

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- Small Bites: New Higher Grounds Coffee Shop now open
- Lytle woman wins \$43.5M jury verdict in driving-while-texting case
- 'Ice skating' part of downtown celebration

mrt.com



Border Patrol agent's death leaves questions

By Daniel Borunda
El Paso Times

VAN HORN — The mysterious death of a U.S. Border Patrol agent has left shock, political debate and unanswered questions in this corner of far West Texas. Agent Rogelio Martinez's death reignited debate about President Donald Trump's proposed border wall and fueled questions over whether the barrier would have even made a difference.

Martinez, 36, of El Paso, died after he and another agent were found severely injured Nov. 18 in a culvert near Interstate 10 east of Van Horn.

Were the agents ambushed? Who attacked them? Did they accidentally fall in the dark of night?

What exactly happened that night remains under investigation by the FBI.

"Our hearts are broken over this," said Vicky Jones, manager of the historic Hotel El Capitan on the main street in Van Horn.

Jones said that Martinez's death was a "fresh wound" to the town, where Border Patrol agents are a large part of daily life.

"We are a small town," she said. "We are a family community. When one hurts, we all hurt."

Jones and other Van Horn residents said the agent's death stunned people in this small town 120 miles east of El Paso.

The injured agents were found in a culvert along Interstate 10 about 12 miles east of Van Horn as the highway cuts

through the West Texas desert. The spot is about 30 miles north of the Mexican border.

"It's a very emotional topic. The fact that there is a law enforcement officer that was killed in the line of duty — there are a lot of questions," said Victor Manjarrez Jr., a retired Border Patrol sector chief.

Manjarrez is associate director of the Center for Law and Human Behavior at

Please see AGENT/2A

STAYING ACTIVE



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

A jogger travels along Fairgrounds Road past a pumpjack and the downtown skyline Tuesday.

Making yourself vulnerable is a true test of courage

COMMENTARY

By Lisa Falkenberg
Houston Chronicle

One word kept coming up as I walked from lawn to lawn in Harvey-stricken neighborhoods interviewing people whose worldly treasures sat rotting in the sun.

"Blessed."

This is how many people described their feelings as they processed the loss and destruction Harvey wrought. A woman in Denver Harbor told me she was blessed to have so many friends bringing water and food, and that



Falkenberg

a previous storm had prompted her to get flood insurance.

Others said they were blessed for the strangers who came to help with cleanup. Some were simply blessed that they got out alive.

At first, I shook my head at the emotional strength of these people. And surely, they were strong. But their response made rational sense, too. In trying times, we need hope like a drowning person needs a life raft.

A natural antidote to loss is to count your blessings. Even without the loss, it's a good ritual that deserves regular practice, with or without a side of cranberry sauce.

Science tells us there is a strong link between gratitude and happiness. This past year, I've seen evidence of it in my own life.

We were fortunate that our 90-year-old bungalow in the Heights didn't flood. But

there were plenty of other challenges I never imagined, from battling an insurance company after my father's cancer diagnosis to navigating my own divorce.

When I hit a dead end, when the pain wouldn't relent, when the path turned dark, I would take a deep breath, look around and scour the grimness for the cracks of light seeping in. It is always there.

I saw my two amazing daughters, the rock of family support, the endless hearts of friends. I saw my job, which brings meaning to my life, and readers who inspire me every bit as much as they say I inspire them.

And I saw something unexpected: the precious gift of vulnerability.

Anyone familiar with bestselling author and University of Houston professor Brené Brown knows what I mean.

Please see FALKENBERG/4A

Signs point upward for oil prices

By Jordan Blum
Houston Chronicle

The oil industry found more hopeful signs as crude inventories fell, prices rose and the rig count resumed its climb ahead of OPEC's meeting later this week.

OPEC and its allies are considering extending their output cuts through next year as oil markets seem to be making progress in draining the oil glut that has lingered for more than three years. In the United States, crude inventories fell by nearly 2 million barrels as oil exports picked up and refineries churned oil into gasoline for the busy holiday driving season.

Demand also is climbing. October saw the strongest U.S. gasoline demand for the month since 2006, the U.S. Energy Department said. Over the past four weeks, gasoline consumption rose nearly 3 percent from the same period a year ago.

Oil has rallied this month amid speculation that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will prolong supply cuts when they meet Thursday in Vienna. Prices have risen to two-year highs, closing up 93 cents Friday at \$58.95 a barrel in New York.

Drillers, meanwhile, are responding to higher prices by putting more rigs into operation. U.S. oil and gas drilling activity increased for the third straight week, demonstrating new momentum for the sector.

Nine more rigs to drill for oil were added throughout the country last week, bringing the total to 747, up nearly 60 percent from 474 a year earlier. West Texas' Permian Basin now accounts for 393 rigs, more than half of all the nation's oil rigs. The next most active area is Oklahoma's Cana-Woodford shale, with 73 rigs, recently surpassing Texas' Eagle Ford Shale, with 67 rigs.

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Did you know?

John-Mark Echols is one of 52 Faces of Community. Page 1B

The big number

92 women competed for the title of Miss Universe on Sunday. Page 7A

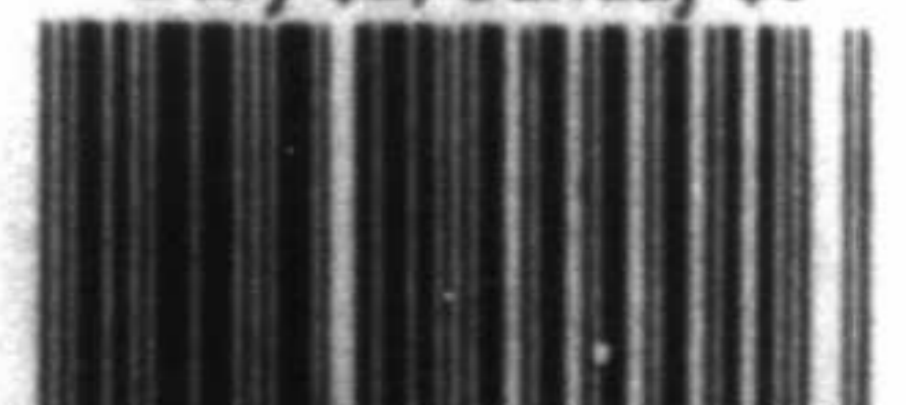
Word of the Day:

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

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Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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WORD OF THE DAY
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Collaborate
[kuh-lab-uh-reyt]
verb
1. to work, one with another; cooperate, as on a literary work.



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Things to do

■ **SciGirls STEM Camp** for ages 8-12, 5 p.m., Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

■ **Bingo**, 6 p.m., 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. For more information call 682-8595.

Meetings today

Commissioners' Court
9 a.m.
Midland County Courthouse auxiliary courtroom,
500 N. Loraine Ave.

Veterans events

■ **Metroplex Veterans Legal Services** is conducting a child support clinic for veterans 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Junior League of Midland building, 902 W. Dengar Ave. Legal professionals will be available to assist veterans and their families dealing with child support issues. Veterans must register in advance at westtexas.veteranslegalservices.us.

■ **West Texas VA Health Care System (WTVHCS)** will hold a quarterly town hall meeting 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the West Texas VA Health Care System Outpatient Clinic Waiting Area, 300 Veterans Blvd., in Big Spring.

The meeting is an opportunity for veterans to hear from the leadership team about new programs or initiatives within VA. Staff will be on hand to assist veterans with enrollment, scheduling and other health care needs.

How sick are you?

Midland Memorial Hospital offers a nurse triage program "68-NURSE."

The program is designed to help people determine whether their health situation warrants a trip to the emergency room. Midland residents can call the line by dialing 686-8773.

The program is free and available 24 hours a day-365 days a year.

Local nurses are available to help you determine the best place to receive care for your situation. 68-NURSE can help you save time and money by directing you to the most appropriate healthcare option, whether it's a neighborhood clinic, urgent care center, emergency room... or just staying home.

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Weather

Sunday's temperatures
High.....72
Low.....37
Normal high.....63
Normal low.....35

Nov. 26's records
Record high: 83, 1961 and repeated in 1990 and 1995
Record low: 13, set in 1993

Precipitation
Saturday.....0.00 in.
Sunday.....0.00 in.
Month total.....0.40 in.
Year total.....17.34 in.
Normal total

(year to date)..... 13.91 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 9 mph
Gust speed: 15 mph

Today's forecast
High: 76
Low: 52
Conditions: Sunny today/clear tonight
Winds: South 10-15 mph
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise.....7:28 a.m.
Sunset.....5:45 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service



Dalton Smith waits for his fiancee outside the Claire's store in the Midland Park Mall on Friday. Smith, a resident of Big Spring, came to Midland with his fiancee in the morning for Black Friday shopping.

When it's open

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

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

Department of Public Safety:

Driver's License Office
2800 Wright Drive
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Friday
8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays
686-1120

U.S. Postal Service
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■ **Village**, 2315 W. Louisiana Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
■ **Graves**, 3304 W. Wadley Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday
■ **Clay/Desta**, 612 Veterans Airpark Lane. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

■ **GMF Midland**, 1000 Loop 40 E. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2017. There are 34 days left in the year.

On this date
In 1901 the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington D.C.
In 1924 Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade — billed as a "Christmas Parade" — took place in New York City.

Source: The Associated Press

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

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A friend provides a lot more guidance than he or she even realizes. This person lacks self-confidence and therefore tends not to value his or her ideas. Express your gratitude very clearly. Use your ability to detach to sleuth through a problem. **Tonight:** Read between the lines.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Keep your eye on the big picture and remain focused. You will find that the people who surround you at work or in the community are quite inspirational. A partner presents a much more logical outlook. Listen to this person's suggestions. **Tonight:** Could go till the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Stay more in tune with what you need. A person close to you could cause quite a few problems. You often feel as if this person tries to convince you of how right he or she is. Be willing to work through this issue. Avoid a power play at all costs. **Tonight:** Make calls.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You have the energy to take on an associate who affects you financially. You want to work as a team, but often you don't succeed. Listen to feedback, but follow your instincts. You might need to structure your interactions with this person differently. **Tonight:** Share news with a pal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Tension is high right now. You sense from others that they have certain expectations of what they want from you. It is possible that you might not be able to meet their demands, especially those made by a loved one. **Tonight:** Go along with someone else's suggestion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You know whether you are ready to move in a new direction and try a different approach. Your way of handling a touchy situation might be to withdraw. You find making decisions in your professional life difficult at best. Others misread your words. **Tonight:** Avoid an argument.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Say "yes" to a request and feel good about your ability to make it a reality. You generally are not so easygoing. You see life from a very different perspective, especially if your funds are involved. Revamp how you approach a creative project. **Tonight:** Be a bit more spontaneous.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Be aware of how you are thinking and how others receive your energy. You might need to deal with a personal matter and could have a very different view from those of the other parties involved. Focus on your priorities, and trust yourself to make a valid decision. **Tonight:** At home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could change your direction in order to cater to an associate. You might be deep in thought about how you can best communicate with the other parties involved. Think before you leap into a situation that you'd prefer not to be involved with. **Tonight:** Where you want to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A friend believes that he or she is giving you good advice, but might not be as on target as you would like. This person's suggestions could take a toll on your finances. Express your concern kindly, and hopefully you'll get your message across. **Tonight:** Meet a friend out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might not intend to incorporate tension into your day, but that's what happens. Your expectations could be blown out of proportion by a close friend or associate. Rather than become irritated, detach and see how realistic you are being. **Tonight:** Out until the wee hours.

