miles into the Earth. This is the layer where nuclear waste would be stored, then sealed off with a steel casing and concrete to protect the environment and water in the mile span separating the waste from the land's surface.

Utah-based DOSECC Exploration Services LLC and Enercon Federal Services, Inc., based in Atlanta, are developing the Nara Visa proposal and are one of four groups that have been granted the go-ahead from the Energy Department for Phase 1 of the project. This is referred to as "community buy-in," gaining not only public approval but also support for the project, and securing the land for the borehole site.

If DOSECC and Enercon win this bid, they will get $35 million over a five-year period to drill the first hole. The Energy Department will grant an additional $50 million to drill a second, wider borehole if the first is successful.

Peter Mast, president of Enercon Federal Services, said the project could create 20 temporary jobs and between six and 12 permanent positions. At a public meeting in Nara Visa in October, he told residents that workers might need lodging, food and laundry services, which could create more jobs.

When the Quay County Commission approved the proposal Oct. 10, it emphasized that the project would encourage investment in the county and educational programs for citizens and public school students, and that, "at the end of the project, an effort will be made to turn this deep granite borehole into a permanent subsurface geologic observatory."

State Rep. Dennis Roch, R-Logan, who is also the superintendent of the Logan Municipal Schools, said his science and math teachers are excited about the project, as are educators at Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari.

"The entire region could use a shot in the arm of federal dollars," he said. "But I'm more interested in the educational opportunities."

He said that after meeting with the companies, he felt confident there was "no connection between this viability test and the ultimate decision of where to dispose of nuclear waste way down the road."

"I think it is a win-win for Quay County and Eastern New Mexico," he said.

Like Quay County, the three other counties selected for Phase 1 — including Otero County in Southern New Mexico, Pecos County in Texas and Haakon County in South Dakota — share more than just ideal geologies. They're also poor, with per capita incomes far below the national average.

Dennis Nielson, president of DOSECC Exploration Services, which is working with the Energy Department and Enercon to develop the project, said the economic factors in the communities surrounding the borehole sites was a factor "in that this is, in my mind, an opportunity for economic development."

Nielson said the borehole could create these opportunities by establishing a type of below-surface laboratory to study geology and geothermal energy. A nearly six-mile-deep borehole near Windischeschenbach, Germany, has been used in this way. Another exists in Russia.

The company also was looking for places remote enough that the drilling wouldn't "be bothering people," Nielson said.

The Nara Visa site would only be permitted for drilling, he added. Nuclear waste storage would require an entirely different permitting and regulatory process.

"You can always figure out a way. The federal government can get around anything," he said. "But the likelihood of that is very remote. We have no intention of putting nuclear waste in there."

Despite these promises, some residents in Nara Visa are skeptical, wondering why federal officials would spend so much money drilling a hole if they weren't going to put nuclear waste in it.

In the shadow of a small, white church — its doors locked except on Sundays — Toni Earle, 41, had just gotten home from her job as a mail carrier.

"I hope it ain't happening," she said of the project. "I don't agree with what they are talking about. I don't think that's very good for our little community. There is nothing left (here), other than some really good people."

Earle moved with her husband to Nara Visa 25 years ago, before things began closing. There are few conveniences in Nara Visa today. Parents have to drive their children 12 miles to the county line to get the school bus. To buy groceries, residents must drive to Tucumcari or Dalhart, Texas, both about 50 miles away. Many residents have taken to keeping a 5-gallon tank of gas handy for passing travelers who reach town on empty, not realizing there is no place to refuel for miles.

"I don't even like the thought of it coming to Nara Visa or any town," Earle said of the borehole project. "I heard about Carlsbad — that could happen here, easily," she said, referring to a February 2014 radiation leak that occurred half a mile below ground at WIPP, causing the facility to shutter for almost three years.

"Both crop and cattle will be suffering for it," said her 23-year-old son, Jonathan, who was living at home before heading to school in Colorado.

"I don't really know what to think," resident Ada Niles, 76, said of the project. She went to one of the community meetings held in October by Enercon's president, Mast, and said, "The guy talked like it'd be a good thing. Then the kids got on the computer. If they are going to put nuclear waste in (the borehole), we don't want it."

Niles raises cattle, like most people in Nara Visa, and runs the Western Stars Motel, the only business in town aside from the post office. It, too, may close, she said.

"That's the main concern with the ranchers. Is it going to affect our cattleis it going to affect our water?" she said. She is also concerned that drilling could cause more earthquakes, like the tremors Nara Visa had over the summer. Company officials say the sites were selected to avoid harming groundwater and hitting fault lines.

Niles' daughter-in-law, Sandra Evans, 50, said they were told the workers who would come to Nara Visa for the borehole project would need "houses to rent, cook, clean, do laundry. He stressed a lot of this."

"That'd be nice," Niles said. "If we had some new people."

As of 2010, there were at least 109,300 metric tons of high-level nuclear waste and spent fuel awaiting a final resting place, according to a study that year by researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. In 1987, Congress agreed to put low-level, transuranic waste at WIPP and send much of this high-level waste to Yucca Mountain in Nevada, where it would be stored in tunnels mined into the mountain rock.

But over the years, there was increasing public outcry in Nevada, and Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and President Barack Obama both opposed the Yucca Mountain project, defunding it in 2010. A plan to recycle excess weapons-grade plutonium into commercial reactor fuel at a Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility in South Carolina also was defunded by Obama.

Meanwhile, WIPP, after being closed for nearly three years following the radiation leak, began depositing waste below ground for the first time in December. But the stagnation of waste disposal at these facilities left the Energy Department scrambling for alternatives, and in 2012, deep boreholes resurfaced as a potential alternative, an idea that was first floated in the 1950s.

To store all of the waste sitting at 77 U.S. facilities, the Energy Department needs to drill 950 boreholes at an estimated $20 million per hole, or $71 billion for the entire project, including transportation, environmental reclamation, monitoring and site characterization, according to the 2010 Sandia study. In contrast, Yucca Mountain was estimated to cost $96 billion.

Each hole is expected to contain 400 vertically stacked fuel pods that, unlike the costly steel drums used to pack waste headed to WIPP, would not require specialized containers but instead would be stored in their spent fuel form or glass. Multiple boreholes could be drilled just over 200 meters apart to avoid thermal reactions.

Though the Sandia study said boreholes could be used for nuclear reactor waste, Mast from Enercon said he believes the Energy Department is only looking at boreholes for waste from nuclear weapons development.

To actually begin placing nuclear waste in the boreholes will require an amendment to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Before the proposal reaches that stage, Greg Mello, director of the watchdog Los Alamos Study Group, says the government should be more transparent about exactly what type of high-level nuclear waste would go in the holes: spent fuel rods, nuclear weapons waste or down-blended plutonium.

The Energy Department "gets a toe in the door" with the test hole, he said. "People become dependent on the flow of money; they get stars in their eyes."

He said the decision surrounding the borehole project should be considered statewide, not just by the county.

Even in Nara Visa, residents said they are still unclear about the true implications of the proposal.

"What they are putting on paper makes sense," said Sandra Evans. "But is it going to help us or hurt us?"

MISD

From 1A

Discussion ended with Board President Rick Davis saying, "we have learned from our past and we hope to do it better and smarter and more correctly."

It was then stated that the board will ask perspective candidates about styles of leadership — such as unilateral, consultative or collaborative — and about how that person might fit in with a district with its new goals and superintendent constraints.

Another constraint focused on the selection of a principal with fewer than two years in role experience for underperforming campuses. There were concerns that more qualified principals were resistant to leadership positions on lower-performing campuses. This created a problem as more capable teachers appeared to follow those principals to higher-performing campuses — a system one leader called "the good-old-boy system" — and the district didn't have a surplus of teachers.

"The least-performing teachers end up at certain campuses because (those principals) get the leftovers," is how one official described the process.

Schroder said district practice should be taking "good principals" and "put them in spots" even if there was some sort of incentive.

"In the Amarillo culture, when you were moved, that was a good thing," said Schroder, who most recently served as Amarillo ISD's superintendent for 15 years and led an academic reform effort there.

The belief, according to Schroder and other staff members, is if the district places that standout principal in a lower-performing campus, he or she will recruit good teachers.

The board plans to produce a draft of the district goals, goal-performing measures, superintendent constraints and theories of actions that were created this weekend. After the board approves the final draft — which could be as early as Friday — the document will be available to the public.

SITTON

From 1A

We know permits are going to be ramped back up again, and we're going to see capital being deployed in new development. There will be rule questions, and I have to have staff to do that. While we've managed through the downturn, we have to be positioning for the next year and the year after that. So while we're not asking for more money, we need more of the money you've authorized us to spend, and we will be building that staff back to support the state going forward.

MRT: How detrimental will it be losing 150 employees to retirement?

SITTON: We need to build the staff and the expertise to support the commission and the state for the next 20 years. So when I have 150 employees at near or retirement age, yes, it's about the number of employees, but it's more about the experience. If I have 100 employees leave over the next few years, it's 100 of almost 700 employees but probably 50 to 60 percent of my experience. So that's really the piece that is so vital to us: bringing in people we can train to be technical experts five to 10 years from now.

MRT: Craddick also mentioned that there won't be many — if any — information technology upgrades at the commission.

SITTON: We've made some notable investments in IT development over the past three years, but we still have a long way to go.

Chairman Craddick is correct. From a state budget perspective, we're limited. The Legislature is saying we can only fund the things that absolutely need to be done. The governor, lieutenant governor and speaker have all been very public that Child Protective Services, school finance and health care are the big priorities that touch all Texans today.

I agree with Craddick that the odds are we're not going to get much in the way of funding new projects this year. It doesn't mean we don't need to do them, but it's not going to be the highest priority for the Legislature.

MRT: If you had the Legislature's undivided attention, what would you ask them for?

SITTON: Increase the mechanism to give us the revenue that we need. I don't need authority to spend more money; I need to be able to bring in the money that you've given us the authority to spend.

There's a gas utility tax that the RRC already collects, and we turn around and give it to the general revenue fund. If they would let us keep those revenues, it would almost match up with the shortfall we have and we'd be in great shape.

MRT: Protesters are gathering at a site near Balmorhea State Park in Toyahvale in opposition to future Apache Corp. drilling in the area and pipelines for fear they're pollute the springs there. What's your message to them?

SITTON: Pipelines are the safest way to move this product; they're very reliable over long periods of time. When you talk more broadly about oil and gas anywhere, this industry does not utilize the same practices it did 40, 50 years ago. The track record over the past 10 years is exceptional. ... While everyone has room to improve, our track record is really, really strong.

I try to tell everybody that nothing is 100 percent in life. We look at the world and ask how we can minimize risks to a level where all of us feel good that we're protecting our communities and land, and I feel very good about that these days.

So to the protesters, I understand no one wants this in their backyard, but at the same time, it is very good for our state, and the risks are very, very low for these things to do any sort of damage.

MRT: You recently had a strong response to the EPA's settlement with environmental groups concerning its own review of regulations.

SITTON: This is one of those instances where aside from your stance on the EPA versus the RRC, the federal government versus states' rights, this was such a clear example of political gamesmanship.

The EPA did not want to follow its own rulemaking process, so they settled a lawsuit with environmental agencies saying they would evaluate their rules as a way of pushing through rule changes. It's a shame that stuff has gone on and is acceptable, no matter what your political stance is. It's an example of bureaucracy and political gamesmanship at its worst. Hopefully it's going to be over and we see the EPA work as a regulatory agency should.

MRT: Have you picked up on the fashion trend among businessmen in Midland that no tie is required?

SITTON: When I first started fundraising to run for political office, I dressed the part. I'm going to be a statewide elected official, so I'm going to be in a suit and tie. Pretty much anywhere I go these days in a Railroad Commission capacity, I wear a suit in tie.

When I started coming to Midland, I was in a suit and tie, and by the third for fourth trip up there, I stopped wearing a tie because I realized that anywhere else in this state — Houston, Dallas, anywhere — you go to the big cities, the tie fits. I'm not a tie guy. I hate ties, and I hate them with a passion.

I love coming to Midland because I wear a dress shirt and jacket but no tie. I love it.

Like Trevor on Facebook and follow him on Twitter at @NewsByNewes.

EAGLES

From 3A

and efforts to save them are underway, the bald eagles are a problem, said Chris DeSorbo, director of the raptor program at the Biodiversity Research Institute in Portland.

Cormorants are seabirds that are widely distributed around the globe, but North America has only a few breeding colonies from Maine to Greenland, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Common loons, decimated by hunting, also sometimes fall victim to eagles and are the subject of repopulation efforts in New England and elsewhere.

"Eagles are very opportunistic predators. They are going to try to take advantage of an easy meal wherever they can," DeSorbo said. "In this case, I think seabird colonies can represent a low risk food resource for them."

In other areas, the eagles are assuming a role they played centuries ago — agricultural pest. And it's not just chickens they're getting.

AP file photo

A bald eagle is on watch in the outdoor attraction at the National Aviary on the Northside on Jan. 2 in Pittsburgh.

Lee Straw, a Maine farmer who raises sheep on an island, said his weaker lambs sometimes fall prey to eagles.

"There's nothing you can do," Straw said.

"It's survival of the fittest anyway."

Such predation is to be expected because bald eagles are apex predators, said Mark McCollough, an endangered species biologist with the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. The service doesn't consider it a problem, but rather indicative of the species' success at rebuilding.

"Yes, eagles are having an effect on other species of wildlife," he said. "But that's natural. Predation like that probably occurred here hundreds of years ago."

HEALTH

From 3A

Sanders, a strong supporter of the law, made several visits to the state last year during the Michigan primary and defeated Hillary Clinton there. But in a major surprise, Michigan narrowly voted for Trump on Nov. 8, the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the state since 1988. Rallies in some other cities in support of the health law also were well attended. Police estimated about 600 people showed up in Portland, Maine. Hundreds also attended events in Newark, New Jersey, Johnston, Rhode Island, Richmond, Virginia and Boston.

Republicans want to end the fines that enforce the requirement that many individuals buy coverage and that larger companies provide it to workers.

But they face internal disagreements on how to pay for any replacement and how to protect consumers and insurers during a long phase-in of an alternative.

Mark Heller, 45, a civil rights, immigration and labor attorney who drove to the Michigan event from Toledo, Ohio, said that stopping Republicans from repealing the law may take more than attending rallies.

"I think that it's going to take civil disobedience to turn this around because they have the votes in both the Senate and the House, and the president," he said.

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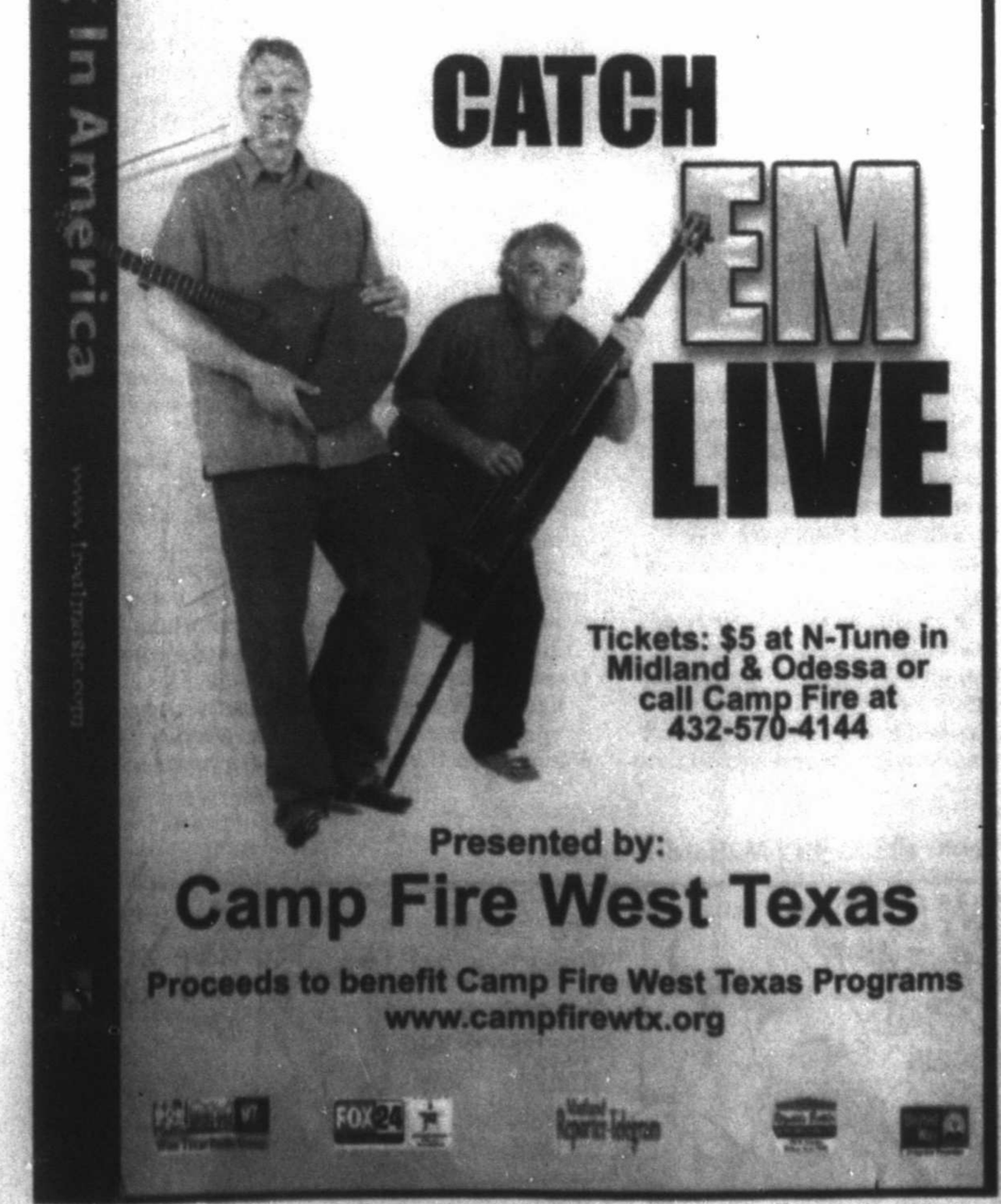

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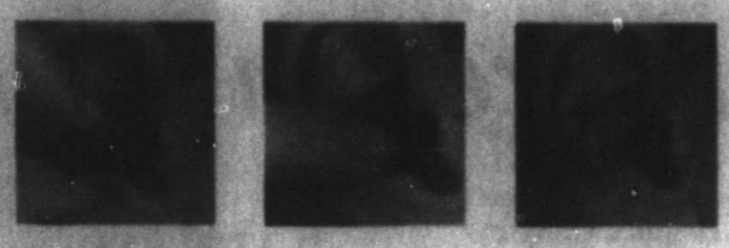

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There's reason to continue to protest election

■ Inspector general's investigation into Comey's conduct, Congress' investigation into Russia's apparent interference are urgent, overdue and probably useless

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

Republicans can argue until their last breath that Trump objectors are sore losers, but isn't more at stake than "mere politics"? This phrase has been rendered quaint by such serious issues as: Russian hackers apparently trying to tilt the election toward Donald Trump; the FBI's possibly politically motivated practices; Trump's initial resistance to the conclusions of the U.S. intelligence community; Trump's refusal to release tax records, which might mollify concerns about his relationship with Russia.

These aren't partisan issues, or shouldn't be, as evidenced by the Justice Department inspector general's decision to investigate how FBI Director James Comey handled the probe of Hillary Clinton's email and private server. The focus will be on Comey's statement in July that Clinton and her colleagues were "extremely careless" with classified information but that he wasn't recommending criminal charges — as well as his announcement to Congress just a week and a half before Election Day that, because of new information, he was reopening the investigation.

This fresh look pertained to new emails found on the laptop of Carlos Danger, aka Anthony Weiner (but, really, why the name change?), estranged husband of top Clinton adviser Huma Abedin. The emails subsequently were found to be inconsequential, but if there were any fence-sitters left at that point, at least many of them probably toppled into Trump's camp, from sheer exhaustion if not outright disgust.

Let me help you: Eleven days to go and the man who had said there's nothing to see here suddenly says, *Hey, there might be something after all!* And no one's supposed to think this affected the election?

How could it not have? Anecdotally, I can report at least a dozen friends who say, "That was it for me." But polling, too, suggests a consequential voter shift in the final days of the campaign.

FiveThirtyEight, Nate Silver's polling/analysis group, reported that Clinton had an 81 percent chance of winning in mid-October. About a week after Comey's announcement, that number dropped to 65 percent. This rapid shift didn't occur because people suddenly recognized that Trump is a brilliant foreign policy strategist. It's true that undecided people often return to their party at the last minute, but this may not account for Clinton's sudden drop.

Although it's impossible to prove that Comey had any impact, there's enough reason for dissatisfied Americans to continue to protest the results — even on Inauguration Day. For certain, Comey acted against bureau policy never to interfere politically or discuss investigations so close to an election. If there's any justification, Comey may have felt that the information would be leaked anyway.

Adding suspicion to skepticism, the hacking and release of Democratic National Committee emails also may have affected election results, though, again, it's impossible to know how much since, as far as I'm aware, we can't read people's minds (yet). Thus, we're left to draw inferences from suppositions from what little else we know.

We do know that our intelligence community concluded that Russia hacked the DNC, and Trump finally accepted this last week. To concede that Russia was behind the hacking (rather than a 400-pound person sitting in a bed somewhere, as Trump at one point theorized) was, presumably, to admit that Russia helped him win. Well, didn't it? Didn't Trump loudly call upon Russia to hack Clinton's emails?

For the undecided (or the unpersuadable), let's pose a hypothetical: What if Clinton had publicly asked Russia to hack Trump's records and release his tax returns — and Russia did? And what if the FBI announced less than two weeks before Election Day that it was going to investigate fraudulent practices at Trump University? Let's say that Trump's number dipped dramatically and he lost.

Do you reckon Republicans would be a tad upset?

The inspector general's investigation into Comey's conduct, as well as Congress' investigation into Russia's apparent interference in the election, are urgent, overdue and probably useless. Mostly, Comey is guilty of poor judgment. And Russia is being Russia — a fact best quickly absorbed by the soon-to-be president.

Yes, democracy needs saving and the republic's foundation is showing wear. But isn't the crucial question the very one that can't be answered: *Did we really elect Donald Trump to be president of the United States?*

We may never know precisely who sowed the wind, but to be sure, we're all going to reap the whirlwind.

OUR VIEW

Yenzer displayed characteristics of true role model

We were sad to hear Craig Yenzer is leaving the school district as Midland High's head football coach. We always saw Yenzer as a man of tremendous character and a role model for the young men wearing the purple and gold.

We wish Midland ISD good luck in finding his replacement.

This is a tough blow for a school district that is having a hard time finding a consistent place among the best football programs in the state. Yenzer was a link that our public schools had to competing at the highest level.

But we respected Yenzer the man as much as the coach. We remember the 2002 season and Midland High's trip to the state championship game. The Bulldogs, it appeared, had their first state title in hand, but incredible circumstances allowed their opponent to escape with the win and the state crown.

Moments after that game Yenzer showed the characteristics of the role model that we want to see in our community leaders. He stood there and answered calmly the toughest questions one can imagine and took accountability for the team's loss. Leaders don't blame others, don't avoid the spotlight when the heat is turned up and leave a community proud of their representation (win or lose).

Make no mistake about it. Yenzer was a heck of a football coach. He took teams to the state title game in Hereford and Midland. He will leave as the program's longest-tenured coach and as the first Midland ISD coach to record 100 wins (he won 103). He showed the ability to beat some of the state's best programs. And while they didn't beat No. 6-ranked DeSoto in September, the Bulldogs played tough. A batted-down Hail Mary pass with three seconds remaining prevented Midland High from getting a win against the eventual Class 6A champions.

Yenzer is more than the most successful coach in Midland High history. He is a God-fearing man, who led by example and made us proud that he was on the Bulldogs' sideline.

Good luck in your next endeavor, Coach Yenzer.

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TO OUR READERS

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Trump should prove he's no puppet

■ There's danger that Putin might control chunk of president-elect's debt

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

After my aunt died recently, a cousin found in her papers the "Petition for Naturalization" that our great-grandfather signed in 1913, 13 years after emigrating from Russia.

The wording on the yellowed page required my ancestor to affirm that he was neither anarchist nor polygamist. The oath continued: "It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly to Nicholas II, Emperor of all the Russias."

The oath differs from the one President-elect Donald Trump will take at his inauguration. But if it was important enough for our nation to require a Brooklyn tailor a century ago to renounce the czar, is it too much to ask that our new president promise the same?

I'm not questioning Trump's citizenship or patriotism. But it would be reassuring to see him renounce fidelity to another repressive leader of Russia — to demonstrate that he is "no puppet" of Vladimir Putin.

The renewed attention to Trump's Russia ties is welcome, but the unverified "dossier" published last week is a distraction. Hotel liaisons don't threaten American security. The danger is that Putin and his allies might control a chunk of Trump's debt and therefore hold hostage his financial stability.

Trump arguably owes his election to Putin. (In an election as close as this one, any number of minor factors could have been decisive, including the Russians' leaks of Democrats' hacked emails.) And he refuses to do the things that would remove fears that Putin has sway over Trump's finances: release his tax returns, divest of his businesses or put them into a blind trust. You don't have to be a conspiracy theorist to wonder if the incoming president is beholden to one of the nation's most wily adversaries.

Here's what we know:

Trump, once the self-described "king of debt," now claims he isn't highly leveraged, but there's no way to verify this without tax returns. A New York Times examination last year found at least $650 million in debt, twice the amount that could be found in Trump's financial disclosure.

Though Trump has insisted he has no financial dealings with Russia, his son Donald Trump Jr. declared in 2008: "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets. ... We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia."

As The Washington Post's Michael Kranish recapped last week, Trump has attempted several deals in Russia over decades. He received $95 million from an oligarch for a Palm Beach mansion in 2008 and untold more from Russian investors buying his condos.

Britain's Guardian newspaper reported last week that the FBI unsuccessfully applied for a warrant during the summer to monitor four members of Trump's team suspected of "irregular contacts with Russian officials."

Russia's deputy foreign minister told the Interfax state news agency that the government had "contacts" with Trump's campaign and knows "most of the people from his entourage." Trump's campaign denied this.

Trump declined again last week to release his tax returns. Instead of selling his businesses or creating a blind trust, he announced that he gave control to his adult sons with his (unenforceable) assurance that "they're not going to discuss it with me."

Although having all these known or potential entanglements with Russia, Trump has questioned the value of NATO, said he would consider removing sanctions against Russia and recognizing Russia's annexation of Crimea, spoken favorably of Putin's leadership and resisted blaming Putin for cyberattacks and human-rights abuses. Trump hired as his national security adviser Michael Flynn, who has appeared on Russia's state-owned RT network and sat with Putin at a dinner celebrating the network.

Trump also tapped to be secretary of state Rex Tillerson, the former ExxonMobil chief who received the Order of Friendship award from Putin's government. At his confirmation hearing, Tillerson declined to say Putin had committed war crimes or approved the killing of opponents and journalists. He left opea the possibility of lifting sanctions against Russia.

