

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

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MEDIA COVERAGE

Brian Ross will no longer cover stories involving President Trump.

Page 8A



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Keep holidays happy by letting go of food guilt.

Page 1B

City: Arizona lawman is best to lead MPD

■ Steve Henry to assume position on Jan. 1

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

The last time the city of Midland went outside the police department to pick a

new chief was more than 30 years ago. But that was before Tuesday.

The city of Midland announced that former Arizona lawman Steve Henry has been selected as the new chief of the Midland Police Department. It marks the first time since Richard Czech was hired in 1986 that the city decided to go outside its ranks, and according to city officials,

that is how good of a candidate Henry is. City officials said Henry comes to Midland with 20 years of experience in law enforcement. Most recently, he served as chief deputy at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office in Arizona, a post he held for seven years before retiring in 2016.

"Overall, folks thought Steve's experience and background were going to be

the right fit (for the department) going forward," city spokeswoman Elana Ladd told the Reporter-Telegram.

The city said Henry will not be available for interviews about the new position "until he has had a chance to serve in it and make a fair assessment."

Please see HENRY/4A

GINGERBREAD HAVEN



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

A child helps decorate a gingerbread house at the Gingerbread Haven family house decorating party Tuesday evening at the Horseshoe Pavilion. A luncheon decorating party, also at the Pavilion earlier Tuesday, was part of the sixth annual Gingerbread Haven. Attendees at both sessions received premade gingerbread houses and were provided with everything needed to decorate them: chocolates, gummies, cereals, marshmallows and other edible decorations. Nearly 2,500 pounds of candy were ordered for this year's event, according to DiAnn Koehl, executive director of the nonprofit organization that serves single mothers and their children. More photos on Page 4A.

Investors, weary of poor returns, may slow shale's growth

By Alex Nussbaum
Bloomberg

Investor exhaustion with poor returns from the oil and gas industry may mean less financing to expand the U.S. shale boom next year, and less of a drive for consolidation.

After nearing a record in 2016, equity issues from U.S. oil and gas companies are on pace for an eight-year low this year, amid doubts about the stability of the rally in global crude prices. Mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings got

off to a strong start but petered out as the year wore on.

While explorers including Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and ConocoPhillips have preached the need for fiscal discipline, investors remain skeptical, said Bobby Tudor, chairman of Houston-based investment bank Tudor Pickering Holt & Co. That's tightened the flow of new money into the industry, and it's likely to chill deal-making as buyers and sellers alike wait for stock prices to rebound.

Please see GROWTH/2A

CO2 conference speakers: Oilfield experience provides key data

By Mella McEwen and Trevor Hawes
Reporter-Telegram

Basin oil and gas producers are just a few years into work understanding and developing residual oil zones — the zones of oil left behind millions of years ago when what ROZ experts call "Mother Nature's waterfloods" swept hydrocarbons to the east. Speakers at Tuesday's CO2 and ROZ conference updated attendees on the latest in data analysis, downhole equipment and activity related to ROZ development, with a focus on the horizontal San Andres formation.

"In this age of horizontal drilling, our industry is learning things about our reservoirs we could only speculate about before," said Steve Melzer, director of the annual conference at the Horseshoe Pavilion. He said producers' oilfield experience is providing information about ROZ, from coring and mud logging to drill stem testing and open-hole wireline logging.

John Allison, president of Firethorn Petroleum LLC, said, "We've learned a lot about the rock." He said ROZ porosity has different, and usually better, log characteristics and rock properties than main pay zones and that carbon dioxide is a great fluid to use in flooding the zones, with tremendous production response. Like Melzer, he said oilfield experience is providing key data about ROZs, from modern open-hole logs to cores and core photos.

"ROZ resources are very large in the Permian Basin, and potentially elsewhere," Allison said. The following are more takeaways from the conference:

■ **Oil in ROZs:** Bob Trentham, senior lecturer in geology at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and director of the university's Center for Energy and Economic Diversification, cited estimates that 56 fields in five major Permian Basin oil plays hold about 30.7 billion barrels of original oil in place in transition and residual oil zones.

■ **Tools at hand:** Robert Laronga with Schlumberger Well Services detailed the characterization tools needed to exploit ROZs, tools that are challenged to evaluate geology, petrophysics, geomechanics and reservoir monitoring.

The use of efficient logging methods — especially horizontal logging methods such as advanced acoustic logging, which provides essential information if a well was completed with multi-stage fracs — and microelectric imaging that identifies thief zones and helps with understanding of

Please see CO2/2A

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Price of oil

\$57.62 ▲ \$0.15
January 2018

Did you know?

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy seems conflicted in the wedding cake case. Page 5A

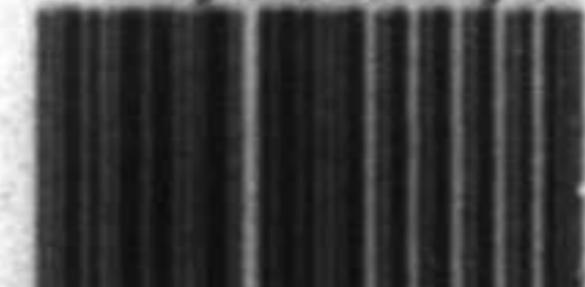
Word of the Day:

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

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Vol. 89, No. 278
Daily \$2, Sunday \$3



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Statue of WWII hero Doris Miller to be unveiled in Waco

By J.B. Smith
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — A larger-than-life Doris Miller is making his final road trip to Waco.

A 9-foot-tall bronze statue depicting the Waco-born World War II hero is set to be unveiled on the banks of the Brazos River on Thursday, which is Pearl Harbor Day.

The Waco Tribune-Herald reports the 4 p.m. unveiling ceremony at Bledsoe-Miller Park will feature local dignitaries, Miller family relatives and former crew members of the now-decommissioned USS Doris Miller.

The statue is a centerpiece of the Doris Miller Memorial, which has been years in the making and is still under construction. Officials have raised \$1.2 million for the first phase of the memorial and are hoping the installation of the statue will help them raise an additional \$600,000 to complete it with a stylized ship hull that will envelop the war hero.

"I think when people actually see it they will be excited about it," said Gerald Powell, a Baylor Law School professor who has raised funds for the project. "They will be anxious to see Doris Miller home on the banks of the Brazos and see this project come to fruition."

Memorial officials said they plan to dedicate Phase 1 on Memorial Day, and there's a chance the whole project could be done by then.

CO2

From 1A

diagenetic trends, are important. Laronga also cited development of downhole tools slim memory tools conveyed through bottom-hole assemblies and bits and slim memory advanced dipole sonic tools help provide advanced measurements.

■ **Cleaning up:** Lance Taylor, president and CEO of Steward Energy, said his company focuses on "unconventional development of conventional oil fields" as it focuses on plays in Yoakum, Cochran and Gaines counties in Texas and Lea County in New Mexico. However, the company has run into a bit of an unconventional or, at least, an unanticipated problem, scaling. Steward purchased Bronco Prospect wells from Roswell, New Mexico-based Manzano Energy, located in western Yoakum County. The company encountered significant calcium sulfate scaling that required a major cleanout. Twenty-four wells were identified as having limited production because of scale buildup.

To curb scaling issues with other wells, Steward treats frac fluid with chlorine dioxide before going

to downhole to eliminate sulfate-producing bacteria.

Danny Ratliff of Cudd Energy Services echoed these sentiments in his presentation. Ratliff said it's best practice to tackle calcium sulfate and calcium carbonate scaling, as well as paraffin inhibition, when fracturing, not afterward.

The cleanout cost Steward about \$250,000 per well but paid for itself because well production greatly improved.

■ **Best direction:** Steward also discovered that the direction drilled in the Bronco Prospect matters.

Taylor said during his presentation that drilling south to north yielded a higher estimated ultimate recovery (EUR). Seven north-to-south wells had an average EUR of 509,000 barrels of oil. Nine south-to-north wells had an average 656,000 barrels of oil.

■ **Evolving practices:** While slickwater fracs have largely replaced gelled and crosslinked frac fluids, Ratliff said gelled and crosslinked fracs are making a comeback when delivering proppant.

Also, Ratliff said companies should put more effort into frac stage placement and design because not all frac stages yield oil and gas recovery.

GROWTH

From 1A

"You've had a decoupling, where the companies have not followed oil prices higher and the investor apathy has been stunning," Tudor said in a telephone interview. "What investors are saying is that as soon as oil peaks its nose above the parapet of \$60 a barrel, the switch will go on and all those drilling rigs will go back to work."

West Texas Intermediate crude futures are trading near \$58 a barrel, up nearly 7 percent for the year, thanks to last week's decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers to extend their supply curbs through 2018. Still, as prices rise as a result, so do investor fears that shale drillers — companies used to emphasizing growth above all else — will refocus on boosting production.

Meanwhile, the S&P 500 Energy Index is down 7.5 percent for 2017. The skepticism has rippled through capital markets all year.

U.S. energy stock issues topped \$41 billion last year, as explorers including Anadarko, Devon Energy Corp. and Concho Resources Inc. looked to shore up finances amid weak oil prices or to fund their expansion into new shale plays. This year, offerings are down by half, at \$19.9 billion as of Monday. The number of issues is down as well, from 110 last year to 63 so far in 2017.

The industry has turned instead to debt financing, with high-yield energy bond issues almost doubling this year to more than \$50 billion, according to