BORN TODAY
Author Gail Sheehy (1937), actor Bruce Lee (1940), author Caroline Kennedy (1957)

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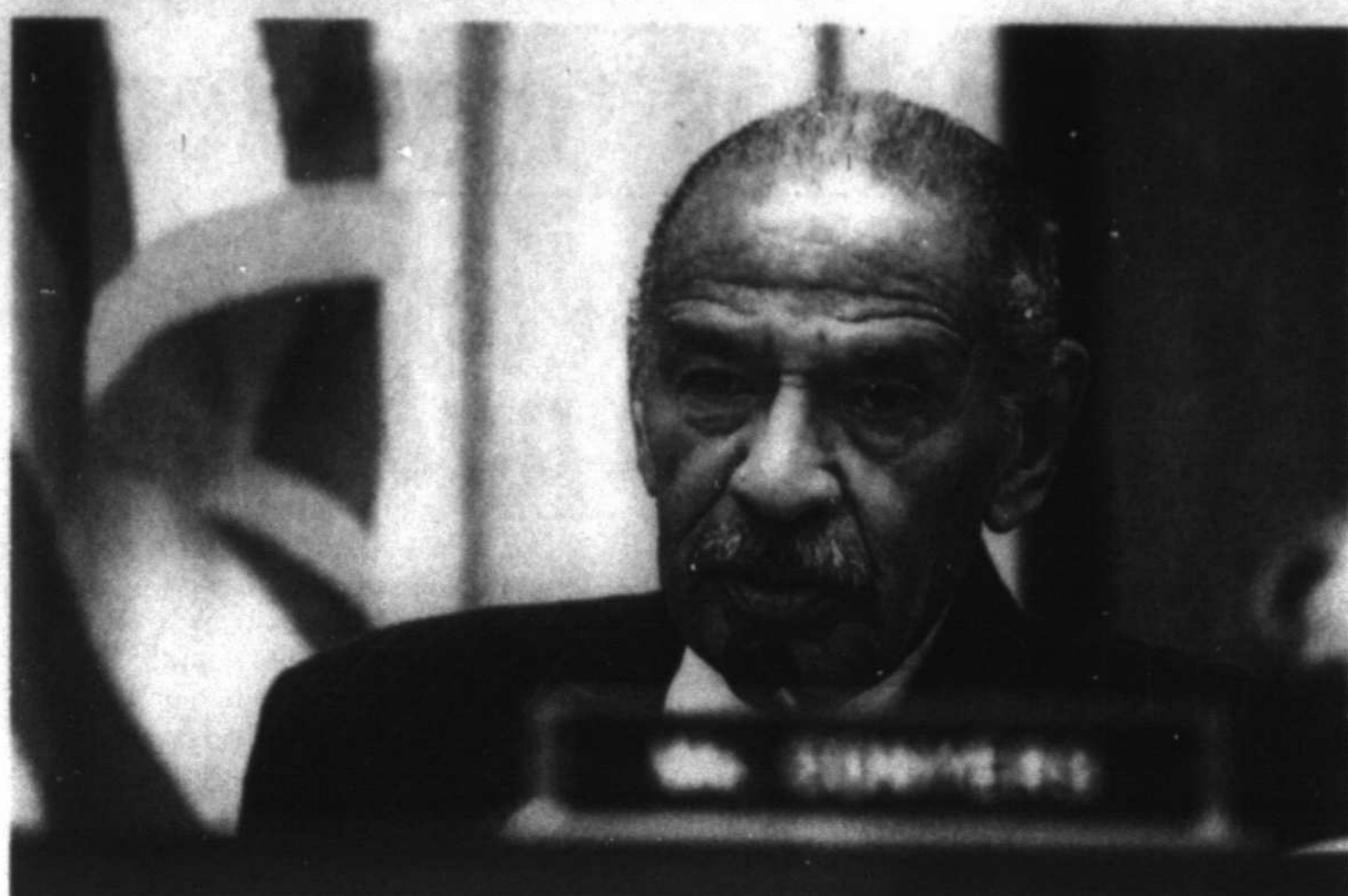
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Andrew Harnik/Associated Press

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee, speaks May 24, 2016 on Capitol Hill in Washington during a hearing. Conyers said he is stepping aside as the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee amid a congressional investigation into allegations he sexually harassed female staff members. In a statement Sunday, Conyers said he denies the allegations and would like to keep his leadership role on the panel.

Conyers steps aside from Judiciary post amid sex allegations

By Hope Yen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michigan Rep. John Conyers, under investigation over allegations he sexually harassed female staff members, said Sunday he will step aside as the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee while fiercely denying he acted inappropriately during his long tenure in Congress.

In a statement, the 88-year-old lawmaker made clear he would prefer to keep his leadership role on the committee, which has wide jurisdiction over U.S. law enforcement, from civil rights and impeachment of federal officials to sexual harassment protections.

But Conyers acknowledged maintaining the post would be a distraction "in light of the attention drawn by recent allegations made against me."

"I have come to believe that my presence as ranking member on the committee would not serve these efforts while the Ethics Committee investigation is pending," he said. "I cannot in good conscience allow these charges to undermine my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus, and my friends on both sides of the aisle in the Judiciary Committee and the House of Representatives."

Denying the allegations, Conyers, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus who was first elected to the House in 1964, urged lawmakers to allow him "due process."

"I very much look forward to vindicating myself and my family," Conyers said. News website BuzzFeed reported last Monday that Conyers' office paid a woman more than \$27,000 under a confidentiality agreement to settle a complaint in 2015 that she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his sexual advances. BuzzFeed also published affidavits from former staff members who said they had witnessed Conyers touching female staffers inappropriately — rubbing their legs and backs — or requesting sexual favors.

Conyers says he will fully cooperate with the Ethics Committee, which said it will review the allegations of harassment and age discrimination as well as using "official resources for impermissible personal purposes."

At least one House Democrat, Rep. Kathleen Rice of New York, has called on Conyers to step down from Congress. Two others, Rep. Gregory Meeks, D-N.Y., who is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, as well as Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., co-chairman of the largest group of congressional liberals, had said Conyers should at least step aside from his leadership role on the Judiciary committee.

In a statement Sunday, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said she welcomed Conyers' decision to give up the committee leadership post.

"Zero tolerance means consequences,"

Pelosi said. "Any credible accusation must be reviewed by the Ethics Committee expeditiously. We are at a watershed moment on this issue, and no matter how great an individual's legacy, it is not a license for harassment."

The California Democrat noted that the House in the coming week will vote on requiring anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training for all members and their staffs. She suggested that nondisclosure agreements like the one Conyers signed to settle the 2015 complaint should be made public.

The Senate has already approved a measure requiring all senators, staff and interns to be trained on preventing sexual harassment.

The flurry of activity Sunday comes as Congress prepares to return from its Thanksgiving break, amid increasing attention on the issue of sexual harassment with multiple men in entertainment, media and politics facing allegations of misconduct. On the congressional level, Democratic Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota and Republican Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore also are the subject of accusations.

Earlier Sunday, Pelosi defended Conyers as an "icon" for women's rights and told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he will do the "right thing."

"This is about going forward," she said. "We also have to address it for every person, every workplace in the country, not just in the Congress of the United States. And that's very important. And a good deal of that would be done by the Judiciary Committee."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., is the next most-senior Democrat on the Judiciary Committee after Conyers, the only African-American to have held the position of chairman or ranking member on the panel.

"Even under these unfortunate circumstances, the important work of the Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee must move forward," Nadler said. "I will do everything in my power to continue to press on the important issues facing our committee, including criminal justice reform, workplace equality, and holding the Trump administration accountable."

"Ranking Member Conyers has a 50-year legacy of advancing the cause of justice, and my job moving forward is to continue that critical work," he added.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., who sponsored legislation to overhaul the system by which sexual complaints are made and settled on Capitol Hill, said Congress must show a greater commitment to addressing sexual misconduct. Last month, she shared her own story of being sexually assaulted by a high-level aide while she was a staffer.

"This is absolutely a priority that we must focus on in terms of fixing the system," she said on ABC's "This Week." "We say zero tolerance, but I don't believe that we put our money where our mouths are."

Trump chooses legislative agenda over GOP repulsion of Moore

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump said Sunday that electing a Democrat as Alabama's next senator "would be a disaster," making clear the success of his legislative agenda outweighs widespread GOP repulsion at the prospect of seating Republican Roy Moore, who is dogged by allegations of sexual misconduct.

The allegations, including claims that the 70-year-old Moore sexually assaulted or molested two teenage girls while he was in his 30s, have made the Dec. 12 election a referendum on "the character of the country" that transcends partisan politics, said GOP Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, as the party establishment cringed at Trump's latest intervention in the closely contested race.

"In my opinion, and in

the opinion of many Republicans and conservatives in the Senate, it is time for us to turn the page because it is not about partisan politics. It's not about electing Republicans versus Democrats," Scott said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

"It's about the character of our country," he said. Trump on Sunday once again plunged himself into the race, declaring in a pair of tweets — without mentioning Moore by name — that electing Moore's Democratic opponent, Doug Jones, would "be a disaster."

"The last thing we need in Alabama and the U.S. Senate is a Schumer/Pelosi puppet who is WEAK on Crime, WEAK on the Border, Bad for our Military and our great Vets, Bad for our 2nd Amendment, AND WANTS TO RAISE TAXES TO THE SKY," he wrote from Florida, referring to Democrats' congressional leaders Chuck

Schumer and Nancy Pelosi. Jones, speaking to reporters in Birmingham, shrugged off Trump's criticisms, saying he would not be a partisan voter. He said Alabamians are focused on issues such as the economy, education and health care.

"My record speaks for itself ... I think I am very strong on the issues that the people of Alabama care for," Jones said.

Jones, a former federal prosecutor, said he would be an independent voice in the U.S. Senate, similarly to his political mentor, the late U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin, who represented the state for nearly 20 years.

Jones' campaign issued a more biting statement saying, "Roy Moore was unfit for office even before nine Alabama women served as witnesses to all Alabamians of his disturbing conduct."