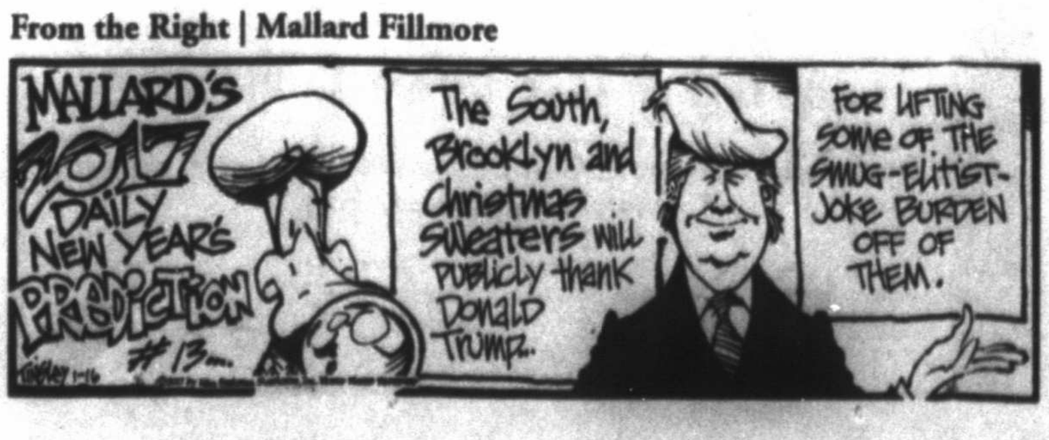
Happily, Trump's picks to run the Pentagon and CIA were more skeptical of Russia in testimony, but that potentially puts them at odds with their commander in chief.

Asked last week whether he agreed that Putin tried to help him win the election and whether he would rescind Obama's actions punishing Russia, Trump replied: "If Putin likes Donald Trump, I consider that an asset, not a liability."

Clearly. And Putin, just as clearly, considers Trump an asset. The question is whether Trump is Putin's asset because the Russian president con-

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump meets with reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York on Friday.

In Trump, man elected by Americans is president they'll get

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After 10 weeks, dozens of tweets and one rollicking news conference, Donald Trump's transition into the White House has left little doubt that the man Americans elected in November is the president they'll get.

The immense responsibilities of the office and the daunting decisions that await Trump when he takes office Friday have not appeared to change the confrontational, divisive Republican.

Just days away from his inauguration, Trump is still litigating old campaign fights and picking new ones with intelligence agencies and Rep. John Lewis, the Georgia Democrat and civil rights movement veteran. Trump is refusing to be boxed in by the conservative ideology his party prefers and he's battling with journalists, yet still craves their attention.

To supporters, Trump's handling of this transition period is proof that the political novice-turned-president-elect plans to follow through on his campaign promises to take a sledgehammer to Washington's traditional ways.

"The American people voted for change," Trump spokesman Sean Spicer said. "He is the instrument of that change."

It's clear, however, that a solid majority of Americans are not behind him. Trump is poised to enter the Oval Office with a far lower approval rating — 42 percent — than his three predecessors, according to Gallup, which only has comparable data going back to 1992. The previous lowest was George W. Bush, who won positive marks from 59 percent during his transition to office. Bush, like Trump, also lost the popular vote in a tightly contested race.

Gallup found just 44 percent of those questioned approve of the way the incoming president has handled his transition, compared with 83 percent approval of Barack Obama's transition. Sixty-one percent approved of Bush's transition.

That leaves a hefty task ahead for Trump, who must take the stage on Friday and, after swearing the oath, address perhaps his largest, broadest audience to date. Presidents typically call for unity and common purpose.

David Axelrod, a longtime political adviser to Obama, cast doubt on whether that was something Trump could do. He pointed to Trump's post-election "thank you" tour that took the Republican only to states he won.

"It might not be within his emotional range to be a unifying figure," Axelrod said. He acknowledged that some Democrats might resist any overtures from Trump, though he said total resistance would not serve his party well either.

Advisers and others who have spoken with Trump since the election say that despite his combative public presence during the transition, he's aware of the grand sweep of history as he approaches the presidency. He's told friends that he's drawn to both the ambition and style of Presidents Ronald Reagan, a Republican, and John F. Kennedy, a Democrat.

During a lunch with presidential historian Douglas Brinkley and other guests at his South Florida club, Trump said he was thinking about spending his first night in the White House sleeping in the famed Lincoln Bedroom. A participant in the lunch first recalled the conversation and Brinkley confirmed its accuracy.

Several people detailed their recent interactions with Trump on the condition of anonymity in order to disclose private discussions with the president-elect.

Trump is said to have become particularly fixated on veterans issues, evaluating numerous candidates to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs before settling on David Shulkin, an Obama nominee who is a VA undersecretary. The president-elect said he interviewed "at least 100 people" for the job, though aides said that was an exaggeration.

Between meetings at Trump Tower and Mar-a-Lago in Florida — and sometimes during them — Trump is said to be constantly making and taking calls on his personal cellphone from lawmakers, foreign leaders, aides and journalists.

But any behind-the-scene diligence and focus has largely been overshadowed by Trump's remarkably public battles — against the intelligence agencies, Hillary Clinton, actress Meryl Streep and, over the weekend, Lewis.

One of the biggest questions facing Trump as he prepares to take office is how his confrontational and unpredictable style will affect his ability to enact his agenda and manage the inevitable crises he will face. He has the benefit of a Republican-led Congress, but potential intraparty disagreements loom over spending and entitlements.

Health care will be an early test for Trump and the GOP. The president-elect says he expects Congress to repeal and replace Obama's signature health care law "essentially simultaneously," though he has not specified for lawmakers what he expects to be in a new measure. Some Republicans believe the complexity of the current system makes a fast overhaul nearly impossible.

Trump's relationship with Russia will shadow his inauguration. The Senate Intelligence Committee says it will investigate possible contacts between Russia and the people associated with U.S. political campaigns as part of a broader investigation into Moscow's meddling in the 2016 presidential election. The investigation will include interviews, and potentially subpoenas, for Trump aides.

During a freewheeling news conference last week, Trump acknowledged publicly for the first time that he accepts the intelligence community's assessment that Russia was behind the election-year hacking of Democratic groups. But one person who spoke with Trump following his full briefing with intelligence officials said the president-elect was still raising questions about what proof there was of Russia's role.

Democrats are yet to decide how they plan to approach a Trump presidency.

Lewis, who worked alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement, said he does not view Trump as a legitimate president, leading Trump to criticize the congressman in several tweets. Lewis and a small number of other Democratic lawmakers plan to skip the inauguration celebrations.

Obama, who has been offering advice to Trump both publicly and privately since the election, questioned whether a president can be "improvisational" in office. But in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," he also suggested his successor's unorthodoxy should not be misjudged.

"Don't underestimate the guy," Obama said. "He's going to be the 45th president of the United States."

Inauguration highlights Trump's infrastructure opportunities

By Ben Nuckols
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As a candidate, Donald Trump said he wanted to make America's infrastructure great again. As president, he'll have plenty of ways to get started in his new hometown.

The Arlington Memorial Bridge, Washington's most recognizable span over the Potomac River, is in such bad shape that it will be closed to all vehicle traffic during Friday's inauguration.

Hundreds of thousands will rely on the Metro subway to reach the Capitol and the National Mall, and they'll get a firsthand look at a system that's deteriorated significantly during the past eight years and has repair needs measured in the billions.

Even the Washington Monument is shut down because of a broken elevator. Visitors won't be able to ride to the top again until at least 2019.

Political leaders in the region, mostly Democrats, say the city's infrastructure mess presents an opportunity to Trump and Republicans in Congress to show they can govern and deliver on one of the new president's touted campaign promises. But as Trump gets ready to take office, they're not optimistic that he's ready to follow through.

"It'll be in his face. He'll see the worn-out infrastructure right here where he lives," said Eleanor Holmes Norton, a Democrat who's the District of Columbia's delegate in Congress. "But we don't yet have, especially for the first 100 days, any indication that he wants to start off with a plan."

Trump has promised to employ millions of workers to rebuild the nation's highways, bridges, tunnels and airports and make them "second to none" in the process.

It's an unquestioned need. Nationwide, governments are short $1.4 trillion of the money needed to make necessary repairs to infrastructure — including drinking, wastewater and mass transit systems — through 2025, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

That's the problem with the Arlington Memorial Bridge, which connects the Lincoln Memorial with Arlington National Cemetery and is arguably the region's most pressing need. One of the five spans that bring vehicles across the Potomac River into traffic-choked Washington, it will be forced to close by 2021 without a reconstruction, expected to cost at least $250 million. The National Park Service won a $90 million federal grant last year to start the project, but is still looking for a way to come up the rest of the money.

"It's the absolute poster child for our crumbling infrastructure nationally," said Rep. Don Beyer, a Democrat who represents the Virginia side of the bridge. "We're allowing our national capital to crumble before our eyes and the eyes of the whole world. It's pretty embarrassing."

During the campaign, Trump positioned himself as capable of addressing the public works problem because of his business background. But his plans have been open-ended and short on specifics, and many Republicans in Congress are not eager to approve large-scale infrastructure spending.

A paper circulated after the election recommended using $137 billion in federal tax credits to generate $1 trillion in private-sector infrastructure investment over a decade. Such private investors are typically interested only in projects that create revenue, such as tolls. That solution isn't practical with many infrastructure projects.

Said Beyer, "I do not want to make Arlington Memorial Bridge a toll bridge."

Mayor Muriel Bowser said she hopes the inauguration will be "an opportunity to focus the incoming administration's attention" on the 85-year-old bridge. Vehicles weighing 10 tons or more have been barred from using it since 2014, and during the inauguration, it will be closed to all but pedestrians.

Metro, the city's beleaguered subway system, has handled past inaugurations smoothly. The system changes its schedule on Inauguration Day, opening earlier than usual and running trains at rush-hour levels throughout the day. Some downtown stations will be closed for security reasons.

But in 2009 — when 1.8 million people attended President Barack Obama's first inauguration — Metro was in much better shape. Since then, ridership has declined and service has become less reliable amid a series of calamities, including track fires, derailments and collisions.

Metro's leaders say the system needs major new spending to reverse the decline. But elected officials in Maryland, Virginia and the city can't agree on a regional tax to fund the system. Republicans in Congress have been hostile to the suggestion of more federal dollars, saying Metro's problems result from poor management. To balance Metro's budget, general manager Paul Wiedefeld has proposed laying off workers, raising fares, reducing service and asking local governments for bigger subsidies.

The Washington Monument is one thing that will get fixed regardless of whether Trump or Congress takes action. Billionaire philanthropist David Rubenstein came to the rescue of the monument with $3 million to fix the elevator, just as he paid for major repairs to the 555-foot obelisk after it was damaged in a 2011 earthquake.

Outgoing CIA chief rips into Trump on Russia threat

By Steve Peoples and Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The outgoing CIA director charged on Sunday that Donald Trump lacks a full understanding of the threat Moscow poses to the United States, delivering a public lecture to the president-elect that further highlighted the bitter state of Trump's relations with American intelligence agencies. John Brennan's pointed message on national television came just five days before Trump becomes the nation's 45th president amid lingering questions about Russia's role in the 2016 election even as the focus shifts to the challenges of governing. "Now that he's going to have an opportunity to do something for our national security as opposed to talking and tweeting, he's going to have tremendous responsibility to make sure that U.S. and national security interests are protected," Brennan said on "Fox News Sunday," warning that the president-elect's impulsivity could be dangerous.

"Spontaneity is not something that protects national security interests," Brennan declared. Trump, who has unleashed a series of aggressive tweets against the U.S. intelligence community and his political rivals in recent weeks, did not respond to Brennan's criticism. But later Sunday, he retweeted a journalist's remark that the intelligence community owes Trump an apology for briefing him on a document that contains unverified financial and personal information that could be damaging to the president-elect. "Media should apologize also" for reporting on the document and the briefing, Trump wrote. The Associated Press has not been able to verify the contents of the document. The president-elect remained behind closed doors in his Manhattan high rise Sunday. His team worked to answer questions about his plans at home and abroad once he's sworn into office on Friday.

Among Trump's immediate challenges: the United States' complicated relationship with Russia, crafting an affordable health care alternative that doesn't strip coverage from millions of Americans, and growing questions about the legitimacy of his presidency.

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Israel says Nazi camp excavations unearth link to Anne Frank

JERUSALEM — Researchers excavating the remains of one of the most notorious Nazi death camps have uncovered a pendant that appears identical to one belonging to Anne Frank, Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial said Sunday.

Yad Vashem says it has ascertained the pendant belonged to Karoline Cohn — a Jewish girl who perished at Sobibor and may have been connected to the famous diarist. Both were born in Frankfurt in 1929, and historians have found no other pendants like theirs.

The triangular piece found has the words "Mazal Tov" written in Hebrew on one side along with Cohn's date of birth. The other side has the Hebrew letter "heh," an initial for God, as well as three Stars of David.

Researchers are now trying to reach out to any remaining relatives of the two to confirm whether they were related.

Since 2007, the Israel Antiquities Authority, together with Yad Vashem, has been conducting excavations at the former camp in Poland in a novel approach to Holocaust research. The camp was destroyed after an October 1943 uprising, with the Nazis leveling it and planting over it to cover up their crimes. Yet, archeologists have managed to uncover the gas chamber foundations and the original train platform.

More than 250,000 Jews were killed in Sobibor, in eastern Poland, one of the most extreme examples of the Nazi "Final Solution" to eradicate European Jewry. Frank died at the Bergen-Belsen camp, in northern Germany, in 1945.

Unlike other facilities that had at least a facade of being prison or labor camps, Sobibor and the neighboring camps Belzec and Treblinka were designed specifically for exterminating Jews.

Kremlin counts days to Trump's inauguration, blasts Obama

By Vladimir Isachenkov
Associated Press

MOSCOW — With eager anticipation, the Kremlin is counting the days to Donald Trump's inauguration and venting its anger at Barack Obama's outgoing administration, no holds barred.

Careful not to hurt chances for a thaw in U.S.-Russia relations, President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials have deferred questions about their plans for future contacts with Trump and any agenda for those talks until he takes office Friday.

Trump's open admiration of Putin has brought wide expectations of improved Moscow-Washington relations, but Trump has not articulated a clear Russia policy. His Cabinet nominees include both a retired general with a hawkish stance on Russia and an oil executive who has done extensive business in Russia.

At the same time, Russian officials are blasting the outgoing U.S. administration in distinctly undiplomatic language, dropping all decorum after Obama hit Moscow with more sanctions in his final weeks in office.

Moscow calls Obama's team a "bunch of geopolitical losers" engaged in a last-ditch effort to inflict the maximum possible damage to U.S.-Russia ties to make it more difficult for Trump to mend the rift. In a clear effort to avoid risking a rapprochement with Trump, Putin showed remarkable restraint when the U.S. expelled 35 Russian diplomats over accusations of meddling in the U.S. election campaign. Instead of a usual tit-for-tat response, Putin invited U.S. diplomats' children to a New Year's party at the Kremlin.

Trump's national security adviser, Michael Flynn, and Russia's ambassador to the U.S. were in frequent contact in recent weeks, including on Dec. 29, the day Obama hit Moscow with sanctions in retaliation for election-related hacking, according to a senior U.S. official.

Moscow similarly refrained from retaliation when the White House last week added five Russians, including the chief of Russia's top state investigative agency, to the U.S. sanctions list.

On Sunday, Vice President-elect Mike Pence insisted the Trump presidential campaign had no contacts with Russia and denied that the incoming national security adviser spoke with Russian officials in December about sanctions. He added that such questions were part of an effort to cast doubt on Trump's victory.

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin listens during a meeting in the Moscow's Kremlin in Moscow on Jan. 9.

While Putin and his lieutenants hope Trump will open up to Russia, they know any attempt to fix ties will face massive obstacles, including possible strong resistance in the U.S. Congress.

"Any future contacts will have to be prepared quite accurately and thoroughly, as they would follow a tense period," Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Fyodor Lukyanov, chair of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policies, a group of Russian foreign policy experts, said Syria is one area where a U.S.-Russian rapport is likely.

During the call with Flynn, the Russian ambassador invited U.S. officials to a conference on Syria in Kazakhstan later this month, according to a transition official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

In an interview Friday with The Wall Street Journal, Trump said he might do away with Obama's sanctions if Russia works with the U.S. on battling terrorists and achieving other goals.

The Kremlin would be eager to embrace a U.S. offer of cooperation on Syria. Obama's administration had refused to coordinate action against the IS with Russia, saying Moscow was bent on shoring up Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The complexity of the conflict in Syria — where opposition groups backed by regional players are pitted against Assad's troops and often fight each other — makes hopes for quick progress elusive.

"Russia and the United States are important players (in Syria) but not the only ones," Lukyanov said.

He noted that nuclear arms control is another possible area where Moscow and Washington could try to find common ground. While new arms control treaties are unlikely, the two countries may try to find ways to increase global stability, Lukyanov said.

Putin has pushed for the U.S. to recognize Moscow as an equal global heavyweight and to acknowledge that Russia's ex-Soviet neighbors are in its sphere of "vital interests" — demands rejected by the West. Many in Russia hope that Trump could be more inclined to strike a "grand bargain" with Putin, carving up spheres of influence and helping cement Russia's role as a global power.

Alexander Lebedev, a multimillionaire Russian owner of Britain's Evening Standard and Independent newspapers, believes that Putin wants a "big deal" that would envisage cooperation in Syria and possible cooperation in other spheres.

"$1 trillion a year is stolen by global banks and companies and moved offshore," Lebedev said, adding that Russia and the U.S. could launch a worldwide crackdown on corrupt business practices.

U.S.-Russian relations have sunk to a post-Cold War low over Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and support for a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine. A 2015 peace deal helped end large-scale battles in eastern Ukraine, but clashes have continued. The U.S. and the European Union have slapped Russia with economic sanctions and made their lifting contingent on the Ukraine peace deal's progress.

Although the Kremlin counts on Trump to roll the sanctions back, many observers are skeptical.

"In the current atmosphere, it's very difficult to imagine how Trump could start canceling the sanctions," Lukyanov said.

U.S. allegations of Russian meddling in the U.S. election top the list of irritants.

U.S. intelligence officials' accusations that Russian hackers — acting on Putin's orders — interfered into the vote to help Trump win have put the U.S. president-elect in a difficult position. Trump has grudgingly conceded that Russia was likely responsible for hacking the Democratic National Committee, but emphasized there was no evidence that hacking affected the U.S. election results.

The Kremlin has rejected the hacking accusations and also hotly denied reports that it has collected compromising information about Trump.

Aware that an open show of support for Trump would only make it more difficult for him to restore ties, Russian officials have mostly focused on blasting Obama's administration.

Konstantin Kosachev, the head of foreign affairs committee in the upper house of parliament, described the White House's decision to expel Russian diplomats as an "agony of not even lame ducks, but political corpses."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova went further.

"If 'Russian hackers' hacked anything in America, there were two things: Obama's brain, and, of course, the report about 'Russian hackers,'" she wrote on Facebook.

Zakharova charged that "Obama and his illiterate foreign policy team have dealt a crushing blow to America's prestige and leadership" and described his administration as "a bunch of geopolitical losers, enraged and shortsighted."

Obama's administration still has a few days left to "destroy the world," Zakharova wrote.

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RECOGNIZING MIDLAND'S UNSUNG HEROES & VOLUNTEERS

PHOTO BY TIM FISCHER

ANN AND JOE HATHAWAY

MIDLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE

Professional and community involvement: Ann: I managed the Costume Rental Shop at Midland Community Theatre for six years. I delivered for Meals on Wheels for 32 years but had to quit after I broke my hip. I have volunteered at MCT since 1978, doing props, box office, was a dresser and made costumes for 35 years. ... Now we usher one night at MCT every production weekend. Joe: Since 1964, I have designed and sold business forms, and I am almost retired now. I served as the first president of the Summer Mummers Board and 10 years on the MCT Board of Governors, the last year as president. Over the years, I served as MCT facilities chairman, musicals stage manager, provided a stage crew for 10 years and since 1981 have served as Yucca bar supplies chairman. In 2000, I attended the Midland Police Department's Citizen Police Academy and have volunteered with the Citizens on Patrol since then. I now also serve as a sworn officer of the court as a disabled parking enforcement volunteer.

How did you decide to serve the community volunteering at Midland Community Theatre? Ann: Joe was involved with MCT when I met him, and he got me involved. Susie Hitchcock Hall introduced me to Meals on Wheels, and I will be forever grateful. Joe: After hearing a radio appeal to try out for "Sound of Music" at MCT, I showed up and found out I was expected to sing. After my rendition of "Happy Birthday" was greeted with raucous laughter, I decided my place was backstage. After attending several Summer Mummers productions, I observed that the volunteers were having a great time, so I joined them.

What unexpected lesson have you learned while serving as a volunteer and through your nonprofit work? Ann: Meals on Wheels made me grateful for what I have and taught me that you can give a little of your time, and it means so much to others. I developed personal relationships with a lot of them. I was the only person a lot of them would see. Every Christmas I brought them a poinsettia and every Easter I made them an Easter basket. We have also made lifelong friends through serving at MCT. Joe: Volunteering is fun and very rewarding and a great way to meet many wonderful people — in my case, my wife.

Why is volunteerism a priority for you? Ann: I was a single mother for nine years, and I know what it is to struggle. We are grateful for what we have and feel that it is our duty to give back with our time and help whoever and wherever needed. Joe: It is a priority because there are so many opportunities to be of help with wonderful people and projects.

How long has Midland been your home, and why have you stayed? Ann: I came in 1963 and Joe in 1964, both with other spouses. I had three young children, and at that time we had excellent schools, and I had a lot of friends. Joe: I arrived with a new career, and a warning from my father that for six months I would be demanding a transfer, but that within a year I would refuse any transfer no matter how tempting. As usual, he was correct.

"THEY ARE A WONDERFUL COUPLE AND ASSETS TO MCT"

Ann and Joe have volunteered with MCT for several decades. They are here to usher for the opening weekend of every production.

Ann is in the costume shop at least once a week, while Joe works tirelessly to keep supplies at the Yucca Theatre for all our events and rentals there.

They are a wonderful couple and assets to MCT.

Mitchell Smith, *friend*

"I CANNOT IMAGINE THE THEATER WITHOUT THEM"

Ann and Joe Hathaway are proud to be Summer Mummers and lifelong volunteers at Midland Community Theatre. Joe has been involved since 1969 as a stage hand, stage manager, producer, house manager, board of governors member, Summer Mummer board member and has served on the MCT service board since 1992.

Ann began her service to MCT in 1978 working as a dresser, seamstress, costume rental shop manager and usher.

Ann and Joe have been honored as the HamHock-of-the-Year (our volunteer service organization is the Benevolent Order of HamHocks) and with the Summer Mummer Distinguished Service Award and Mule Train Award.

But it isn't just the number of years racked up at the Cole and Yucca theaters that make them special; it is the dedication to our theater's mission and the pride the Hathaways have in our company that really shine through.

Ann and Joe have been members since we moved into the address on Wadley Avenue and are major contributors to capital campaigns and other fundraisers.

If I ever need historical information on MCT shows or happenings — the movers and shakers, etc. — Joe and Ann are my first call. They have a wealth of knowledge about what it took to make Midland Community Theatre into one of the top community theaters in the nation.

They come to every show, often with neighbors and/or family in tow, and they love showing off our spaces and bragging about the staff. I cannot imagine the theater without them.

Tracy Alexander, *Midland Community Theatre production manager*

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'Cells on wheels' ready for inauguration

Companies prepare for massive data usage as Trump takes oath of office

By Brian Fung
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — All around the National Mall, what look like strange, giant meatballs or cheese wheels on a stick have been mysteriously cropping up. Fenced in and padlocked, these towering structures might easily be confused for spy equipment or extra security — perhaps not a bad guess for a city that's among the world's most heavily defended.

But in fact, they're part of a massive effort by cellphone carriers to prepare for an estimated million or more people who will be descending on Washington for the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump.

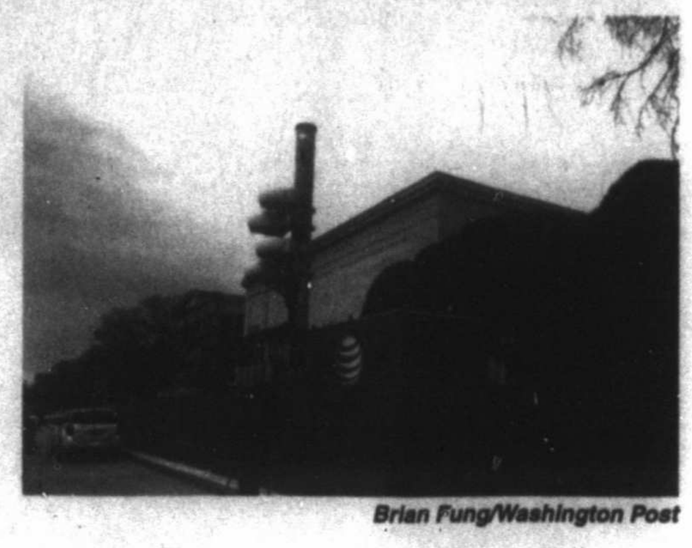
Wireless companies are bracing for a torrent of data usage by smartphone-toting visitors who intend on sharing photos and videos of their experience online. And to support all that activity, the carriers are literally rolling out their most advanced cellular antennas, the meatball-shaped devices now dotting the nation's capital.

These "cells on wheels," or COWs for short, have been placed in key locations so as to boost coverage and capacity. Unlike a typical cell tower, these mobile antennas are designed to handle surges of traffic surrounding large, public events such as NASCAR races and music concerts. Each one is capable of blasting out a dozen or more radio beams that together will allow hundreds of thousands of people to tweet, Instagram and post to Facebook on Thursday as easily as they were standing in their own living room.

The companies declined to share estimates on how many thousands of gigabytes' worth of tweets and Facebook posts might traverse their networks. But to be safe, many have spent months boosting their mobile data capacity in the area by 400 percent or more. Some began their planning almost as soon as President Barack Obama's last inauguration ended.

"This is going to be the most connected inauguration in history," said Mark Funka, Verizon's regional direc-

Please see USAGE/3B



Brian Fung/Washington Post

A temporary cell site set up on the National Mall by AT&T.

SCREEN SOLUTIONS

Dreamstime

One of the easiest ways to start a new fitness regime is simply to walk more. Apps can help.

Using fitness apps can replace going to gym

By Debbie Carlson
Chicago Tribune

Have a New Year's resolution to get in shape but abhor the gym? Fitness apps may be the solution.

Technology has advanced greatly, and current fitness apps provide people with much better access to information, said Jeana Anderson Cohen, a certified personal trainer and group fitness instructor who founded and operates the fitness website www.asweatlife.com.