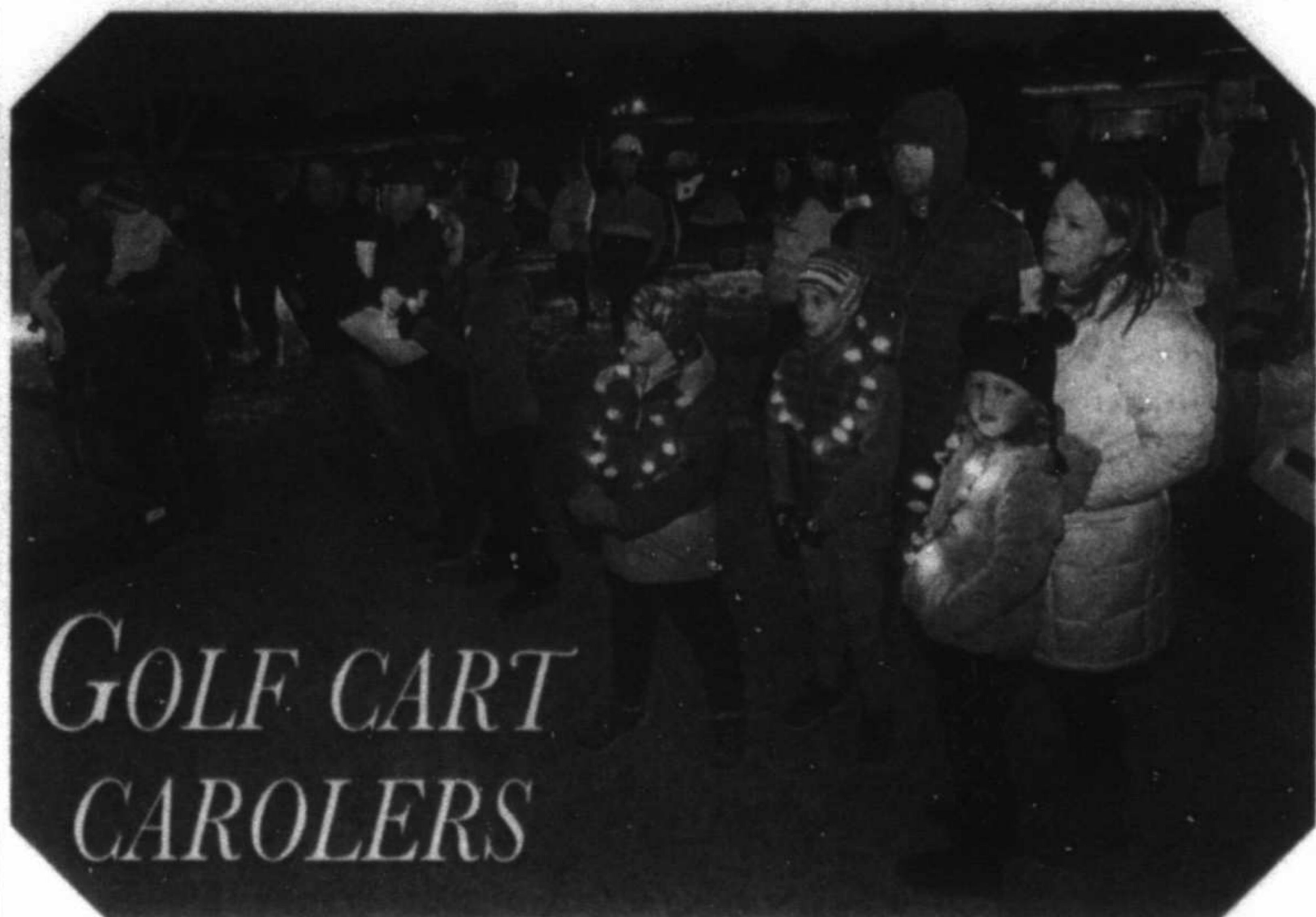
data compiled by Bloomberg. The bond numbers were inflated somewhat by a series of refinancing deals by top drillers, as well as a bevy of issues by pipeline companies.

Initial public offerings by U.S. oil and gas companies climbed in 2017, dominated by spinoffs of pipeline and infrastructure divisions by the likes of Hess Corp. and BP Plc. Still, IPOs trailed off in the second half of the year, with only one new issue so far in the fourth quarter — by Houston-based oilfield water-management business AQTWM Inc.

M&A followed the same pattern, surging early on as explorers shelled out billions for acreage in shale plays like the Permian Basin in West Texas and New Mexico. Activity tailed off as pessimism spread among investors. Would-be buyers found their stock prices no longer an attractive currency to finance deals, and sellers were unhappy with the offers they received, although private equity-backed transactions picked up some of the slack.

That's unlikely to change any time soon, said Tudor. With equity markets now focused on share buybacks, dividends and other returns, there's less appetite for acquisitions that simply grow a company's inventory of wells to drill, he said. Investors will need to see two to three quarters of fiscal discipline and growing cash flows before the climate shifts, he predicted.

"The equity window is closed," Tudor said. "The market is basically saying, 'No, I'd rather you grow less and actually give me back some money.'"



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Carolers gather outside residences along the golf course Tuesday during the annual Green Tree Country Club Golf Cart Caroling.

Appeals court weighs intent of Texas' strict voter ID law

By Kevin McGill
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A strict Texas voter ID law with a complicated legal history has been remedied with a provision that allows people who lack a required photo ID to vote if they sign an affidavit stating there was a reasonable impediment to them getting one, the state's solicitor general told a federal appeals court panel Tuesday in New Orleans.

The change renders moot any arguments against the law, passed in 2011 and reworked by the Texas Legislature in May after years of litigation, Scott Keller told a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The new law eliminates "any lingering burden" on voters who for some reason cannot obtain an ID, Keller said. The reworked version also created potential criminal punishments for anyone lying on the affidavit.

Tuesday's hearing came after the same Texas-based federal judge who blocked the tougher 2011 version of the law blocked the new version in August.

Opponents of the law said the injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Nelva

Gonzales Ramos should be upheld. They echoed Ramos' ruling that the law still requires IDs more likely to be possessed by white voters than Latinos or African-Americans.

The new law clarified that both U.S. passport books and cards would be accepted. But it didn't expand the list of seven acceptable IDs beyond those in the 2011 version of a law that critics said was the toughest voter ID law in the country.

Gonzales Ramos, who had likened the 2011 law to a "poll tax" on minority voters, said new criminal penalties for lying on the affidavit could scare away voters fearful of making an innocent mistake on the form.

Janai Nelson, an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, raised similar concerns Tuesday, saying the affidavit's warning could have a "chilling effect" on some minority voters.

"It takes back the very remedy that the state has provided," she told the panel. Judge Edith Jones frequently challenged the opponents — at one point noting that there was no evidence, amid "thousands of pages" documenting legislative work on the law, that discrimination was intended.


Chad Dunn, an attorney representing multiple challengers to the law, said the burden of proof was on the state to prove no discrimination was intended. He cited court precedents requiring that discriminatory provisions must be eliminated from the law "root and branch."

Gonzales Ramos had issued a permanent injunction against the new version of the law. Texas persuaded a three-judge 5th Circuit panel to halt her order in September, pending the current appeal. That panel voted 2-1 for the stay, with Judge James Graves dissenting.

A new panel was seated for Tuesday's hearing: Judges Patrick Higginbotham and Jones, both nominees of President Ronald Reagan; and Graves, nominated by President Barack Obama.

Texas argues that the affidavit allowing those without IDs to have the opportunity to vote renders challenges invalid.

"The Texas Legislature has substantially amended Texas election law to provide a safeguard for voters who do not have and cannot reasonably obtain a qualifying photo ID," a brief for the state says. "That substantial amendment alone moots the pending constitutional challenge."



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WORD OF THE DAY
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Jumburrito
Oceanicity
(oh-shuh-nis-i-tee, oh-shee-uh-)
noun
1. the degree to which the climate of a place is influenced by the sea.



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MAIN SWITCHBOARD
432-682-5311

PUBLISHER
Jeffrey Shabram 687-8880
jshabram@mrt.com

NEWSROOM
EDITOR
Stewart Doreen 687-8856
sdoreen@mrt.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Mary Dearen 687-8852
mdearen@mrt.com

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RETAIL ADS
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PRODUCTION
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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Memorial tree for local victims



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The Christmas tree to honor homicide victims was dedicated during a ceremony Tuesday at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

Things to do

- Storytime at the Library 10:30 a.m. (birth-2 years), 11:30 a.m. (2-6 years), Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N. Tickets required for later sessions due to limited space.
- Meditation with Art with Lynn Alsop, 6 p.m., Kamposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. \$5.
- Slugs and Bugs Live! Family Christmas Concert, 6:15 p.m., First Methodist Midland, 300 N. Main St. This multimedia performance mixes catchy Christmas songs, Bible memorization and - performers. \$5. Slugsandbugs.com.
- Kundalini Yoga with Kasie Lunson, 6:30 p.m., Kamposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. All levels are welcome. Bring a mat and dress in comfortable clothing. 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Kamposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. \$5.
- Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. \$6. For more information call 682-8595.
- Trivia Game Night, 7 p.m., True Texas BBQ, 5407 Andrews Highway, Free.
- "Dust 2 Glory" 7:30 p.m., Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. \$13.50. lathomevents.com
- Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment, 8 p.m., Torino's, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. challengeentertainment.com

Meetings

Midland College (special meeting)
4 p.m. Thursday
Gibson Board Room

Holiday events this week

Today
Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$56-117. wagnermoel.com.

Thursday
Cine Black's Holiday and Hits. Hudson Moore opens the show 8 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. \$35-875. wagnermoel.com

Midland College's Holiday Evening with a visit from Santa Claus.

art show and sale, music by the MC Jazz Band, hayrides and complimentary refreshments, 5:30-8 p.m., MC's Allison Fine Arts Building, 3600 N. Garfield St. midland.edu/holiday.

Friday
Torino's seventh annual Toy Drive Charity Benefit Party 8 p.m., The Boardroom, 3303 N. Midkiff Road. The event, hosted by party with a Purpose, will feature live music and silent auction. Bring a new unwrapped toy or \$10 donation to Torino's for entry.

Saturday
Fifth annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Run, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$35 members and \$40 nonmembers and \$40 members, \$45 nonmembers day of event. museumsw.org.

City of Midland Christmas Parade - Midland's Merry Emoj Christmas - along "A" Street from Ventura Avenue (near Windlands Park) to near Midland High School. Road closures along A Street will begin at 4 p.m.; drivers are advised to use an alternate route.

Grasslands Carriage Rides take guests on a tour of Christmas lights via horse-drawn carriage, 6:15-7:15 p.m., Lowe's Home Improvement, 3315 N. Loop 250 W. The rides benefit Vicky's Kids, a nonprofit home in Odessa for terminally ill children. For reservations and prices, call 940-3181.

Midland Community Band Christmas Concert, 7 p.m., Midland College's Allison Fine Arts Building, 3600 N. Garfield St. Free.

"The Nutcracker" by Midland Festival Ballet, 7:30 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, \$18.

midlandfestivalballet.org

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vickie Gomez (vimgo@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.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 5-7-4
Pick 3 day: 8-8-5
Pick 3 evening: 9-6-3
Pick 3 night: 3-6-4
Daily 4 morning: 9-8-0-0
Daily 4 day: 9-2-6-8
Daily 4 evening: 9-5-9-9
Daily 4 night: 7-8-2-6
Cash Five: 7-11-23-33-37
Triple Chance: 1-2-6-9-10-11
26-36-47-50

Weather

Tuesday's temperatures
High.....56
Low.....41
Normal high.....60
Normal low.....32