Two women have accused Moore of sexually assaulting or molesting them decades ago, when he was in his 30s and they were teenagers. Moore has denied the accusations. At least five others have said he pursued romantic relationships when they were teenagers and he was a prosecutor. Moore has said he never dated "underage" women.

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John Locher

Former Miss Universe Iris Mittenaere, right, crowns new Miss Universe Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters at the Miss Universe pageant Sunday in Las Vegas.

Contestant from South Africa wins Miss Universe crown

By Regina Garcia Cano Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The woman representing South Africa won the Miss Universe crown Sunday. Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, who recently earned a business management degree, was crowned during the event at The AXIS theater at Planet Hollywood casino resort on the Las Vegas Strip.

at his mistake throughout the night. Three days after people in the U.S. celebrated Thanksgiving, Harvey told the audience he is "grateful for the Oscars," referring to the best-picture flub at this year's Academy Awards. Grammy-Award winner Fergie performed her new song "A Little Work" while the contestants walked down the stage wearing evening gowns.

Confederate monument pedestals repurposed for music video

By Janet McConnaughey Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A black woman approaches the pedestal that once showed off the Confederacy's first president and finds a statue that looks like her. A pair of hands appears atop the pedestal of a toppled North Carolina monument, as if an African-American is about to climb up and replace the statue of a Confederate soldier that once stood there.



Janet McConnaughey

Director Zac Manuel confers with videographer Bruno Doria on Tuesday in front of a statue of an African-American "Everywoman" near the pedestal that once held a statue of Jefferson Davis in New Orleans. Manuel is creating a video for the title song of singer and civil rights activist Mavis Staples' latest album, "If All I Was Was Black."



Disney-Pixar via AP

This image released by Disney-Pixar shows character Miguel, voiced by Anthony Gonzalez, in a scene from the animated film, "Coco."

Pixar's 'Coco' feasts on 'Justice League' at box office

By Jake Coyle Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pixar's "Coco" sang its way to the fourth best Thanksgiving weekend ever with an estimated \$71.2 million over the five-day weekend, a total that easily toppled Warner Bros.' "Justice League."

After a disappointing debut last weekend, the much-maligned DC Comics superhero team-up film "Justice League" slid to second with \$40.7 million. In the five-day holiday frame, it earned about \$60 million. "Justice League" is faring better overseas, where it has made more than \$300 million.

Table with 2 columns: Rank, Title, Domestic Figures (excl. U.S. and Canada). Rows include 'Coco', 'Justice League', 'Wonder', etc.

After some early blunders (Disney tried to trademark "Dia de Los Muertos," sparking a backlash), the studio strove to capture Mexican culture authentically in "Coco," enlisting cultural consultants for their feedback. The film, directed by Lee Unkrich and co-directed by Adrian Molina, is one of the largest U.S. productions ever to feature a largely all-Latino cast.

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HONORING OUR VETERANS

AMADO AMOS PALMA



"In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can." Nikos Kazantzakis

Life for some comes easy. But most of us have to work hard to achieve our dreams. We are born into a world full of possibilities. It is up to each of us to determine what path to take. The one that leads to success or the one that leads to failure. This is a story of a young boy who started his life with the odds stacked against him and through determination and hard work has walked the path of success.

Amado Amos Palma was born on September 13, 1927 in Sweetwater, Texas to Anthony and Catalina (Rodriguez) Palma. They had three children, Ruben, Amado and Ezequiel. His father was only in his life until he was 4 or 5 years old. After he left, Amado never saw him again. His mother eventually re-married and he was raised by his stepfather, Cenovio Martinez, who had six children of his own. Amado's stepbrothers and stepsisters are Raul, Elijah, Dilia, Bertha, Adam and Velia. His stepfather was a common laborer and worked at various odd jobs to support his family. His mother was a homemaker and took care of their family. Amado never knew his grandparents on either side of his family.

Times were hard for Hispanics when Amado was a boy. They were not allowed to go to school with the whites. They had their own school, Amado attended Emilio Carranza Elementary School in Sweetwater. The education he received there was lacking at best. He only went to school through the 6th grade. After that, he worked in the fields pulling cotton until he was 16 years old. He knew he didn't want to do that all his life and decided he was going to do whatever it took to better himself. He said, "I made up my mind that I was going to speak English like an Anglo and Spanish like a Hispanic and I do."

When he was almost 17, he left the cotton fields and went to work for Holland Page doing paving work in the DeLeon and Comanche areas. About a year later, he got an opportunity to go to work for a man named Fred T. Kelsey in Tucumcari, New Mexico. He owned a fleet of trucks and desperately needed drivers. Amado was only making \$.60 an hour and jumped at the chance to go to work driving a dump truck for Mr. Kelsey, who was offering \$1 an hour. He laughed and said, "I like to broke my neck getting over there!"

While Amado was working in Tucumcari, he received his draft notice from the US Army Air Force. WWII had just ended, but peace time had not yet been declared by Congress, so they continued the draft. In November 1945, he was sent to the San Antonio Air Cadet Center in San Antonio, Texas for boot camp. After boot camp, he was sent to the Clovis Army Air Base in Clovis, New Mexico to be trained as a Medic. He was then sent to Smoky Hill Air Force Base in Salina, Kansas. He was discharged in December 1947. When his term of service ended, he had planned to re-enlist for another 3-year term. He wanted to go to Europe, but the European theater was closed. He was told he could go to the Pacific, but decided he didn't want to do that and got out. He laughed and said, "I wasn't interested in taking malaria. Malaria was real bad at the time." Amado appreciates the discipline he learned in the service. He said, "I was a logical person and I took a certain amount of pride that I learned discipline. This brought a certain pride and joy to me. Here I had been a nothing and now I am a person that's disciplined and I conduct myself in a neat way and I still do. It stayed with me."

Amado married Valentine Gomez on December 28, 1949. They have been happily married for 67 years. They have three daughters. Their daughter, Catalina Barker and husband Scott, live in Phoenix, Arizona. Their daughter, Mary Helen Mabae and husband Guy, live in Gordon, Texas. Their daughter, Linda Kay Lorch and husband Benjamin, live in Lubbock, Texas. They

have nine grandchildren, Jerrod, Lindsay, Kyle, Ashley, Reagan, Courtney, Lisa, Angela and Amanda. They also have 23 great grandchildren. Amado and Valentine were dedicated to being good parents. They wanted to ensure that their children grew up with a good education and never knew poverty. He said, "The responsibility of every parent is to raise their children well. I tried to teach them to be honest, to be truthful, to be clean in their life."

After the service, Amado immediately went to work for the United States Gypsum Company in Sweetwater as a Heavy Equipment Operator. He worked for them for over 17 years. Amado was very successful on his job, but was determined to get an education. So, at age 35, he subscribed to a correspondence school to get started. It was called American School. He studied English, Math, History and Psychology and worked hard to make good grades. He enjoyed learning and when he was 37, he decided to quit his job at United States Gypsum Company and attend school full-time. He attended Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas for 2 years. He graduated with an Associate's Degree in Ministry. Valentine worked to support them while he was in school. After graduation, North "A" Church of Christ in Midland invited him to be a minister in their church, so they moved to Midland. He was a minister there from 1967-1970. In 1970, he went to work for the Western Christian Foundation for 4 years. After that, he went to work at TRW in Midland as a QA Technician. He spent the next 10 years with them. After retiring, he was self-employed and did a variety of different things to keep busy.

"I am really proud of being an American. I don't take it for granted because we have the greatest nation, that the Lord has provided, in this whole sphere. And I don't care what the people have done in the past in this world, it's still the best nation in the world to live. Right or wrong. Easy or hard. Opportunities are here," said Amado. Patriotism means everything to him. He said, "I despise the idea that some of these people, after getting all of the blessings that can be offered and obtained here in this nation, and for them to maltreat some of the things that they ought to be proud of. I don't give a rip what anybody thinks. I'm proud to be an American. We should take pride of our nation and we should do the best we can."

Four of Amado's brothers also served in the military. Ruben Palma served in the US Marine Corps. Ezequiel Palma served in the Army Air Force in the 11th Airborne Unit as a paratrooper in Japan. Raul Martinez served in the US Army in Korea. Tragically, he stepped on a land mine and lost his left foot and hand. On the third anniversary of his accident, he committed suicide. It was a devastating loss to their family. Adam Martinez served in the US Army.

Amado and Valentine have enjoyed traveling the world together. They have been to Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Veracruz and have spent a lot of time in Cloudcroft and Ruidoso, New Mexico. When Amado was in his 40's, he decided to buy a motorcycle. He bought an Interstate Honda and enjoyed traveling the country on it until he was in his 70's.

Amado is now 90 years old and there has been no obstacle that has proven too big for him to overcome in his life. Determination and hard work were the keys to his success. He said, "Anybody can be average, but anybody cannot be above average. Not just anybody. Some of us. Well, I'm one of the some of us." He paved his own way in the world. He didn't settle for less. And neither should you. Believe in yourself and reach for the stars! Thank you for your service, Amado!