"These apps and programs, videos and tools allow them to be efficient with their time and their bodies," she said.

And a gym membership isn't needed, either.

"If you have a body, you have a gym," Cohen said.

Although there aren't as many new fitness apps being created because of the rise of wearable fitness devices like Fitbit — which create their own motivations and experiences for users — fitness trainers picked their favorite new and established apps to help anyone with a smartphone get exercising.

Cody

This new subscription-based app has videos of certified trainers leading classes. Many of the classes focus on flexibility and strengthening exercises like yoga and Pilates, but it also has weightlifting and nutrition classes, with single classes and series available.

Cohen is especially pleased the videos show trainers with varied body types, and the videos are accessible to people of all fitness levels.

"They also have body-weight workouts that are accessible to anyone no matter where they are," she said.

Stepbet

One of the easiest ways to start a new fitness regime is to simply walk more. Dr. Bridget Scott, of Scott Chiropractic, recommended a new walking game app from the founders of DietBet called StepBet. Users bet against themselves on personalized targets, and they can win money when they reach their goals. The competition angle can be a catalyst to get sedentary people moving, she said.

"When there's money and competition involved, there's motivation. And you can't cheat because the Fitbit tracks your progress," Scott said.

Sworkit

Cohen and Scott said Sworkit's videos are good for beginners, although they're accessible to anyone with fitness goals. Scott said it's her favorite recent app.

"It's free, simple and can be customized to your body type and specific needs. I love the variety of strength, stretching, cardio, Pilates and yoga options, all with no gym or necessary equipment. It also syncs with MyFitnessPal and Google Fit, among others."

Scott said. Free and subscription versions are available.

Spotify Running

The music app Spotify has been around for a while, but recently it added a section devoted to runners. It uses an algorithm to create special playlists based on the user's movement. Tracy Chudnow, chief sweat officer at WheelPower Studio, swears by it.

"This app measures your running pace and then finds songs with a beats-per-minute to match it. For me, it's all about being on the beat and losing myself in the music. This app helps with that," she said. Free or subscription versions are available.

Zombies Run!

Need some distraction while exercising? Christian Koshaba, owner of Three60fit Gym, says this interactive game app is fun and offers a high-intensity workout. Users listen to a story and pick from 200 "missions" or create their own interval training.

"(Users) gather supplies, plot rescues and survive in the end times while getting in a great workout," he said.

Daily Workouts Free

For beginners who don't know where to start and aren't ready to commit funds, Lisa Payne, a personal trainer who works with private and corporate clients, likes Daily Workouts Free, a no-frills app.

"It's just 10 workouts and covers the basics. It's very short. It's great for people who want to get up early in the morning and get something in," she said.

Fitness Buddy

For people who want to know the "why" behind their exercise, Payne recommended subscription-based app Fitness Buddy. Not only does it have a

Please see APPS/3B

Startup pays real people to answer questions to build better AI

By Dina Bass
Bloomberg

To set up effective artificial intelligence software, a company needs a lot of data. But what happens if you don't have that kind of specific information about your area?

A Seattle-based startup, Mighty AI (formerly known as Spare5) will get it for you by paying subject-matter experts to spend a few minutes answering questions or performing tasks. Some examples include finding golf aficionados for IBM, people who can describe a photo for Getty Images, and radiologists or technicians to read tumor scans.

The company, which renamed itself to reflect a focus on AI training tasks, is adding three new investors as part of a $14 million funding round: Intel Capital, Google Ventures and Accenture Ventures. It's unveiling partnerships with Intel and Accenture, too.

Spare5 was spun out of Seattle-based VC Madrona Venture's labs in 2014, a mobile rival to Amazon's Mechanical Turk program, which finds workers for tasks online. Around the same time, Getty, reached out to get help categorizing images in its collection.

Like Getty, customers increasingly wanted Fives, — the people that take on the "microtasks" — to perform brief activities that train AI algorithms. So Spare5 refocused and renamed itself around that idea.

"There's an arms race in training data" for AI, said Chief Executive Officer Matt Bencke.

IBM, with its focus on Watson AI products, wanted to create a chat bot for spectators at the 2016 Masters golf tournament it sponsors. Using tablets on site or their own mobile phones, golf fans would be able to ask the bot questions or banter with it. The only problem? IBM couldn't find enough annotated golf-related training data.

So IBM sent Mighty AI a large body of information culled from the web that it thought was related to golf. Mighty AI found workers familiar with golf, had them tag information specific to the sport and compose questions and answers based on the material. That data became the basis of IBM's Watson golf conversational agent.

Accenture and Intel see Mighty AI as a way to help their customers deploy artificial intelligence apps and algorithms more quickly, letting them use Accenture services to set them up and Intel software and chips to run them.

"What we like about Mighty AI is that for a lot of our customers the first step is annotating data — they need that before they can build on top of our chips and software for AI," said Ken Elefant, Intel Capital managing director for software and security. "With Mighty AI all of this annotation will happen at a much faster rate, which will help Intel customers deploy much more quickly."

Please see QUESTIONS/4B

Bulldozers are becoming high-tech

Caterpillar, Komatsu try remote-controlled, driverless machinery

By Masumi Suga, Andrew Willis and Mario Parker
Bloomberg

In Chicago, not far from Lake Michigan, the driver of a Caterpillar bulldozer looked left, right and forward to maneuver the 230,000-pound machine through a desert obstacle course of sand mounds and old tires. But for all his effort, he didn't go anywhere.

Instead, as he sat inside a stationary box lined with video screens at UI Labs in the city's Goose Island area, the operator worked the controls on a yellow earth-mover about 1,700 miles away in Arizona.

Welcome to the new world of big machines, where manufacturers including Caterpillar and Komatsu are trying everything from remote-access technology to driverless trucks to revive slumping sales and adapt to changing markets.

"In the future, manufacturers will also become like the software industry," Kazunori Kuromoto, a senior managing executive officer of Komatsu, said at the company's Tokyo headquarters. "Digital transformation, ubiquitous networks and big data all reflect the world trend today."

Makers of big diggers, loaders and trucks were hit hard by the global commodity slump, which forced mining companies and builders to cut their workforces and buy less equipment. Iron-ore prices are half what they were six years ago, and most other metals are also way down. From a peak in 2012, quarterly sales of mining equipment plunged more than 80 percent, data from Parker Bay Co. show.

Automation and robotics aren"t new, but they continue to transform all sorts of industries. Retailer Amazon.com is experimenting with deliveries of customer purchases by drone, Tesla Motors has autopilot systems in its cars, and Deere & Co. uses global positioning systems for more precise steering of its tractors and harvesters.

Although change is slow in mining and construction — a single bulldozer like the one that Peoria, Illinois-based Caterpillar demonstrated in Chicago a few months ago can cost $3 million — new projects developed during the low-commodity price era are featuring many of the same technologies to cut labor costs and boost efficiency. It's a potential growth area for Caterpillar and Komatsu, which have seen multiyear declines in unit sales.

Please see BULLDOZERS/3B

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For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelor (N)				Big Fan (N)	Big Fan (N)	Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	Kevin Can (N)	Man With a Plan (N)	2 Broke Girls (N)	Couple (N)	Scorpion (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	MacGyver "Friends"		Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Unwelcome Bride"		Twilight Zone
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Gotham "Ghosts" (N)		Lucifer "Stewardess Interruptus" (N)		Fox 24 News	TMZ	Modern Family	Two and a Half	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother
	KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Faith for Families	First Fruits of Zion	Update News	Mani Erfan	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Update News	Housecall	Restore Zion	Sounds of Shofar
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Newsw-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	CelApprentice "Candy for a Billionaire" The celebrities create a campaign for Kawasaki. (N)				Timeless (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Antique "Fort Worth (Hour Three) " (N)		Antiques Rd. "Santa Clara (Hour One)"		Independent Lens "What Was Ours" (N)		Charlie Rose (N)		Newsline	Tavis Smiley
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La rosa de Guadalupe		Despertar contigo		Vino el amor		El color de la pasion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
	KOSA MNT	16	16			16	Last Man	Last Man	SVU "Sin wewise"		SVU "Signature"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Tosh.0	Access H.
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	575			165	(4:30) ★ Casino Ro...		★★ Internal Affairs Richard Gere.				★★★ Fargo			(:40) ★★ War (07, Act) Jet Li.		
	HBO	300	550	14	14		(:15) ★ Genius		The Young Pope		The Young Pope (N)		★ How to Be Single			(:50) The Young Pope		Movie
	HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(:20) ★ Mr. Right (15, Act/Com) Sam Rockwell.				★★ Ted 2 (15, Com) Seth MacFarlane.				★ Midnight Special Michael Shannon.			
	HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:50) ★★★ Michael Clayton				★ Demolition Jake Gyllenhaal.		Making		★★★ The Revenant Leonardo DiCaprio.			
	MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:00) ★ National Tr...		(:15) ★★ Finding Neverland Johnny Depp.				★★ Pan (15, Fam) Levi Miller.				(:55) ★ Leatherheads	
	MAX2	382	558	18	122		★ Scream 3 ('00, Hor) Neve Campbell.				★★ Eagle Eye (08, Act) Shia LaBeouf.				★★ The Children			Movie
	PLEX	-		96			(5:30) ★ The Flintst...		★★ The Money Pit				★★★ Clue Tim Curry.		(:10) ★ Let It Ride			Movie
	SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	The Affair		Homeland		The Affair		Homeland		The Affair		NastyShowVol2Bra	
	TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(:20) ★ The Forger (14, Cri) John Travolta.				★★ Southpaw (15, Dra) Jake Gyllenhaal.				(:05) ★ The Salvation			SuicideG
CABLE	AAE	27	58	28	35	47	Remini: Scientology "A Leader Emerges"		Remini: Scientology "Golden Era"		Remini: Scientology "Auditing"		L. Remini "Enemies of the Church"		(:05) L. Remini "A Leader Emerges"		(:05) L. Remini "Golden Era"	
	AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) ★ Predators		★★★ The Dark Knight ('08, Act) Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart, Christian Bale.							★★★ Batman Begins		
	BET	58	-		40		(4:00) ★ Stomp the ...		★ Stomp the Yard 2: Homecoming ('10, Dra) Keith David.						★★ Stomp the Yard Columbus Short.			
	BRAVO	65	76		41		Vanderpump Rules		Timber Creek (N)		Vanderpump R. (N)		Summer House (N)		Watch (N)	VanderK "The D Pic"		TBA
	CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank			Billion Dollar Buyer
	CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360-	
	DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Fast N' Loud: Revved Up (N)				Fast N' Loud (N)		Diesel Brothers (N)		Fast N' Loud		Diesel Brothers	
	DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	(:05) ★ A Cinderella Story: If I...		(:45) ★★★ Another Cinderella Story				(:25) ★★ A Cinderella Story				(:05) Girl M.	Friends
	ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Syracuse at North Carolina (L)				NCAA Basketball Kansas at Iowa State (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
	ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Notre Dame at Tennessee (L)				ITF Tennis Australian Open Men's and Women's First Round Site: Melbourne Park (L)							
	FNC	45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The Kelly File		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
	FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Cake Wars		Kids Baking (N)		Cake (N)	Diners	Diners	Diners	Food	Diners	Cake	Diners
	FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(4:30) ★ The Twilligh...		Shadowhunters (N)		Beyond (N)		Shadowhunters		The 700 Club		Gilmore Girls	
	FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Cowbo-ysLeg (N)	SportsDay OnAir (N)	H.S. Football Classics 2016 UIL State Championship 6A Division I The Woodlands vs. Austin Lake Travis						Focused	Cowboys/ Conf.	Texans Press	SportsD-ay OnAir
	FX	31	56	59	64	69	(4:00) ★ The Karate...		★ When the Game Stands Tall ('14, Spt) Jim Caviezel.				★ When the Game Stands Tall ('14, Spt) Jim Caviezel.					
	HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Love It or List It		H.Hunt	House (N)	Love It or List It (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	House	House	Love It or List It	
	HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers (N)		(:05) Pawn	(:35) Pawn	(:05) Forged in Fire		(:05) Amer. Pickers	
	LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	(4:00) ★★★ Selena ('97, Bio) Jennifer Lopez.		★★ Secretariat ('10, Fam) Diane Lane. A houswife takes over her father's stables and guides her stallion to the Triple Crown.						Runway "Step It Up From Day to Night"		★★ Secretariat ('10, Fam) Diane Lane.	
	MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		11thHour	Hardball	Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	43				NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins (L)					(:45) NHL Overtime (L)		Rivals	Premier Review (N)		EPL Soccer	
	NICK	55	-	39	34	37	★ Rufus 2		Bunsen	H.Danger	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
	SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Jail	Jail
	SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	★ Resident Evil: Extinction				★ Tracers (15, Act) Taylor Lautner.				★★★ Final Destination Devon Sawa.			
	TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Conan Fred Armisen, Van Jones (N)		2 Broke Girls	Conan
	TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ Stormy Wea...		You Got to Move				Freedom on My Mind				★ Crisis ('63, Drama)	
	TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		Silvana Sin Lana		La Doña		El Chema		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Doña	
	TLC	51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Joe's Story"		Daughter "Catching Up with the Quints"		Counting On (N)		Putmans "Under One Roof" (P) (N)		Counting On		Meet the Putmans "Under One Roof"	
	TNT	24	34	40	26	50	NBA Tip-Off		NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Golden State Warriors Site: The Oracle -- Oakland, Calif. (L)				NBA Basketball Oklahoma City Thunder at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)					
	TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Griffith	(:35) Griffith	(:10) Griffith	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
	USA	26	55	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Swing"		WWE Monday Night Raw						(:05) Colony "Eleven Thirteen"		(:05) CSI: Crime Scene "Sweet Jane"	
	WGN	19	85				Elementary "Details"		Elementary "Possibility Two"		Elementary "Déjà Vu All Over Again"		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother

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Apple seeks to offer shows, movies

By Adam Satariano
Bloomberg

Apple is taking additional steps to expand its $10-per-month music subscription service beyond just offering songs.

In a bid to differentiate itself from Spotify, which has about twice as many subscribers, Apple has been speaking with makers of original programming about buying rights to scripted shows and potentially movies, according to a person familiar with the discussions.

The discussions were reported earlier by the Wall Street Journal, which said Apple had spoken with marketing executives at movie studios and television networks about joining the Cupertino, California-based company to help promote the new material.

Apple's initial plan is to produce a small number of high-quality shows, the person said. That's a different approach than the one used by Netflix Inc. and Amazon.com Inc., which have spent heavily to create a wide-ranging library of original shows, documentaries and movies. Apple's effort would expand on what it already has under way, including a series based on the life of rapper Dr. Dre, a competition show about makers of apps, and a spin off of "Carpool Karaoke" with talk-show host James Corden.

Apple's foray into TV programming has had many fits and starts, ranging from making its own TV sets to trying to offer a cable-like package of channels. After years of on-and-off talks with produoers, studios and agents, it began investing in original programming over the past 18 months. This is a strategy shift for Apple, which previously preferred to be a platform for other companies to release content rather than become a media company itself. But as Netflix and Amazon have built loyal subscriber bases with an expanding catalog of shows such as "The Crown" and "Transparent," Apple has followed.

Apple Music, created in 2015, has 20 million subscribers, while Spotify had more than 40 million as of September 2016. The two companies offer nearly identical catalogs at the same price. In a bid to stand out, Apple plans to steadily increase the amount of video content available through the service, the person said. Spotify said in May it would make 12 original series, expanding the video offerings on the service.

As the world's most valuable company, Apple has unmatched resources if it wants to outbid competitors for shows it thinks will boost the service. Its arrival surely will be welcomed by makers of TV shows in Hollywood who have already been enjoying a lucrative boom from the influx of new digital services bidding for their creations.

Usage

From 2B

tor of system performance.

This isn't the first time carriers have put stopgap measures in place to handle the crush of additional traffic. Companies started doing it in earnest beginning in 2009, with President Obama's first inauguration. At the time, the country's data usage habits looked very different; only a third of Americans had a smartphone, according to the Pew Research Center. Most consumers had previously been on more basic phones, and so past inaugurations didn't put as much pressure on carriers' networks.

But those usage numbers have shifted dramatically during the past few years. Today, Pew estimates that nearly 80 percent of Americans are on smartphones, and 68 percent of the country is on Facebook.

All this means tremendous demand for wireless services, particularly for data. To keep up, carriers aren't just using mobile cell sites for the inauguration. They're also retrofitting existing cell towers with newer antennas that can tilt and adjust their angles to cover large crowds better. They're using new bandwidth management techniques that are only possible with the latest flavors of LTE, such as something called "carrier aggregation." That's when a company melds together airwaves that operate at different frequencies to create, essentially, a larger highway for data.

"These options weren't available to us four years ago, but they are today, which is great, because user habits have changed so much," said Brian Harrison, a technical communications manager at AT&T.

Over the past year, Sprint has added three times the amount of bandwidth that's normally available in the area. T-Mobile says it's expanded its local network capacity by 10 times. AT&T is quintupling its LTE capacity and Verizon said it is enhancing it by six times.

In addition to boosting signals on the Mall, the carriers have upgraded facilities at locations likely to experience high traffic, such as Reagan National Airport, Union Station and area hotels. Signal capacity along the presidential parade route is also being buffed.

Although the COWs are temporary, much of the inauguration prep — like the retrofitted towers — will be permanent, meaning that D.C. residents and tourists will continue to benefit from the system upgrades long after the stands and crowds disappear.

Bulldozers

From 2B

The industry's drive to protect profit margins will lead to a surge in development of new machines that will peak over the next 10 to 15 years, according to a report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development. That also will mean fewer workers, with automation leading to cuts in jobs such as those involved in drilling, blasting, and train and truck driving — areas that typically represent more than 70 percent of mining employment, the institute predicts.

It's a race for survival for equipment manufacturers and their customers, and it's a familiar transition for the global economy since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, said Yoku Ihara, president of Growth & Value Stock Research of Japan.

"At issue is whether new businesses will emerge and absorb lost jobs," Ihara said.

One of the earliest targets for automation at mines were the huge vehicles that transport tons of ore, usually on the same route over and over. In the eight years since they were first adopted, Komatsu and Caterpillar each have about 100 autonomous trucks operating. Rio Tinto Group, which deploys Komatsu's unmanned vehicles at its iron-ore mines in Western Australia, said the technology has led to a 15 percent reduction in the cost to load and haul material.

Those trucks still have a driver's seat, which isn't needed and won't be part of the next generation of driverless vehicles Komatsu unveiled in Las Vegas last year, according to Kuromoto. The trucks are about the size of a house, 49 feet long and 28 feet wide, and they can carry 230 metric tons.

Giant bulldozers and shovels may require a bit more involvement by operators because they are typically used to smooth ground, scoop rocks and minerals and load them into trucks.

With the help of remote controls, one operator can control up to five of Caterpillar's remote-controlled bulldozers, watching their progress using high-definition camera's mounted on each vehicle.

Apps

From 2B

multitude of exercises, it shows users the muscle groups being worked and other exercises to compliment the moves, making it very educational. Plus, there's a community where users can discuss what they've been doing.

"They may tell you how to do a squat, but also the biomechanics behind it and what I need to improve on, and it gives proper form. Form is really huge, so people don't get injured. It's like having a personal trainer in your house without having to hire one," Payne said.

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TOPS@ iTUNES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Apple's iBooks

iBook charts for week ending Jan. 8 (Rank, Book Title by Author Name, ISBN, Publisher):

iBooks US Bestseller List - Paid Books

1. The Whistler by John Grisham - 9780385541206 - (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
2. Distant Shores by Kristin Hannah - 9780345459503 - (Random House Publishing Group)
3. Silver Bay by Jojo Moyes - 9780698156357 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
4. Just Friends by Billy Taylor - 9781530511518 - (Billy Taylor)
5. Wishful Drinking by Carrie Fisher - 9781439153802 - (Simon & Schuster)
6. Dirty Pleasures by Meghan March - 9781943796991 - (Meghan March LLC)
7. Below the Belt by Stuart Woods - 9780399574184 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
8. Dirty Together by Meghan March - 9781943796908 - (Meghan March LLC)
9. The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins - 9780698185395 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
10. Real Good Man by Meghan March - 9781943796700 - (Meghan March LLC)

iPhone and iPad apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending Jan. 8:

Top Paid iPhone Apps:

1. Minecraft: Pocket Edition, Mojang
2. Five Nights at Freddy's: Sister Location, Scott Cawthon
3. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
4. NBA 2K17, 2K
5. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
6. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
7. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
8. 7 Minute Workout Challenge, Fitness Guide Inc
9. MONOPOLY Game, Electronic Arts
10. Goat Simulator, Coffee Stain Studios AB

Top Free iPhone Apps:

1. Super Mario Run, Nintendo Co., Ltd
2. Bitmoji - Your Personal Emoji, Bitstrips
3. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
4. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
5. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
6. YouTube - Watch and Share Videos, Music & Clips, Google, Inc.
7. 8 Ball Pool, Miniclip.com
8. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
9. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
10. Google Maps - Navigation & Transit, Google, Inc.

Top Paid iPad Apps:

1. Five Nights at Freddy's Sister Location, Scott Cawthon
2. Minecraft: Pocket Edition, Mojang
3. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
4. Toca Hair Salon 3, Toca Boca AB
5. Goat Simulator, Coffee Stain Studios AB
6. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
7. Bloons TD 5 HD, Ninja Kiwi
8. Five Nights at Freddy's 2, Scott Cawthon
9. Toca Lab, Toca Boca AB
10. Goat Simulator Waste of Space, Coffee Stain Studios AB

Top Free iPad Apps:

1. Super Mario Run, Nintendo Co., Ltd
2. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
3. YouTube - Watch and Share Videos, Music & Clips, Google, Inc.
4. Hot Wheels: Race Off, Hutch Games Ltd
5. Rolling Sky, Cheetah Technology Corporation Limited
6. Hill Climb Racing 2, Fingersoft
7. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
8. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
9. The Weather Channel App for iPad - best local forecast, radar map, and storm tracking, The Weather Channel Interactive
10. Block! Hexa Puzzle, BitMango

Movies

iTunes Movies U.S. charts for week ending Jan. 8:

iTunes Movies US Charts:

1. Sully
2. The Girl On the Train (2016)
3. The Infiltrator
4. Snowden
5. The Magnificent Seven (2016)
6. The Accountant (2016)
7. The Secret Life of Pets
8. Suicide Squad (2016)
9. Storks
10. Jason Bourne

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:

1. The Infiltrator
2. The Dressmaker
3. The Autopsy of Jane Doe
4. American Honey
5. The Hollars
6. Solace
7. A Man Called Ove
8. Don't Think Twice
9. The Fits
10. Arsenal

Source: Apple Inc.

Graphic novels only genre with sales increases, figures show

By Michael Cavna
Washington Post

To grasp the big picture in publishing in 2016, it's illuminating to look at all the smaller pictures.

Because last year, the only area within adult fiction that rose from 2015 was graphic novels.

So reports Publishers Weekly, which in citing Nielsen BookScan numbers, writes: "The lone bright spot in fiction was comics and graphic novels, which had a 12 percent increase on the year."

Fiction overall was nearly flat last year, dipping by 1 percent.

There were "no breakout bestsellers" in adult fiction, PW reports, with "nearly all fiction subcategories closed out the year lower than in 2015."

Yet amid this nearly across-the-board decline on the fiction side, comics were too popular to be denied.

"Batman," "Star Wars," "The Walking Dead" were just three of the franchises that powered comics sales last year.

Elsewhere, Raina Telgemeier continued to dominate the paperback graphic books sales charts, as her newly debuting "Ghosts" joined her megasellers like "Drama," "Smile" and "Sisters." And she was joined on that list by such new titles as "March Trilogy" from Rep. John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell — the first graphic novel to win the National Book Award.

2016 also saw continued growth in the adult coloring book market, and Jeff Kinney's hybrid-illustrated kids' book "Double Down" (1.1 million) was one of only three books to top 1 million units (the other two were by J.K. Rowling and Bill O'Reilly).

Adult nonfiction was also up — nearly 7 percent — and overall, sales of print books were up 3.3 percent last year, hitting nearly 675 million, the third straight year of growth, PW reports.

Nielsen BookScan tracks roughly 80 percent of American print sales.

"Ghosts," by Raina Telgemeier.

Photo courtesy of Scholastic

DirecTV Now: Trial is free, but it's hard sell for some

By Tali Arbel
Associated Press

NEW YORK — AT&T says the market for its new internet cable service , DirecTV Now, could be as large as 20 million households. To put it to the test, I farmed out part of this review to several friends and relatives. It's TV, it's fun, it's a free trial with no hassle. Why wouldn't people jump at the chance to try something new?

As it turned out, almost nobody did.

This could have been my fault. December is a busy month. Maybe I wasn't a persuasive enough saleswoman or didn't nag people artfully enough. And maybe my picks, while a diverse bunch, just aren't "early adopters" — those who jump to try out new technology.

But their hesitation might also foreshadow some challenges for AT&T. Most of my friends and family are happy enough with their current TV options that they felt no need to try something different, even when it was free. (DirecTV Now costs $35 and up after a one-week free trial.)

Obstacles for streaming cable

The appeal of services like DirecTV is simple: You can watch scores of live TV channels online for less than you'd pay for a typical cable subscription. These services are aimed at the legion of "cord cutters" who are abandoning expensive, inflexible cable packages for other options.

My testers, not all of whom had cut the cord, were pretty happy with the streaming services they already have, like Netflix and Amazon. Several said they had access to plenty of TV.

Others lacked the extra gadgets needed to watch DirecTV Now on a TV set, though they could use phones or tablets. One friend who tried the service protested the commercials and frequent bugs. Only one said he might become a customer

Tali Arbel
Associated Press

in the future.

My testers didn't even mention the viewing restrictions that bedevil live internet TV. For example, NFL games are blacked out on mobile, the Golden Globes award show wasn't available, and a lot of people can't get the major broadcasters to begin with because of rights issues like these.

Such issues might help explain why customers remain scarce, nearly two years after DirecTV Now rivals Sling TV and PlayStation Vue launched. Neither releases customer numbers, but Sling, thought to be the more popular service, is estimated to have fewer than a million subscribers.

Here are some of our reviewers' stories.

Too much TV

■ My sister: Dana Arbel, 27, yoga teacher and volunteer coordinator for an education nonprofit. Lives with my parents and her dog in Phoenix. She relies on Netflix and Amazon and found it hard to break her existing habits. "(I) don't watch live TV," she said via WhatsApp. "Go for movies or old shows. Mostly."

■ My college friend: Pooja Chitneni, 32, doctor. Lives with roommates in Boston, with cable and access to Netflix, the commercial-light version of Hulu and HBO Go. Although she was excited to try DirecTV Now, she kept forgetting to start it up with so much else to watch. "There's no void," she said.

■ My college friend: Celina Montoya, 33, nonprofit consultant. Lives with her husband and two children in San Antonio. She's been cable-free since 2006, but uses Hulu, Amazon and Netflix, has a TV antenna for local channels and visits friends or relatives to watch basketball games. She forgot all about DirecTV Now. It "didn't have any sense of urgency for me," she texted me. "(I) don't feel like I'm missing out on any programming."