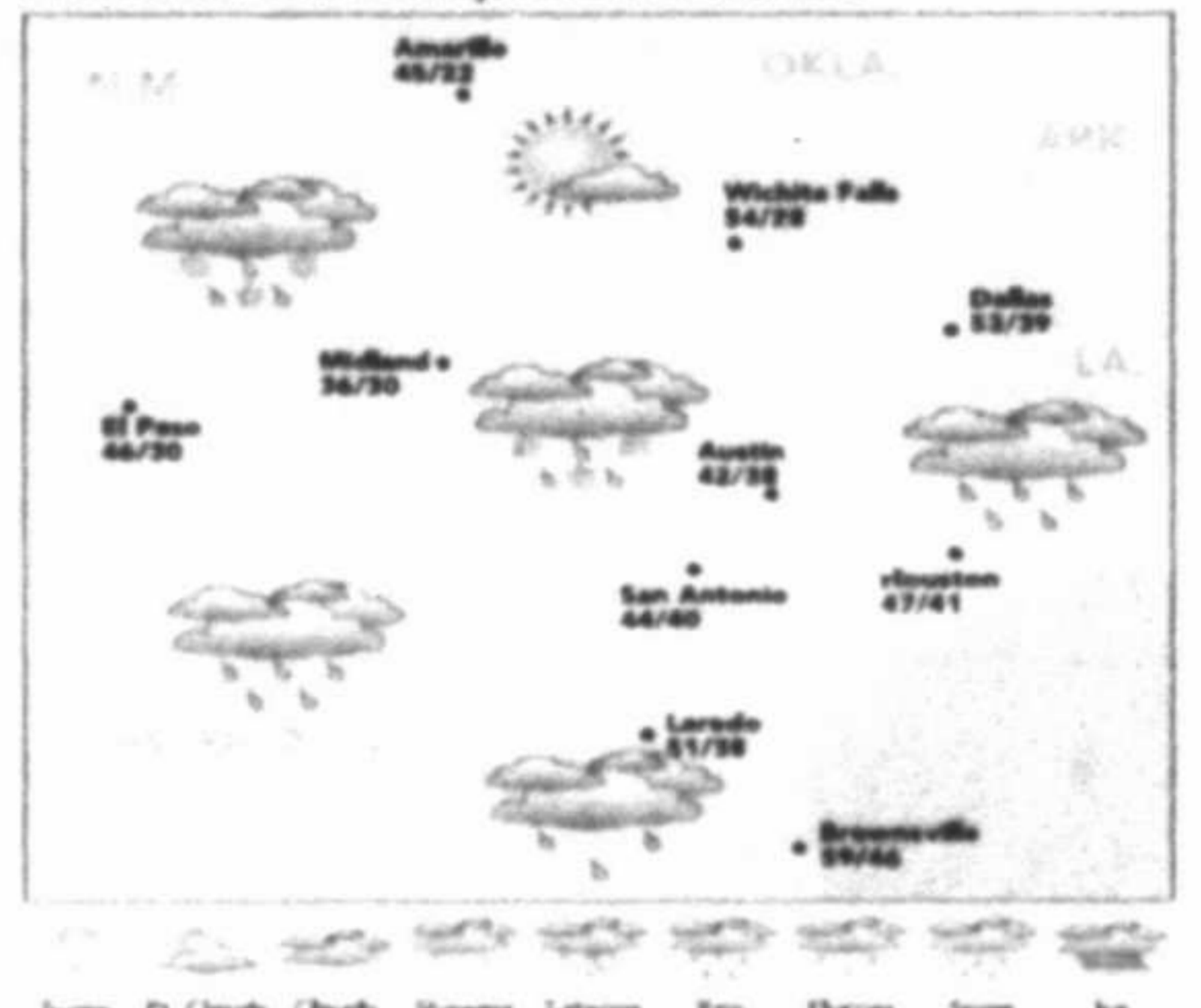
Dec. 5's records
Record high: 79 set in 1951
Record low: 78 set in 1950 and repeated in 2005

Precipitation
Monday.....0.00 in.
Tuesday.....0.00 in.
Month total.....0.00 in.
Year total.....17.34 in.
Normal total (year to date).....14.01 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 30 mph
Gust speed: 36 mph

Today's forecast
High: 35

Forecast for Wednesday, December 6, 2017



Low: 31
Conditions: 70 percent chance of rain, snow, sleet today/30 percent chance of snow tonight

Winds: North 5 mph today/northeast 5 mph tonight
Sunrise.....7:35 a.m.
Sunset.....5:44 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

A baby born today has a Sun in Sagittarius and a Moon in Cancer if born before 2:27 p.m. Afterward, the Moon will be in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017:
This year you open up to many new ideas. You often want to debate your point with others. Relating on a one-on-one level becomes even more important. You and a close loved one are often seen out and about together. If you are single, you will not be content that way for long, as you want a close relationship. Take your time before committing to any one person. If you are attached, look at planning an important, often-discussed vacation together. You both will have a great time choosing what you want to do. LEO energizes you and makes you laugh.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
***** You might keep trying to resolve a domestic matter, to no avail. Create more space for yourself and the other party involved. Curb a tendency to be argumentative at times. Others could be highly combative and volatile right now. Tonight: Let go of issues, and take a midweek break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** You have the ability

to keep a conversation open and easy. Nevertheless, some sharp comments could come out. Be gracious, and ignore any harsh remarks, focusing on them will just create an even bigger problem. A partner has a way of energizing you. Tonight: Take it easy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Note a tendency to become possessive and touchy. These feelings will pass as soon as you feel better about yourself. Open up a conversation later in the day. You have abundant energy, which allows you to complete a lot of errands. Tonight: Reach out to a close loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Tension easily could build as the day goes on. Detach from difficult associates who often annoy you. Your creativity flows, and you seem to have the right response no matter what goes on. A family member tries to break past an important boundary. Tonight: Get into the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** You might want to try a new approach. Fatigue could get the best of you in the morning. By the afternoon, you'll start feeling more like

yourself. Note that others seem to respond to you differently. A matter involving real estate is resolvable. Tonight: Out and about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Use the daytime hours to the max. You will have more energy and can accomplish a lot more. As a result, you'll feel better than you have in a while. Others remain highly responsive to you, especially if you let go of being so critical. Tonight: Keep your feet up and relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** You could have a lot on your plate; in fact, you might consider lightening the load. A partner is likely to take your request for fewer responsibilities as a complaint or lack of appreciation. Express yourself clearly, and don't back down. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Eye the big picture

in a situation where a decision seems inevitable. Once you can identify with others, you will come up with an unusual yet effective solution. Do not push an associate, unless you want open rebellion. You feel energized at the moment. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** One-on-one relating becomes more powerful than it has been in the past. The other party involved seems more willing to express him- or herself. You have a sense of humor and a perspective that will carry you through the worst scenarios. Tonight: Escape and be entertained.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** You might be fussy and difficult if others approach you in a way that you don't appreciate. You could be missing out on some good news if you are too fussy. A partner has an issue to share with you that has

depth. Listen carefully. Tonight: Make time for a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Pace yourself and accomplish as much as possible. Your temper could be easily triggered. Opportunities seem to emerge from out of left field. Understand what a higher-up really wants from you. Once you do, you will handle the situation with ease. Tonight: Sort through offers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** Your ability to work through a problem emerges. You creatively will find your way to a solution. If you detach, you will find yet another route to a workable outcome. Trust your sixth sense, in any case, as you will only gain as a result. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

BORN TODAY
Politician Andrew Cuomo (1957), actress Janine Turner (1962), guitarist Randy Rhoads (1956)

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6th annual *Gingerbread Haven* fundraiser



Photos by James Durbin/Reporter Telegram

HENRY

From 1A

He is scheduled to assume the post on Jan. 1. He takes over for Price Robinson, who retired in August after serving as chief for eight years. Henry will oversee all aspects of the department and its 243 employees.

"Midland is a town where anything is possible through hard work and opportunity," Henry said in a press release. "As police chief, I intend to use the opportunity entrusted to me to ensure all Midlanders feel safe and able to pursue their goals. I am truly honored to serve in this role."

The finalists included Midland Police Department Deputy Police Chief Jeff Darr, a 30-year veteran of the police department. Darr has served as deputy chief since 2009 and is well-respected in law

Former MPD chiefs

■ L.P. McCasland, April 6-Sept. 1, 1941
 ■ L.J. Tyson, Oct. 31, 1942-Jan. 29, 1943
 ■ Jack Ellington, Jan. 29, 1943-June 15, 1951
 ■ C.R. "Rube" Hemingway, June 16, 1951-April 25, 1952
 ■ Harold S. Wallace, May 22, 1952-May 31, 1976

■ Wayne Gideon, May 31, 1976-June 30, 1988
 ■ Richard Casch, Dec. 1, 1986-Nov. 30, 1997
 ■ John Urby, Dec. 1, 1997-April 30, 2007
 ■ Price Robinson, Dec. 16, 2008-Aug. 31, 2017

Source: City of Midland

enforcement circles in the community.

The other finalists were Sam Dotson of St. Louis; Bill Heim of Reading, Pennsylvania; and Glen Fowler of Watauga. Henry had been a finalist for the police chief position in Killeen earlier this year, according to the Casa Grande Dispatch newspaper in Arizona.

"We are very excited to welcome Steve Henry to Midland. His experience and background make him a great choice," Ladd said in a press release. "We

were fortunate to have a pool of talented individuals apply; ultimately we felt that Steve was the best candidate to lead the department both now and into the future."

Before his time with Pinal County, Henry served with the Chandler (Arizona) Police Department for 14 years and held various positions in Community Services, Traffic and SWAT.

City Council will consider the ratification of Henry's hire at its Dec. 12 meeting.

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Kennedy seems conflicted in wedding cake case

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On a sharply divided Supreme Court, the justice in the middle seemed conflicted Tuesday in the court's high-stakes consideration of a baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple in 2012.

The court's fault lines were laid bare in a riveting argument that focused equally on baker Jack Phillips' right to refuse to put his artistic talents to use in support of something in which he disagrees and the Colorado couple's right to be treated like any other two people who wanted a cake to celebrate their marriage.

Both views were reflected in the questions and comments of Justice Anthony Kennedy, the author of all the court's major gay-rights decisions and a fierce defender of free speech. The outcome of the case seemed to rest with the 81-year-old justice, who often finds himself with the decisive vote in cases that otherwise divide the court's conservatives and liberals.