Written By: Jeri Houston

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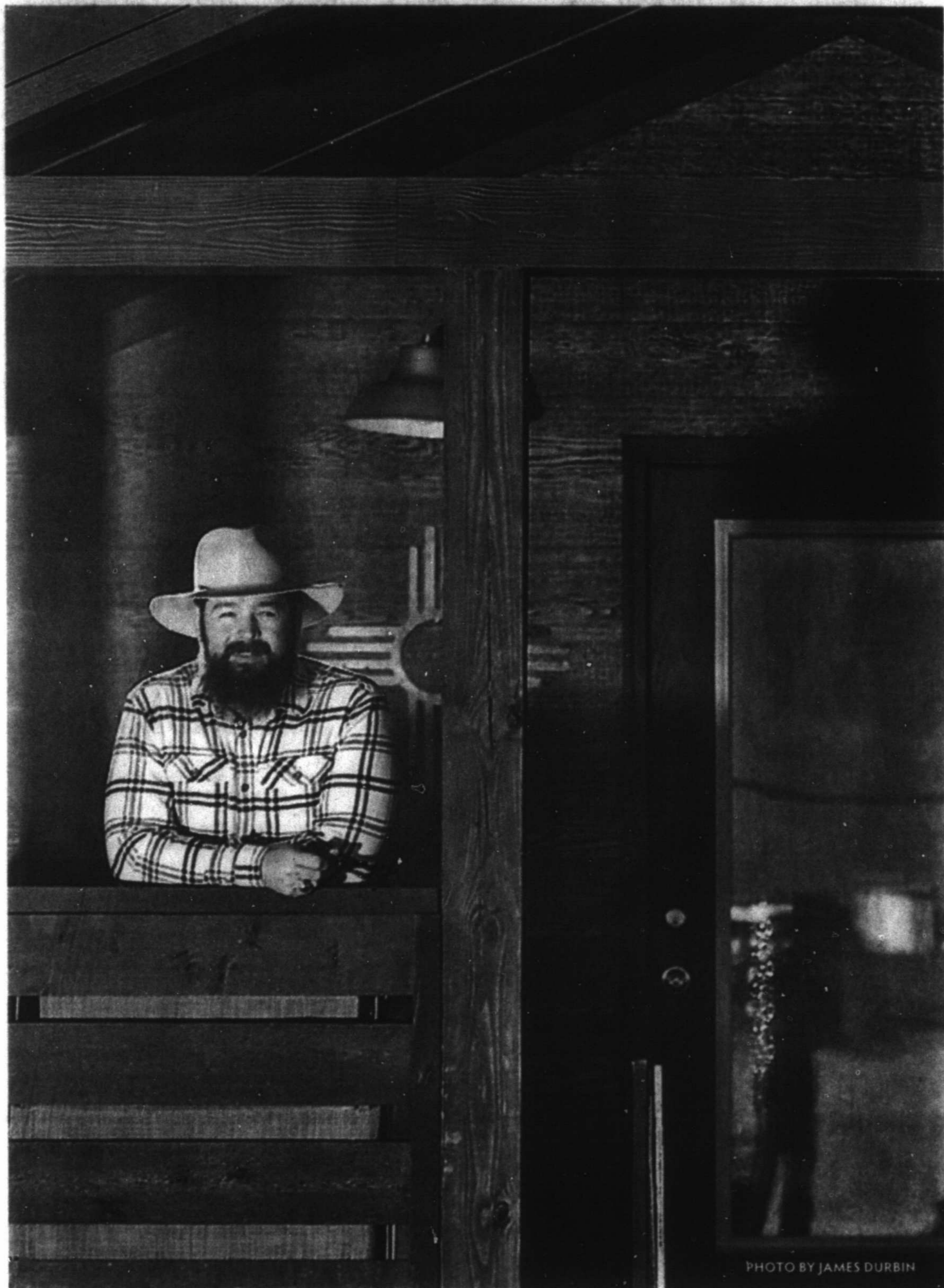


PHOTO BY JAMES DURBIN

JOHN-MARK ECHOLS

THE FIELD'S EDGE

Professional and community involvement: Midland Homeless Coalition chairman and Trinity School Alumni Hall of Honor.

Why did you decide to establish The Field's Edge? I don't know that I ever really decided to establish The Field's Edge. The move to homeless ministry was a very real and definitive calling from God. After I became a Christian, I felt a deep desire to follow Jesus in word and in deed. In the most unlikely way, I was drawn to give my life to cultivate a home for the homeless.

What led to your involvement with Church Under the Bridge? My wife, Briana, worked with the mother-in-law of the pastor at Church Under the Bridge in 2012. We were invited to come see what CUTB was all about, and I went there with absolutely no understanding of homelessness. Because our economy was booming at the time, I didn't understand why anyone would be homeless. After spending time with some people on the streets, we realized that homeless people couldn't simply pull themselves up by their bootstraps. We began to feel the desire to provide more than just immediate needs, (we wanted to) make a lasting impact by building community and restoring dignity.

What talents and skills do you share with the community? I grew up in an intact family, got a great education and had a successful career before being called to homeless ministry. Though my background differs from many who I am called to serve, I feel that I have been equipped with a specific skill set to help restore dignity and help to lift people out of homelessness. I have worked diligently to develop relationships with existing organizations, and I have a strong desire to work alongside them to make Midland a better place for all.

What unexpected lesson have you learned while serving as a volunteer and through your nonprofit work? I have learned that the plans I make for my life are nothing compared to what the Lord has designed me for. (T)his calling was woven into the very fabric of who I was created to be. The past few years have been quite a roller coaster, with such a drastic change from oil and gas consulting to homeless ministry. Though what we are undertaking is risky, I have never felt more peace and joy in all my life. I am confident I am where God wants me to be.

Why is volunteerism a priority for you? Service is a priority for me because of my faith. In the ultimate act of service, Christ died for me, and because of that, I want to give myself away in service to others. Each of us was designed for different and equally important purposes. The similarity is that our service is for the glory of God.

How long has Midland been your home, and why have you stayed? I was born and raised in Midland, and like many, after high school I tried to leave. I thought I needed to experience a different way of life so I went out of state for college. I reluctantly came back after graduation because the economy was so good, but I quickly realized that Midland is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. Midland's biggest asset is the people. The love and generosity here are second to none, and I hope to stay here for the rest of my life.

"HE IS A VISIONARY AND A TRUE SERVANT LEADER"

John-Mark and his wife, Briana, have dedicated their lives to helping the homeless population in Midland. The Field's Edge, a nonprofit that envisions a permanent community of tiny houses for the homeless, will greatly impact the lives of so many. Midland is fortunate to have back a young person like John-Mark. He is a man of incredible faith, a visionary and a true servant leader.

Kobi Lincoln, director of Institutional Advancement, Trinity School

"HE FEEDS FAR MORE THAN THE BODY"

Just spend a few hours on an early morning ride with John-Mark on a (Breaking Bread) breakfast truck run. I dare you to walk away the same. Be reminded of the unmeasured value of just listening to someone, even if for a few moments — loving them how, where and for who they are. A warm cup of coffee, hot breakfast and a hug do make a difference — feeding far more than the body.

Watching this young man puts me in my place over and over again. I cannot wait to see what is around the corner for our community as we walk with this young leader.

Liz Lehrer, friend and fellow volunteer

THE FIELD'S EDGE

The Field's Edge is the vision of John-Mark and Briana Echols. The mission of the nonprofit organization is to create a permanent tiny house community for those who are homeless and disabled in Midland. This community will bring close to 100 formerly homeless residents into The Field's Edge family.

The community's design is centered on building relationships between Midland's homeless and those who have never experienced homelessness. The Field's Edge will be a permanent place to call home, a place for neighbors to walk alongside each other for life.

The name of the organization is derived from Leviticus 23:22, a charge to love and serve homeless neighbors selflessly:

"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and the sojourner. I am the Lord your God."

Source: thefieldsedge.org

For more information, contact info@thefieldsedge.org

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Users can control Russian disinformation

Facebook creates tool in response to pressure to reveal how much content reached accounts

By Craig Timberg
Washington Post

Facebook is creating an online tool to allow users to determine if they might have been exposed to Russian disinformation during the 2016 presidential election and its fractious aftermath, the company announced Wednesday.

The new tool, which the company said will be available by the end of the year, is the latest move by Facebook to respond to public and political pressure to reveal the extent of the Russian disinformation campaign waged on its social media platform and on Instagram, which Facebook owns.

Together nearly 150 million Facebook and Instagram users may have had pieces of Russian disinformation content — both paid ads and free posts — reach their accounts, the company has said, though it also has said there is no way to know how many actually saw that content.

The new tool will be an online portal, available through Facebook's "Help Center." It will allow users to see if pages or accounts they "liked" or followed between January 2015 and August 2017 were created by the Internet Research Agency, a St. Petersburg troll farm that Russian operatives used to pump divisive content on race, religion, gun rights, immigration and other issues into the American online

political conversation.

Some of the Russian pages and accounts explicitly called for the election of Republican Donald Trump or denigrated his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, and some others called for real-world political rallies — many heeded those calls by showing up at the time and places dictated by the Russian trolls.

"It is important that people understand how foreign actors tried to sow division and mistrust using Facebook before and after the 2016 US election," Facebook said in its announcement Wednesday. "That's why as we have discovered information, we have continually come forward to share it publicly, and have provided it to

congressional investigators. And it's also why we're building the tool we are announcing today."

Several Democratic lawmakers — including Sens. Jack Reed of Rhode Island and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, as well as Rep. Teri Sewell of Alabama — had pushed Facebook to find a way alert its users about their exposure to Russian disinformation. Blumenthal sent a letter calling on Facebook to find a way to alert its users, setting Wednesday as a deadline for the company to take action.

Sewell, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, asked Facebook's

Please see FACEBOOK/4B

BABY'S FIRST WORD ALEXA?



Howard Lipin/San Diego Union-Tribune/TNS

Eight-year-old Sutton Phillips, left, his brother, 10-year-old Greyson Phillips, center, and their mom, Liz Phillips, right, play a game of rock-paper-scissors with "Alexa," their Amazon Echo wireless speaker and voice command personal assistant at their home in San Diego's Scripps Ranch community. Parents still grappling with kids' app and smartphone use now have a new relationship to navigate — the bond between their children and the all-knowing, all-hearing disembodied voice in the corner.

Kids bond with voice assistants

By Hayley Tsukayama
Washington Post

In Yana Welinder's house, her son will say "Papa!" to either her or her husband. "Mama" isn't in his vocabulary yet. But her son, who just turned 1, does have a name for another prominent figure in the household: "Aga!"

Or, as the rest of us know her, Alexa — Amazon's voice assistant.

Welinder's son can't summon the assistant from the Echo speaker in their San Francisco home on his own. But he knows what he's trying to do.

"He says it and he looks at her, and he expects her to respond," Welinder said. "It cracks me up every time."

Parents still grappling with kids' app and smartphone use now have a new relationship to navigate — the bond between their children and the all-knowing, all-hearing disembodied voice in the corner. Several parents have uploaded videos to YouTube of their kids interacting with Amazon's Alexa or Google's Assistant AI. Some kids chatter with the voice assistants, peppering them with questions or imploring them to play their favorite songs. Others treat them as a friend who listens to what they would like to have and, in the case of Alexa, can send them gifts (much to the surprise of parents who receive those unintended orders.).

(Amazon chief executive Jeffrey P. Bezos also owns The Washington Post.)

While kids seem to understand voice

assistants aren't people, research shows that many see them as their own entities. But as with so many questions about kids and tech, it's hard to say what that means for their development — and whether it could be harmful.

"The jury's out on it," said Pamela Hurst-Della Pietra, founder and president of the nonprofit group Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development.

Mobile-device use among kids is already on the rise. The parental advocacy group Common Sense Media found that the average time that children 8 years old and younger spend on mobile devices has tripled over the past six years to a daily average of 48 minutes. The group also found that 42 percent of kids in that age group have their own tablet.

Voice assistants, with their conversational nature, take the tech relationship to another level. When it comes to voice assistants, Common Sense Media estimates that at least one in every 10 homes with young children has a voice-activated device in it.

And as research continues on the effects of these new, budding relationships, tech firms are quickly adding more kid-friendly features. Amazon recently made it easier for teens to order items through the Echo speaker on their parents' accounts. Google has positioned its Home smart hub as a source for homework help and now allows parents to create kid-safe Google accounts for the Home. Mattel recently canceled plans for a child-

focused home hub called Aristotle, amid concerns over privacy.