The tech's not right

■ My mother: Ana Arbel, 60, program manager for a nonprofit. Lives with my father and my sister in Phoenix. My parents pay for cable, watch Netflix on their TVs and catch overseas shows on a computer. "Sorry Tali, too much technology, that's hard for me," my mother said of DirecTV Now. "I want somebody to organize everything for me and explain and I only do the click and watch."

■ My high-school friend: Rebecca Kaufman, 32, nurse. Lives with her husband and two daughters in Tucson, Arizona, where they haven't had cable for 5 years. Although eager to try DirecTV Now, she couldn't — the service doesn't work with her streaming gadgets, an Xbox and a PlayStation, and her family doesn't stream much to phones or computers. When I told her the price, she also said it wasn't worth it.

■ My college friend: Soni Obinger, 32, graphic designer. Lives with her husband and toddler near San Francisco. She'd been thinking of canceling cable and wanted to try DirecTV Now as a substitute, but it didn't happen because the service didn't work with her Roku streaming device. (AT&T says DirecTV will be on Roku by March.)

■ My co-worker: Barbara Ortutay, 38, tech reporter. Lives with her boyfriend, toddler, mother-in-law and cat in New York City. A recent cord cutter, she watches Netflix and free local channels. She passed on DirecTV Now because she couldn't watch it on her TV. "Why would I watch TV on my phone? It's too small and I can't check Facebook while I watch," she said.

Watching is a chore

■ Me: Tali Arbel, 32, journalist. Live with my cat in NYC. I use Netflix, Amazon and watch some broadcast and cable TV shows on network apps, although I rarely watch live TV. I hated the fact that DirecTV Now doesn't have a DVR that stores live shows for later viewing (AT&T says it's coming). I'm also used to binge-watching full TV seasons commercial-free; DirecTV Now's stock of "on-demand" video, by contrast, was underwhelming. Playback also occasionally froze up while watching on-demand episodes.

■ My friend: John Bega, 37, ad producer. Lives with his dog in New York and watches Netflix, Amazon and one-off events via a family cable account. With DirecTV Now, he binged on-demand episodes of FX's new show "Atlanta" and logged in a few times for cable news and independent films. But frequent ads and video freezes and cut-outs bummed him out.

The thumbs-up

■ My sister's friend: Chris Pullen, 25, student. Lives with roommates in Boston and uses Netflix; he'll sometimes watch football at a friend's house. He couldn't get DirecTV Now to work well on his TV, but he liked watching shows on his phone and computer, and didn't have technical issues. He says he'd choose an online option like DirecTV Now over regular cable service if they cost about the same: "It felt more convenient to be able to watch it wherever."

QUESTIONS

From 2B

Some companies handle the problem by trying to label data themselves, and others use general crowdsourcing software like Mechanical Turk or CrowdFlower, Bencke said.

Mighty AI has more than 100,000 specialists in 155 countries and it rates how they handle tasks. If the person does well, he or she gets paid more and gets offered more jobs. A poor job will generate feedback and eventually lead to termination if the person doesn't improve.

Mighty AI dubs its product "Training Data as a Service," a riff on cloud product categories like "Infrastructure as a Service" and "Software as a Service."

Previous investors Madrona Venture Group, Foundry Group and New Enterprise Associates also participated in this funding round.

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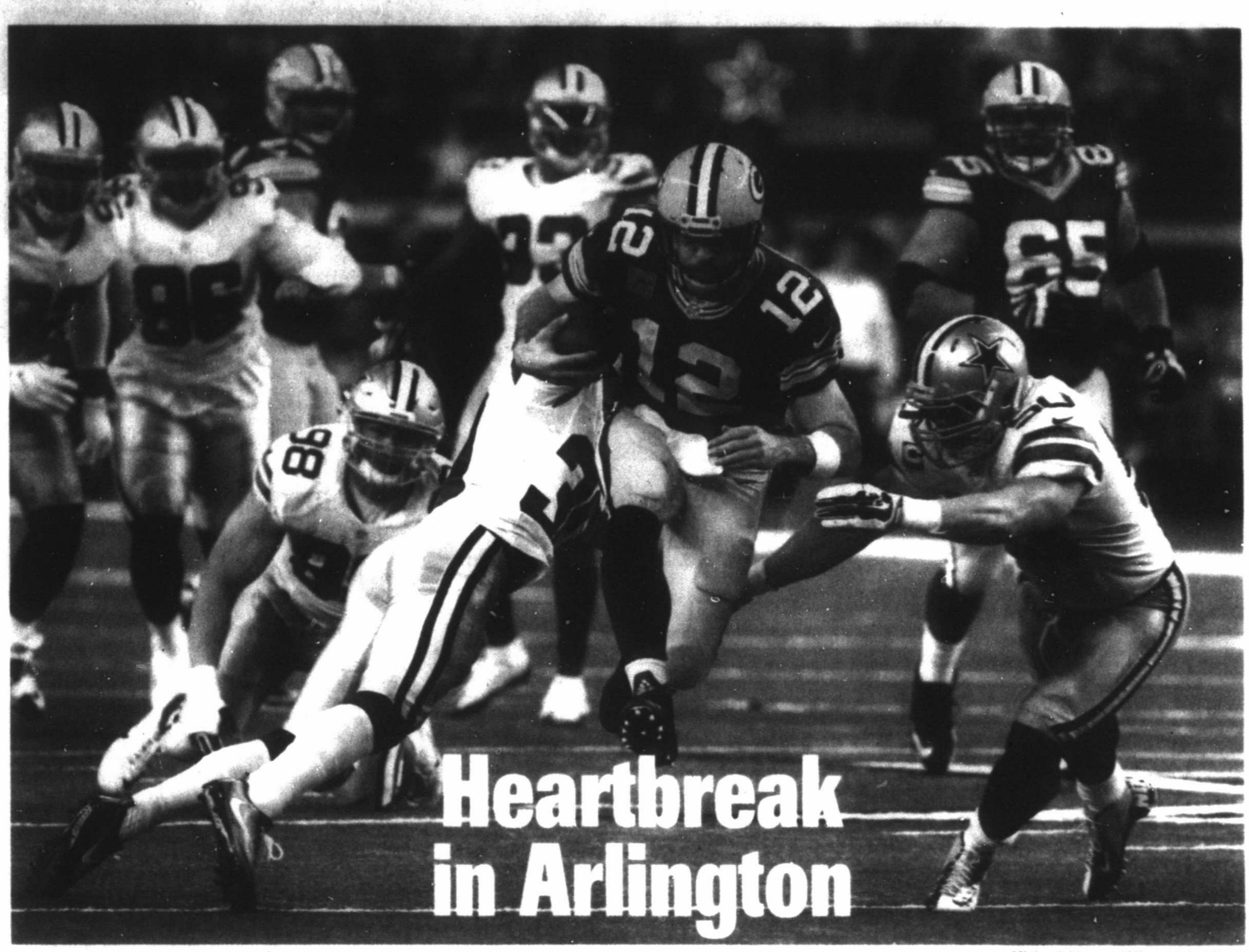


Michael Ainsworth/Associated Press

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) rushes for a gain as Dallas Cowboys' Sean Lee (50) and Anthony Brown (30) defend during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff game Sunday in Arlington.

Rodgers leads Packers past rallying Cowboys, 34-31

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Aaron Rodgers didn't need another Hail Mary this time.

Maybe just call it a "Half Mary."

Rodgers threw a 36-yard pass to a toe-dragging Jared Cook on the sideline, and Mason Crosby kicked a 51-yard field goal on the next play as time expired, sending the Packers to the NFC championship game with their eighth straight win while thwarting a Dallas rally in a 34-31 victory in the divisional round of the playoffs Sunday.

The throw on the run from Rodgers to Cook came on third-and-20 with 12 seconds left, and after the Cowboys tied the score twice in the final 4:08 after trailing by 18 in the first half and by 15 to start the fourth quarter.

"I love the opportunity to go out there and make plays," said Rodgers, who threw for two touchdowns to give him 21 during the winning streak, although he threw his first interception during the run.

"I was disappointed we had a chance there at 28-13 to go up three scores and make it really difficult for 'em and I threw a pick there on third down. We were able to come down and have two good drives toward the end of the game."

Dallas' rally was led by rookie sensations Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott in their playoff debuts, and the first two career postseason touchdown catches for star receiver Dez Bryant along with the first for 14th-year tight end Jason Witten.

"We're not going to stop no matter what the score is, no matter the game," Prescott said. "It shows the true character of this team."

Crosby's winner was the third field goal of more than 50 yards in the final 1:33 — two from Crosby and one from Dallas' Dan Bailey. And Crosby had to make the winner twice after Dallas coach Jason Garrett called timeout before the first attempt.

"It's kind of a blur right now," Crosby said. "When we have 35 seconds on the clock and that our offense can move the ball into field goal range and a manageable kick, that's just special."

Rodgers, who sparked last week's wild-card win over the New York Giants with another Hail Mary before halftime, is headed to an MVP showdown with Atlanta's Matt Ryan next Sunday.

It will be Rodgers' third NFC title game — all on the road for Green Bay (12-6) — and he got there in his first game at the home of the Cowboys since he won his only title as the Super Bowl MVP six years ago.

Cook, who had six catches for a team-leading 104 yards, kept both feet inbounds with a knee just above the ground out of bounds on the decisive play. The play was confirmed on review.

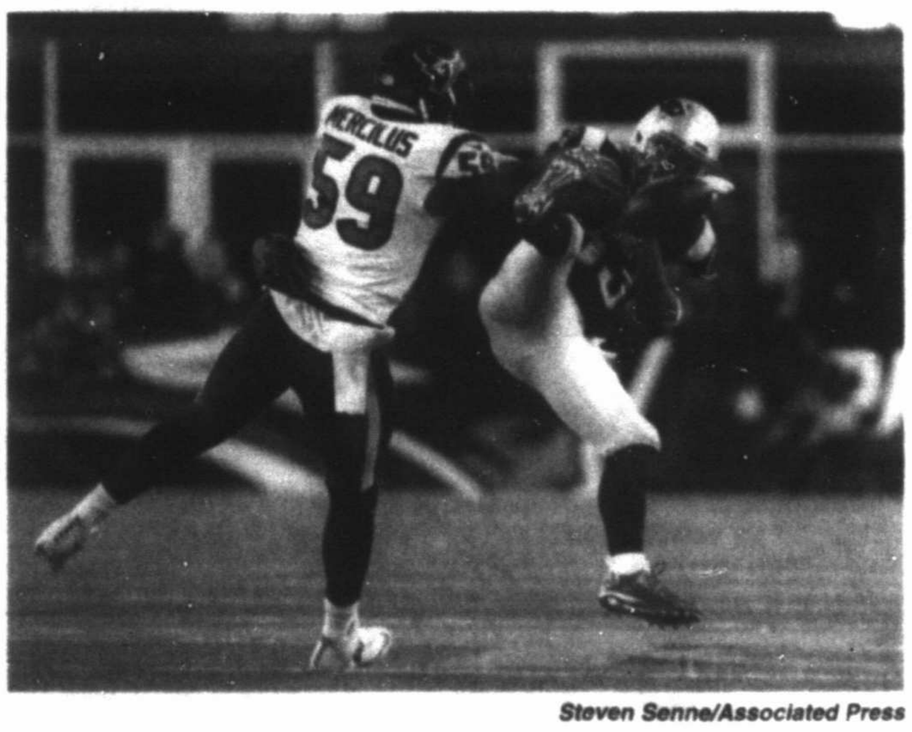
"I saw him rolling to the right it was underneath coverage in front of me," Cook said. "If I got over the top of them, Aaron would put the ball in the right place. Put it right on the sideline with enough room to get my feet down. It was a heck of a throw by him."

Prescott, whose 11-game winning streak during the regular season sent Tony Romo to the bench when he returned from a preseason back injury, rallied the Cowboys in a way that probably made Dallas' 10-year

Please see COWBOYS 3C

Texans made mistakes in loss to Patriots

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press



Steven Senne/Associated Press

Houston Texans linebacker Whitney Mercilus (59) breaks up a pass intended for New England Patriots running back Dion Lewis (33) during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff game Saturday in Foxborough, Mass.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Jadeveon Clowney arrived at his stall in the visitors' locker room on Saturday night to find a swarm of reporters talking to fellow defensive lineman — and former Patriot — Vince Wilfork next door.

"Excuse me!" Clowney shouted, over and over again, unable to get a television camera to move out of his way before he uttered an expletive and found another place to change out of the uniform he won't need any more this season.

It was that kind of a day for the Texans, who made their presence felt but couldn't stop New England from winning 34-16 to advance to the AFC championship game for the sixth straight year.

"We held our own for a while," Houston offensive lineman Duane Brown said, noting that the Texans trailed by four points at halftime and eight heading into the fourth quarter. "We had a lot of self-inflicted mistakes that cost us."

Brock Osweiler threwthreeinterceptions , the defense allowed Tom Brady to throw for 287 yards on a night he was picked off twice, and the Patriots also scored on a 98-yard kickoff return to move one win from their seventh Super Bowl appearance since 2001.

The Texans return to Houston with an AFC South title and a first-round victory over Oakland but also a measure of how far they have to go to compete with the conference's best.

"Any time you don't end your season with a Super Bowl championship, you're going to be disappointed. And I'm certainly disappointed," Osweiler said. "The one thing I will say is that I think it's easy to point out the negative, especially on offense, of what has taken place this year. But I think there was also a lot of great things that took place that we can certainly build on in the future."

Houston coach Bill O'Brien said after the game that he had no intention of leaving, despite rumors that he is at odds with management.

"I'll be back next season. I'll be the Texans coach. I have a five-year contract. This is Year 3," he said. "But, like I've also said, I've got to do a better job. ... It starts with me. I don't point fingers; I look in the mirror. I look right, square in the mirror."

The Texans sacked Brady twice, with Clowney hitting him several times — always a bit too late, and once drawing a flag for roughing the passer. Brady's two interceptions were as many as he threw all season.

"That was the game plan going in, to try to hit him as much as possible," defensive end Christian Covington said. "At the end of the day, it didn't count for anything."

Wilfork, 35, had openly discussed retirement and received a farewell cheer from the opposing fans when he was shown on the scoreboard in the final seconds. He responded with a wave, then struggled to get off the field as one Patriot after another came to wish him well.

But afterward, Wilfork said he hadn't decided yet whether he was done.

"I will take my time and think about it. I think I have played my last NFL football game," he said. "It doesn't change the fact that I enjoyed every bit of my career."

Steelers hold off Chiefs on Boswell's 6 field goals, 18-16

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Who needs to reach the end zone when you have Le'Veon Bell chewing up yards and the clock, and Chris Boswell setting an NFL playoff record with six field goals?

Throw in a stingy Pittsburgh defense for most of Sunday night, and a multitude of mistakes by Kansas City, and the Steelers' 18-16 victory sent them into the AFC championship game.

The Steelers (13-5) needed to hold off a last-ditch threat by the Chiefs (12-5) before advancing to face New England next Sunday night for a spot in the Super Bowl. The Patriots won at Pittsburgh 27-16, but Ben Roethlisberger was injured and didn't play.

"I think it's going to be a showdown," Bell said. "Two great quarterbacks going head to head. Two of the best teams in the AFC. It's time to settle it next week."

Since 2001, the Patriots and Steelers have combined to win nine AFC titles.

Spencer Ware's 1-yard touchdown run took Kansas City within 18-16. The Chiefs at first converted the 2-pointer to tie it, but tackle Eric Fisher — the first overall selection in the 2013 draft — was penalized for holding. The next try failed.

With 2:43 remaining, Justin Gilbert misplayed the kick return and was tackled at the Pittsburgh 8. Roethlisberger hit Antonio Brown for 7 yards on third down and Pittsburgh then ran out the clock, securing a ninth straight victory for the Steelers. The Chiefs have not won a home playoff game since 1994, losing five in a row.

The scoring started furiously in the opening minutes, then the game became a kicking exhibition by Boswell, who also had six field goals in the regular season against Cincinnati. And Bell put on a virtuoso running performance, patiently finding holes and then exploding through them. He added a team-record 170 yards rushing to the 167 he had in a win over Miami last week.

"The coaches put a lot of trust in me to get the job done," Bell said of his 30 carries. "Just run hard. Just picked my spots where I

Please see STEELERS/3C

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

High School Basketball
Pace Academy (GA) vs. Patrick School (NJ), 10 a.m., ESPNU
Oak Hill Academy (VA) vs. Nathan Hall (WA), Noon, ESPNU
Bishop Montgomery (CA) vs. Montverde (FL), 2 p.m., ESPNU
La Lumiere (IN) vs. Sierra Canyon (CA), 4 p.m., ESPNU
Men's College Basketball
Marquette at Butler, 11 a.m., FS1
Creighton at Xavier, 1 p.m., FS1
UT Arlington at South Alabama, 2 p.m., ESPN2
DePaul at St. John's, 3:30 p.m., FS1
Seton Hall at Villanova, 5:30 p.m., FS1
Syracuse at North Carolina, 6 p.m., ESPN
NC Central at Hampton, 6 p.m., ESPNU
Boston U at Loyola-MD, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Texas State at Troy, 7 p.m., ESPN3
Kansas at Iowa State, 8 p.m., ESPN
Jackson State at Texas Southern, 8 p.m., ESPNU
Providence at Georgetown, 8 p.m., FS1
Men's Soccer
Africa Cup of Nations: Ivory Coast vs. Togo, 10:50 a.m., beIN
Serie A: Torino vs. AC Milan, 1:40 p.m., beIN
La Liga: Malaga vs. Real Sociedade, 1:40 p.m., beIN2
National Basketball Association
Atlanta at New York, Noon, NBAtv
Orlando at Denver, 4 p.m., NBAtv
Cleveland at Golden State, 7 p.m., TNT
Oklahoma City at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT
National Hockey League
Dallas at Buffalo, Noon, FSSW
Washington at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m., NBCSN
Tennis
Australian Open, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Women's College Basketball
Wake Forest at Virginia Tech, Noon, FSSW+
Notre Dame at Tennessee, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Ole Miss at Mississippi State, 6 p.m., SEC
Wisconsin at Penn State, 6 p.m., BTN

RADIO
Men's College Basketball
Frank Phillips at Howard, 7:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)
Women's College Basketball
Frank Phillips at Howard, 5:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

TRANSACTIONS

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
DALLAS MAVERICKS — Signed G Pierre Jackson to a 10-day contract.
NBA Development League
DELAWARE 87ERS — Acquired F Roscoe Smith from Los Angeles for the returning player rights to G Juwan Staten, pending a physical.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
DENVER BRONCOS — Agreed to terms with assistant offensive line coach John Benton.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
EDMONTON OILERS — Recalled D Jordan Oesterle from Bakersfield (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled F Joel Vermin from Syracuse (AHL).
American Hockey League
ROCHESTER AMERICANS — Returned D Jordan Henry to Brampton (ECHL).
SAN DIEGO GULLS — Returned G Ryan Faragher to Utah (ECHL).
TORONTO MARLIES — Recalled F Eric Faille from Orlando (ECHL).
UTICA COMETS — Returned G Jonah Imoo to Manchester (ECHL).
ECHL
ELMIRA JACKALS — Announced Rochester (AHL) assigned G Jason Kasdorf to the team. Released G Nick Niederl as emergency backup.
GREENVILLE SWAMP RABBITS — Released D Brandon Reil. Loaned F Brandon Alderson to Syracuse (AHL).
MANCHESTER MONARCHS — Released G Corey McMahon as emergency backup.
ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Released G Wylie Rogers as emergency backup.
QUAD CITY MALLARDS — Released F Sebastian Gauthier. Loaned F Alex Petan to Iowa (AHL).
READING ROYALS — Loaned F Olivier Labelle to Syracuse (AHL).
COLLEGE
EAST CAROLINA — Named Brandon Lynch defensive backs coach.
FURMAN. Named Skylor Magee defensive line coach.
MEMPHIS — Promoted Darrell Dickey to offensive coordinator, Kenny Dillingham quarterbacks and tight ends coach and Ryan Silverfield run game coordinator.

WHAT'S ON DECK

JC Women's Basketball
Western Texas College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m.
JC Men's Basketball
Western Texas College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	44	27	11	6	60	136	112
Boston	46	23	18	5	51	117	113
Ottawa	41	22	15	4	48	105	107
Toronto	41	20	13	8	48	128	120
Florida	45	20	17	8	48	106	122
Tampa Bay	44	20	20	4	44	123	132
Detroit	43	18	19	6	42	111	127
Buffalo	42	16	17	9	41	97	119
Metropolitan Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Washington	43	29	9	5	63	131	86
Columbus	42	29	9	4	62	141	95
Pittsburgh	42	26	11	5	57	145	124
N.Y. Rangers	44	28	15	1	57	152	116
Philadelphia	46	22	18	6	50	132	148
Carolina	43	21	15	7	49	121	117
New Jersey	45	18	18	9	45	101	129
N.Y. Islanders	41	16	17	8	40	116	128

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	42	28	9	5	61	138	92
Chicago	46	27	14	5	59	126	116
St. Louis	43	22	16	5	49	122	128
Nashville	43	20	16	7	47	119	114
Dallas	44	18	18	8	44	118	134
Winnipeg	46	20	22	4	44	127	140
Colorado	41	13	27	1	27	92	137
Pacific Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Anaheim	45	24	13	8	56	122	114
Edmonton	45	23	15	7	53	128	121
San Jose	43	25	16	2	52	112	100
Calgary	46	23	20	3	49	118	125
Los Angeles	43	22	17	4	48	110	108
Vancouver	45	20	19	6	46	111	130
Arizona	42	13	23	6	32	90	134

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

Sunday's Scores
Washington 5, Philadelphia 0
Minnesota 3, Chicago 2
New Jersey 2, Vancouver 1 OT
St. Louis at Anaheim, late

Today's Games
Dallas at Buffalo, noon
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, noon
Montreal at Detroit, 2 p.m.
Winnipeg at San Jose, 3 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Los Angeles, 3 p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Arizona at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

SKI REPORT

ROCKIES
NEW MEXICO

Angel Fire — Sun 5.47 am 2 new packed powder machine groomed 22-30 base 57 of 78 trails 73% open 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Thu, 9a-4p Fri. 9a-8p Sat. 9a-4p Sun. 9a-4p Night Skiing 4-8p
Pajarito — Sun Reopen 11/4 1 new powder machine groomed 28-35 base 32 of 44 trails, 73% open 3 of 7 lifts. Wed-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Open Wed-Sun
Red River — Tue No Recent information packed powder machine groomed 42-42 base 58 of 58 trails, 100% open 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Sandia Peak — Sun Reopen 12/0 packed powder 18-18 base 35 of 39 trails 90% open 4 of 5 lifts Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p Open Fri-Sun
Sipapu — Sun 1.56 pm 2-4 new powder machine groomed 23-29 base 39 of 42 trails 93% open 6 of 6 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Apache — Sun 2:45 pm 12 new powder machine groomed 48-58 base 45 of 55 trails 82% open 7 of 10 lifts. sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Santa Fe — Sun 7:13 am 4 new packed powder 49-49 base 79 of 83 trails 100% open 7 of 7 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Taos — Sun 5:36 am 1 new powder machine groomed 71-71 base 105 of 110 trails 89% open 12/0 acres 14 of 15 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Enchanted Forest XC — Operating, no details

COLORADO

Arapahoe Basin — Sun 5:53 am 1 new powder machine groomed 70-70 base 97 of 109 trails, 89% open 856 acres 7 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Aspen Highlands — Sun 5:49 am 1 new packed powder 58-81 base 122 of 122 trails, 100% open 1053 acres, 5 of 5 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Aspen Mountain — Sun 5:46 am 1 new packed powder 48-48 base 76 of 76 trails, 99% open 575 acres, 6 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Beaver Creek — Sun 5:18 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 48-48 base 145 of 150 trails, 97% open, 1821 acres, 23 of 25 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Breckenridge — Sun 5:23 am 2 new packed powder machine groomed 62-62 base 186 of 187 trails, 99% open, 3961 acres, 34 of 35 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Buttermilk — Sun 5:51 am 1 new packed powder 33-36 base 37 of 44 trails 84% open, 404 acres 6 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Cooper — Sun 2:15 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 38-48 base 37 of 39 trails 95% open, 26 miles, 400 acres, 4 of 4 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Copper Mountain — Sun 12:42 pm 1 new packed powder machine groomed 53-74 base 141 of 143 trails, 100% open, 2217 acres, 23 of 23 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Crested Butte — Sun 5:23 am 3 new powder machine groomed 85-85 base 100 of 121 trails, 85% open, 1000 acres, 15 of 15 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Eldora — Sun 5:45 am machine groomed 42-42 base 57 of 57 trails, 100% open 680 acres, 11 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Keystone — Sun 5:21 am 2 new packed powder machine groomed 55-55 base 122 of 127 trails 96% open, 3000 acres, 19 of 20 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Loveland — Sun 4:30 am 1 new packed powder 65-65 base 77 of 94 trails 82% open, 1211 acres, 9 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Monarch — Sun 6:55 am 2 new powder machine groomed 90-90 base 62 of 62 trails 100% open, 700 acres, 6 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Powderhorn — Sun 5:11 am packed powder machine groomed 54-55 base 42 of 42 trails 100% open, 4 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Purgatory — Sun 5:21 am 6 new powder machine groomed 65-69 base 83 of 94 trails 99% open, 1515 acres, 9 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Silverton Mountain — Sun Reopen 1/19 8 new powder 70-140 base 69 of 69 trails, 100% open 1 of 1 lift Thu/Fri: 9a-3p Sat/Sun: 9a-3p Open Thu-Sun
Ski Granby Ranch — Sun 5:53 am 1 new powder machine groomed 30-30 base 38 of 40 trails, 95% open, 399 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-8p Sat: 9a-8p Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Hesperus — Sun 7:01 am powder machine groomed 34-34 base 26 of 26 trails 100% open 1 of 1 lift Mon-Fri: 4p-9p Sat: 9a-9p Sun: 9a-4p Jan 16 9a-9p
Snowmass — Sun 5:50 a.m 1 new packed powder 44-69 base 90 of 91 trails 99% open 3342 acres, 19 of 20 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Steamboat — Sun 5:13 am packed powder 64-75 base 165 of 165 trails 100% open 2965 acres, 16 of 18 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4:30p Sat/Sun 8:30a-4:30p Night Skiing 5:30p-8:30p
Sunlight — Sun 4:59 am packed powder machine groomed 45-49 base 67 of 67 trails 100% open, 400 acres, 3 of 3 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Telluride — Sun 5:46 am 5 new powder machine groomed 54-54 base 130 of 150 trails 87% open, 1733 acres, 16 of 16 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Vail — Sun 5:17 am 1 new packed powder machine groomed 51-51 base 194 of 195 trails 99% open, 5270 acres, 31 of 31 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-3:30p
Winter Park — Sun 5:49 am packed powder machine groomed 57-63 base 132 of 143 trails 92% open, 2399 acres, 19 of 25 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Wolf Creek — Sun 7:17 am 3 new powder machine groomed 106-110 base 77 of 77 trails, 100% open, 42 miles, 1600 acres, 7 of 9 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4:p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4:p
Ashcroft XC — Operating, no details
Aspen Snowmass XC — Operating, no details
Crested Butte XC — Operating, no details
Snow Mountain XC — Operating, no details
Vail Nordic Center — Operating, no details