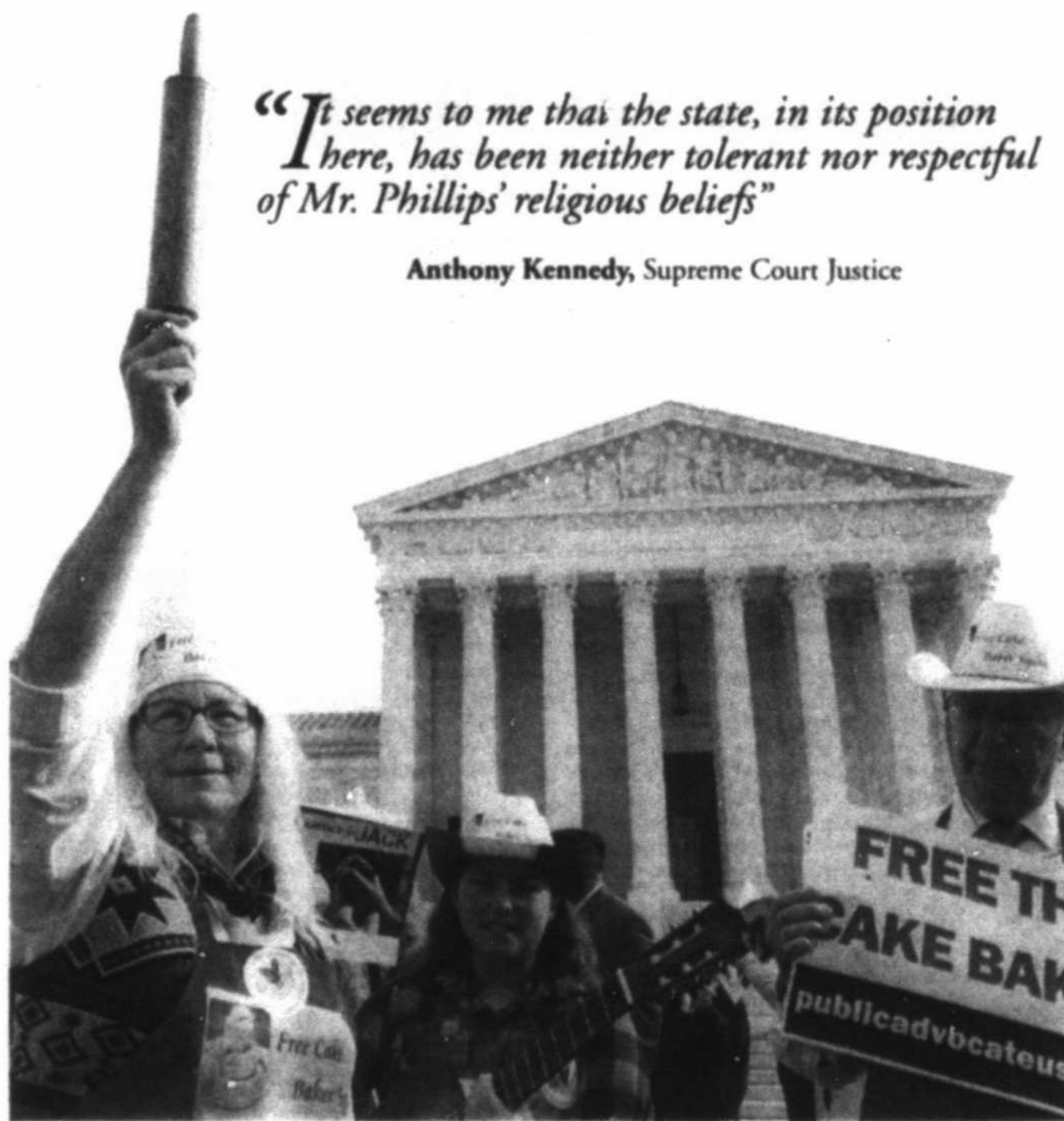
Phillips and the couple, Charlie Craig and David Mullins, were in the courtroom for arguments in the closely watched case that could affect other situations where there's a clash between social conservatives' claim of religious freedom and the LGBT community's fight to preserve hard-won rights.

President Donald Trump's administration is supporting Phillips in his argument that he can't be forced to create a cake that violates his religious beliefs. It appears to be the first time the federal government has asked the justices to carve out an exception from an anti-discrimination law.

On the one hand, Kennedy pointed to photographers, florists, graphic designers and even jewelers who might likewise be able to refuse working on a same-sex wedding if the court rules for Phillips.

"It means that there's basically an ability to boycott gay marriages," said the author of the 2015 opinion extending same-sex marriage nationwide.

If you win, Kennedy asked Solicitor General Noel Francisco, could the baker put a sign in his



Jacquelyn Martin/Associated Press

Mary Torres of Falls Church, Va., left, with her daughter Maria Torres, and Eugene Deigaudio, holds up a rolling pin in support of cake artist Jack Phillips on Tuesday while outside of the Supreme Court during the 'Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission' case in Washington.

"It seems to me that the state, in its position here, has been neither tolerant nor respectful of Mr. Phillips' religious beliefs"

Anthony Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice

window: "We do not bake cakes for gay weddings?"

When Francisco said that would be permissible, Kennedy said, "And you would not think that an affront to the gay community?"

Francisco replied that there "are dignity interests on the other side here, too."

On the other hand, Kennedy criticized the Colorado Civil Rights Commission that found Phillips violated the state's anti-discrimination law.

"It seems to me that the state, in its position here, has been neither tolerant nor respectful of

Mr. Phillips' religious beliefs," Kennedy said. Craig and Mullins, he noted, could have been served by "other good bakery shops that were available" in the Denver suburbs.

Protesters on both sides filled the sidewalk in front of the court shortly before the start of the argument.

"We got Jack's back," Phillips' supporters said. Backers of Craig and Mullins countered: "Love wins."

Inside the packed courtroom, the liberal justices peppered Kristina Waggoner, Phillips' lawyer, and Francisco with ques-

tions about how to draw a line to accommodate Phillips without eviscerating laws that require businesses that are open to the public to serve all customers.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan ticked off other categories of people who are involved in weddings to ask if they, too, might be able to refuse a same-sex couple.

A hair stylist? A makeup artist?

No, Waggoner said, "because it is not speech."

Kagan replied: "Some people might say that about cakes, you know?"

More generally, Justice Stephen Breyer said, "What is the line? That's what everybody is trying to get to."

When Colorado Solicitor General Frederick Yarger and the American Civil Liberties Union's David Cole stood up to defend the commission's ruling against Phillips, the conservative justices pounced.

Because same-sex marriage was not yet legal in Colorado in 2012, Justice Samuel Alito noted, Craig and Mullins could not have obtained a marriage license where they lived or gotten a local official to marry them. Yet Phillips supposedly "committed a grave wrong" when he refused to make them a cake, Alito said. That struck him as unfair, he said.

Chief Justice John Roberts pressed both Cole and Yarger on whether a Roman Catholic legal services agency that provides free aid would have to take up a case involving a same-sex couple despite the religious opposition to gay marriage.

Yes, Cole said, "if they've provided the same services to couples who are straight."

Colorado native Neil Gorsuch, taking part in the most important gay rights case since he joined the Supreme Court in April, asked Cole whether a baker who made a cake shaped like a red cross to celebrate relief efforts would have to make the same cake for the Ku Klux Klan.

Cole said no because Colorado's anti-discrimination law refers to race, sex and sexual orientation, among other categories, but does not protect KKK members.

One other possible result that emerged from the argument is that the justices could return the case to the Colorado commission for reconsideration if the court finds its first decision was tainted by the religious bias of a commissioner. Kennedy described comments made by one of the seven Colorado commissioners in the case as hostile to religion.

Colorado is among only 21 states with statewide laws barring discrimination against gays in public accommodations.

The case, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, 16-111, will be decided by late June.

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Midland College main campus Allison Fine Arts Building

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Hayrides (donations encouraged)
Visits With Santa 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Checked children will be escorted to parents within one week)

Midland College

OPINION

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

Michael Flynn didn't violate the Logan Act

■ The lie was apparently greater than the crime

In December 2016, Michael Flynn was three weeks from becoming the national security adviser to the next president of the United States.

This is a pertinent fact in evaluating the conduct underlying his plea deal with Robert Mueller. Flynn admitted to lying to FBI agents about his contacts with Russia and other foreign governments during the transition. He's paying a steep price for his dishonesty, but from what we know so far, it's not clear what's supposed to be the larger scandal.

In these conversations, Flynn didn't "collude" with the Russians about hacked emails. He informed them of Donald Trump's posture on a policy question. Flynn went beyond the anodyne foreign contacts typical of a transition. This may be inappropriate, but it isn't a scandal or — as the more outlandish anti-Trumpists argue — a violation of federal law.

Flynn's most controversial act came after the Obama administration announced Russia sanctions on Dec. 29. At that point, President Barack Obama had exactly 22

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate



days left in office. This isn't usually the juncture at which administrations launch new foreign-policy ventures, for the obvious reason that they aren't going to constitute the government of the United States much longer.

Usually, everyone realizes that the incoming administration has its own prerogatives that deserve respect. When the outgoing administration of George H.W. Bush embarked on the humanitarian intervention in Somalia in December 1992, it coordinated with the incoming Bill Clinton team, which supported and continued the mission.

Obama's sanctions weren't undertaken in a cooperative spirit — in fact, the opposite. As The New York Times reported at the time, it appeared Obama "intended to box in President-elect Trump, who will

now have to decide whether to lift the sanctions on Russian intelligence agencies when he takes office next month."

Flynn's resulting communications with the Russian ambassador, Sergey Kislyak, wouldn't be considered an outrage in a less poisonous political environment.

One, Flynn had no power to vitiate the Obama sanctions in late December 2016. All he could do was urge the Russians, in the words of Robert Mueller's statement of offense, "not to escalate the situation and only respond to the U.S. in a reciprocal manner." It's hard to see how asking for a reciprocal response from the Russians undermined Obama policy, unless the entire point was to create a spiraling blowup with the Kremlin at the outset of the new administration.

Two, the message Flynn delivered couldn't have been news to the Russians. Trump had been broadcasting as loudly as possible for a year and a half that he wanted a rapprochement with the Russians, and he tweeted praise of Vladimir Putin after Russia didn't retaliate.

Three, the Obama sanctions weren't exactly a major departure. President Obama expelled 35 suspected Russian operatives, closed down two Russian estates

in the U.S. and sanctioned a grand total of four Russian intelligence officials. If this felt like a rushed, last-minute gesture toward taking Russia's malice seriously after looking the other way for years, it's because it was.

Finally, whatever Flynn told the Russians wasn't as important as the fact that in less than 30 days, President Trump would have the authority to pursue any policy he wanted, from Reset Redux to Cold War 2.0.

The idea that Flynn could be prosecuted under the Logan Act for his role is a fevered fantasy. The last time anyone was indicted under the act was 1803, and the statute is meant to prevent private meddling in U.S. foreign policy, not to tie the hands of high-level officials of an incoming administration.

The fact remains that Flynn lied to the FBI about his conversation with Kislyak regarding the sanctions (and also regarding an anti-Israel U.N. resolution). Perhaps Flynn felt a cognizance of guilt for reasons that aren't immediately apparent, and perhaps he knows worse things about the Trump transition and the campaign. For now, his untruths look much more blameworthy than his actions.

OUR VIEW

Community is responsible for size of its bond debt

The Texas Bond Review Board offered hundreds of millions of reasons for this community to be mindful of a debt situation. The TBRB reports that as of Aug. 31, Midland's five taxing entities had accumulated \$496 million in principal to pay off and \$747.8 million in total payments (principal, plus interest). That figure does not include debt that will be racked up because of the voter-approved road bond. As it was reported in Tuesday's Reporter-Telegram, the total committed debt payments will eclipse \$900 million and approach \$1 billion.

That should be an eye-opening statistic — \$1 billion. Is this the end? Those working for local government won't say that's the case. Those representing the people of Midland aren't likely to go out on that limb, either. At least that has been our experience over the years. They haven't provided an answer to how much is too much. It won't matter if that figure is \$1 billion or even \$1.5 billion, which isn't far-fetched.

These entities' employees and elected representatives usually will point to credit ratings and similar indicators as their measuring stick. Midland Independent School District currently leads local taxing entities in total principal and total payments owed. MISD sent out a release last week stating that both Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Global Ratings have declared that the district has a "stable outlook" moving forward.

As has become routine when discussing bond debt, we encourage our readers to consider all available information when deciding how much is too much. There are still projects to come down the pike in 2018 or 2019, and hundreds of millions of dollars in new debt could be attached to those initiatives. Debt should be considered — specifically the amount of debt that is appropriate for Midland.