Regulators are starting to look at home hubs for kids, but are focused solely on privacy issues. For example, the Federal Trade Commission recently said companies can collect voice queries from children without fear of reprisal, as long as they use and store them only to understand a query. Amazon said in a statement that it was evaluating the new rules to protect privacy and offer new features. Google spokeswoman Kara Berman said the company is compliant with the kids' privacy law and does not store audio recordings from kid-focused apps — apart from whatever is necessary to process what someone has said.

But the broader issue of whether it affects development is harder to nail down. Those opposing Mattel's Aristotle highlighted that a voice assistant in the nursery could hurt parental bonding, if the child considered the voice assistant to be their first playmate or a source of comfort. Also, kids may not be able to wrap their minds around a friend that has no body but can carry on a (stilted) conversation. And Hurst-Della Pietra, who has a background in pediatrics, said assistants may give kids the impression that everything can be done instantaneously. Parents may also regret letting their kids issue orders without so much as a "please" in a voice assistant's direction.

Just think carefully about the

Please see VOICE/4B

HAYLEY
TSUKAYAMA
Washington Post



Pixel Buds are more than just headphones

Google has set out to make its mark on the headphone world with Pixel Buds — wireless headphones that can control your phone and claim to translate conversations in real time. But how do they stack up? Google sent us a pair to review to find out.

The most important thing you should know about Pixel Buds is that their full features only work with Google's newest smartphone, the Pixel 2. While they'll function with other phones, you must have the Pixel 2 or Pixel 2 XL (which, buyer beware, have had some early quality control issues) to access the Pixel Buds' marquee feature: real-time translation.

To be honest, it's not exactly real-time. You call up the feature by tapping on your right earbud and asking Google Assistant to "help me speak" one of 40 languages. The phone will then open the Google Translate app. From there, the phone will translate what it hears into the language of your choice, and you'll hear it in your ear. So, if you're speaking to someone and they say "Où est la bibliothèque?" you will then hear "Where is the library?" in your ear. Then, when it's your turn to speak, tap and hold the right earbud to have what you say translated and broadcast out of your phone.

The translation feature is promising but not perfect. Translation doesn't happen at conversational speed — this is not Star Trek's universal translator or Douglas Adams's Babel fish. Still, it is much better than a phrase book. While human translators need not fear that they may be without a job, it could be good for travelers or others who want to have a simple, if somewhat halting, chat in another language.

That said, needing a translator is not a scenario that's likely to come up for most people everyday.

And if you don't have a Pixel? Well, these are far less attractive. Pixel Buds can connect to other Android phones and iPhones but only, essentially, as normal wireless ear buds. On all phones, you can tap your right earbud to call up your virtual assistant — Google Assistant on Android phones, Siri on iPhones. Swipe forward on your earbud to turn up the volume, and back to turn it down. Sound quality is about on par with other Bluetooth headphones I've tried, which is to say not mind-blowing but pretty good for listening to music while doing other things. The Pixel Buds don't skimp on volume; I rarely found cause to crank them above 50 percent.

They are comfortable, with a fabric loop that you can adjust to fit into your ear. I completed a workout without them falling out.

Pixel Buds are the same price as Apple's AirPods at \$159. Like AirPods, Pixel Buds come with a case that doubles as a quick-charging portable battery, so you can juice them up on the go. The headphones themselves will give you about 5 hours of juice, which you can extend by popping

Please see TSUKAYAMA/4B

Ka-ching: This year's top tech gifts cost about \$1K

By Hayley Tsukayama
Washington Post

You may notice something different about the prices of the tech products that companies are pushing the hardest this year: They're four digits.

Technology companies, which make the bulk of their money during the holiday season, are starting to diversify more and move upscale. Which means there are more Lamborghinis and Ferraris of tech sitting in the spots that used to be occupied by Lexuses. (Splashy tech gifts, after all, are never that cheap.)

Take mobile phones released this fall, for instance: Apple's newest premium phone, the iPhone X, is \$999 — far more than the

ANALYSIS

\$649 that used to net you the latest iPhone. Samsung's Galaxy Note 8 starts at \$950, up from \$850 from last year.

The same is true of marquee products from Google. Its new Pixelbook laptop, the latest member of its generally cheap Chromebook line, is selling for \$999. (You can get a Chromebook for about \$300, on average.) And Microsoft's Surface Book 2, which has a detachable 13-inch screen that makes a tablet out of your laptop, remains \$1,500 to start — unless you're tempted to buy the new \$2,499 15-inch model.

Compare those prices against the average amount that U.S. adults plan to spend on tech gifts this year: \$478, according to the

Consumer Technology Association, a tech industry lobbying group. Even among the biggest potential spenders (in this case, adults between 35 and 44), the average is just \$674. While an average may not represent what everyone's willing to spend, it is notable that the price of just one gift can be more than double that budget.

So, what's with the price increase of top-tier products? For one, companies have put more into their devices. In Apple's case, the iPhone X brings facial-recognition technology and a nearly all-screen front to the iPhone for the first time. The Galaxy Note 8 packs in new multitasking features that bring you closer than ever to a handheld computer. The Pixelbook has a flexible hinge that lets you

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Well-paid son is slow to pay debts he owes to his parents

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old son, "Jay," would like to come home for Christmas. I'm paying, so I made his reservation yesterday. Late last night, he told my husband he needs to go back two days early because of work. This change will cost around \$150 more than the \$215 I'm already paying. Although my son earns a six-figure salary, he is unable to pay his student/parent loan on time each month. When he's late, I get harassing emails and phone calls. The loan is in my name because Jay blew all the \$60,000 he got from a settlement, and he begged me to do this for him so he could graduate. My husband and I are retired, but we both work part-time. Jay AND his sister are reluctant to pay for their tickets when they want to see us. They each live an hour plane ride away. They always seem to have enough money to travel and do what they want to do. I am so upset, I'd like to cancel the holidays because I feel we are being taken advantage of. What do you think? — NAUGHTY, NOT NICE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 37. When I was 32, after having been together for 15 years and married for seven, my wife died suddenly. I grieved, but have finally been able to start thinking about my future. I recently started dating — well, one date, to be exact — and when I mentioned that I was a widower, I immediately saw her interest turn to pure sympathy. I tried to elaborate on it, stating that it had been some time ago and that I'm ready to start the next phase of my life. (I want a family.)



your 25-year-old son that it's time to grow up and pay his bills. Because he now has a six-figure income — thanks to your generosity — he should assume responsibility for his student loan debt and pay it on time. And if he doesn't, consider reviewing your estate plan and subtracting what he owes you.

Friends have advised me. "Do NOT tell women you're a widower until you have been dating for some time," but I find it nearly impossible to talk about my past without mentioning my late wife. She was a major part of my life for almost half of it — and for all of my adult life, including the last five years she hasn't been here. Is it possible to tell someone that you are a widower and not let her sympathy overwhelm any other emotion? — YOUNGISH WIDOWER IN COLORADO

DEAR WIDOWER: An expression of sympathy is the appropriate reaction when you tell someone a loved one died. What you must avoid is allowing your late wife to be the MAIN topic of conversation, and make an effort to talk about your date's interests, mutual interests and plans for the future.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones Bidding Quiz Q1 — Neither vulnerable, as South. bid one diamond planning to bid two no-trump next. Q3 — East-West vulnerable, as South. you hold: ♠A J 6 4 ♣Q 9 2 ♦A 10 ♣A K 10 9 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass ♠K Q 9 8 ♥10 3 ♦K J 5 ♠A J 8 6 What call would you make? NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST INT Pass 2♣ Pass 2♥ Pass ? What call would you make? A — You would have rebid two no-trump, invitational, over a red-suit response, but this hand is worth forcing to game over the one-spade response. A — Had your Stayman bid uncovered a spade fit, you might go looking for a slam. Failing that, this hand is not worth more than game. Bid three no-trump. Bid four spades. Q2 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold: ♠K 9 3 ♥A 8 2 ♦A 9 4 3 ♣J 9 3 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST Pass Pass 1♣ Pass What call would you make? ♠J 10 9 8 4 2 ♥Q 5 3 ♦A 2 ♣K 8 A — You intelligently passed this 4-3-3-12-count as dealer, so don't treat it as an opening bid now. Should you play a two no-trump response to a minor as invitational, that's your bid. Otherwise, As dealer, what call would you make? A — A weak two-bid with so much defense outside of your suit would be a poor idea. It is close between one spade and pass. We like pass.

SPORTS

To submit information to the sports department, email sports@mrt.com

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Monday, November 27, 2017 | Section C

Texas A&M fires head coach Kevin Sumlin

By Jim Vertuno
Associated Press

Kevin Sumlin was never able to recreate his wildly successful first season at Texas A&M so even though the winning continued it wasn't enough. Sumlin was fired Sunday after six seasons in College Station. All of them earned bowl trips for the Aggies and finished with above-.500 records. The first black head coach in program history was 51-26 and 25-23 in the Southeastern Conference. But his first year at A&M was his best, and he never could come close to matching it. In 2012, Sumlin had a Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback in Johnny Manziel and ushered in the program's move from the Big 12 to the SEC by going 11-2. That earned him a new

contract and \$5 million annual salary, but the Aggies have not won more than nine games since. The Aggies ended their regular season on Saturday by losing to LSU. They dropped to 7-5 overall, and finished 4-4 in the SEC for the fourth time under Sumlin. Athletic director Scott Woodward, who was hired by the school in the summer of 2016, said in a statement that Sumlin made Texas A&M "a better all-around football program and led our program with dignity and character." "Our expectations at A&M are very high," Woodward said. "We believe that we should compete for SEC championships on an annual basis and, at times, national championships. I believe that we need a new coach to take us there." Special teams coach Jeff Banks will

be interim coach. Sumlin, 53, had two years left on his contract, which calls for a \$10 million buyout to be paid within 60 days of his termination. Texas A&M said the terms of the deal would be honored. Sumlin leaves with a .662 winning percentage that ranks only behind R.C. Slocum (.721) among A&M coaches since 1930. Stuck behind powerhouse Alabama in the SEC West Division, Sumlin never won a division crown. He also faced enormous pressure this season to deliver big results. After Texas A&M blew a huge lead and lost the season opener at UCLA, a school regent publicly called for Sumlin to be fired. Texas A&M has long been seen as



Texas A&M head coach Kevin Sumlin walks on the sideline in the first half of an NCAA football game against LSU on Saturday in Baton Rouge, La.

Please see **SUMLIN/4C**

A strategic season



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Houston Texans free safety Andre Hal (29) intercepts a pass intended for Arizona Cardinals running back Kerwyn Williams (33) during the second half of an NFL game Nov. 19 in Houston.