UTAH

Alta — Sun 5:53 am packed powder 87-87 base 87 of 116 trails, 75% open 9 of 12 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9:15a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9:15a-4:30p
Beaver Mountain — Sun 6:03 am packed powder 76-76 base 48 of 48 trails 100% open, 5 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Brian Head — Sun 6:05 am packed powder 45-45 base 68 of 71 trails 96% open, 10 of 10 lifts, Mon-Wed: 10a-4p Thu/Fri: 10a-6p Sat: 9:30a-6p Sun: 9:30a-4:30p
Brighton — Sun 6:06 am packed powder 100-100 base 40 of 66 trails 61% open, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Deer Valley — Sun 5:22 am machine groomed 90-90 base 99 of 101 trails 98% open, 21 of 21 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4:15p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:15p
Eagle Point — Sun 6:08 am packed powder 62-62 base 36 of 40 trails 95% open, 5 of 5 lifts, Fri, Mon: 10a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9:30a-4:30p Open Fri-Mon
Nordic Valley — Sun 6:11 am packed powder 46-46 base 22 of 22 trails 100% open, 4 of 4 lifts, Mon-Thu: 11a-8p Fri: 9a-6p Sat: 9a-6p Sun: 9a-4p
Park City — Sun 6:39 am packed powder machine groomed 64-80 base 336 of 336 trails 100% open, 7172 acres, 40 of 41 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Powder Mountain — Sun 6:12 am packed powder 106-106 base 144 of 144 trails, 100% open, 9 of 9 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-9p Sat/Sun: 9a-9p
Snowbasin — Sun 6:01 am packed powder machine groomed 109-109 base 104 of 104 trails 100% open, 28 miles, 3000 acres, 10 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Snowbird — Sun 6:13 am packed powder 88-88 base 151 of 168 trails 90% open, 11 of 11 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-9p Sat/Sun: 9a-9p
Solitude — Sun 5:21 am machine groomed 91-91 base 80 of 77 trails, 78% open 8 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Sundance — Sun 6:14 am packed powder 79-78 base 45 of 45 trails 100% open, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon, Wed-Fri: 9a-4p Tue/Thu: 9a-4:30p Sat: 9a-4p Sun: 9a-4:30p

MIDLAND COLLEGE BASKETBALL TODAY

WOMEN
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE AT NO. 17 MIDLAND COLLEGE
When/where: 5:45 p.m., Chaparral Center
Records: Midland College 10-5, 1-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Western Texas College 7-6, 0-2
Last game: Howard College 64, Midland College 53; Western Texas College 69, Cisco College 52 (non-conference)
Notes: Midland College will be looking to bounce back after its loss to rival Howard College on Thursday night. ... The Lady Chaparrals once again struggled with their shooting as they hit only 30 percent of their shots and were just 1 of 19 from 3-point range. For the season, MC is shooting 38 percent from the floor and 27 percent from 3-point range. ... MC was led by Janea Bunn, who had a double-double with game-high 23 points and 12 rebounds, Teneshia Dixon added 10. ... Western Texas College lost at Howard 84-52 one week ago but bounced back with a non-conference win over Cisco College on Wednesday. ... Catara Samuel, a 5-foot-7 freshman guard, lead WTC with 12.9 ppg, while 5-9 guard/forward Esther Udonsi is averaging 11.7 ppg. ...Three Lee grads are on the Lady Westerners' roster in Allison Valdez, Kyra Lewis and Yaritza Rivas.
Next: Midland College at Frank Phillips College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday; Odessa College at Western Texas College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday

WOMEN'S WJCAC STANDINGS

	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Odessa College	3	0	17	0
Howard College	3	0	7	10
New Mexico JC	2	1	13	4
South Plains	2	2	17	3
Frank Phillips	1	1	11	2
Midland College	1	2	10	5
Western Texas	0	2	7	6
Clarendon College	0	4	11	9

Thursday's Scores
Howard College 64, Midland College 53; Odessa College 70, Clarendon College 42; New Mexico JC 76, South Plains College 61; Western Texas College and Frank Phillips College were open

Monday's Games
Western Texas College at Midland College; Frank Phillips College at Howard College; New Mexico Junior College at Clarendon College; South Plains College and Odessa College are open

MEN
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE AT NO. 17 MIDLAND COLLEGE
When/where: 7:45 p.m., Chaparral Center
Records: Midland College 11-6, 2-1 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; Western Texas College 10-6, 2-1
Last game: Midland College 67, Howard College 57; Western Texas College 57, New Mexico Military Institute 50
Notes & quotes: Midland College is coming off its gutsiest win in the four years Jordan Dreiling has been the head coach. The Chaparrals faced a 57-50 deficit with 6:08 remaining in the game before they went on a 17-0 run to close out the game. Dreiling said not only did the team buckle down and did what it had to but played together. ... Three Chaps were in double figures, led by Jachai Simmons with 15 points, Jordan Jackson with 14 and Devin Campbell with 13. ... Western Texas snapped a three-game losing streak with its win over NMMI on Thursday. DaQuan Jeffries led the Westerners with a game-high 22 points and Jordan Tolbert added 12. ... Dreiling calls Jeffries, a 6-foot-5 University of Tulsa signee, one of the best forwards in junior college basketball. "When he's on and playing, then the whole team gets confidence," Dreiling said. "They've got good, solid tough guards, they've got good pieces around him. When he's ready to rock, they're really tough."
Next: Midland College at Frank Phillips College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday; Odessa College at Western Texas College, 7:45 p.m. Thursday

MEN'S WJCAC STANDINGS

	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
South Plains	4	0	18	0
Odessa College	3	1	14	3
Midland College	2	1	11	6
Western Texas	2	1	10	6
Clarendon College	2	2	11	7
Howard College	1	2	12	5
New Mexico JC	1	3	13	5
New Mexico Military	1	3	5	12
Frank Phillips	0	3	11	6

Thursday's Scores
Midland College 67, Howard College 57; Odessa College 81, Clarendon College 54; South Plains College 106, New Mexico JC 65; Western Texas College 57, New Mexico Military Institute 50; Frank Phillips College was open

Monday's Games
Western Texas College at Midland College; Frank Phillips College at Howard College; New Mexico Junior College at Clarendon College; South Plains College at New Mexico Military Institute; Odessa College is open

Compiled by Oscar LeRoy

Kansas set up for No. 1 after Baylor's first loss

By John Marshall
Associated Press

Baylor's trip to the top is likely one and done.

The Bears lost in their first game as the No. 1 team in the AP Top 25 , clearing the way for the Kansas Jayhawks to possibly soar to the top of Monday's poll.

Kansas (16-1, 5-0 Big 12) moved up a spot to No. 2 in last week's poll and won both of its games this week by sweeping both Oklahoma schools.

Combined with Baylor's blowout loss to No. 10 West Virginia, the Jayhawks will have a good shot to be No. 1 for the first time this season.

"I don't know what'll happen, if we'll be 1, if Villanova will jump us or whatever," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It's really not a big deal. I'd much rather be 5-0 in the league than be No. 1. At least we have that."

Kansas has a solid resume.

Since a four-point loss to then-No. 11 Indiana in their opener, the Jayhawks have reeled off 16 straight games.

They had to outlast rival Kansas State at home and had trouble with Oklahoma State until pulling away late on Saturday, but keep finding ways to win.

Kansas has one of the nation's best freshmen in Josh Jackson and Frank Mason III is not only one of the top point guards, he's a legitimate candidate for national player of the year.

But Self does have a point about No. 3 Villanova .

Since their first loss of the season, to then-No. 18 Butler, the Wildcats (17-1, 5-1 Big East) have been dominant in winning three straight.

None of the games were closer than 12 points and one came against a ranked team, No. 15 Xavier, which Villanova beat by 25.

The Wildcats also are the defending national champions and have a player of the year candidate of their own in Josh Hart.

Then there's No. 5 Gonzaga . The Bulldogs (17-0, 5-0 WCC) are the last undefeated team in Division I and closed out the week with a blowout win over No. 21 Saint Mary's.

Tune in Monday.

Bears' fall, Mountaineers rise

So after West Virginia knocked off Baylor in its first game as No. 1, two questions arise: How far do the Bears fall in Monday's poll, how high do the Mountaineers climb?

First, Baylor.

The Bears bounced back to beat a Top 25 team on the road, knocking off No. 25 Kansas State on Saturday.

On the other hand, the rest of the top six in the poll won and all have a record just as good or better than Baylor's.

The Bears could end up anywhere between No. 2 and No. 6.

West Virginia could move up a couple of spots after No. 7 Duke and No. 9 Florida State each lost. Then again, both lost to teams inside the top 15, so there may not be a lot of shuffling.

Highlight of the week

No. 13 Oregon put on a dunk show in its 85-43 rout of rival Oregon State. Dwayne Benjamin had the best of the bunch with this tomahawk.

Gonzaga's run

Gonzaga faced its biggest test so far this season when it hosted West Coast Conference rival Saint Mary's.

The Bulldogs rolled over the Gaels 79-56, clearing the way for a potential undefeated regular season and No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Gonzaga hears some of the biggest cries about being overrated, but the Zags are deep and talented, maybe the best team Mark Few has had in 17 seasons in Spokane.

No. 2 Baylor women beat Kansas 92-43

By Amie Just
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — With 0.2 seconds left and her team up by 49 points, Baylor's Alexandria Gulley was dribbling to run out the clock. While everyone was walking off the court, she was called for a travel.

"I've been in late-game situations ... but not where we're shaking hands and have to come back and do it," Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said Sunday.

"The ref's got to call what he's got to call. It's the right thing to do. If she walked before the clock went out, we should have had to do what we did," she said.

That violation was about the only thing the No. 2 Lady Bears got wrong.

Kalani Brown scored 16 points, Nina Davis added 15 and Baylor throttled Kansas 92-43.

The Lady Bears (17-2, 6-0 Big 12) ran out to a 10-0 lead in the first four minutes and were up by 23 at halftime.

Baylor had seven field goals in the third quarter to just one for Kansas (6-11, 0-6). With a 38-point lead heading into the final 10 minutes, Mulkey took out all of her starters.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

Men

SOUTH
Cincinnati 55, East Carolina 46
Georgia Tech 86, NC State 76
SE Louisiana 79, McNeese St. 75
SMU 80, Tulane 64
EAST
La Salle 79, George Washington 69
Rhode Island 79, UMass 77
Siena 63, Fairfield 54
St. Peter's 71, Rider 65
MIDWEST
Indiana 76, Rutgers 57
Loyola of Chicago 77, Missouri St. 71
N. Iowa 79, Drake 60
Northwestern 89, Iowa 54
Ohio St. 72, Michigan St. 67
FAR WEST
Hawaii 114, Long Beach St. 107

Top 25 fared

1. Baylor (16-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Tuesday.
2. Kansas (16-1) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Monday.
3. Villanova (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Monday.
4. UCLA (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Thursday.
5. Gonzaga (17-0) did not play. Next: at Santa Clara, Thursday.
6. Kentucky (15-2) did not play. Next: at Mississippi State, Tuesday.
7. Duke (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Saturday.
8. Creighton (17-1) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Xavier, Monday.
9. Florida State (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Notre Dame, Wednesday.
10. West Virginia (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Wednesday.
11. North Carolina (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Monday.
12. Butler (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Monday.
13. Oregon (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
14. Louisville (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Thursday.
15. Xavier (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 8 Creighton, Monday.
16. Arizona (16-2) did not play. Next: at No. 25 Southern Cal, Thursday.
17. Purdue (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Tuesday.
18. Wisconsin (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Tuesday.
19. Virginia (13-3) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Wednesday.
20. Notre Dame (16-2) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Florida State, Wednesday.
21. Saint Mary's (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Pacific, Thursday.
22. Cincinnati (15-2) beat East Carolina 55-46. Next: vs. Temple, Wednesday.
23. Florida (14-3) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Wednesday.
24. Minnesota (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Wisconsin, Saturday.
25. Kansas State (13-4) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma State, Wednesday.
25. Southern Cal (15-3) at Colorado. Next: vs. No. 16 Arizona, Thursday.

Women

SOUTHWEST
TCU 80, Iowa St. 75
SOUTH
Arkansas 68, Alabama 50
Elon 75, Drexel 65
Florida St. 86, Clemson 27
Gardner-Webb 84, Liberty 82
George Mason 70, VCU 59
Georgia Tech 75, Syracuse 66
James Madison 74, Northeastern 54
Kentucky 82, Georgia 61
Louisville 63, Miami 59
McNeese St. 86, SE Louisiana 63
Missouri 74, Vanderbilt 68
NC State 55, Duke 52
South Carolina 84, LSU 61
Texas A&M 67, Florida 59
Virginia 62, Boston College 55
W Kentucky 66, Middle Tennessee 51
William & Mary 57, UNC-Wilmington 43
MIDWEST
Baylor 92, Kansas 43
Dayton 78, Saint Louis 67
DePaul 85, Xavier 69
Drake 87, Illinois St. 36
Illinois 79, Nebraska 59
Marquette 91, Butler 53
Michigan 84, Minnesota 69
Missouri St. 78, S. Illinois 60
Murray St. 84, SIU-Edwardsville 77
N. Iowa 72, Bradley 53
Ohio St. 61, Purdue 56
Wichita St. 74, Evansville 67
EAST
Army 53, American U. 51
Delaware 73, Hofstra 56
Fordham 60, St. Bonaventure 44
George Washington 76, Davidson 62
Georgetown 77, Seton Hall 58
Marist 68, Iona 62
Monmouth (NJ) 55, Canisius 53
Niagara 62, Manhattan 59
Pittsburgh 68, North Carolina 48
Siena 80, St. Peter's 55
Towson 61, Coll. of Charleston 59
UMass 75, Duquesne 67
Villanova 55, St. John's 50
FAR WEST
Arizona 56, Washington St. 55
Oregon St. 74, Southern Cal 60
Stanford 84, Colorado 70
UCLA 79, Oregon 63
Utah 63, California 57
Washington 65, Arizona St. 54

Top 25 fared

1. UConn (18-0) beat No. 20 South Florida 102-37; beat SMU 88-48.
2. Baylor (17-1) beat TCU 77-54; beat Kansas 92-43.
3. Maryland (17-1) beat Penn State 89-83; beat Iowa 98-82.
4. Mississippi State (18-0) beat Florida 82-49.
5. South Carolina (15-1) beat Georgia 66-63; beat LSU 84-61.
6. Notre Dame (16-2) beat Pittsburgh 86-54.
7. Florida State (17-2) beat No. 9 Louisville 72-66; beat Clemson 86-27.
8. Washington (18-2) beat Arizona 90-73; beat No. 19 Arizona State 65-54.
9. Louisville (16-4) lost to No. 7 Florida State 72-66; beat No. 14 Miami 63-59.
10. Oregon State (16-2) lost to No. 17 UCLA 66-56; beat Southern Cal 74-60.
11. Ohio State (15-5) lost to Michigan State 94-75; beat Purdue 61-56.
12. Duke (15-3) beat North Carolina 70-58; lost to No. 23 N.C. State 55-52.
13. Stanford (15-3) beat Utah 77-58; beat Colorado 84-70.
14. Miami (14-4) beat No. 15 Virginia Tech 82-75; lost to No. 9 Louisville 63-59.
15. Virginia Tech (15-1) lost to No. 14 Miami 82-75.
16. Texas (12-4) beat Oklahoma State 66-35; beat No. 18 West Virginia 73-63.
17. UCLA (13-4) beat No. 10 Oregon State 66-56; beat Oregon 79-63.
18. West Virginia (14-4) lost to Texas Tech 75-68; lost to No. 16 Texas 73-63.
19. Arizona State (13-4) beat Washington State 68-49; lost to No. 8 Washington 65-54.
20. South Florida (14-2) lost to No. 1 UConn 102-37; beat East Carolina 79-48.
21. DePaul (16-4) beat St. John's 78-66; beat Butler 100-69; beat Xavier 85-69.
22. Oklahoma (14-4) beat Iowa State 67-57; beat Texas Tech 66-45.
23. N.C. State (14-5) lost to Syracuse 85-75; beat No. 12 Duke 55-52.
24. California (14-4) beat Colorado 65-53; lost to Utah 63-57.
25. Kansas State (14-4) beat Kansas 73-60; beat Oklahoma State 63-43.

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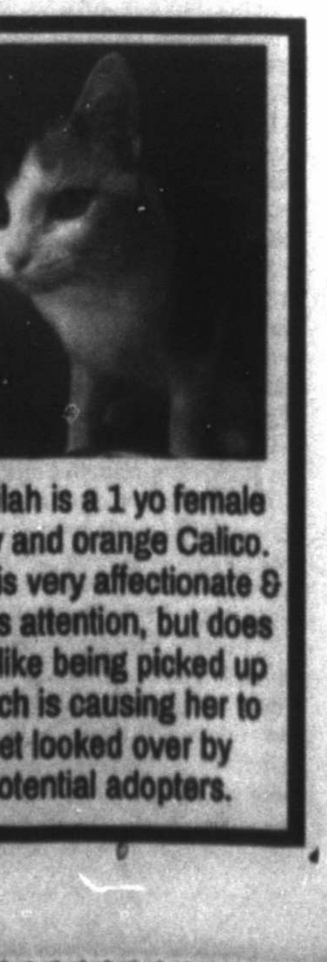


Delilah is a 1 yo female grey and orange Calico. She is very affectionate & loves attention, but does not like being picked up which is causing her to get looked over by potential adopters.

STEELERS

From 1C

could and run hard."

The Steelers became first team to win a playoff game without a TD since eventual Super Bowl champion Indianapolis in the 2006 AFC divisional round at Baltimore.

Using a no-huddle attack almost to perfection early on, the Steelers drove deep into Kansas City territory. But they bogged down inside the 5 and Boswell made a 22-yard field goal.

The Chiefs were just as efficient on a six-play march capped by receiver Albert Wilson lining up in the backfield, then slipping uncovered into the end zone for a 5-yard score.

Pittsburgh's answer came on a 52-yard heave to All-Pro Brown, who somehow was covered by linebacker Justin Houston. That led to Boswell's second field goal, a 38-yarder. He added a 36-yarder to cap a 14-play drive on which Pittsburgh again barely huddled.

A clean game up until then turned to, well, turnovers, on successive series. Bud Dupree pounded Alex Smith, whose pass shot high into the air and was caught by linebacker Ryan Shazier.

The Steelers got to the Kansas City 5, where Frank Zombo leaped to deflect Roethlisberger's throw, and All-Pro safety Eric Berry — burned for 26 yards on the previously play — picked it off in the end zone.

Boswell's fourth field goal, from 45 yards, made it 12-7 at the half. His 43-yarder, setting the franchise record for a postseason game and tying the league mark of five, came on Pittsburgh's first series of the second half. A 43-yarder midway in the fourth quarter gave Boswell the NFL record.

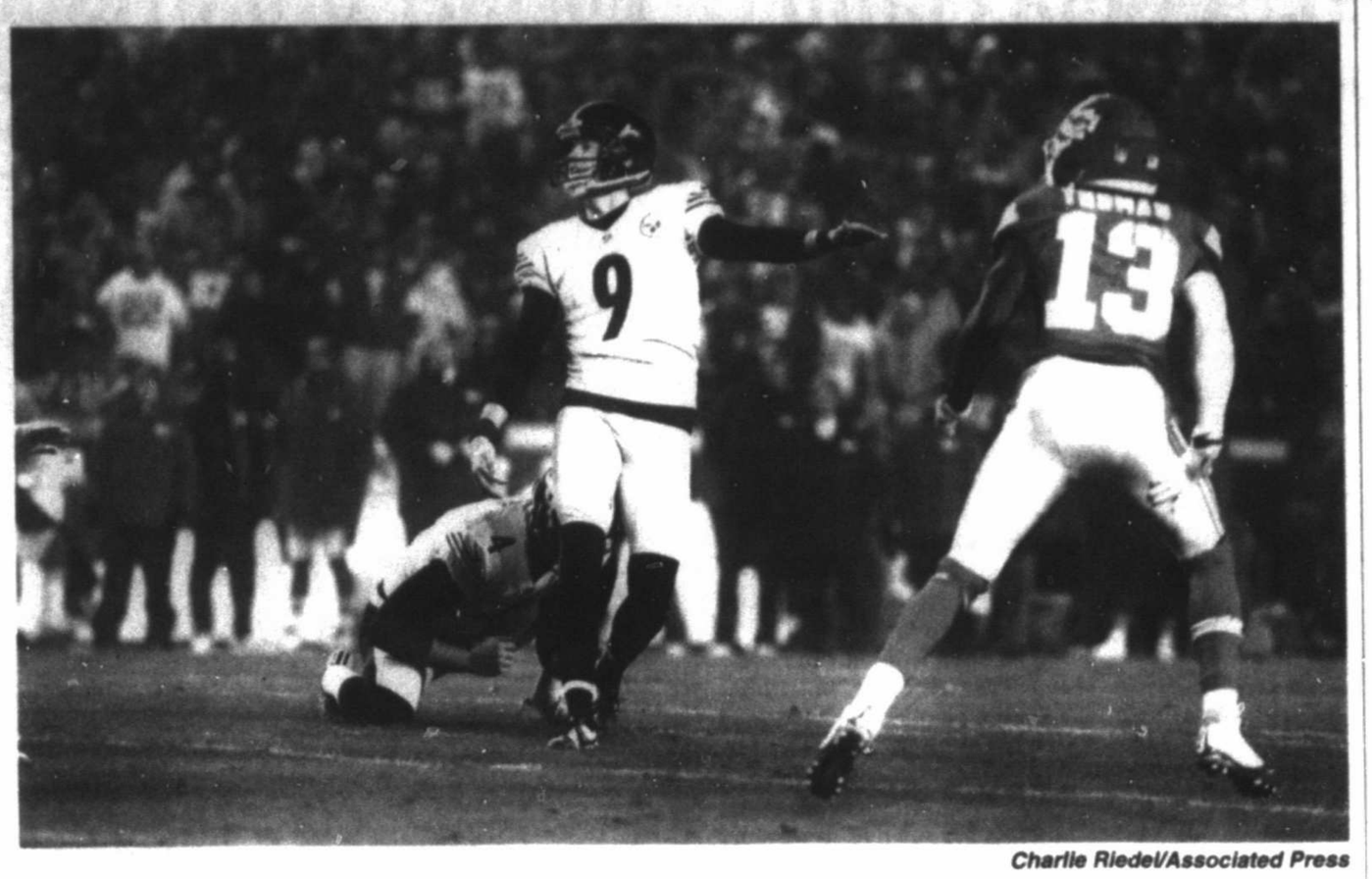
"It's just about doing my job," Boswell said. "Coming out here, put it through the yellow pipes. Don't really think too much. Don't think like I'm the guy or anything. I'm just doing my job and doing my one-eleventh for the team."

Kansas City's Cairo Santos got in on the kicking act with a 48-yarder to make it 15-10. At that point, 10 seconds from the end of the third quarter, the Chiefs were outgained 333 yards to 150.

Weatherman: Switching the game from noon local time to an evening kickoff to avert an ice storm had no effect on the crowd. Fans arrived early, tailgated in the rain as the worst of the storm never hit the area. But fog rolled into Arrowhead Stadium in the second quarter, obscuring some views from on high. Not that what was going on was worth watching for Chiefs fans.

Notes: Bell rushed for almost as many yards (101) in the first half as the Chiefs gained (106). ... Boswell's four first-half field goals tied the team record for an entire playoff game. ... Chiefs All-Pro tight end Travis Kelce had a rough game, including a big drop and a 15-yard roughing penalty in the third period.

Up next: Steelers: Head to New England for a shot at making the Super Bowl.



Charlie Riedel/Associated Press

Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Chris Boswell (9) kicks a 43-yard field goal during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff game against the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.

STEELERS 18, CHIEFS 16

Pittsburgh	6	6	3	3—18
Kansas City	7	0	3	6—16

First Quarter

Pit—FG Boswell 22, 9:38

KC—A.Wilson 5 pass from A.Smith (Santos kick), 6:29

Pit—FG Boswell 38, 1:51

Second Quarter

Pit—FG Boswell 36, 9:18

Pit—FG Boswell 45, :55

Third Quarter

Pit—FG Boswell 43, 10:06

KC—FG Santos 48, :10

Fourth Quarter

Pit—FG Boswell 43, 9:49

KC—Ware 1 run (pass failed), 2:43

A—75,678

	Pit	KC
First downs	25	19
Total Net Yards	389	227
Rushes-yards	34-171	14-61
Passing	218	166
Comp-Att-Int	20-31-1	20-34-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-6	1-6
Punts	1-35.0	4-45.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-53	5-65
Time of Possession	34:11	25:47

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Pittsburgh: Bell 30-101, Roethlisberger 4-41, Kansas City: Ware 8-35, Hill 3-19, A.Smith 2-9, West 1-minus 1.

PASSING—Pittsburgh: Roethlisberger 20-31-1-224, Kansas City: A.Smith 20-34-1-172.

RECEIVING—Pittsburgh: Brown 6-108, James 5-83, Rogers 5-27, Bell 2-minus 4, Ayers 1-6, Hamilton 1-4. Kansas City: Kelce 5-[illegible], Hill 4-27, Maclin 2-28, Conley 2-19, West 2-14, A.Wilson 2-3, Ware 2-2, Sherman 1-[illegible].

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

PLAYOFF GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 7
Houston 27, Oakland 14
Seattle 26, Detroit 6
Sunday, Jan. 8
Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12
Green Bay 38, N.Y. Giants 13
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
Atlanta 36, Seattle 20
New England 34, Houston 16
Sunday, Jan. 15
Green Bay 34, Dallas 31
Pittsburgh 18, Kansas City 16
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 22
NFC
Green Bay at Atlanta, 2:05 p.m.
AFC
Pittsburgh at New England, 5:40 p.m.
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 29
At Orlando, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 5
At Houston
TBD, 5:30 p.m. (FOX)

COWBOYS

From 1C

starter proud.

The Cowboys (13-4) almost became the third team in the Super Bowl era to win in the playoffs after trailing by 15 in the fourth. The first was Dallas in 1972, when "Captain Comeback", Roger Staubach, rallied the Cowboys in San Francisco.

Instead, top-seeded Dallas ended up with its fifth straight loss in the divisional round and a 21-year drought in trips to the NFC championship game.

In the same position nine years ago, the Cowboys lost to the New York Giants, the biggest disappointment of Romo's tenure.

"I thought we were a team that was capable of taking this thing all the way," owner and general manager Jerry Jones said. "I know we are now after that second half."