It was that way before the most recent road bond election (\$100 million), before the 2012 MISD election (\$163 million), the 2009 hospital district election (\$110 million), the 2005 Midland College election (\$45 million) and the 2003 MISD bond election (\$63 million). It should be that way now as we consider future challenges. And that brings us to our next point.

When talking about debt, we think it is important for residents to remember that most of the debt (principal and interest) was voter-approved. With the exception of tens of millions of dollars in certificates of obligation approved by the Midland City Council, Midland voters signed off on the debt this community faces. So, this isn't Washington. We are in control of how extensive our debt is and will be.

Lastly, we mention all this because debt is part of the local government process. Ultimately, residents are in control of the process. And doing something about the amount of debt is about resident participation. So we again encourage all residents to participate in the process. If you don't, someone else will be glad to make the decision for you.

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Website: midlandtexas.gov
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TO OUR READERS

Opinions, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the author's or artist's views and not necessarily the view of the Reporter-Telegram.



White House moves more goal posts

■ The administration's latest fallback: Who cares if Trump colluded with Russia?

At first, it was all so simple. The Trump White House said there were "no contacts" — zero, zilch — between Trump's campaign and Russia. But in time this elegant defense encountered a formidable opponent: reality.

And so for a year now, Trump and his advisers, facing mounting evidence of their campaign's entanglement with Russia, have redrawn lines of defense and revised talking points with such daring that it has amounted to a veritable Marshall Plan for the moving of goal posts.

As details of campaign contacts with Russia piled up, Trump and his officials instead said there had been "no collusion." As more evidence came in showing attempts at high-level collusion, the White House retreated to another line of defense: Trump himself didn't collude. "Nothing about the actual facts published to date suggests that the president ... colluded with anybody," was White House lawyer Ty Cobb's careful phrasing.

Now, with four Trump campaign officials indicted and two of them, including Trump's former national security adviser, pleading guilty, even that distinction no longer seems safe.

One of Trump's attorneys, Jay Sekulow, just told the New Yorker that it doesn't matter whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia, because "there is no crime of collusion." Another Trump attorney, John Dowd, told Axios that technically the president "cannot obstruct justice, because he is the chief law enforcement officer."

A year after the Trump team debuted its "no contacts" defense, the attenuated new White House position amounts to this: Who cares whether Trump colluded with Russia and obstructed justice?

It has been quite a journey. Let's recall some scenic vistas.

Original position: "There was no communication between the campaign and any foreign entity during the campaign."

Revised position: Carter Page traveled to Russia when he was a Trump campaign adviser, but he was only "a low-level volunteer." Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russians, but he was only in a "voluntary position." Former campaign manager Paul Manafort was indicted in the Russia probe, but this doesn't count because "he was replaced long before the election."

Original position: Attorney General Jeff Sessions "did not have communications with the Russians."

Revised position: Sessions "did meet one Russian official a couple of times." But Sessions conducted no "improper discussions with Russians."

Revised position 2: Sessions does "not recall any discussions" with Russians "regarding the political campaign." But he does recall that he had no conversations with Russians "concerning any type of interference with any campaign."

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group



Original position: Donald Trump Jr. did not set up meetings with Russians, or if he did he wasn't "representing the campaign in any way, shape or form."

Revised position: The campaign meeting he set up with Russians was about "adoption of Russian children."

Revised position 2: The "adoption" meeting was with a Russian attorney promising Russian government dirt on Clinton. But Trump Jr. received "no meaningful information."

Original position: President Trump was "not involved" in the false Trump Jr. statement alleging the meeting was about adoption.

Revised position: Trump "weighed in, as any father would."

Original position: When Michael Flynn, incoming national security adviser, called the Russian ambassador during the transition, they "did not discuss anything having to do with" Russia sanctions.

Revised position: Flynn "couldn't be certain that the topic never came up."

Revised position 2: Flynn "inadvertently briefed the vice president elect and others with incomplete information."

Revised position 3: Flynn "lied to the vice president and the FBI."

Original position: A report that Jared Kushner suggested a secret, secure "communications channel" with Russia was based on "a lot of facts that are not substantiated."

Revised position: Kushner asked the Russian ambassador whether he had a "communications channel" that could be used to relay information from the Kremlin.

Original position: FBI Director James Comey's firing "had zero to do" with Russia investigation.

Revised position: Trump cited "this Russia thing" in firing Comey.

But there is one position on the scandal Trump hasn't changed — his reluctance to accept what the entire intelligence community and his own CIA director do: That Russia meddled in the election.

Position: Election hackers could have been "somebody sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds."

Position: U.S. intelligence agencies were led by "political hacks" and employ "the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction."

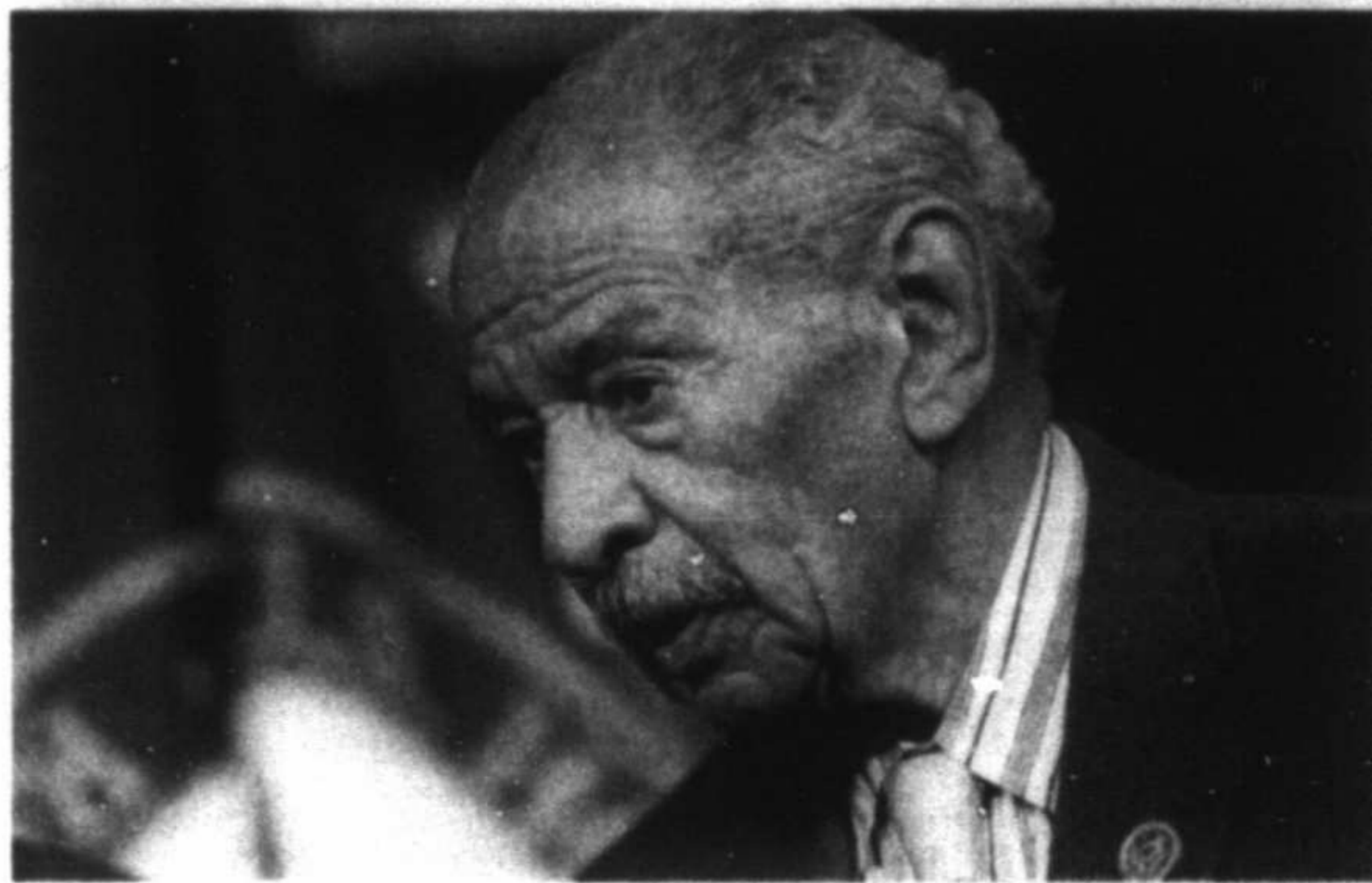
Position: Vladimir Putin "said he absolutely did not meddle in our election" and "I really believe that when he tells me that he means it." That's the exception that proves the rule.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore





J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., attends a news conference Feb. 14 on Capitol Hill in Washington. Besieged by allegations of sexual harassment, Conyers resigned from Congress on Tuesday, bringing an abrupt end to the civil rights leader's nearly 53-year career on Capitol Hill.

Conyers resigns from Congress amid harassment allegations

By Corey Williams and Richard Lardner

Associated Press

DETROIT — Democratic Rep. John Conyers resigned from Congress on Tuesday after a nearly 53-year career, becoming the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job in the torrent of sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation's workplaces.

The 88-year-old civil rights leader and longest-serving member of the House announced what he referred to as his "retirement" on Detroit talk radio, while continuing to deny he groped or sexually harassed women who worked for him.

"My legacy can't be compromised or diminished in any way by what we're going through now," said the congressman, who called into the radio show from the hospital where he was taken last week after complaining of lightheadedness. "This, too, shall pass. My legacy will continue through my children."

He endorsed his son John Conyers III to succeed him.

Conyers, who was first elected in 1964 and went on to become a founding member in 1971 of the Congressional Black Caucus, easily won re-election last year to his 27th term in his heavily Democratic district in and around Detroit.

But after being publicly accused by one woman after another in recent weeks, he faced growing calls to resign from colleagues in the House, including Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

As the furor grew, he stepped down as the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, and the Ethics Committee began investigating him.

Democratic Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York said he was saddened by the resignation of his "friend and mentor" but added: "There can be no tolerance for behavior that subjects women to the kind of conduct that has been alleged."

It will be up to Republican Gov. Rick Snyder to set a date for a special election to pick someone to serve out the remaining year in Conyers' two-year term. State Sen. Ian Conyers, a grandson of Conyers' brother, said he plans to run for the seat.

On Monday, yet another allegation was lodged against Conyers, when a woman who said she worked for him for more than a decade, Elisa Grubbs, said he slid his hand up her skirt and rubbed her thighs while she was sitting next to him in the front row of a church.

Grubbs also said she repeatedly saw Conyers touching and stroking the legs and buttocks of other female staffers. Such behavior "was a regular part of life while working in the office of Rep. Conyers," she said.

Grubbs is the cousin of another accuser, Marion Brown, who reached a confidential, taxpayer-funded settlement of more than \$27,000 over allegations Conyers sexually harassed her. That settlement came to light in mid-November, setting off the cascade of allegations against the

congressman.

At least two other women who worked for him have accused him of sexual misconduct.