Ravens seek to keep playoff push going vs. Texans

By David Ginsburg
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Ravens have 13 players on injured reserve and were without their three best offensive linemen in Green Bay last weekend. Taking advantage of the mistakes of an inexperienced quarterback, the Ravens won easily 23-0. During an NFL season marred by injuries to key players, Baltimore (5-5) has found a way to remain in the middle of the AFC playoff hunt — in part by capitalizing on its opponent's woes. Miami starting quarterback Jay Cutler, Oakland's Derek Carr and Green Bay star Aaron Rodgers were all sidelined with injuries in games the Ravens won handily. And now, on Monday night, Baltimore faces a Houston (4-6) team left to depend on its backup quarterback. Rookie Deshaun Watson had the Houston offense humming, throwing for 1,699 yards and 19 touchdowns before a torn ACL abruptly ended his season earlier this month. Backup Tom Savage stumbled through two straight defeats before rebounding last week to help Houston beat Arizona. He's played in

only 10 games. Baltimore starter Joe Flacco has been at it for 10 years. "He does not have a ton of experience," Houston coach Bill O'Brien said of Savage. "So every game that he plays, it is really important for him to remember the things that went on during that game, so he can really use that experience to get better." Savage will be tested by a Baltimore defense that has three shutouts and leads the NFL with 19 interceptions. "They're a great defense," Savage said. "We've definitely got our work cut out." Baltimore has remained afloat despite season-ending injuries to guards Marshal Yanda and Alex Lewis, tight ends Dennis Pitta and Crockett Gillmore, linebacker Albert McClellan and cornerback Tavon Young. In addition, left tackle Ronnie Stanley missed the Packers game with a concussion. "It is very important to adjust to injuries in the National Football League, no doubt," coach John Harbaugh said. "Probably over the last four years, five years even, we have probably had more than our fair share of practice at it. But our guys don't flinch, they don't bat an

eye." It helps that Flacco has started all 10 games for the Ravens despite sitting out the entire preseason with a back injury. "He's held up very well," Harbaugh said. "That has been good for us." Some things to know about the Ravens-Texans matchup: **Primed and ready:** Baltimore is 11-1 in prime time since Harbaugh took over in 2008 and has won an NFL-best nine straight prime-time games. This, however, will be only the second time in that span that the Ravens have been home on Monday night. "That adds to the game a little bit, just because you know how excited your fans and the world can be to watch those games," Flacco said. **Ball security:** The Ravens have forced 23 turnovers. Houston has won its last 13 games with a positive turnover differential. So it's obvious what the Texans must do. "Against the Ravens, you better make sure you take care of the football," O'Brien said. "Whoever is carrying the ball, obviously throwing the ball,

Please see **TEXANS/3C**

No. 10 TCU needs to contain 2nd-ranked Oklahoma's offense

By Cliff Brunt
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Don't blink when quarterback Baker Mayfield and Oklahoma's high-powered offense take the field early in games. The Sooners have averaged 34 points in the first half of their past five games and scored at least 20 points in the first half of all but two games this season. Their most stunning early performance was a 38-point barrage in the first half of a win over TCU, which entered that game with the nation's No. 6 scoring and yardage defense. No. 2 Oklahoma (11-1, 8-1 Big 12, No. 4 CFP) will try to duplicate that early season effort in a rematch with No. 10 TCU in the Big 12 championship game Saturday in Arlington, Texas. "For us, it's about adjusting on the fly," Mayfield said. "We're going to have our base game plan and so will they. Then when you play someone for the second time, it's about in-game adjustments and the most physical team is going to win. You're going to be ready game-plan wise. There's going to be people in the perfect spots. It's about winning your individual battles and matchups." Against West Virginia on Saturday, Oklahoma had 443 yards at halftime — 238 passing and 205 rushing. The Sooners led 45-10 at the break and eventually rolled to a 59-31 victory. West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen could barely fault his defense. "I knew they were good offensively going into this thing," Holgorsen said. "I don't want to beat up our defense. We've played real good defense around here the last three or four years. I like what we're doing. That's an offense that is tough to stop." Overall, Oklahoma leads the nation with 593.5 yards per game and ranks second in passing offense and fourth in scoring offense. Mayfield leads the nation in passing efficiency with a mark that would break the FBS record he set last season. "Baker Mayfield is a really good player, and he has the opportunity to win the Heisman Trophy," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "He's a good football player, and he also has a lot of good players around him." Oklahoma unveiled another weapon against West Virginia that TCU (10-2, 7-2, No. 12 CFP) might have to deal with — backup quarterback Kyler Murray's running ability. Murray started against the Mountaineers in place of Mayfield, who was benched because of disciplinary reasons. Murray ripped off a 66-yard run on the first play from scrimmage. He is one of the fastest players on the team, and the play showed another wrinkle in an already potent offense.

Please see **TCU/4C**



Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield (6) passes under pressure from West Virginia defensive lineman Lamonte McDougle (46) in the second quarter of an NCAA football game Saturday in Norman, Okla.

Sunday's Week 12 NFL Scoreboard

Steelers.....	31	Patriots	35
Packers.....	28	Dolphins.....	17
Falcons.....	34	Seahawks	24
Buccaneers.....	20	49ers.....	13
Bengals.....	30	Raiders	21
Browns.....	16	Broncos	14
Titans.....	20	Rams.....	26
Colts.....	16	Saints.....	20
Bills.....	16	Cardinals	2
Chiefs.....	10	Jaguars.....	24
Eagles.....	31	Panthers	35
Bears.....	3	Jets.....	27

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Men's College Basketball
Maryland at Syracuse, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Alabama State at Cincinnati, 6 p.m., ESPN2

p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP
National Hockey League
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m., NHL

RADIO
National Basketball Association
Dallas at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KKCS 105.5 FM, KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

TRANSACTIONS

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS — Assigned G Tyler Dorsey to Erie (NBAFL)

(ECHL)
American Hockey League
LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS — Assigned D Frank Hors to Reading (ECHL)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Table with columns: Rank, Team, Record, Pts, Pvs. Lists top 25 teams in college football.

Table with columns: Rank, Team, Record, Pts, Pvs. Lists top 25 teams in college football.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, PF, PA, W, L, PF, PA. Lists standings for Big 12, Southeastern, and East divisions.

Table with columns: Conference, Team, W, L, PF, PA, W, L, PF, PA. Lists standings for American Athletic, West, and East divisions.

NHL GLANCE

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Lists NHL team statistics.

Table with columns: Team, GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Lists NHL team statistics.

NBA GLANCE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists NBA team statistics.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists NBA team statistics.

FIGHT SCHEDULE

Dec. 2
At Madison Square Garden, New York (HBO)
Miguel Cotto vs. Sotero Al, 12, for Cotto's WBO

Dec. 13
At Brisbane, Australia (ESPN), Jeff Horn vs. Gary Corcoran, 12, for Horn's WBO

No. 17 Gonzaga blows big lead, holds off Texas 76-71 in OT

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Coach Mark Few had no idea what to expect from No. 17 Gonzaga when his team arrived here and knowing the kind of competition the Bulldogs could end up facing.



Craig Mitchell/Dyer/Associated Press

Rui Hachimura came off the bench to score a career-high 20 points, Josh Perkins added 15 points and Gonzaga blew a 21-point second half lead before putting away Texas 76-71 in overtime in a consolation game Sunday at the PK80 Invitational.

Gonzaga forward Rui Hachimura, left, posts up against Texas forward Jericho Sims during the second half of an NCAA basketball game in the Phil Knight Invitational tournament Sunday in Portland, Ore.

It was the conclusion of a roller coaster three games for the Bulldogs. They overwhelmed Ohio State in the opener. They played an epic double-overtime game against Florida in the semifinals, falling 111-105.

bit of the lead they built to hold off a charge by Texas in the closing minutes.

"Forty-four of the minutes was pretty good. I'm going to choose to focus on that," Few said.

The season could end up being just as wild for the Longhorns. Two days after nearly knocking off No. 1 Duke before caving down the stretch, Texas staged a gutty rally in the closing minutes, forcing overtime

away the Longhorns. Matt Coleman led the Longhorns (4-2) with 19 points and Jones finished with 18 points.

"I think there were really four parts to that game that were really unique to each other. I think two were really good and two of them were not," Texas coach Shaka Smart said.

Melson also hit a key 3-pointer with one minute left in regulation as the shot clock expired and Gonzaga was melting down. The Bulldogs held on despite committing 14 turnovers in the second half.

But the Bulldogs were brilliant in the first half, turning a 16-8 deficit into a 32-16 lead by scoring 24 consecutive points. Perkins was the catalyst with three of his five 3-pointers during the run. Killian Tillie and Johnathan Williams both finished with 10 points. The Bulldogs held on despite shooting 33 percent in the second half.

Final rally

Gonzaga couldn't have expected it would need every bit of that run to hold on. The Bulldogs led 54-33 with 14:08 remaining and scored 13 points the rest of regulation. The Bulldogs went nearly seven minutes without a basket but still led by 11 after Killian Tillie's 3 with 3:20 remaining.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PF, PA, W, L, PF, PA. Lists college basketball standings for various conferences.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, PF, PA, W, L, PF, PA. Lists college basketball standings for various conferences.

Top 25 fared

- 1. UConn (5-0) beat No. 5 UCLA 78-60; beat Michigan State 96-62.
2. Texas (5-0) beat LSU 75-66; beat Washington 80-68.
3. South Carolina (6-1) beat Rutgers 78-68; beat St. John's 76-58; lost to No. 6 Notre Dame 92-65.

HEAT 100, BULLS 93

CHICAGO — Goran Dragic scored 24 points and the Miami Heat followed the lowest-scoring first quarter in team history with their highest-scoring one of the season to beat the Chicago Bulls 100-93 on Sunday.

NBA ROUNDUP

and six assists, and Hassan Whiteside had 11 points and 10 rebounds. Jerian Grant led Chicago with 24 points. Denzel Valentine had 14 points and career highs of 13 rebounds and seven assists.

NETS 98, GRIZZLIES 88

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — DeMarre Carroll scored a season-high 24 points. Trevor Booker added 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Brooklyn beat Memphis to snap a three-game losing streak.