Prescott — a fourth-round pick who was supposed to be the No. 3 quarterback before injuries changed everything — got Dallas' rally going with a 40-yard touchdown toss in the first half to Bryant, the first playoff TD for the star receiver.

Then he set the stage for the first tying score on a 6-yarder to Jason Witten to get within 28-20.

After a 7-yard scoring pass to Bryant — who had nine catches for 132 yards — Prescott ran in the tying 2-point conversion with 4:08 to go.

Rodgers led the Packers to a go-ahead 56-yard field goal from Crosby with a big boost on a pass interference penalty against rookie Anthony Brown that wiped out an interception from Jeff Heath, whose pick earlier in the game helped Dallas rally.

The Cowboys answered with a 52-yarder from Bailey with 35 seconds remaining.

Road winner

Green Bay's win was the first by a road team after 12 straight home victories in the playoffs dating to last season. The Packers were the previous road team to win — over Washington in last season's wild-card round.

Spreading it around

Rodgers didn't seem to miss receiver Jordy Nelson, out with a rib injury sustained in the win over the Giants. Rodgers found six different receivers, including a 34-yard touchdown to Richard Rodgers that was his longest since catching one of three successful Hail Mary passes from Aaron Rodgers in the past 13 months.

PACKERS 34, COWBOYS 31

Green Bay	7	14	7	6	—34
Dallas	3	10	0	18	—31

First Quarter

Dal—FG Bailey 50, 11:23.

GB—R.Rodgers 14 pass from A.Rodgers (Crosby kick), 4:58.

Second Quarter

GB—Montgomery 3 run (Crosby kick), 14:05.

GB—Montgomery 1 run (Crosby kick), 1:31.

Dal—Bryant 40 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 6:03.

Dal—FG Bailey 30, 1:00.

Third Quarter

GB—Cook 3 pass from A.Rodgers (Crosby kick), 11:25.

Fourth Quarter

Dal—Witten 6 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 11:30.

Dal—Bryant 7 pass from Prescott (Prescott run), 4:08.

GB—FG Crosby 56, 1:33.

Dal—FG Bailey 52, :35.

GB—FG Crosby 51, :00.

A—93,396.

	GB	Dal
First downs	27	25
Total Net Yards	414	429
Rushes-yards	17-87	24-138
Passing	327	291
Comp-Att-Int	28-43-1	24-38-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-29	2-11
Punts	3-54.7	2-47.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-22	6-50
Time of Possession	29:48	30:14

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Green Bay: Montgomery 11-47, Ripkowski 4-24, A.Rodgers 2-16, Dallas: E.Elliott 22-125, Prescott 2-13.

PASSING—Green Bay: A.Rodgers 28-43-1-356, Dallas: Prescott 24-38-1-302.

RECEIVING—Green Bay: Cobb 7-62, Cook 6-104, Montgomery 6-34, Adams 5-78, Allison 3-46, R.Rodgers 1-34. Dallas: Bryant 9-132, Witten 6-58, Williams 4-68, Beasley 4-45, E.Elliott 1-minus 2.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Seahawks go into offseason with at another missed chance

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Doug Baldwin and the Seattle Seahawks landed back home sometime around midnight as Saturday turned to Sunday.

By 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning, Baldwin was awake playing an NFL video game, his way of decompressing from seeing the season end earlier than hoped for a second straight season.

"In Madden I can control everything and in the game of life and the game of football you can't. It's kind of like an outlet," Baldwin said.

The Seahawks' season ended likely where it should have with a 36-20 loss to Atlanta in the NFC divisional round on Saturday.

They were a talented, yet flawed team that simply couldn't overcome a season-long pattern of inconsistency and some key injuries that exposed a number of Seattle's shortcomings.

So while there was a healthy dose of optimism as players cleaned out their lockers on Sunday, there was also the reality that Seattle's core group is aging and its opportunity to reach another Super Bowl with this unit could be waning.

"I think for the team in general, because we've been here so many times, the older guys we all feel it now," Baldwin said.

"It's like all right, we've been successful in terms putting ourselves in position to compete, but it's so hard to do that.

"It's going to be difficult for the fans and the media to realize how difficult it is to do that, but for us in here it's an overwhelming, unbelievable emotional part that goes into it to get to this point. And I think all of us felt it this time, the gravity of not being able to finish."

The Seahawks lost on the road in the divisional round of playoffs for the fourth time under Pete Carroll.

It's been an unprecedented run of success for the franchise, yet unfulfilling the past two years after falling short of getting back to a Super Bowl.

"We were on the losing side, so it's just always about staying in the lab, staying focused, staying true to ourselves and understanding that we can get better," said Seattle running back Thomas Rawls, who started strong against Atlanta but finished with only 34 yards rushing on 11 carries. "We don't have all the answers, we're going to keep pushing."

This Seattle team never appeared Super Bowl worthy over an extended period. There were too many issues that surfaced at various times of the season that kept Seattle from fully reaching its potential.

And that's what left Baldwin and his teammates so frustrated after the loss to Atlanta where those issues were exposed by the Falcons.

Whether it was the loss of standout safety Earl Thomas to a broken leg in December, or the struggles of the offensive line to adequately protect quarterback Russell Wilson the Seahawks couldn't overcome their flaws.

"We always want to win it all and we believe that we can. We have high standards here, that's always been the best thing for us is to have high standards," Wilson said.

The loss leaves Seattle in a strange position going into the offseason. The past few years the Seahawks offseason was well defined.

After winning the Super Bowl, the question was whether they could repeat.

After losing to New England in the title game, it was how Seattle would respond.

And after losing to Carolina in the divisional round last season, it was acknowledging the reality of a Super Bowl hangover and the difficulty of reaching the title game in two straight seasons.

So what's the next step?

Seattle's core group is getting older, but has all the key pieces under contract for at least one more season and most of them are locked up through at least 2018.

Seattle's biggest unrestricted free agents are tight end Luke Willson and kicker Steven Hauschka.

It's still an extremely talented team that at times this season showed flashes of being elite, whether it was Seattle's impressive victory at New England in early November, or even the first drive on Saturday against Atlanta when the Seahawks drove down the field and took a 7-0 lead.

But those moments were too fleeting for a franchise where competing for a Super Bowl has become the expectation.

"I'm getting older, realizing that this is not forever and these opportunities that you get they are few and far between," Baldwin said.

"I've been blessed to be on a great team, going to the divisional (round) five years in a row and that's special, but not everybody gets an opportunity to do that and you've got to cherish those moments. Realizing that we're done now and it's all going to start over, that was the more difficult part realizing this late in my career."

Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Mohamed Sanu catches a touchdown pass over Seattle Seahawks Jeremy Lane (20) during the fourth quarter of an NFL NFC divisional playoff game Saturday in Atlanta.

High-scoring Falcons to host Packers in NFC title game

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Matt Ryan and the high-scoring Falcons offense will have one more game in the Georgia Dome after all.

The Falcons will host the NFC championship game next Sunday against Green Bay. The Packers beat Dallas 34-31 in Sunday's divisional playoff game.

Ryan continued his hot streak of turnover-free passing in leading Atlanta to a 36-20 win over Seattle in Saturday's first divisional game.

The MVP candidate threw for 338 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions against the Seahawks. It was Ryan's fifth straight game without an interception, leading to a five-game winning streak for Atlanta. He has 14 touchdown passes in that span.

Ryan and the NFL's top-scoring offense impressed cornerback Richard Sherman and the Seahawks.

"They do a lot of things well," Sherman said. "The quarterback gets the ball out, he doesn't turn the ball over, so that will do it."

Ryan was in top form in leading Atlanta to a 33-32 home win over Green Bay on Oct. 30. He completed 28 of 35 passes for 288 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions.

The Falcons (12-5) have leaned on Ryan and their balanced offense in their pursuit for the second Super Bowl appearance and first championship. Ryan kept the offense moving against Seattle even as All-Pro Julio Jones aggravated a toe injury.

Jones spent much of the second half on the sideline, but still had a game-high six catches for 67 yards and a touchdown in his highly anticipated matchup with Sherman.

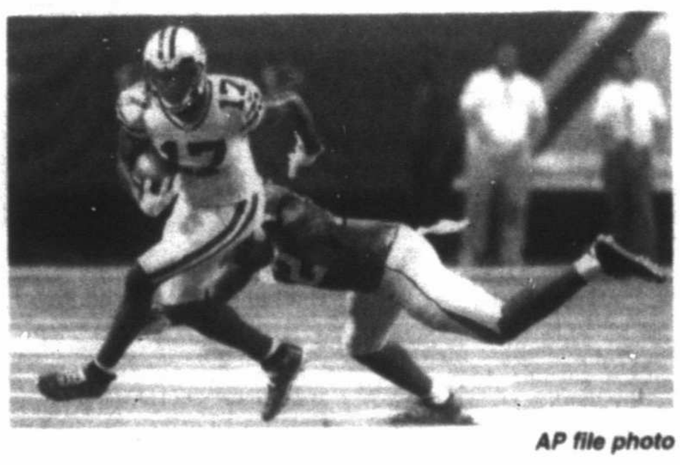
Jones' status will be closely watched this week. He missed two games this season with the sore toe. He still finished second in the NFL with 1,409 yards receiving on 83 catches, including six for touchdowns.

Coach Dan Quinn said Saturday that Jones' injury was "no concern at the moment" but acknowledged "it'll be sore."

Added Quinn: "I anticipate him being ready to rock next week."

Jones was not available for postgame interviews, adding to speculation about the severity of the injury.

Ryan has a large list of targets behind Jones. He completed passes to eight receivers against the Seahawks.



AP file photo

Green Bay Packers wide receiver Davante Adams (17) is hit by Atlanta Falcons strong safety Keanu Neal (22) during the second of an NFL game Oct. 30, 2016 in Atlanta. The Green Bay Packers appear to be much better prepared to play without Jordy Nelson if their top receiver can't play in the divisional round playoff game against Dallas on Sunday because of injured ribs.

Ondoro, Assefa claim Houston Marathon Titles

By Joshua Koch
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Kenya's Dominic Ondoro won his first Houston Marathon and seventh overall since 2013 on Sunday.

Ondoro was right with Ethiopia's Yitayal Atanfu, the 2016 runner-up in Houston, before pulling away winning with a time of 2:12:05.

Ondoro is the first Kenyan runner to win the marathon since David Cheruiyot in 2008, snapping a streak of eight years where an Ethiopian runner won.

In his previous two outings at the Houston Marathon, Ondoro finished fourth in 2013 and fifth in 2014.

"The other years I did not know the course well." Ondoro said. "I'm very happy."

Ethiopia's Meskerem Assefa won her first ever marathon title, taking the women's title.

Assefa defeated the 2016 defending champion Biruktayit Degefa with a time of 2:30:18.

This was Assefa's 11th marathon since making the jump up in distance in 2013.

She previously finishing second at the 2015 Hong Kong Marathon, 2014 Houston Marathon and 2013 Vienna Marathon.

"I wanted win and I worked hard," Assefa said. "Obviously I wasn't feeling well. I concentrated on running fast. Despite I was having difficulties I wasn't going to let anything to stop me from running. I finished second place before but I was determined to win first place this time."

American Leonard Korir pushed past two-time Houston Men's Half Marathon champion Feyisa Lilesa of Ethiopia at the last second to win his second half marathon of his career. Korir is the 11th American to win the Houston Men's Half Marathon and registered the sixth-fastest time.

Korir officially crossed the finish line at 1:01:14, beating Lilesa, a silver medalist for Ethiopia in the 2016 Olympics in the men's marathon, by one second.

"Today the race it didn't go as planned, we expected fast times but with 200 to go battling for the win I told myself I have to win," Korir said. "I ran as fast I as I could and hopefully I could take first."

This marks the second time in the Houston Men's Half Marathon the race was decided by just one second.

In 2004, Gilbert Koech beat Dan Browne by one second.

Korir is less than a week removed from winning the Greater Edinburgh Cross Country Race men's 8K race.

"I had a great race last week and I used that race as a motivation to go to the next race," Korir said.

Veronica Wanijru of Kenya won the Houston Women's Half Marathon with a personal best of 1:07:58, winning by nine seconds.

Wanjiru is the second Kenyan native to win this event, joining 2016 champion Mary Wacera.

"I feel good because I won," Wanijru said. "I was trying to run it in 66 (minutes) but I didn't make it because of the humidity."

American Jordan Hasay with a time of 1:08:40 broke Shalane Flanagan's 2010 record of 1:09:41 for the best performance by an American.

Hasay finished fourth in her half marathon debut.

"I was confident in my training but it was my first one," Hasay said. "I wasn't really sure how it was going to go. We were hoping for somewhere in the 68 minute range."

Former pro wrestler Jimmy 'Superfly' Snuka dies at 73

By Ron Todt
Associated Press

Michael Kubel/The Morning Call via AP, File

Former professional wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, right, arrives for his formal arraignment at the Lehigh County Courthouse on Nov. 2, 2015 in Allentown, Pa. in a decision filed Jan. 3 a Pennsylvania judge dismissed the murder case against Snuka in the 1983 death of his girlfriend Nancy Argentino, saying Snuka is not competent to stand trial on counts including third-degree murder.

PHILADELPHIA — Former pro wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, who earlier this month was found not competent to stand trial in the 1983 death of his girlfriend, has died at his son-in-law's home in Florida. He was 73.

Attorney Robert Kirwan II said Snuka was taken Sunday to the home near Pompano Beach so that he could spend his last moments there. The family informed him shortly after 1 p.m. Sunday to say he had died, Kirwan said.

Lehigh County Judge Kelly Banach on Jan. 3 dismissed the murder case against the retired WWE star after the defense said he had dementia, was in hospice care in Florida and had six months to live.

Snuka's daughter, Tamina Snuka, also a WWE wrestler, tweeted Sunday afternoon: "I LOVE YOU DAD" with a hashtag (hash)RestWell.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, also a WWE star, called it "sad news" in a post on his Twitter page.

Snuka was charged in 2015 with third-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter in the death of Nancy Argentino, whose body was found more than three decades earlier in their Whitehall Township hotel room. Prosecutors allege she was beaten, while Snuka maintained she died from a fall.

Authorities reopened the investigation after The Morning Call newspaper raised questions about the case in 2013.

Banach had first ruled last summer that Snuka was not competent to stand trial after his attorney argued the ex-athlete suffers from dementia, partly due to the head trauma sustained over a long career in the ring. Prosecutors countered that Snuka's brain shows normal signs of aging and suggested he might be feigning symptoms.

At a hearing last month to re-evaluate Snuka's mental fitness, Snuka's wife told the judge that the family struggles to keep him from leaving home during bouts of psychosis in which he thinks he's late for a wrestling match. Banach then took time to review Snuka's medical records before ruling.

Kirwan said Snuka died "due to complications from his ongoing medical problems" but did not state what they were specifically.

"The family is simply heartbroken. It's been a long journey," he said. "They are grateful to the judge for dismissing the charges against him."

Kirwan added that he believes his client's name will eventually be cleared.

Snuka, a native of Fiji who previously lived in Camden County, New Jersey, was known on the wrestling circuit for diving from the ropes. He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 1996.

WEST TEXAS SPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

You can email it to sports@mrt.com

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players
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Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment

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For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2438

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Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-6080

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329

Private lessons
For more info: Call Mike Munguia 432-230-6477 or email mmungia@midlandchristianschool.org

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzanteddie@yahoo.com.

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Reed's Super Bowl
What: Fall/winter leagues registration is currently ongoing.
For more info: Call 432-704-5385

Rock n' Bowl
When: 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturdays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl, 3920 W. Wall St.
Cost: $10-25
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-399-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

Color Pin Bowling
When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays
Where: Reed's Super Bowl
Cost: $18 for three games. Cash prizes awarded.
For more info: Call Zoe Reed at 575-399-5241 or Kevin Reed at 575-441-6646

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Tennis clinics and lessons
Contact Coach Jon Lanier for clinics and lessons at jlanier@midlandchristianschool.org

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: MCH Mission Fitness, corner of Highway 191 and Faudree Road, Odessa
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
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Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Jesse Mendoza at 432-254-9214

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
For: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez, 432-559-5009, ojimenez3@att.net

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2-6 p.m. Sundays
Cost: $50 down; $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Mashburn Park (north field)
For more info call: 432-697-6418

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Halley, president at halleyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month, first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.; Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422.

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 state and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-210-0611 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information.

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 58 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (6th-8th grade; freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults; 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults); Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com or call, 620-8180.

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College Tennis
What: Clinics, lessons, leagues, tournaments
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Call 687-4046

Midland College Tennis Club
When: A community tennis club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual Dues: Adults $65, youths $30, families $140
For more info: Call 563-1333 or email midlandtennisclub@aol.com
Note: Will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 11 a.m.

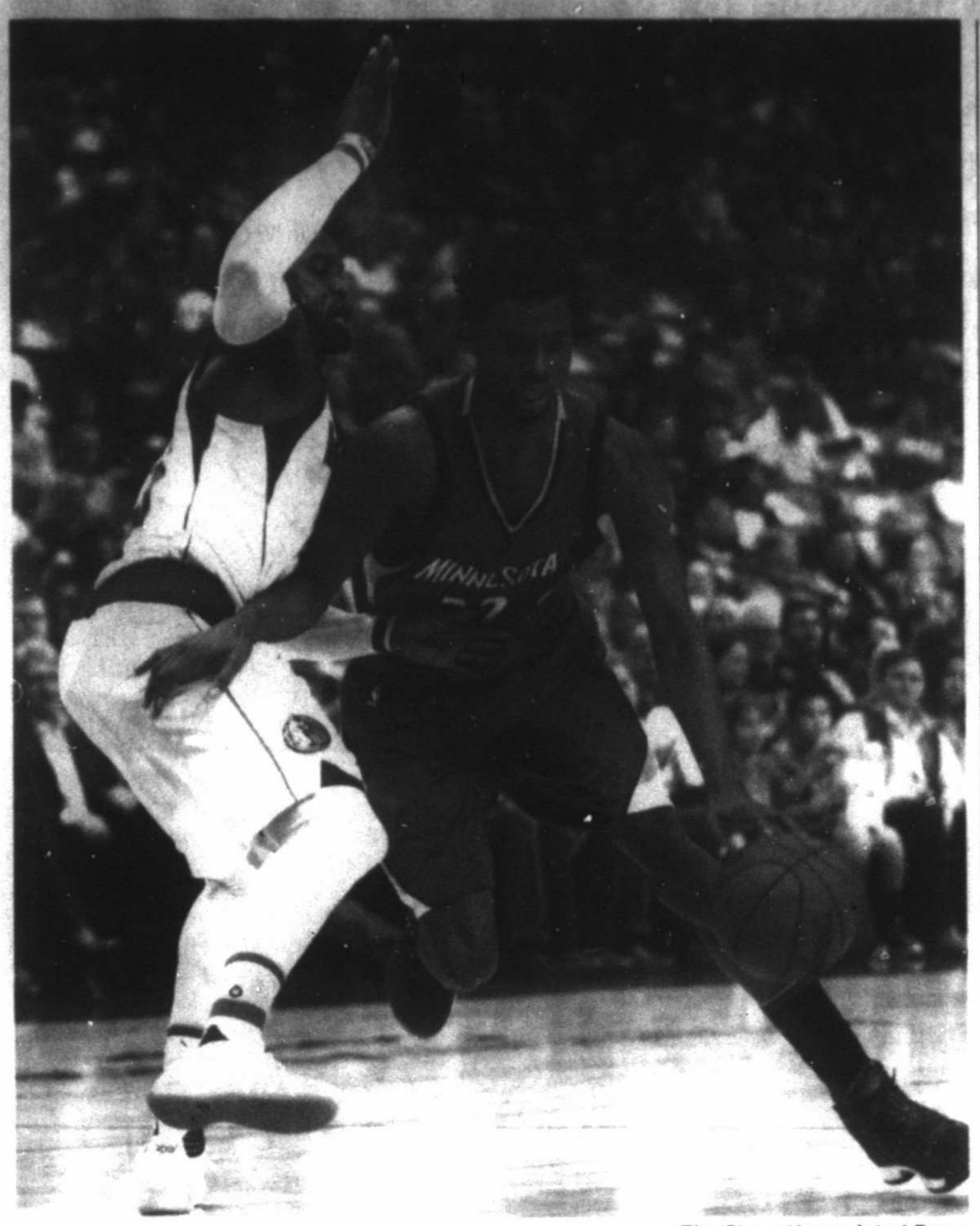
Midland Women's Tennis Association
Social women's doubles tennis, all levels
When: 9 a.m. Tuesdays
Where: Midland College
For more info: Call 954-707-0622 or email jmalcolm-texas@gmail.com. Or go to the Midland Women's Tennis Association Facebook page

Ultimate Frisbee

Midland Drought Ultimate Frisbee Club
What: The Club plays weekly casual pick-up games on Monday (from 7 p.m. to dark) and Saturday mornings (from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and offer occasional opportunities for tourney travel
For ages: Males and females from the high school level to adult
For more info: Go to www.midlandultimatefrisbee.weebly.com or call Matt at 432-288-3139

Walking

Midland Walkabout AVA Club
For: All Ages
Annual dues: $15 per family
Walks: One Saturday morning per month
When: First Monday of the month at Murray's Deli on Wadley at 6 p.m.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call 432-697-4310, email gary.petersen@mygrande.net or visit midlandwalkabout.wordpress.com



Tim Sharp/Associated Press

Minnesota Timberwolves forward Andrew Wiggins, right, drives against Dallas Mavericks forward Wesley Matthews during the first half of an NBA game Sunday in Dallas.

NBA ROUNDUP

MAVERICKS 96, TIMBERWOLVES 87

DALLAS — Wesley Matthews scored 19 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 17 to help Dallas beat Minnesota.

J.J. Barea scored 15 points for Dallas, and Deron Williams had 13 points and 10 assists. Gorgui Dieng had 21 points, and Andrew Wiggins added 19 for the Timberwolves.

ROCKETS 137, NETS 112

NEW YORK — James Harden had 22 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists in his 12th triple-double of the season and the Houston Rockets easily ended their first losing streak of the season by beating the Brooklyn Nets 137-112 on Sunday night.

Held to 105 points in losses to Minnesota and Memphis, the Rockets bounced back with 104 after three quarters and handed the Nets their 10th straight loss.

Eric Gordon led the Rockets with 24 points and Trevor Ariza added 23. Houston made 21 3-pointers and had five players with at least 16 points.

Houston shot just 40.8 percent during its two losses, well below its 46.8 season average, while being held nearly 10 points below its season scoring average. But the Rockets had no trouble bouncing back against the Nets, who allow an NBA-worst 114.3 per game.

RAPTORS 116, KNICKS 101

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan had 23 points. Norman Powell added 21 and the Toronto Raptors used a dominant third quarter to beat the New York Knicks 116-101 on Sunday.

DeRozan also had five rebounds and five assists before coming out late in the third quarter. Toronto outscored New York 27-8 in the third to take a 96-62 lead.

The Raptors improved to 27-13, taking the lead for good late in the first quarter. They led by 38 points in the third in winning their third straight game overall and fifth in a row against the Knicks.

DeMarre Carroll added 20 points, and Jonas Valanciunas had 12 points and 16 rebounds.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 18 points, Justin Holiday had 17, and Derrick Rose added 16. The Knicks are 2-10 in their last 12 to drop to 18-23.

HAWKS 111, BUCKS 98

ATLANTA — Kent Bazemore scored 24 points, Mike Dunleavy added 20 and Atlanta beat Milwaukee for its eighth victory in nine games.

Dunleavy, in his second game since arriving in a trade last week with Cleveland, had his first 20-point performance since a first-round playoff game for Chicago on April 30, 2015.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 33 points for Milwaukee.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	27	15	.675	—
Boston	25	15	.625	2
New York	18	23	.439	9½
Philadelphia	12	26	.316	14
Brooklyn	8	32	.200	19

Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	23	17	.575	—
Washington	20	19	.513	2½
Charlotte	20	20	.500	3
Orlando	17	25	.405	7
Miami	11	30	.268	12½

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	29	10	.744	
Milwaukee	20	19	.513	9
Indiana	20	19	.513	9
Chicago	20	21	.488	10
Detroit	18	24	.429	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	31	9	.775	—
Houston	32	11	.744	½
Memphis	25	17	.595	7
New Orleans	16	25	.390	15½
Dallas	13	27	.325	18

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	26	16	.619	—
Oklahoma City	24	17	.585	1½
Portland	18	24	.429	8
Denver	15	23	.395	9
Minnesota	14	27	.341	11½

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	34	6	.850	
L.A. Clippers	28	14	.667	7
Sacramento	16	23	.410	17½
L.A. Lakers	15	29	.341	21
Phoenix	13	27	.325	21

Sunday's Scores

Dallas 96, Minnesota 87
Atlanta 111, Milwaukee 98
Toronto 116, New York 101
Houston 137, Brooklyn 112
Chicago at Memphis, late
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, late
Detroit at L.A. Lakers, late

Today's Games

Atlanta at New York, noon
Portland at Washington, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 2:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Indiana, 3 p.m.
Orlando at Denver, 4 p.m.
Charlotte at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Golden State, 7 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Thomas caps off record week with trophy at Sony Open

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Challenged only by the record book, Justin Thomas won the Sony Open on Sunday with the lowest 72-hole score in PGA Tour history.

Thomas capped off his wonderful week at Waialae that began with a 59 with his second straight victory. He two-putted birdie from 60 feet on the par-5 18th and closed with a 5-under 65 to set the record at 253.

Tommy Armour III shot 254 at the 2003 Texas Open.

"It's been an unbelievable week. Unforgettable," Thomas said before going to sign his historic card.

Make that two weeks.

The 23-year-old from Kentucky won the SBS Tournament of Champions at Kapalua last week by three shots, then destroyed the full field at the Sony Open to win by seven shots. Thomas is the first player since Tiger Woods in 2009 (Buick Open and Bridgestone Invitational) to win back-to-back weeks by three shots or more.

"I felt like I was trying to win a tournament for second place," Jordan Spieth said, summing up the helpless feeling of everyone.

That honor went to Justin Rose, who closed with a 64 to finish alone in second. Spieth shot a 63 to finish alone in third.

The first full-field event of the year on the PGA Tour was a one-man show.

Thomas began the final round with a seven-shot lead and no one got closer than five shots all day. His only nervous moment was an 8-foot par putt on the sixth hole when he was five shots ahead. He made that, and the rest of the day was a Pacific breeze.