"This is about much more than one congressman," Grubbs' attorney, Lisa Bloom, said in an email after Conyers resigned. "Systemic change is urgently needed so no other women have to endure the retaliation, secrecy and delays my client Marion Brown and others experienced."

While Hollywood and media titans accused of sexual misconduct have been swiftly fired in recent weeks, including studio boss Harvey Weinstein and TV news hosts Matt Lauer and Charlie Rose, that has not been the case in Congress, where lawmakers have spoken of due process and clung to the argument that the voters have the final say.

Democratic Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota, Republican Rep. Blake Farenthold of Texas and Democratic Rep. Ruben Kihuen of Nevada have all rebuffed calls to step down, though Barton has said he won't seek re-election next year.

Conyers said in a statement read Tuesday on the floor of the House that he was resigning "to preserve my legacy and good name."

He also complained that he was not being afforded due process to defend himself, and cited his health problems as another factor in his decision. He added that he hopes his retirement will be viewed in the "larger perspective" of his more than 50 years as a lawmaker.

Conyers regularly won elections with more than 80 percent of the vote.

He co-sponsored a 1972 resolution recommending President Richard Nixon's impeachment for his con-

duct of the Vietnam War and regularly introduced a bill from 1989 onward to study the harm caused by slavery and the possibility of reparations to the descendants of slaves.

After a 15-year struggle, Conyers succeeded in establishing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a federal holiday in 1986. He employed civil rights legend Rosa Parks at his Detroit district office for more than two decades.

Word of Conyers' resignation was met with sadness among House Democrats. The uproar had divided members of his party, especially those in the Congressional Black Caucus. Pelosi, too, had struggled, calling Conyers an "icon" before pressing days later for him to go.

"Congressman Conyers has served in the Congress for more than five decades, and shaped some of the most consequential legislation of the last half century," Pelosi said following his retirement. "But no matter how great the legacy, it is no license to harass or discriminate. The brave women who came forward... were owed the justice of this announcement."

The furor over Conyers unfolded as the sexual misconduct allegations against Franken and Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore sent members of both parties rushing to choose sides.

"I think that we lose our moral authority if we also don't call out those we love who have done things that are bad," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash. "I think we have to recognize and be able to hold the dueling possibilities that somebody can be a great man and have done great things for our country and for civil rights but also have done terrible things that require accountability."

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Leaders seek to end GOP fissures over bill averting shutdown

By Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top Republicans tried quelling GOP divisions over the budget and a partisan immigration clash simmered in the background as leaders labored Tuesday to push a short-term spending bill through Congress by week's end and avert a partial government shutdown.

Republican leaders postponed a planned House vote on the temporary spending measure from today until Thursday, buying time to iron out disputes with conservatives seeking tighter budget curbs. The delay underscored the clout conservatives wield within the House GOP as leaders work to avoid a shutdown that would deal the latest blow to a party that has strained all year to show it can govern effectively.

There seemed to be little taste by most in either party, at least for now, to shutter agency doors with 2018 midterm elections for control of Congress coming into view. That included at the White House, where President Donald Trump often revels in conflict and unpredictable tactics that members of his own party consider counterproductive.

"It's always a possibility, but it's certainly not what we hope for," White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said of a potential shutdown. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., will join GOP leaders for a White House meeting with Trump on Thursday, and Sanders said. "The president hopes to be able to have conversations with them to make sure that doesn't happen."

Schumer couldn't resist touting his and Pelosi's abrupt refusal to attend a budget summit last week after Trump disparaged their views on immigration and taxes and said no deal was in sight. "We showed the president. No games. This is serious stuff. We think he learned and he invited us back," Schumer told reporters.

Money for federal agencies runs out at midnight Friday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Republicans hope Congress will pass legislation this week financing federal agencies until Dec. 22, giving bargainers time to make longer-term budget decisions and address other issues that have floated into the year-end mix.

Without support from their own conservatives, House GOP leaders would need backing from Democrats to push the temporary measure through the chamber. Democratic votes will definitely be crucial in the Senate, where Republicans by themselves lack the

60 votes needed to approve the legislation.

Knowing that, Democrats are using their leverage to try forcing concessions to boost domestic spending in areas like health care and infrastructure. Hinting that they might back a short-term measure preventing a shutdown, Schumer said approving such a bill "gives us a little more time to do the things we're talking about now."

Democrats also want a bipartisan deal extending a program halted by Trump that lets hundreds of thousands of immigrants who arrived illegally as children stay in the U.S. Highlighting the intricate balancing act GOP leaders face, 34 House Republicans sent a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., urging him to hold a vote by year's end on renewing those protections.

The fate of the immigration dispute remained unclear. Schumer said bipartisan talks are "moving in the right direction."

But No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said Republicans oppose mixing the immigration issue into the budget talks because it could cause a shutdown that would "jeopardize our national security and other government functions, just in order to help these young adults." He added, "We do want to resolve this, but it's not going to be before the end of this year."

Besides temporarily financing the government, McConnell said, the short-term measure would make cash available to several states that are running out of money for the Children's Health Insurance Program. That widely popular program helps provide medical care to more than 8 million children.

Members of the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, who met Tuesday with Ryan, have been pushing to extend the short-term measure until Dec. 30. They have argued that the leaders' preferred Dec. 22 deadline gives Democrats leverage because lawmakers are tempted to give in and go home for Christmas.

Most Republicans seemed to not be buying that argument and said the Dec. 22 date seemed likeliest. Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., head of the Freedom Caucus, said his group was having "a good, healthy discussion" with leaders about ways to "fund the government without putting our military at a disadvantage." Many Republicans are eager to quickly approve full-year funding for the military, despite ongoing bargaining over domestic programs.

With the budget chafing under spending caps imposed by a 2011 bipartisan budget deal, Democrats want defense and domestic programs to get equal funding increases. Both sides are also looking for additional money for states battered by recent storms.

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Fred Lee/ABC via AP, file

In this photo, provided by ABC, correspondent Brian Ross speaks in 2015 on "Good Morning America," which airs on the ABC Television Network, in New York. Ross will no longer cover stories involving President Donald Trump following his erroneous report last Friday on former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

ABC says Ross will no longer cover stories involving Trump

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Suspended ABC News reporter Brian Ross will no longer cover stories involving President Donald Trump following his erroneous report last Friday on former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

The network on Tuesday confirmed the order by ABC News President James Goldston, who expressed his anger over the error on an internal phone call that was leaked to CNN. ABC declined to make Goldston available for an interview on Tuesday.

Ross was suspended for four weeks without pay over the weekend. He had reported incorrectly that Trump, when he was still a candidate for president, had told Flynn to make contact with the Russians. That would have been a big development in the ongoing investigation over whether the Trump campaign worked with the Russians to influence the election.

Instead, Ross later corrected his story, based on an unnamed source, to say that Trump's instructions came when he was president-elect, not a candidate.

It was immediately seized upon by Trump as an example of "fake news," even with a suggestion that the false report was a factor in Friday's stock market tumble. Trump tweeted on Sunday that anyone who lost money in the stock market on Friday should consider suing ABC for damages.

In the staff call reported by CNN, Goldston said he didn't think he had ever felt more rage, disappointment and

frustration as he did in the aftermath of the botched report.

"I don't even know how many times we've talked about this, how many times we have talked about the need to get it right," he said. "That how we have to be right and not first. About how in this particular moment, with the stakes as high as these stakes are right now, we cannot afford to get it wrong."

He also expressed frustration about why it took the network several hours to correct the report. ABC did not dispute CNN's reporting about Goldston's comments.

The mistake came at a time that the impact of Trump's attacks on the media is becoming clear. The Poynter Institute this week, based on a survey taken in early November, said that 44 percent of Americans believe that the media fabricates stories about Trump more than once in a while. Roughly three-quarters of Republicans believe this, Poynter said.

The survey also found that 31 percent of Americans agree with the president that the media are "the enemy of the people." Among Trump supporters, 63 percent agree with that conclusion, Poynter said.

Journalist Sally Quinn, while promoting a documentary on her late husband, former Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee, spoke Friday roughly around the time Ross was making his mistake about the pressure journalists are under now.

"Everyone has to be more careful, and every story has to be vetted more than ever before," she said. "If one person makes a mistake it makes us all look bad. We all get tainted."

× UGLY CHRISTMAS ×
× SWEATER RUN ×



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Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, December 6, 2017 | Section B

Pediatrics group addresses childhood obesity *Doctors have a lot to learn, says assistant professor at UT medical school*

By Nicole Villalpande
Austin American-Statesman

Kids and their parents do not want to be told they need to lose weight.

Their doctors might actually be encouraging weight gain if they aren't careful about how they talk to their patients who are overweight, according to American Academy of Pediatrics research that has been turned into a policy statement.

Austin doctor Stephen J. Pont, who is an assistant professor at the Dell Medical

School at the University of Texas, is the lead author for this policy statement.

Doctors have a lot of learning to do about child obesity and the science behind it, Pont says.

One positive step is the academy creating a section on obesity and helping to develop new tools — many of which have been tested in Austin — including developing better approaches to creating behavior changes.

Childhood obesity is a big deal. The new policy statement indicates that one-third of

U.S. children are considered overweight and 17 percent are obese. It's the most common chronic condition our kids have.

The policy looked at the stigma behind being overweight and the effect it has on our kids. It found that kids as young as 3 already have experienced weight-based stereotypes. By elementary school, weight-based stereotypes are common.

Children who are overweight or obese have weight-based stigma reinforced through many sources: peers, teachers, parents. It also comes from media. A study

of recent children's movies found that 70 percent included weight-related stigmatizing content and 90 percent targeted a character who was obese. Kids' movies are also more likely to have content that stigmatizes a character around weight.

The policy notes that kids who are overweight or obese:

- are more likely to be bullied. One study of kids who were seeking weight loss, found that 71 percent had been bullied

Please see OBESITY/2B

DIABETES FUNDRAISER



Courtesy photo

Greenwood ISD students, faculty and parent representatives presented a check of more than \$4,600 Friday to Sid Smith, far right, a American Diabetes Association Board member from West Texas National Bank. The district had a Diabetes Awareness Week Nov. 13-17 and students raised money through dress-up days, a concession stand and brazalet purchases. On hand for the check presentation were Emily Masonheimer, elementary school nurse, back row from left; Madeline Gully, high school nurse; Susan McIntyre, middle school nurse; Crysten Hopkins, elementary school principal; Melissa Goswick, parent; Ashley Bauer, aide; Charly Robinson, parent; and Brooklyn Barlow, high school student representative, front row from left; Abel Lopez, middle school student representative; Charly Goswick and Magdalene Robinson, elementary student representatives.

Salt gets bad rap because of processed food products

■ Sodium is 'super important for our survival,' says TWU professor

By Leslie Barker
Dallas Morning News

Salt has gotten so complicated. Used to be, the worst you'd hear about it was poor Lot's wife being turned into a pillar of the stuff.

But now, every time we contemplate lifting the shaker to douse our eggs, each time we glance at a food label or eat a pickle, we feel guilt pangs, hearing echoes of "too much sodium causes (insert negative medical condition here)."