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12/07 6:30-8:30 Microchip Clinic at Beer Garden's Yappy Hour
12/31 Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Party at DoubleTree
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with that." Arizona leftburgh talking the hills, turn-no-sir everything length. d to approach, with more grades 3.0 — ed off. 7-19 the ing the s season. (Pac-12) ac-12 ornia and r-tier

r a 42-30 the Terri-not done I think Graham, Devils couple of here and to tear old our e is not place is l what it l. That's important

sea- at runs and derson use state ay for athletic venue. ed Press

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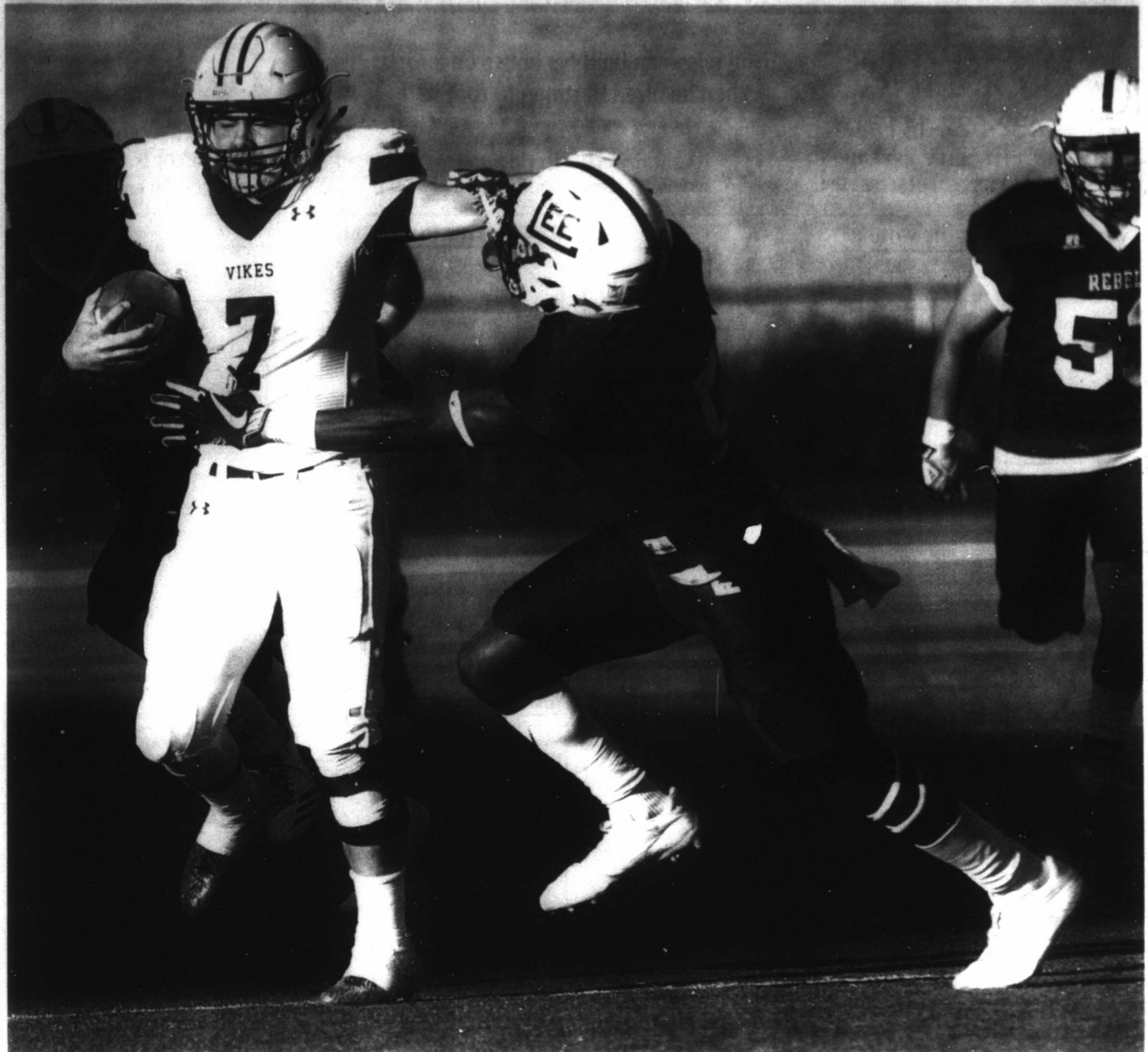
ision I in 2015-16. tenure, ies have Field expanded 02,000. ate to a t Aggies pool adped. A&M as the ston when him program om the nals rivals the SEC. ion that h cash me of the ng terri- should be

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and the Ag- gering nlin even er" heli- sed to fly e to woo g name nit, Sum- sssir!" o the blem-

Aggies Signs of Manziel of the sea- tographs- and the eight h point ns. ns. win more before season. ward ure when ows he as to win ve to do one in

this n's wife ersity cement received ng mes- unded ing A with ns. fer- d and was right onger in the west with its way to



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Arlington Lamar's Jack Dawson tries to get away from Lee High's Elijah Prince Saturday at Grande Communications Stadium.

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

Table containing Texas High School Football Playoff Pairings. It is organized into several divisions: CLASS 6A DIVISION I, CLASS 5A DIVISION I, CLASS 4A DIVISION I, CLASS 3A DIVISION I, CLASS 2A DIVISION I, CLASS 1A SIX-MAN DIVISION I, and CLASS 1A SIX-MAN DIVISION II. Each division lists various schools, their records, and the date and time of their playoff games.

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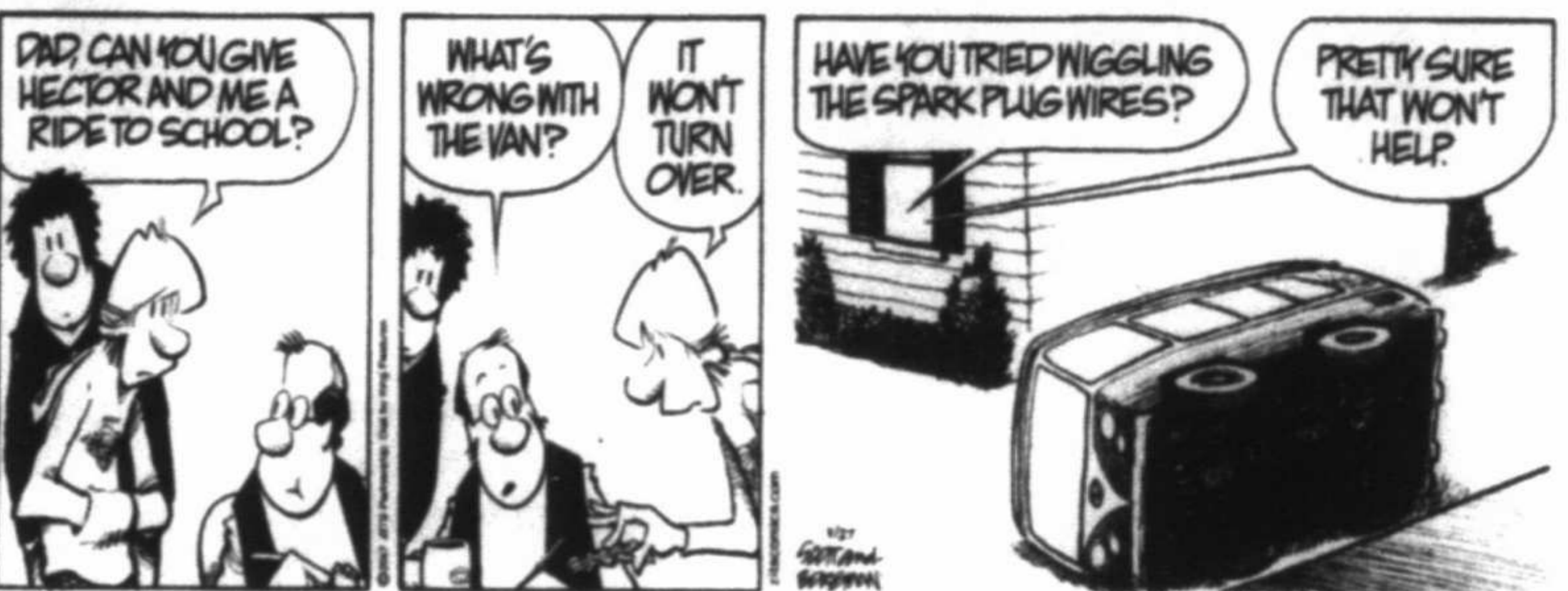
MARY WORTH



BEEBLE BAILEY



ZITS



CLASSIC PEANUTS



BABY BLUES



SHOE



MUTTS



GARFIELD



CLOSE TO HOME



DENNIS THE MENACE



Grandma Bickner's gilet necklaces were always the kids' most coveted leftovers after Thanksgiving.

FAMILY CIRCUS



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



LOCKHORNS



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



'D NEVER DIVORCE LORETTA... SHE KNOWS TOO MUCH'

'I don't want to be a Mo!'

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

		9	7		2	3		
7	8				6		4	
	5							
9		1						3
4				1				9
8							5	2
								8
	3		2					9
		8	9		5	2		

Level:
1 **2**
3 **4**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

9	1	8	8	7	3	2	4	5
7	4	8	6	2	5	3	9	1
5	3	2	4	9	1	8	6	7
6	9	7	3	5	8	4	1	2
8	5	4	2	1	6	9	7	3
1	2	3	9	4	7	5	8	6
2	7	9	5	6	4	1	3	8
3	6	5	1	8	9	7	2	4
4	8	1	7	3	2	6	5	9

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DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 The "m" in E = mc²</p> <p>5 Put into force</p> <p>10 Wood-shaping tool</p> <p>14 Severely damaged sea</p> <p>15 Morning show featuring Al Roker</p> <p>16 Drubbed or whipped</p> <p>17 Calf-length skirt</p> <p>18 Lady's canine love</p> <p>19 Omar of "The Mod Squad"</p> <p>20 Seaside shade provider</p> <p>23 Bone: Pref.</p> <p>24 Second person</p> <p>25 Grammy category</p> <p>28 "Don't play" music symbols</p> <p>32 "I'll do that!"</p> <p>34 Opposite of pos.</p> <p>37 Philatelist's volumes</p> <p>40 Soothing succulent</p> <p>42 Inclined</p> <p>43 Sitter's nemesis</p> <p>44 Practice that develops a variety of employee skills</p> <p>47 Letters after ems</p> <p>48 "Not ___": "Quiet!"</p> <p>49 Macho guy</p> <p>51 Not agin</p> <p>52 Musician's gift</p> <p>55 Curriculum résumé</p> <p>59 Kid's imaginary companions, and what's literally found in this puzzle's circles</p> <p>64 Remove a rind from</p> <p>66 "Ask me if ___"</p> <p>67 Pigeon banter</p> <p>68 Drops the ball</p> <p>69 Country south of Egypt</p> <p>70 French I verb</p> <p>71 Path behind a ship</p> <p>72 Poet's muse</p> <p>73 Taken in, as a movie</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Cuban dance</p> <p>2 Spring zodiac sign</p> <p>3 '70s-'80s Egyptian president Anwar</p> <p>4 Deli machine</p> <p>5 Caesar's ide-of-March words</p> <p>6 Good name for an average guy</p> <p>7 Not much (of)</p> <p>8 Top-selling Toyota</p> <p>9 Blood bank spec</p> <p>10 Second son</p> <p>11 Act of leaving</p> <p>12 Microwave</p> <p>13 Sci-fi beings</p> <p>21 Long-handled garden tools</p> <p>22 Break in the action</p> <p>26 Capital of Jordan</p> <p>27 Annoying types</p> <p>29 "Now!" in the OR</p> <p>30 Brit's sign-off</p> <p>31 Northampton women's college</p> <p>33 Flow back</p> <p>34 City south of Baghdad</p>	<p>35 Wed on the wing</p> <p>36 Lose it big-time</p> <p>38 Ballet dip</p> <p>39 Tiny physics bit</p> <p>41 Poetic palindrome</p> <p>45 Oil gp. that includes Iraq</p> <p>46 "Avatar" race</p> <p>50 Nephews' sisters</p> <p>53 Come to light</p> <p>54 Happen multiple times</p> <p>56 Govt. security</p> <p>57 Love dearly</p> <p>58 German steel city</p> <p>60 Beyond that</p> <p>61 "Look what I did!"</p> <p>62 Group with pledges</p> <p>63 Nevada gambling city</p> <p>64 Church bench</p> <p>65 Notable time</p>
--	--	--

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 11/27/17

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt

	<p>ACROSS</p> <p>CLUE</p> <p>1. Lollygag</p> <p>5. Apple ___</p> <p>6. ___ field</p> <p>7. Heehawed</p>	<p>ANSWER</p> <p>ELAWDD</p> <p>DECR I</p> <p>THWAE</p> <p>YBARDE</p>
	<p>DOWN</p> <p>CLUE</p> <p>1. Program, agenda</p> <p>2. Bereaved husband</p> <p>3. Theft</p> <p>4. Situated</p>	<p>ANSWER</p> <p>CTEDKO</p> <p>IDEWWRO</p> <p>ANEYCLR</p> <p>EAESDT</p>

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

11-27-17 **CLUE:** ___ was born in Dublin, Ireland, on Oct. 16, 1854.