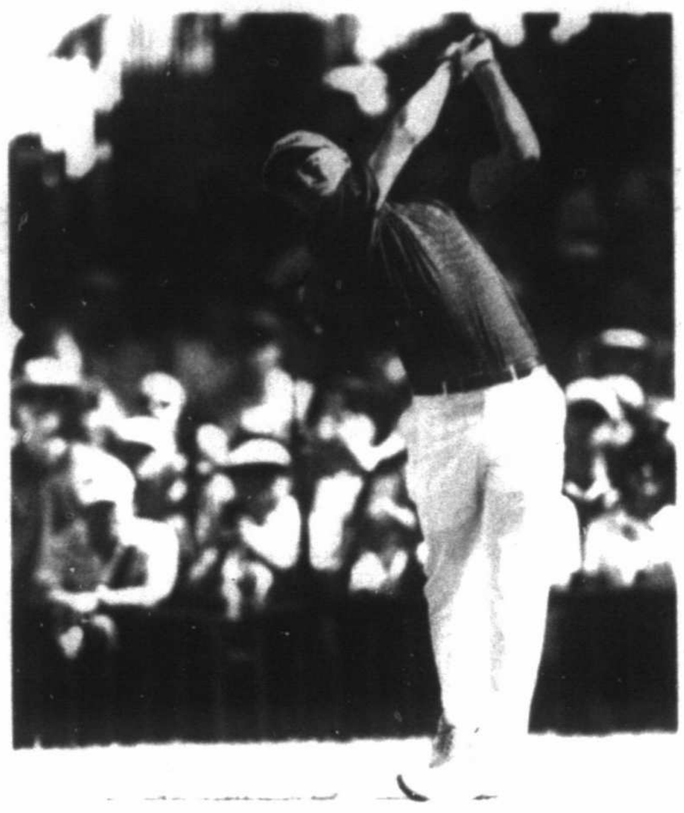
Thomas joined Ernie Els in 2003 as the only players to sweep Hawaii, and this performance might have been even better. Thomas was 49-under par for his two weeks, compared with Els at 47 under.

Thomas joined Johnny Miller (1974 and 1975) and Tiger Woods (2003, 2008, 2013) as the only players since 1970 to win three of the their first five starts in a PGA Tour season. It started last fall with the CIMB Classic in Malaysia.

He moved to No. 8 in the world.

"He's got full control of his game, full confidence, and he's executing under pressure," Spieth said. "It's a lot of fun to see. Certainly stuff that myself and a lot of our peers have seen going back almost 10 years now. He's certainly showing the world what he's capable of."

No one ever lost a seven-shot lead in the final round of a PGA Tour event, a fact that never entered the conversation on a balmy afternoon at Waialae.



Marco Garcia/Associated Press

Justin Thomas drives on the first tee during the final round of the Sony Open golf tournament Sunday in Honolulu

Thomas, thinking more about the trophy and another record when he started the final round, took no chances early on. He was 1 over through seven holes, making a soft bogey with a three-putt from 45 feet on No. 4 and a tough par save on No. 6, and still no one got closer than five shots.

But when he poured in a 20-foot birdie putt on the eighth, Thomas shifted into another gear. That was the start of four birdies in five holes — the exception was a birdie putt he missed from just inside 10 feet — and he stretched his lead to as many as nine shots.

Waialae was vulnerable all week with not much wind, fast fairways and greens that were softer than usual. Thomas produced the eighth sub-60 round in PGA Tour history on Thursday. Kevin Kisner had a shot at 59 on Saturday until missing a 9-foot eagle putt on his final hole. And on Sunday, Chez Reavie made a hole-in-one with a 6-iron on the 17th hole that gave him a shot at a sub-60 round. Only a bogey on the sixth hole (he start on No. 10) stopping him, and he had to settle for a 61. That matched the third-best score of the week.

Even in easier conditions, no one played like Thomas.

He felt the nerves early, perhaps knowing that he could only lose with such a big lead. But when he made the turn with a six-shot lead, it was a chase for the record, and there was no stopping him. He hit a lob wedge over a bunker to 3 feet for birdie on the 14th, made a 12-foot par save on the 15th and picked up the last birdie he needed on the par-5 18th by easily reaching the middle of the green.

Sony Open Scores
Saturday
At Waialae Country Club
Honolulu
Purse: $6 million
Yardage: 7,044; Par 70
Third Round

Justin Thomas	59-64-65—188
Zach Johnson	69-61-65—195
Justin Rose	66-64-66—196
Gary Woodland	64-64-68—196
Hudson Swafford	62-68-66—196
Jamie Lovemark	64-68-65—197
Russell Knox	64-67-66—197
Kevin Kisner	70-67-60—197
Jordan Spieth	65-67-66—198
Ollie Schniederjans	66-67-66—199
Brian Harman	66-67-66—199
Hideto Tanihara	67-65-67—199
Russell Henley	64-67-68—199
Tony Finau	64-67-68—199
Charles Howell III	65-68-68—199
Daniel Summerhays	66-68-66—200
Marc Leishman	68-66-66—200
Branden Grace	67-68-65—200
Jim Herman	66-67-67—200
Bill Haas	67-66-67—200
Brian Gay	69-64-67—200
Hideki Matsuyama	66-67-67—200
Henrik Norlander	67-65-68—200
Ryan Brehm	68-68-64—200
Billy Horschel	64-68-68—200
Luke List	67-64-69—200
Webb Simpson	66-65-69—200
Tim Wilkinson	67-67-67—201
Shawn Stefani	64-70-67—201
Kevin Na	67-67-67—201
Jason Bohn	66-68-67—201
Ben Martin	66-68-67—201
Mackenzie Hughes	68-65-68—201
Cameron Smith	64-68-69—201
Kelly Kraft	69-67-65—201
Daniel Berger	65-67-69—201
Satoshi Kodaira	65-68-70—203
Michael Kim	67-67-68—202
Pat Perez	67-67-68—202
Seamus Power	69-68-67—204
Sean O'Hair	66-69-67—202
Robert Streb	68-67-67—202
James Hahn	68-68-66—202
Bryson DeChambeau	69-67-66—202
Andres Gonzales	68-68-66—202
Rory Sabbatini	63-69-70—202
Vaughn Taylor	68-69-65—202
Richy Werenski	65-69-69—203
Chez Reavie	67-67-69—203
[illegible]	67-66-[illegible]—203
[illegible]	67-66-[illegible]—203
Scott Piercy	66-68-[illegible]—203
William McGirt	68-69-66—203
Kyle Stanley	[illegible]-68-66—203
David Lingmerth	[illegible]-[illegible]—204
Peter Malnati	69-66-69—204
Stewart Cink	66-70-68—204
Miguel Tabuena	67-69-[illegible]—204
Jared Sawada	68-66-[illegible]—204
Rod Pampling	68-68-[illegible]—205
Vijay Singh	[illegible]—205
Michael Thompson	65-68-72—205
Bryce Molder	72-61-[illegible]—205
Billy Horschel	69-67-69—205
Brian Stuard	[illegible]-68—205
Trey Mullinax	69-68-68—205
Jonathan Diaz-Ussher	67-68-[illegible]—206
Fabian Gomez	69-68-[illegible]—206
[illegible] Poston	68-67-[illegible]—206
[illegible]	[illegible]—206
Kevin Stadler	65-[illegible]—206
Jon Rahm	[illegible]—206
John Huh	68-69-69—206
Scott Brown	[illegible]—206
Made Cut - Does Not Finish	
Chad Campbell	71-62-74—207
[illegible]	[illegible]—207
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Austrian skier Scheyer wins downhill

By Eric Willemsen
Associated Press

ALTENMARKT-ZAUCHENSEE, Austria — Racing for the first time in 322 days, Lindsey Vonn had to settle for 13th place Sunday in an unusual women's World Cup downhill with an unexpected winner, Christine Scheyer of Austria.

Not being able to push out of the start gate as usual, the American was more than half a second off the lead at the first split and finished 1.54 behind the Austrian.

"I have a little start routine with my poles and I couldn't really do that with my right hand," Vonn said. "I also kind of lost grip on my pole after the last jump."

The four-time overall champion, who holds the women's record of 76 victories, has been out with a knee injury and a broken arm since February last year. The fracture in her right upper arm also damaged nerves, which was still limiting mobility of her hand.

After announcing a few days ago that she had come to win, Vonn still saw the positives of her comeback race after nearly 11 months.

"All things considered it's about what I would expect," she said. "I felt like I was skiing pretty well, just maybe not quite on the limit yet."

Vonn had three weeks left, including speed weekends in Germany and Italy, to find her best form for the world championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

"That's definitely a huge goal of mine," she said. "For now I am happy. It's not really a matter of results. It's a matter of just being happy to be racing again. Of course I had higher expectations of myself but considering the conditions and the fact that we had a training run and the race today, I think it was pretty good."

After heavy snowfall had canceled the program for the past three days, the mandatory training session had to be held just hours before the race. While the course was in good shape Sunday, moving clouds caused changing light conditions.

Scheyer, whose previous best was ninth in last month's downhill in Val d'Isere, impressed in training as she posted the second fastest time. But the Austrian went one spot better in the race. In only her fourth World Cup downhill start, she beat Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein by 0.39 seconds. Jacqueline Wiles of the United States was 0.54 behind in third for her first career podium.

Kristoffersen edges Hirscher in World Cup slalom duel

By Graham Dunbar
Associated Press

WENGEN, Switzerland — Henrik Kristoffersen's hot streak in World Cup slalom extended to his fourth win of the season on Sunday, and Marcel Hirscher was runner-up yet again.

Defending a first-run lead, Kristoffersen dropped behind Hirscher at the last time check but the Norwegian raced through the final gates for a 0.15-second winning margin. Felix Neureuther of Germany was 0.63 back in third.

"I'm really happy about the race today," said Kristoffersen, who also won last Sunday at nearby Adelboden. "At the moment, it's pretty decent."

Hirscher seemed to have been expecting victory, and put on a weary expression in the finish area while holding up a thumb and forefinger slightly apart to suggest how close he had been.

Kristoffersen thumped his chest with his right fist upon crossing the line, then skied over to share an embrace with the Austrian star.

Kristoffersen now leads the World Cup slalom standings from Hirscher, who has been runner-up in three of his rival's victories.

Still, Hirscher extended his clear lead in the overall standings with Kristoffersen rising to second.

"It's not always about winning," said Hirscher, the five-time defending overall champion. "Another 80 points in the bank is definitely a good result."

The 22-year-old Kristoffersen's 14th career World Cup victory was his 13th in slalom, and completed back-to-back wins at the Swiss venues for the second straight year.

Norway's men now have eight wins this season — four each for Kristoffersen and speed specialist Kjetil Jansrud. The small Scandinavian team also won 19 races in a standout 2016 season.

THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYMENT

All Field Positions
Rush Wellsite Services, LLC is now hiring for all field positions. Wireline Operators, Engineers, Crane Operators, CDL Drivers, all with experience. Please submit your resume to jobs@rushwellsite.com or complete an application at our office, 3006 N County Rd 1106, Midland, TX 79706 P: 432-458-3528

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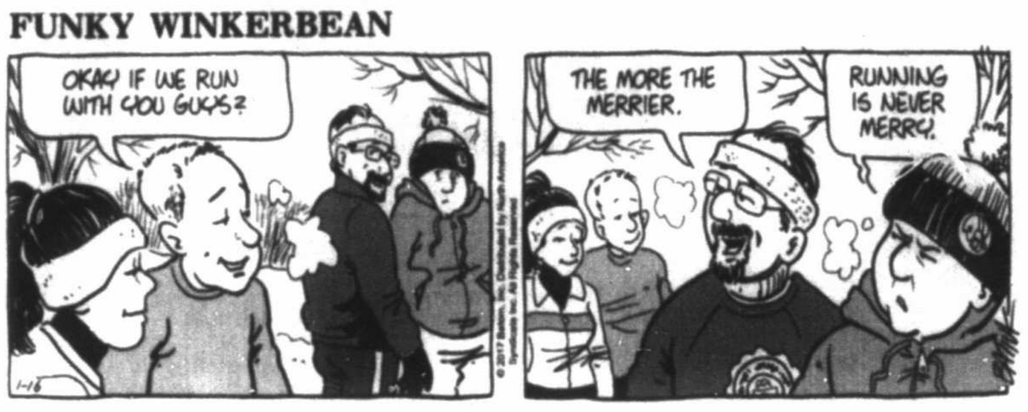
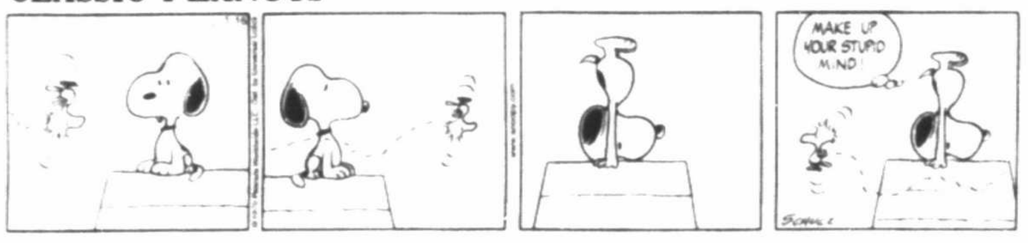


BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

CLASSIC PEANUTS



SHOE

GARFIELD

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

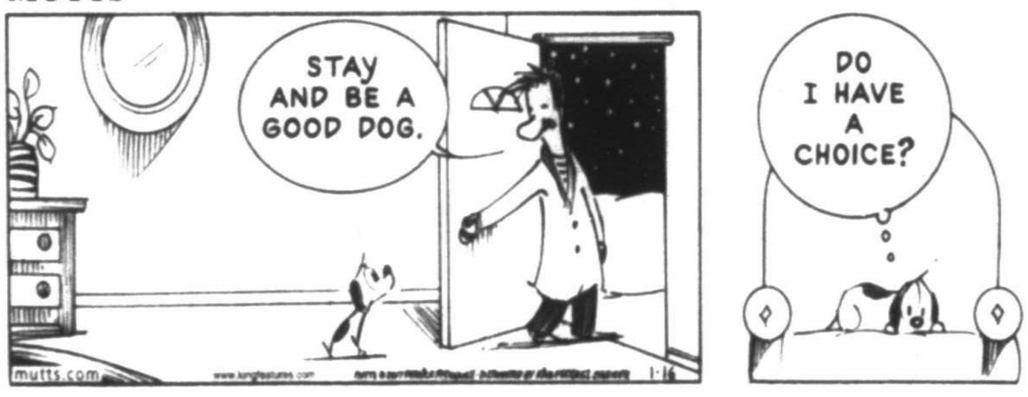
LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME

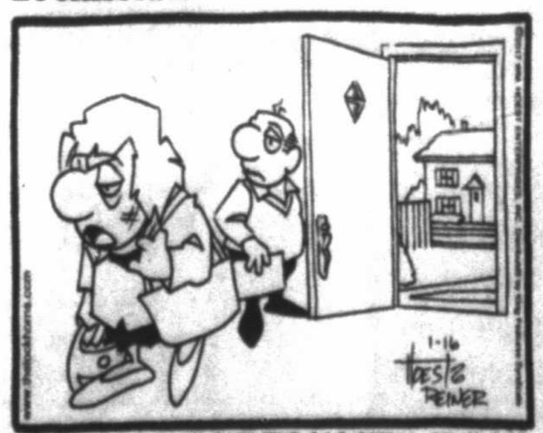
"Mrs. Clark, pulling the cord is for when you need MEDICAL help, not for when you need help getting the spring thingy back into the toilet paper tube."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I'LL BET YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO BEETHOVEN WAS."

"SURE I DO! HE WAS SOME FAMOUS GUY NOBODY EVER HEARD OF."

LOCKHORNS



"THEY SHOULDN'T PUT THE GAS PEDAL SO CLOSE TO THE BRAKE."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"PJ's ball rolled under your bed, but I got it out for him."

TODAY: Sunny High: 61 Low: 37

TUESDAY: Mostly sunny High: 56 Low: 40

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny High: 61 Low: 43

THURSDAY: Sunny High: 67 Low: 45

FRIDAY: Sunny High: 64 Low: 44

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny High: 65 Low: 41

Local forecast

The highs are above normal for the next six days, according to the National Weather Service. Dry conditions are expected until Saturday night, when there is a chance of showers.

The record high for Jan. 15 is 79 set in 1935. The record low is 6, set in 1972. On Jan. 15 of last year, the high was 66 and the low was 29.

Weather brief

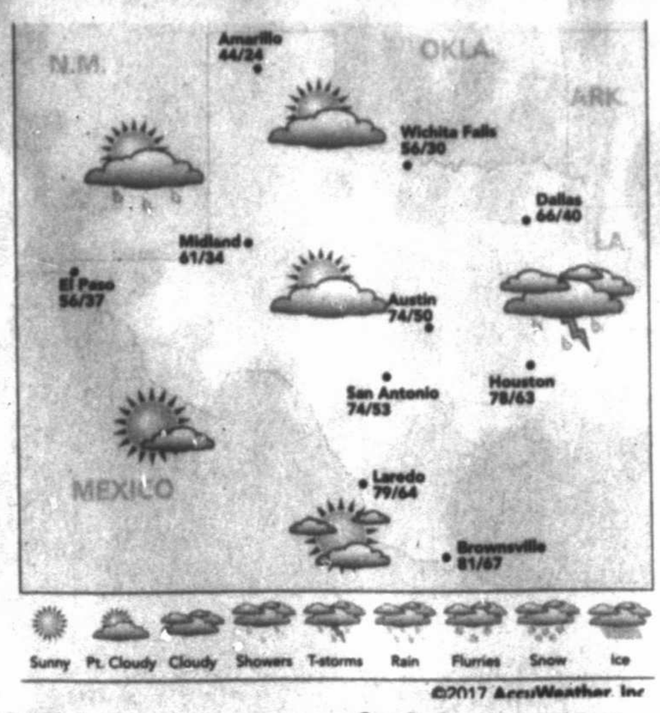
Recent rain, snow helping to ease Arizona's 17-year drought

PHOENIX — A climatologist says the recent rain and snow that has fallen in Arizona is helping to ease the state's 17-year drought.

Arizona State University meteorology professor Randy Cerveny tells Phoenix radio station KTAR that this is the fall and winter that the state expected to have last year with El Nino.

The U.S. Drought Monitor showed approximately 25 percent of Arizona was in moderate or severe drought.

That's an improvement from 45 percent just three months ago.



Precipitation

Sunday	0.81 in. — record
Saturday	0.70 in.
Month total	0.96 in.
Year total	0.96 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.22 in.

Sunday's temperatures

High	50
Low	34
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:49 a.m.
Sunset	6:08 p.m.

National weather

AccuWeather.com

Forecast for Monday, January 16, 2017

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

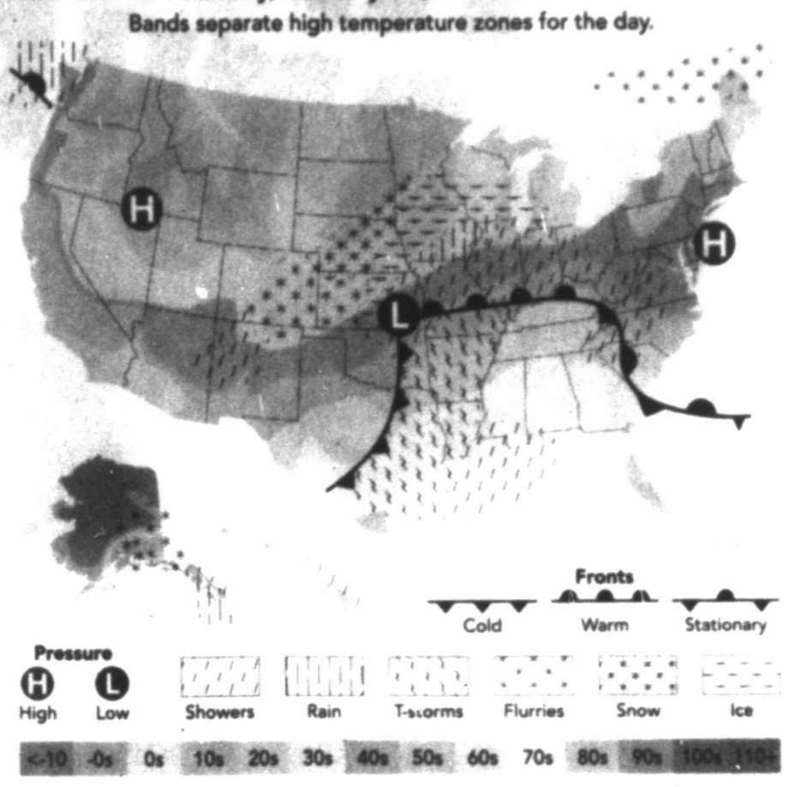


Photo of mom in body bag infuriates grieving daughter

DEAR ABBY

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 58-year-old female. My mother passed away in my home almost exactly a year ago. I took care of her for the last three years of her life. After she died, my brother and his wife came to my home at 1:30 p.m. The funeral home didn't arrive to pick her up until 8:30 that night.

Later that evening, after my mom was gone and my brother and his wife left, my daughter came to me and announced that my sister-in-law had secretly taken pictures of Mom in the body bag on the stretcher as she was being wheeled out of my home. She didn't know that my daughter had seen her.

I am furious, horrified and hurt beyond description! My mother always liked to look nice and made a special effort to look good for a picture. The coroner had told me to go into another room when they were taking her because he said I wouldn't want that as my last memory of her.

I have never said anything to my sister-in-law, but I can't seem to let this go. It's killing me. Am I overreacting? Please, I need your advice. — MISSING MOM

DEAR MISSING MOM: I am truly sorry for your loss, but you may be overreacting. Not everyone grieves in the same way, and similarly, not everyone feels the same way about taking pictures of deceased loved ones. During Victorian times the practice was quite common.

I don't know why your sister-in-law felt compelled to take the photos, but it could have been a gesture of love and respect. If you want to know why she did it, you should calmly ask her and let her explain.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing my boyfriend for about a year. He's three years younger than I am, which hasn't been an issue for us. However, recently, because of work scheduling, I have been waiting at his house until he comes home and spending more time with his father.

I am extremely ashamed that I have developed feelings for his dad. His dad has a girlfriend. I am aware this is inappropriate, but I am not sure how to handle this. — ANONYMOUS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ANONYMOUS: The way to "handle it" is to accept that your boyfriend's father has a girlfriend and is probably not looking for anything extracurricular. And further, if anything should develop, recognize that it would not only devastate your boyfriend, but would also probably destroy his relationship with his father.

DEAR READERS: In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we remember today: "To retaliate in kind would do nothing but intensify the existence of hate in the universe. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough, and morality enough, to cut off the chain of hate."

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 2 ♡ A Q 8 ◇ Q J 9 2 ♣ A Q 9 5 2

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — Whatever you choose, partner will respond one spade — it's the law! With stronger diamonds, we would consider opening one diamond and rebidding two clubs. With this hand, we prefer one club and then rebidding our suit. Bid one club.

Q 2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 6 2 ♡ 10 9 ◇ J 10 9 4 ♣ A 10 9 4 2

Partner opens one no-trump, 15-17, and right-hand opponent bids two hearts. What call would you make?

A — Your side has at least half the deck and you have to stand up for yourself. Bid three clubs and hope for the best.

Q 3 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q 6 4 ♡ Void ◇ A K J 10 9 2 ♣ Q 8 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1◇	Pass	1♠	Pass

What call would you make?

A — Bid four hearts, a splinter bid showing a hand worth a raise to four spades with shortness in hearts. Should you not play splinter bids, just bid four spades, and make a note to adopt splinter bids before your next game.

Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q 9 7 5 2 ♡ Q 7 2 ◇ 8 6 3 2 ♣ 2

Partner opens one spade and right-hand opponent bids two clubs. What call would you make?

A — The modern style is to use a cue bid, three clubs here, to show a good hand with a fit and to jump raise with a pre-emptive hand. Bid three spades. Even bidding four spades is reasonable.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Jan. 16, 2017:

This year you approach matters differently from how you have in the past. At times, you might be overly assertive, which could backfire on you. Try to verbalize hurt feelings before they evolve into anger. If you are single, you attract a lot of potential suitors. Fall 2017 will provide more stability and a potential Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, the two of you often are seen out on the town as a couple. Plan on spending plenty of one-on-one time together as well. VIRGO can be petty at times.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Note a change in attitude with an authority figure. You'll discover that there are fewer control games, and as a result, you'll also experience better interactions in general. Still, don't be surprised if you feel anger mounting. Look at what is happening. Tonight: Off to the gym.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ While others seem to hit a wall, you'll discover how easy it is to jump right over it. Still, a friend or an associate who feels angry might be directing his or her negativity at you. Listen to what is said and see if it applies to you. Try not to close down. Tonight: Use your imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ You are coming from a place where you might want to rethink a financial decision you have made with a partner. If you hit a problem with someone you need to answer to, back off rather than increase the friction with a knee-jerk reaction. Tonight: Reach out to a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Speak your mind, but try not to use an inflammatory tone. Someone around you easily could be triggered. You don't want a problem to begin where there isn't one. You are likely to be justifiably tired by the end of the day. Tonight: Head home; forget meeting a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ You have a social style that attracts many people. However, you will note a fussiness emanating from several people. You also might be criticized. Don't take on others' energy, but still look to see whether the comments are relevant. If not, just smile. Tonight: Where the fun is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You will want to express some deep feelings. With a child or loved one, you can expect a positive response. Be careful with associates and friends, though, as they could be highly reactive. You might find that the door gets slammed in your face. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Understanding carries you far, especially as several people around you could be short-tempered. What purpose would an argument serve? Try to stay out of issues for now. You also might opt to have an important conversation in a few days. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Understanding a loved one will take talent, as he or she easily could lose his or her cool. You have been there — you know what that's like. Still, avoid a hassle at all costs. Listen to this person's grievance, which might be as simple as wanting more of your time. Tonight: Out late.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Others seem feisty, and before you know it, you have joined their tribe. Note what is triggering your temper and try to work through it; you will be better for the effort. Understand someone else's resistance. Tonight: If need be, work late or check in with an older relative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Break through a friend's angry defenses, and you will be more content. You might spurt out a sarcastic statement or two, but know that it is normal to get angry when experiencing an issue with someone you care about. Tonight: Try to imagine how the other party feels.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ A friend might decide to go on a rampage. While he or she could have a good reason, this type of interaction really doesn't appeal to you. Examine what is happening between you and this person. Money and/or jealousy could be a critical issue. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You could be full of energy that needs to be directed positively. If it's not, you are likely to experience a backfire or a disagreement with a loved one. Listen carefully to someone's words, but don't make more of what is being said than need be. Tonight: Happiest among the crowds.