The American Heart Association's Sodium Reduction Initiative urges us to #BreakUp-WithSalt, limiting our average daily intake of sodium to 2,300 milligrams from our current 3,400. (To put this into perspective, a McDonald's Artisan Grilled Chicken Sandwich and a small order of fries contain about 1,270 milligrams.)

The New England Journal of Medicine reported that reducing sodium by 400 milligrams a day could not only save 28,000 lives, it could also save \$7 billion in annual health care costs.

Then we have Dr. James DiNicolantonio, a cardiovascular research scientist who wrote a book called "The Salt Fix: Why the Experts Got It All Wrong and How Eating More Could Save Your Life" (Harmony Books, \$26.99). Too little salt, he says, can lead to weight gain, chronic kidney disease, elevated bad cholesterol and increased blood pressure and heart rate.

So should we try to eliminate it entirely? Why do we need it anyway? Here's what red-blooded Americans need to know about the white stuff that's been around since

Please see SALT/3B

Keep holidays happy, let go of food guilt

Every year around holiday time, there's an influx of articles about how to stick to your healthy eating goals and resist temptation. You may read about how to say no to second helpings, stop gobbling up fat-laden appetizers or alternate alcoholic drinks with sparkling water to combat calories.

That advice is practical, but it focuses too much on what not to do. It could end up making you feel guilty if you break the rules and decide to — gasp — indulge and enjoy yourself. So, this year, let's try something new. Instead of stress, pressure and guilt associated with family dinners and holiday get-togethers, let's create a new narrative that will empower you to feel good about yourself and your food choices. Share these ideas to spread holiday cheer and remove diet stigma for you and your loved ones.

Here are nine things to tell yourself this year so you can enjoy family, friends and food.

- I deserve to enjoy holiday meals without guilt.

Yep, it's just food. You deserve to take pleasure in it. Food is part of traditions and memories, so sample your favorite cookies or mashed potatoes and take time to really enjoy every bite of a reasonable portion. Focus on how your food smells,

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*Special to the
Washington Post*



looks and tastes without distractions. This is called mindful eating, and it's about fully enjoying what you eat without regret or shame.

- What I eat every day matters most.

Worry less about what you eat over the holidays and instead, concentrate on what you eat year-round. If you have a healthy diet in general, a couple of days of celebratory food won't be detrimental. If you don't usually eat well, make that a goal in the new year. Remember: The holiday season is short-lived. In life, there will always be times when you can't make your usual healthy choices — and that's OK. Enjoy these special moments focusing on friends and family.

- I have the power to control my portions.

Only you can decide how much food to eat, and that decision should be based on listening to your body. Slow down and notice how your

stomach feels before you start eating. If you're still hungry, have another bite. But when you're almost full, stop eating.

- I have the right to eat seconds or to say "no thank you" when I'm full. Remember that you don't need to make someone else happy by overeating or by denying your hunger. It's the norm to eat more when a host graciously offers more, but it doesn't need to be. Have faith in your ability to make good choices, and trust your own appetite.

- It's normal if I overindulge during the holidays.

It's human! Accept that you did and move on. Try not to become trapped in punishing self-talk or restrictive dieting behaviors. When you eat mindfully and enjoy every bite, it often takes less food to satisfy cravings. So enjoy some of your favorite foods with fervor, but respect your body when it tells you you're done.

- I will eat when I'm hungry, not when I'm feeling emotional.

Many of us eat when we're lonely, bored, sad or stressed, and those emotions can run wild at holiday time. Even the stress of being with certain family members can trigger people to overeat. There are more

Please see HOLIDAY/3B

Healthy Living

Cut the salt

To reduce salt in your diet, choose fresh rather than packaged foods, and use herbs and spices instead of salty flavorings.

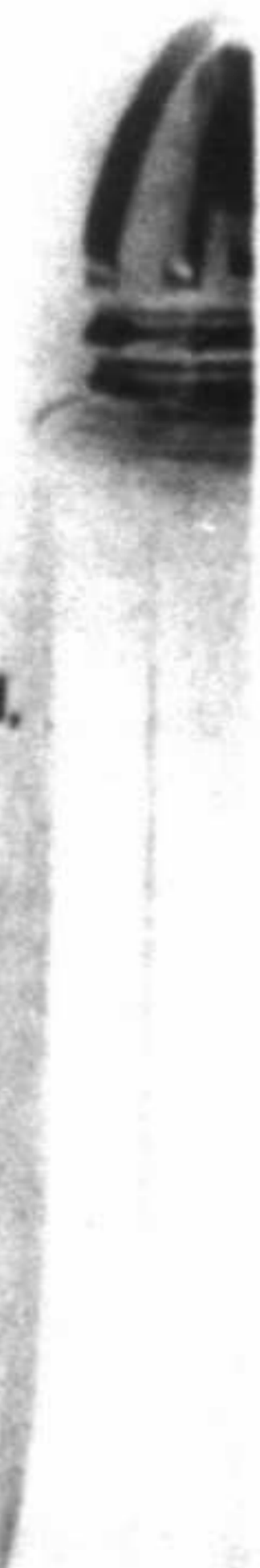
How salt gets into food

77% Added to processed, baked, preserved and packaged foods

12% Occurs naturally in foods

11% Added to foods before eating; salty snacks, condiments

Source: Mayo Clinic, TNS Photo Service



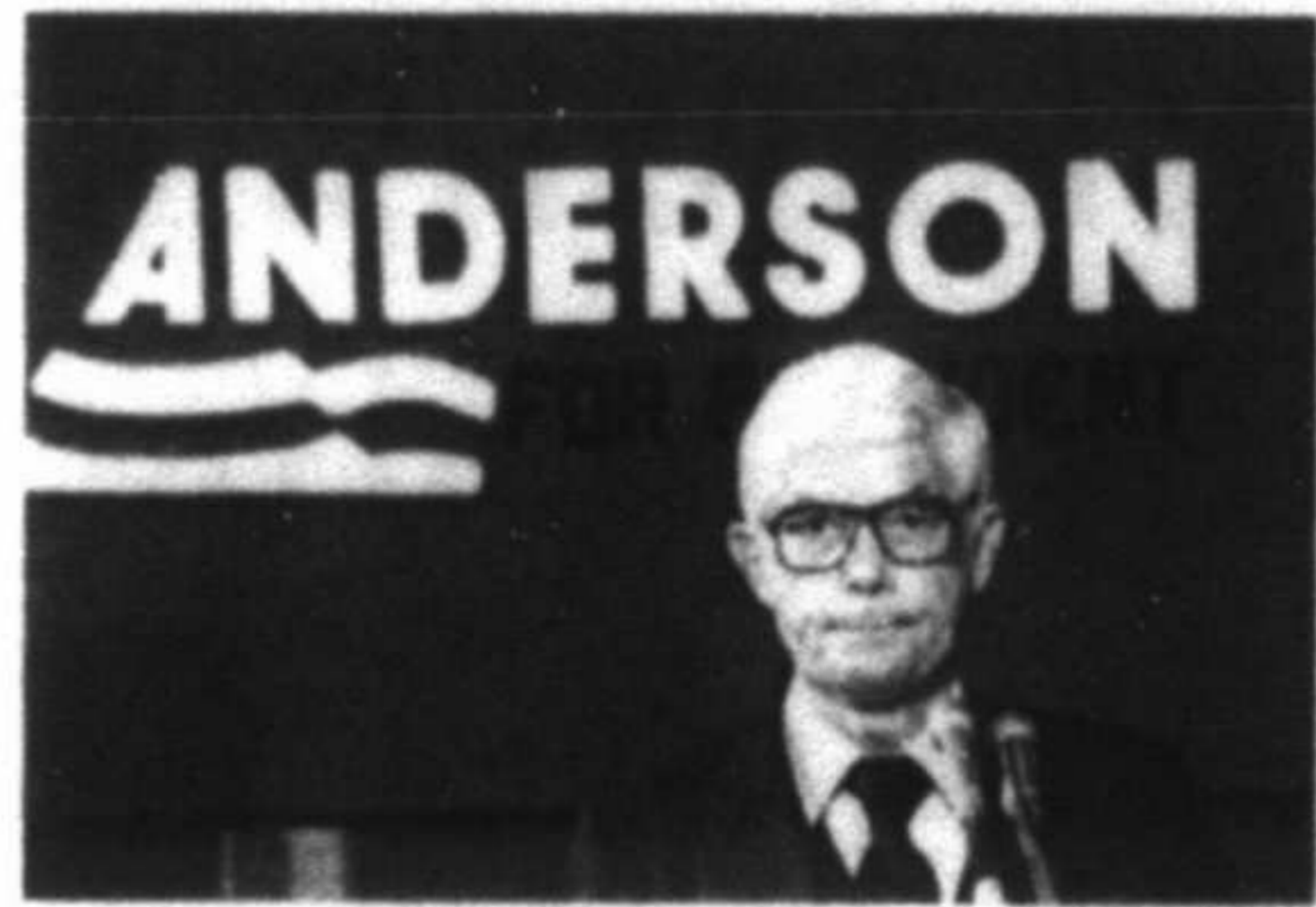
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AP Photo

Independent presidential candidate Rep. John Anderson of Illinois ponders a question from reporters during a press conference July 2, 1980, in Washington. The former Illinois congressman and presidential candidate has died. A family statement says the 95-year-old Rockford Republican died Sunday in Washington, D.C. Anderson served ten terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and sought the Republican presidential nomination in 1980. He later waged an independent campaign against Democratic President Jimmy Carter and GOP challenger Ronald Reagan. Anderson received 7 percent of the national vote.

Ex-Illinois Rep. John Anderson, who ran in '80 for president, dies

By Massie Ritsch
Los Angeles Times

John B. Anderson, a former Illinois congressman whose eloquent and quixotic 1980 presidential campaign as an independent helped propel Ronald Reagan to the White House, has died at his home in Washington. He was 95.

His death Sunday was confirmed by his daughter Diane Anderson.

A 10-term congressman, Anderson waged an independent campaign in 1980 against President Jimmy Carter and his Republican challenger Reagan. Anderson received 7 percent of the vote, enough, observers believed, to tilt the election.

In his later years, Anderson became a lecturer and spokesman for political reform, drawing attention every four years as he was called on to discuss other third-party presidential candidates.

Anderson was a Republican for nearly all of his elected political career, but his views became more liberal as his party shifted rightward. He left the party altogether when, as a GOP presidential candidate in 1980, he lost several primaries and decided to go it alone as an independent.

Carter refused to debate Anderson, but Reagan, who had been California's governor, agreed to a televised confrontation, making Anderson the first third-party presidential candidate to debate a major-party opponent on TV.

In November 1980, Anderson's National Unity Party platform drew nearly 7 percent of the nationwide popular vote, sapping more support from Carter than from Reagan and heading Reagan a landslide victory.

Born Feb. 15, 1922, in Rockford, Ill., John Bayard Anderson was the son of Swedish immigrants who ran a grocery store. The family belonged to the Evangelical Free Church, a small, conservative Swedish American sect, and Anderson's faith deepened after he was "born again" at age 9 during a summer tent meeting. As a boy, he and his siblings would play church. Blond-haired John was always the minister.