BONUS ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○

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By Mark McClain ©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 11/27/17

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GNEBU

SUHEO

SMIRPH

VTINEN

Some examples are: ran, walked, sang, talked and learned. There are lots more. They represent action.

DREW
WRITE
TAUGHT

All right already. We get it.

THE TEACHER WAS EXPLAINING ACTION WORDS TO THE STUDENTS AND WAS BEING ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CANDY SPOIL CUDDLY BELIEF
Answer: The symphony's backup violinist didn't like playing — **SECOND FIDDLE**

WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY **WOOD TOM**

1.

Print Your Answers Here:

1. [][][][][][][][][]

2. [][][][][][][][][]

Today's Answers:

2. Love always

1. Raising the volume

2.

Created by Tom Underwood North America Syndicate, 2017

Answers

2. Love always

1. Raising the volume

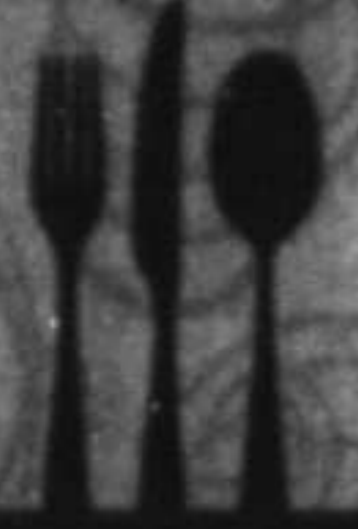
WUZZLES

TRASHING ONE EGG WASTES 55 GALLONS OF WATER

COOK IT. STORE IT. SHARE IT. JUST DON'T WASTE IT.

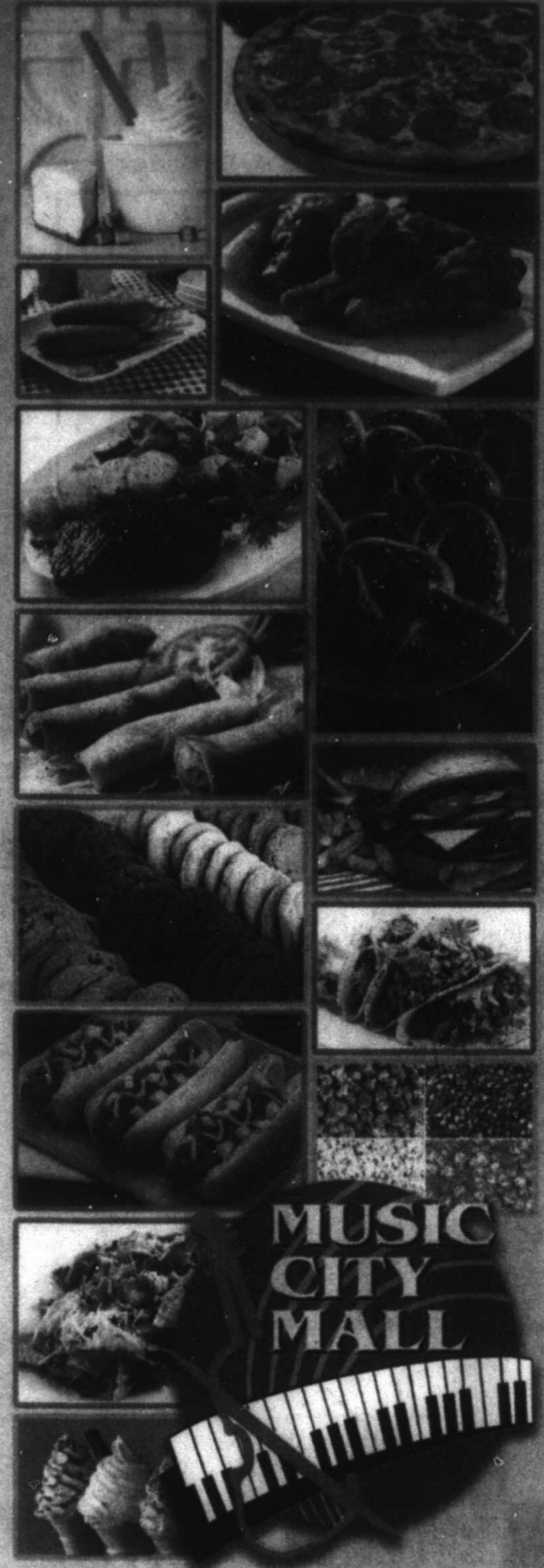
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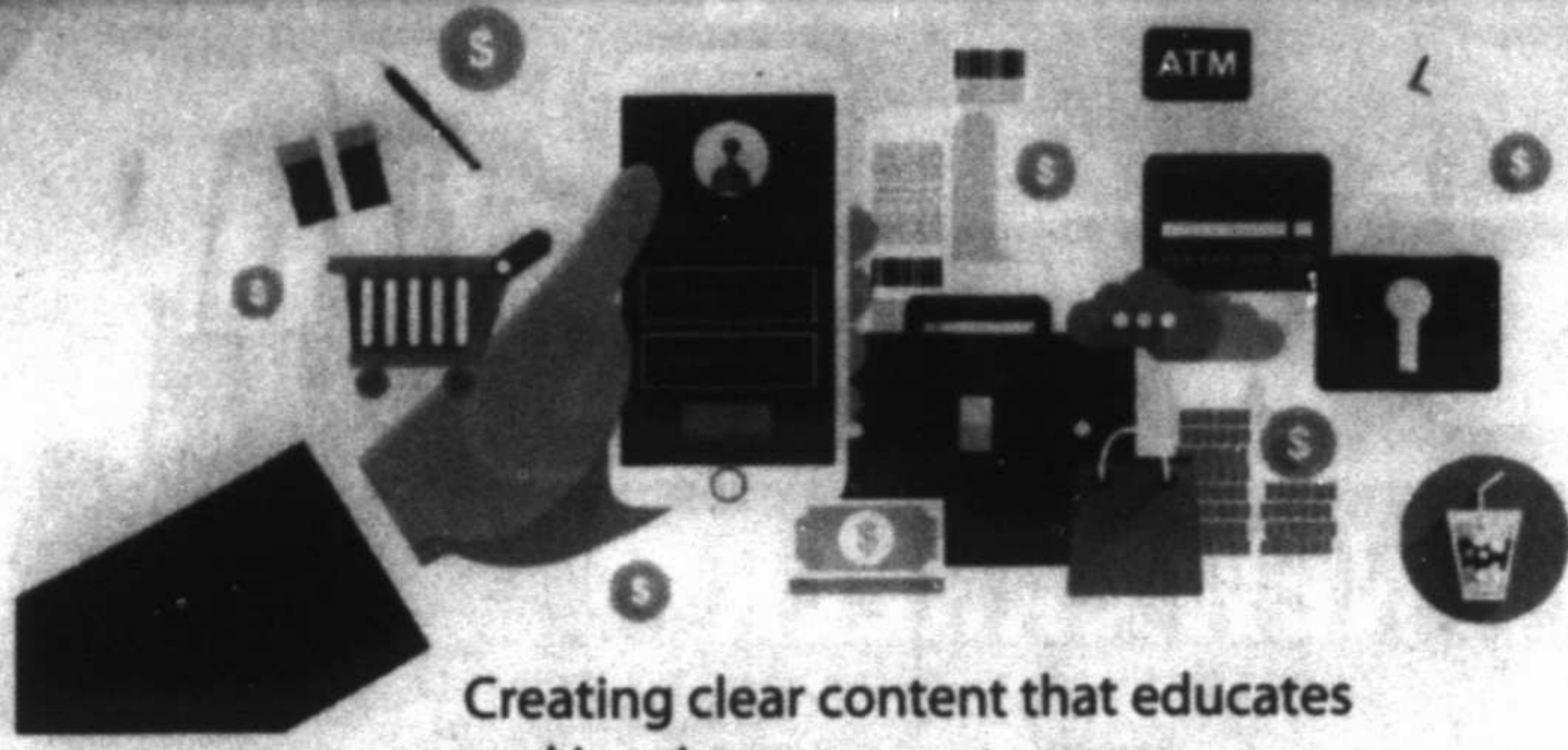




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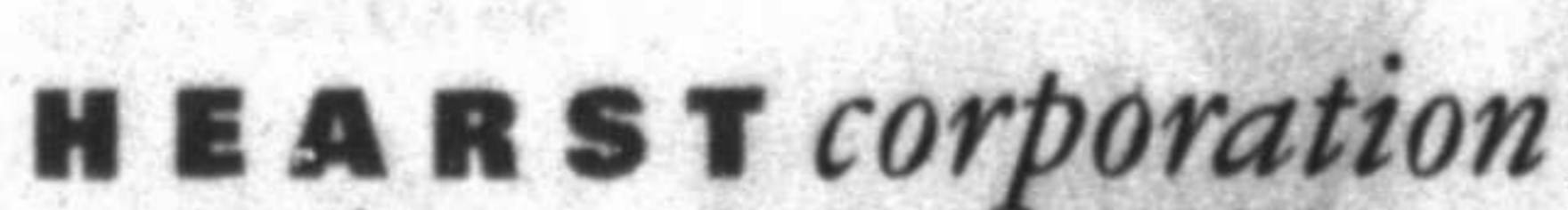
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