BORN TODAY

Radio host Laura Schlessinger (1947), actress Debbie Allen (1950), singer/songwriter Sade Adu (1959)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Car roof accessory
5 __ Romeo: sports car
9 Go Fish request
13 Cybermessage
15 Agreement to shake hands on
16 Shabbat service site
17 Hercules types
18 Jazz trumpeter Al
19 Opposite of stuffy, roomwise
20 Record-setting aviator of the 1930s
23 Started to eat, with "into"
24 Apr. is in it
25 Old nuclear agcy.
26 Sixth sense, for short
29 2007-'14 E! comedy talk show host
33 Hammerhead parts
34 "All My Children" vixen
35 Letterhead design
38 RBI and ERA
41 Sunset direction
42 King's decree
44 Separate by percolation
46 Looney Tunes rooster with a Southern accent
51 Singer's syllable
52 Word before a birth name
53 Modern: Ger.
54 Move it, old-style
56 First to walk on the moon
60 Letter after epsilon
62 Et __: and others
63 Down-yielding duck
64 Showy perennial
65 Half a picking-up tool
66 Cubic meter
67 Treaty
68 Concludes
69 Mgr.'s underling

DOWN

1 Detox program
2 Feeble
3 O'Neill's "The Iceman __"
4 "As seen on TV" record co.
5 Supporter
6 Sci-fi princess
7 Fawcett who played one of Charlie's Angels
8 Tennis Hall of Famer Gibson
9 Russian ruler until 1917
10 "Little" deception
11 Couple's word
12 Guileful
14 Maroon, as after a shipwreck
21 Vaulted church areas
22 Stridex target
27 "Gimme a few __": "Be right there"
28 Rear end in a fall?
30 Pleistocene period
31 __ get-out: to the utmost degree
32 BBC time traveling hero
35 Hit the road
36 You may get a whiff of one
37 Humongous
39 "Popstar!" and "Tiger Beat," casually
40 Wise guys?
43 Novelist Morrison
45 Ladders partner in a kids' board game
47 Empathize
48 "SNL" alum Kevin
49 Colossus island
50 Bay Area NFLers
55 Marsh denizen
57 Sunrise direction
58 Watermelon cover
59 "Lovely" Beatles ticket writer
60 Nil
61 Victorian __

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

O	M	I	G	O	S	H		C	O	V	E	R	U	P
D	E	N	A	R	I	I		I	H	A	V	E	T	O
D	N	A	T	E	S	T		G	O	T	E	V	E	N
M	O	R	E	S		W	H	A		S	N	E	R	T
E	R	A	S		T	H	O	R	N		T	R	I	O
N	A	G		P	E	E	W	E	E	S		E	N	O
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P	A	U	L	A		U	R	L		D	R	A	G	O
O	N	R	A	D	A	R		D	A	R	E	S	A	Y
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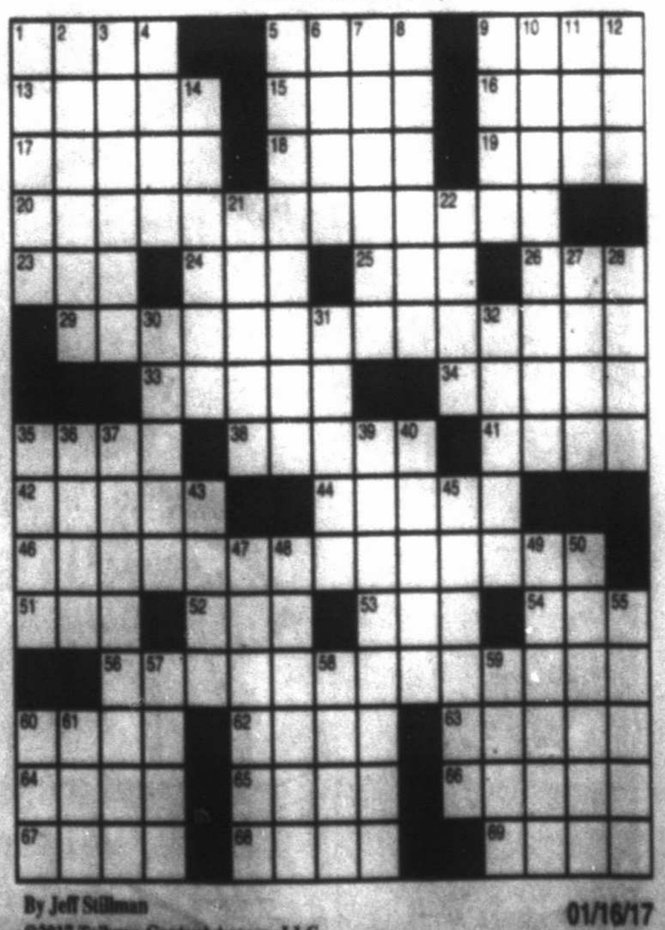
xworderditor@aol.com 01/16/17



By Jeff Stillman
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01/16/17

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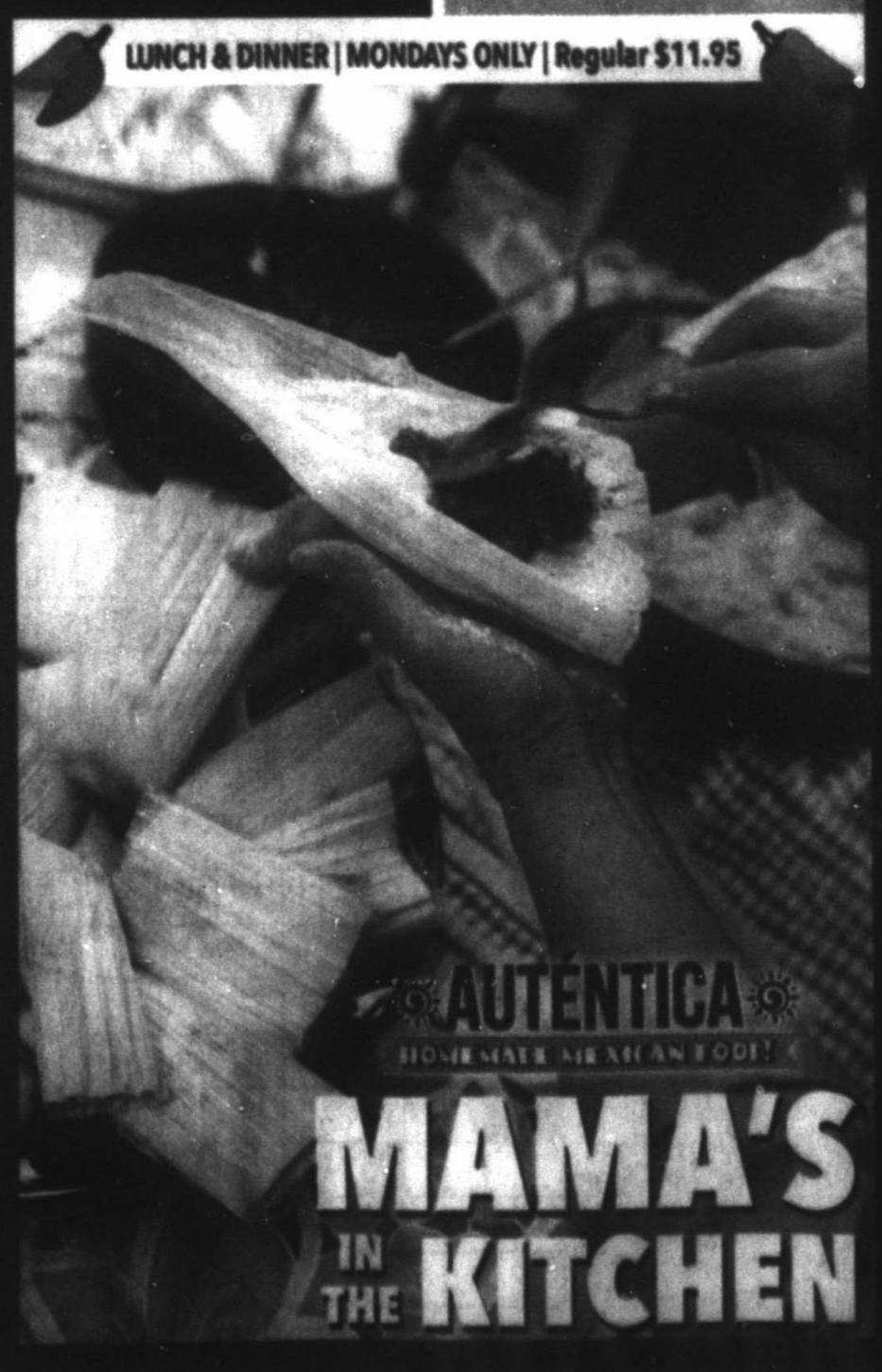

Taste of Mexico

EVERY TUESDAY [illegible] THURSDAY

11am - [illegible]pm

Authentic [illegible]ade Enchiladas, Chile Re[illegible] Asado, Tortillas, Refried Be[illegible]esh made Guacamole, Sa[illegible]papillas, and more

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EDUCATION-TRAINING

Special Needs Teacher

Large Church seeking staff to teach one to two times a month in Sunday morning special needs program. Hours are 9 a.m. -12 p.m. with opportunity for additional hours through the week in other children's programs. Please contact Donna Fields at donnafields@firstmethodistmidland.com for more information or to apply.

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

All Field Positions

Rush Wellsite Services, LLC is now hiring for all field positions. Wireline Operators, Engineers, Crane Operators, CDL Drivers, all with experience. Please submit your resume to jobs@rushwellsite.com or complete an application at our office, 3006 N County Rd 1106, Midland, TX 79706 P: 432-458-3528

Automation Technician

Tanklogix is hiring for the position of Senior Level Automation Technician. We are seeking qualified, committed professionals to join our team in the fast-growing automation industry. This position requires a minimum of 3 years oilfield experience and 2 years electrical experience. Journeyman electricians preferred. Competitive pay based upon qualifications. Great benefits and working environment. Applicants must pass a background check, drug screen, and electrical aptitude test. Applications must be picked up at 12200 W. Hwy 80 E., Odessa, TX. Applicants must provide a resume in person. Applications must be received by January 23rd, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.

General Labor, Pit Lining, Foreman

Bugle Energy Services, LLC is hiring for general labor, pit lining and a foreman with minimum of 2 years experience , spray crew with experience in spraying polyurea, (experience in bed lining spraying or auto painting acceptable) Apply in person at 5205 FM 715. Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 7 am - 5 pm or call to set up appointment at (432) 218-7839. Must be able to pass a drug test.

Geotech/ Mudlogger

Two years of wellsite experience or 1 year of experience plus 12 semester hours of college. Use MainLog software. Email resume with references to admin@miphillips.com and 'GEO-TECH' in subject line

Warehouse Person

Natural Gas Services Group is seeking a Warehouse person. Must have experience with inventory, cycle counts, shipping and receiving. Must be able to lift 60 pounds, pass physical, drug and background check. NSGSI offers a competitive salary and benefits
Send your resume to **employment@ngsgl.com** or call 432-262-2700.

West Texas Mud Loggers Needed

Co. in business since 1953. Good benefits. Exp. Req. Send resume w/contact info. & exp. to: OFFICE@PWL-INC.COM

HEALTHCARE

LVN

LVN -Full Time needed for Addiction medical clinic. Early morning hours. Medication Management, TB tests, blood draws, medical orders. Paid vacations, holidays, personal days. Routine travel between Midland and Odessa. Periodic travel to Abilene/San Angelo area required. No health insurance available. Please fax resume to 800-671-8364.

Registered Nurse

Immediate opening for **RN,** experience preferred. FT.
Excellent benefit package. Send resume with references to:
jodyclinic@gmail.com or Midland Women's Clinic, Attn:
Jody Sulis, 2500 W. Illinois Ave Suite 100, Midland, TX 79701.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager

Local manufacturing company seeking professional Human Resource Manager experienced in all areas of HR management & administration including hiring, terminations, benefits, workers compensation, & related functions. Other experience including HS&E, payroll, and bilingual are a plus. Contact Palmer of Texas at 432-523-5904
P.O. Box 1069 Andrews, TX. 79714

MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

Assistant Managers

Panera Bread is coming to Midland, Texas and we have immediate positions open for Assistant Managers. If you have restaurant management experience, excellent communication skills and experience managing and motivating a team, Panera Bread wants to talk to you! As an employee of Panera Bread, you'll receive competitive pay, bonus program, meal discount, medical, dental and vision benefits, paid vacation, and an opportunity for growth.
Send resumes to Careers@tcgtx.com. The Cain Holding Group, LLC, a Franchisee of Panera Bread is an equal opportunity employer.

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Entry Level & Experienced Equipment Operators. Must have a Class A CDL License. Apply at TITAN PETROSERVICES 6100 E I-20, MIDLAND TX or submit resume online at www.titanpetroservices.com

OTHER JOBS

Gate Attendants needed

Gate Guard Services is looking for Gate Attendants in West Texas area, must have RV or Traveling trailer and must pass background. Requirements needed: Non-Commissioned license. Please call Patty for more information @ 361-949-6992.

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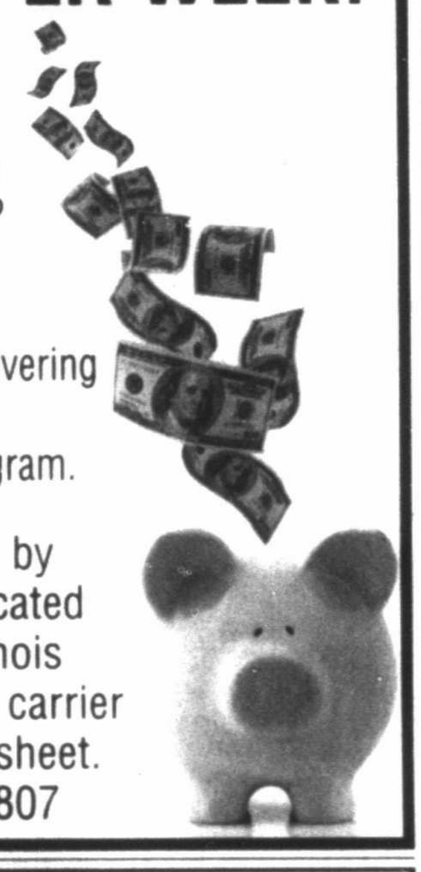

Please come by our office located at 201 E. Illinois and fill out a carrier information sheet.
Linda 687-8807

Multiple Positions Available

Midland County has the following positions available:
*** Technical Clerk-Elections * Maintenance Helper in Jail**
*** Jailer * Senior Foreman- Road & Bridge**
*** 142nd District Court Bailiff * Employee Relations Coordinator**
Please see our website:
www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/hr/pages/employment.aspx for more details, pay and applications. To be considered you must send a completed application with job reference numbers to the address indicated on the application

Multiple Positions Open

Production Chemical Company looking for experienced account managers, service technnicians, and CDL Drivers.
Call 432-558-8227 or mail resumes to:
M-2 C/O The Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79701

Veterinary Technician & a Kennel Technician

Full time Veterinary Technician & a Kennel Technician. Call 432-687-4118 for for more information and an interview.

RETAIL JOBS

SALES ASSOCIATE

Wood's Boots is currently hiring part time sales associates. No phone calls! If you are interested in wearing boots and jeans to work, and working with great customers, come see us at 4803 Andrews Highway & 812 West I-20.

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Please submit resume by fax to 432-570-1115 or email to bobby@basinengine.com. Applications can be filled out at 1914 S. County Rd. 1083, Midland, TX 79706

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills; be detail oriented and assertive; excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation; excel in time management; and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Chad Anderson, Advertising **Sales Manager**, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **canderson@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

Sales Person

Sales Person Wanted. Experienced in RV Industry. Texas RV Superstore formally Ken's RV. Call for more info. 432-697-6447

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Field Mechanics

Basin Engine & Pump
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Survey Field Hand

Survey Field Hand Needed. 432-934-5502

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Drivers

Purity Oilfield Services, LLC (EOE) is now hiring Class A CDL drivers with winch and/or vac truck experience. Competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please contact 432-699-8600 for more information, submit a resume at mkiker@purityoilfieldservices.com, or stop by in person to apply at 11109 West CR 46, Midland, TX 79707

Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement

Service Seal LLC has an immediate opening for a Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. We are a stable company that offers a **sign-on bonus,** competitive hourly pay and excellent benefits. More information regarding our benefits will be given during the interview process. This position requires at least 3 years of verifiable professional driving experience, strong computer skills, along with passing the pre-employment background screening. Our Drivers have most weekends off and will not have many overnight deliveries. Please submit your resume to tammy@oilcenter.com for review and consideration, or contact Rodolfo Sanchez at 432-889-6985 to complete an application in person.

Local CDL Truck Driver Needed

Must be willing to drive and work in warehouse.
Apply at: 11524 county Rd. 128 W, Midland TX.

Truck Pusher/Salesman

Truck Pusher/Salesman for a local trucking company. Must have experience, good references and ability to follow D.O.T. regulations. Please send resume' to P. O. Box 53, Midland, Texas. 79702.

Vacuum Truck Driver

Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Midkiff Transports, Class A CDL required. Apply at 6601 FM 715, Midland, Texas.

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31 Events and Notices

General Announcement

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost and Found

FOUND GRAY female Poodle about 7 lbs, vicinity of A Street area. Call Mesa Verde Animal Clinic 432-689-0702

FOUND: LAB mix dog around Andrews Hwy. in Midland. Call to identify 432-413-5222.

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

2003 PORSCHE 911. CONVERTIBLE Hard-top / Soft top. Lifetime garage. 6,800 miles. $35,000. Saddle Club. Charlie 432-570-1822.

2008 BMW 750I Series. Perfect condition. Beautiful black color. Asking $13,500. 432-770-7982

NEW 2016 Red Mercedes-Benz SLK 350 convertible. 950 mi. Paid $71,500 ask. $59,000. 325-473-2609, San Angelo, TX.

TOYOTA Sienna, 2000. 233K miles. One owner. Clean Carfax. New brakes, front end suspension, timing belt. Good tires. $2,000 ORO. Call 432-557-0519.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

FOR SALE CHEVROLET 2004 1/2 ton pick-up. $5,950. See at 1501 W. Illinois. Call 432-557-3366. Bill Jackson.

Vans and Mini Vans

2013 Town & Country minivan, 72k miles, leather seats, free lifetime oil change, all upgrades, text 432-528-0395. se habla espanol.

4WD and SUV

2008 CHEVY Tahoe. 5.3L V-8, 79,000 miles, 4x4, 3rd row, factory tow package, new Michelin tires, new factory radio/cd, "Blue Granite" with gray cloth interior. 1 owner well maintained. Very clean. $13,500. 432-312-7099

Recreation Vehicles

2016 PREMIER Travel Trailer, 42 foot, 2 bedroom, 3 slides, fiberglass, front kitchen, 3 A/C's, washer/dryer, electric awning, all options. No smokers. No pets. In Odessa. $30,000. Must sell! 432-438-8172.

REDUCED
HARLEY DAVIDSON 2005 Road King. 13K miles. $7,500 OBO. MUST SEE! 432-697-9787 leave message

Merchandise

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

Brand New Startrac stationary excercise bicycle. All the bells and whistles. Asking $1000 or best offer. Please call Kelly 432-556-1045.

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

LANDSCAPING BRICKS - 8" Windsor Stone (red). 310 bricks never been used. On pallet (extra pallet - loading). $1.30 / brick (min 50). $350 for pallet. Call (432) 352-6832.

Pets-Animals

Other Pets

FREE TO good home 3 year old female Chocolate Lab mix. Spayed. 432-214-4996.

Kittens for adoption 2+ and 4+ mos. old. Small donation, home owners permanent residents only please. Great friends & lots of fun. Indoor/outdoor babies. 432-694-4751.

Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

4407 CROCKETT Apt A. 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

4407 CROCKETT Apt D. 2bed/1bath. $825 mo, $825 dep. 432-978-2074.

EFFICENDY APARTMENT call Candy 432-222-0454. 907 W. Dakota in rear. $600 monthly utilities paid appliances furnished. $200 deposit.

LOWEST RENT! Spacious 1 - 2 Bedroom Apartments. 432-687-4514.

ONE BEDROOM, electric, water, cable paid. Monthly $800 or weekly. American Realty. 432-520-7577

Residential Rentals

Apartment Rent Unfurn

SPECIAL - Midland ★ Come to quiet, owner in residence, Whispering Oaks. We have very nice 2 bedroom apartments available for good quality tenants at exceptionally special low rates. Some have garages, all have covered parking, paid water and basic cable. Please call 432-694-4001 ★

House Rent Furnished

FULLY FURNISHED room for rent $300 deposit, $575 month all bills paid, pool included. Great location. 432-528-0395

House Rent Unfurn

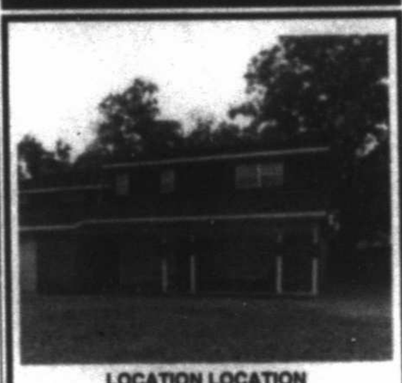
1-BR, -1 BATH, YARD, WASHER & DRYER. ALL BILLS PAID. $800.00 PER MO. 432-634-6445.

2 BEDROOM duplex near Midland Memorial Hospital. $800 monthly bills paid. Please call 432-230-9667

Residential Rentals

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT. 3BD/2BA. $1000/mo plus $1000 deposit. 2BD/1BA $800/mo plus $800 deposit. Call 432-210-4955. 432-634-4762 until 5pm, after 5pm text only for more info.

Residential Rentals



LOCATION LOCATION
For lease 5 bedroom, 3 living, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. $2,100 month $2,100 deposit, 432-697-5920.

Residential Rentals

House Rent Unfurn

3 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 car garage, built in 2001. $300 month, rent to own. 575-937-9377

3 BEDROOM 2 full baths, single garage, fireplace, newly revenated. $900 month, $900 deposit. 432-661-6753

4512 PARKDALE 3 bedroom 2 bath, single carport, recently remodeled. Non smoker. 600 credit score required. $25 application on anyone over 18. $1,450 month, $1,450 deposit. 1 year lease. 432-940-0920.

Rooms for Rent

BOARDING ROOMS available. Furnished with TV, premium Suddenlink, Wifi, private enterance. All bills paid. 683-2614.

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

HOUSE FOR sale in Forsan, TX. 3 bedroom 1 bath, 1,500 sq. ft. $15K cash. 469-544-9503

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

OWNER WILL finance 811 N. Ft. Worth, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, central heat & air. Low monthly payments. $99,900 with $8,000 down. Call Annalea at 432-260-6009

Lots and Land

Acreage

GREAT INVESTMENT! Mitchell county 160 acres irrigated farm. Valley Center Pivot with 600 gallon per minute water well. Included in current USGS wolf camp study, released Nov. 15, 2016. 325-242-0771.

Commercial

5 ACRE fenced caliche yard, available for sub lease. $1,200 month 432-631-6079

COMMERCIAL YARD/ BUILD TO SUIT FOR LEASE
5 ACRES, FENCED
2 AC CALICHED
ELECTRIC GATE
$2200/MONTH
JUST EAST OF MIDLAND
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Tim Riggan
432-664-2718

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• Fenced Yards
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Call Matt
800-672-3911

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Mobile-Modular Homes

Mobile Homes Rent

1407 WCR 135, 3 bedroom 2 bath, doublewide mobile home, 1/2 acre. $800 month, deposit. No pets. American Realty 432-520-7577

RVs and RV Spaces- All bills included. Call 432-770-7054 or 432-238-8048.

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Acreage

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• East County
*11,158 ac. N. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $799/ac
*4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
• Nolan County
*648 ac. over 1 mile creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
*565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared by cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
• Howard County
*842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite quite, surface water, some outside traffic $750/ac
*150 ac. big canyon, oaks, cedar/mesquites great deer, turkey, lion $895/ac
• Martin County
*135 ac. Stakeout Springs deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, motor trails $1,150/ac

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

2				3				
	7	1	9		5		8	
					4			
		3						5
1		6	5		3	9		7
8					6			4
			7					
	3		8		6	2	9	
				5				6

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

8	4	1	6	2	7	3	9	5
6	3	9	1	5	8	7	2	4
2	5	7	3	9	4	1	8	6
3	2	4	8	6	1	9	5	7
1	7	8	9	4	5	2	6	3
5	9	6	2	7	3	4	1	8
4	6	5	7	1	2	8	3	9
7	8	2	5	3	9	6	4	1
9	1	3	4	8	6	5	7	2

1/16/17

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Clean Alleys
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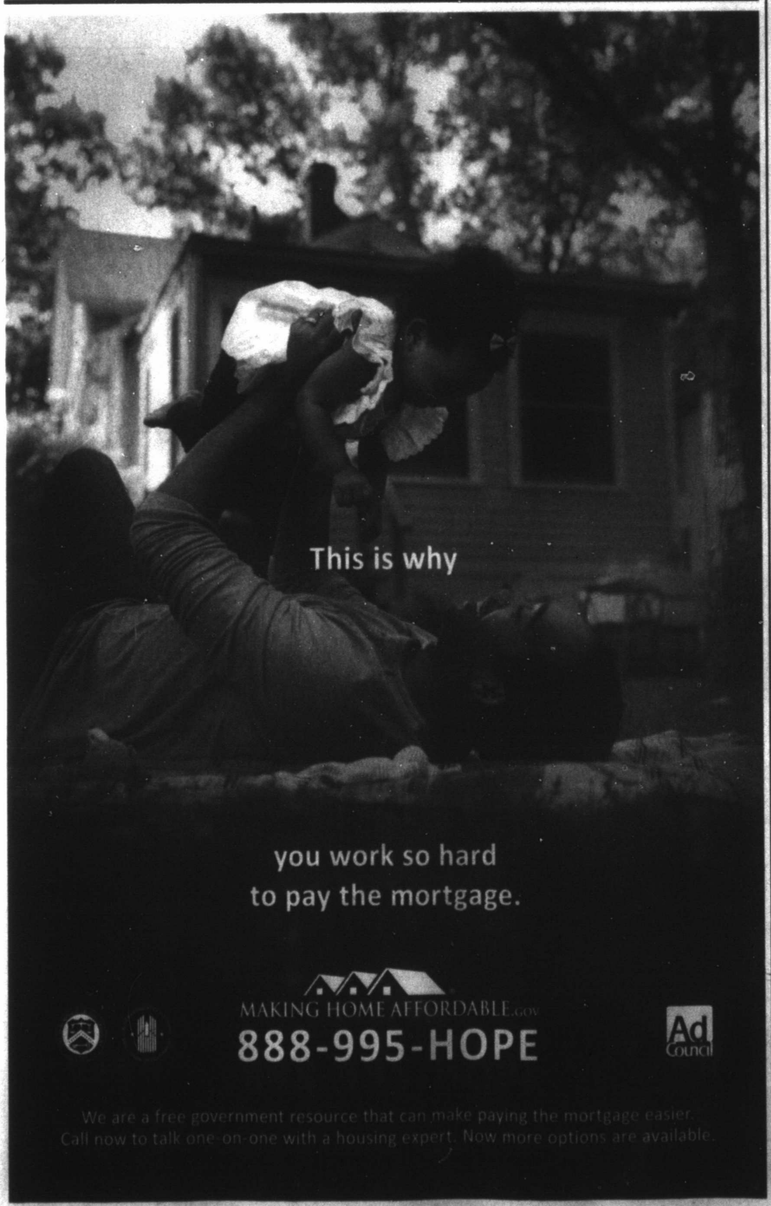

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