"He could really preach a sermon," his sister, Helen, once recalled. "We would sit there with our mouths open."

A star debater in high school, where he was class valedictorian, and in college, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate, Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois in 1942 and a law degree in 1946. In World War II, he was awarded four battle stars in the Army field artillery in Europe. After the war, he received a second law degree from Harvard University.

Anderson practiced law in Rockford until 1952, when he joined the United States foreign service. While getting his picture taken for his passport, Anderson met Keke Machakos, the State Department photographer. The first picture did not turn out, so she called him in for a second. They began dating and married the following year.

Anderson's political career began with a successful

1956 campaign for state's attorney — the local prosecutor — in Winnebago County, Ill. In 1960, as a Republican, he was elected to an open congressional seat representing Illinois' 16th District, a GOP heartland in northwest Illinois.

Anderson arrived in Washington at the start of the Kennedy administration, pledging to oppose such liberal Democratic notions as Medicare and federal aid for education. GOP leaders trotted out their persuasive colleague for party "truth squads" to rebut the programs of the Kennedy administration.

Three times in his early terms, Anderson sponsored a constitutional amendment that would have officially declared the United States to be a Christian nation. Criticized later during his presidential campaign, which counted on Jewish voters' support, Anderson apologized to Jewish leaders and explained that he had introduced the proposal for a clergyman but never lobbied for it.

By the late '60s, Anderson was less recognizable as a conservative Republican. He remained mostly in line with his party on economic matters, but broke with the GOP by voting for a bill that outlawed racial discrimination in housing, supporting the Equal Rights Amendment, criticizing wasteful defense spending and backing restrictions on guns and nuclear weapons. He spoke out against the Vietnam War and was among the first Republicans to call for President Richard Nixon's resignation during the Watergate scandal.

Colleagues described him as brilliant, principled and hardworking, but also arrogant, overly serious and sanctimonious.

In 1979, at age 57, Anderson began campaigning for president as a moderate Republican. He called for restoring the "vital center that can bind our nation and society together."

The Los Angeles Times described Anderson during the campaign as "the sole bearer (in the race) of the frayed banner of GOP liberalism." For instance, he was alone among the Republican candidates in supporting federally funded abortions for poor women.

From the beginning, the little-known congressman conceded that his was a long-shot campaign. Anderson's hope in the primary race for the GOP nomination was that his conservative opponents would divide the party's right, making his share of the left-center look large. The GOP presidential field at that point included Reagan, Texas Gov. John B. Connally, future Reagan running mate George H.W. Bush, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole and Tennessee Sen. Howard Baker.

Anderson became a favorite among liberal voters who were disenchanted with Carter yet also dissatisfied with other Democrats. Actor Paul Newman offered to make commercials for Anderson and television producer Norman Lear took out newspaper ads touting his candidacy.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Obituaries



Charlie Smith

Charlie Smith was born October 1, 1935 to B.L. and Nora Smith in Courtney, Texas and passed away on Monday, December 4, 2017.

He married Lou Ann Lamb November 24, 1956. She preceded him in death July 27, 1991. He then married Betty Jane Blake July 1, 1992. Their children include Betty and Lee Cook, Jerry and Tahita Holloway, Belynda Campbell, Don and Donna Blake, John Smith, Ray Blake, and Jim and Valerie Smith. His grandchildren include Jeff and Sonja Leary, Jason and Mauri Hopper, Michael and Chandra Brooks, Tonia Brooks and fiancé, Chris Baltzell, Alayna Smith and fiancé, Jeremy Yager, Trent and Brandi Smith, Savannah and Josh Tunnell, Sean Smith, Jessica and Marcus Washington, Winston Holloway and fiancé, Cathleen Cantrell, Dylan Cade, Andrew Blake, Jordan and Jeffery Kulaga, Megan and Brandon Taylor and Madison, Tyler Hinrichs, Macki and Emory McKim, and Malory McKim. He was also blessed with 18 great-grandchildren.

In addition, he is survived by his brother, Glen Smith and wife, Paula, and a sister, Rose Pritchett.

Charlie always enjoyed life to the fullest, whether it was work or play. He grew up working in the cotton fields and enjoyed hunting, shooting, and family. He started the Martin County Super Shooters in 1977 and coached hundreds of kids in Martin County and other surrounding counties. He knew no boundaries when it came to spending time with kids. He loved telling stories, especially ones involving his family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Martin County 4H, American Cancer Society, or the charity of your choice.

Viewing for the public will be Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton, Texas.

A memorial service will be 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at the Martin County Community Center. A private family burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Pallbearers will be his grandsons.

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



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OBESITY

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in the last year about their weight.

■ are less likely to be offered help if they are bullied.

■ believe they will have more friends if they can just lose weight.

■ become disengaged in school academically and socially.

■ have worse quality-of-life scores than children with cancer.

■ are more likely to be suicidal. In fact, adolescents who have been teased about their weight are twice as likely to have thought about suicide or attempted it.

■ are more likely to engage in self-harm.

■ are more likely to engage in unhealthy eating habits such as emotional eating or binge eating or develop an eating disorder.

■ are given lower expectations for academic success by their teachers.

■ are teased by their parents.

That same study of kids entering a weight-loss program found that 37 percent



Ellen (Miller) Snyder

Ellen was born to parents, Mose Miller and Ora Gurley Miller, at Grove, Oklahoma on June 20, 1925 and grew up on the family farm there along with one sister and three brothers. She graduated from Grove High School in the spring of 1943, then attended Business College in Joplin, Missouri, graduating in 1944. At that time she moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma and worked for Stanolind Oil and Gas Co. for several years.

She passed away in Colorado Springs, Colorado on November 26, 2017.

On October 24, 1945, she married her high school classmate, Andrew Eugene (Andy) Snyder and - as many other wives of those post war years - worked to help her husband through school. When he graduated from Tulsa University, she also received a degree - a PHT Degree - "Putting Hubby Through." She and the children moved with him to numerous assignments in oil field related work in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas through the years and always enjoyed each new location and the friends to be made there. They moved to Midland, Texas in 1976 then to Colorado Springs, Colorado in 2010 in order to be near her son.

Ellen was active in her church, serving as a Bible School Teacher, in a variety of children's functions and in office work. She also volunteered for community services such as Hospice and Meals on Wheels and supported the rest of the family in all their activities.

She is survived by her daughter, Sandra of Portland, Oregon; a son, Greg of Colorado Springs; a grand daughter, Marissa Wells Weaver of Parker, Colorado; a brother, Wayne Miller of Grove, Oklahoma and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Andy, one sister and two brothers.

Memorials, if any, could be directed to a charity of your choice.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

MT.com

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



Patricia Jane Star

Patricia Jane Star passed from this world into the next on November 15, 2017 at 80 years old. We are certain she was welcomed home by loved ones who went before her.

Patricia is survived by her daughters, Alison Starck and Leslie Shippy; her sons-in-law, Rick Starck and David Shippy; her grandchildren, Rose Wagener, Derek Bleisteiner, Mike Sims, Grant and Reed Shippy; and her great-grandchildren, Koryn Wagener and Penelope Bleisteiner; her brother, Jim and sister-in-law Jo, along with many nieces and nephews.

Patricia was born on July 26, 1937 to James and Leota Cunningham. She was quickly followed by twin brothers, Jim and Jack Cunningham.

She is preceded in death by her parents and brother Jack.

Patricia excelled in school. While in high school, she was named Homecoming Queen and served on the Student Council.

She married a fellow Texarkana, Arkansas resident, David Metts, and moved west on a grand adventure into the oil country. She had two children and lived in Midland, Texas for 30 years. During that time, she received her Master's degree in Art Education, became certified in the counseling field, and became an ordained minister. She won awards and had one-woman shows with her art, divorced and was remarried to Robert Netherland; established a counseling center called Talk It Over; and co-founded a church called Christ of Today.

Patricia served as a hospital Chaplain for many years. She co-owned and sponsored a halfway house for men trying to achieve recovery from addiction. She involved her family in hosting a family dinner for the halfway house on a weekly basis, encouraging the residents and teaching the value of service to her family. Patricia had many friends, clients, and colleagues who were impacted by her work and presence. She made a difference.

In 1995, Patricia began a new adventure when she moved to the Arlington, Texas area. She lived and worked there for 22 years. She established a counseling center where she continued her individual and family counseling, spoke for groups, and conducted corporate trainings. Patricia also continued creating and showing her art.

Patricia was adventurous and fun. She learned to roller blade and snow ski as an adult and did both activities into her late seventies. She travelled all over the world

with family and friends. She taught herself investing and pursued her Ph.D. in Social Work, focusing her dissertation on the effects of Spirituality in Counseling. She was a star student in school and life. She enjoyed meeting people and making new friends. She always looked for ways to encourage those around her.

Patricia made her mark in this world as an artist, counselor, speaker, minister, mother, stepmother, grandmother, wife, sister, aunt, and friend. She was a light of compassion and wisdom, as well as a master of enthusiasm and sharing love. In her counseling business, aptly named Star Counseling Center, she taught and proclaimed: "Celebrate Your Life, You are Loved!" She left this world a better place because of her presence. She will be missed.

Please join us to Celebrate Patricia's life on December 16, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Unity Church of Arlington, located at 3525 S Bowen Rd, Arlington, TX 76016. There will be a reception following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please treat yourself to something that will make you smile or gift your favorite charity.

Death Notices

Bertie Platt

Funeral services for Bertie Platt of Midland, Texas are pending with Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home.

Gary Duncan

Gary Duncan, 66, of Midland, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2017. The family will be accepting guests at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Midland on Friday, December 8, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m.

Gary is survived by his wife, Donna Duncan; mother, Evelyn Duncan; his twin brother, one sister, and by his children, Elayne Duncan, Chris Duncan, Matt Duncan, Elyse Stricklen, Bryan Duncan, and Brandon Duncan.

Jimmy Ray White

Funeral service for Jimmy Ray White are pending with Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home.

John Thomas Blackwell

John Thomas Blackwell, 86, of Midland, passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Memorial services will be at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8, 2017 at the First Baptist Church Chapel.

Floral donations may be delivered to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Blackwell; daughters, Joan Everett, Marcia Mares, and Lori Miller; and son, John Blackwell, Jr.

Patrice McGraw

Funeral services for Patrice McGraw of Midland, Texas are pending with Avalos-Sanchez & Thomas Funeral Home.

viders and families need to think about working together for a long time. Pont likes to start out with one, small doable thing such as cutting out sugary drinks and then build on that success, but he always lets families decide what it is they want to try doing.

Above all, it should be positive and not about blame and guilt. He encourages parents to go out of their way to praise kids when they make good choices.

It also should be about the whole family, not just the kid who has been singled out because of his or her body mass index.

The key message for doctors is to "be nice and be patient," Pont says. "It's not going to change quickly and happen overnight," but the more enjoyable they can make the visit, the more encouraging they can be, the faster and healthier the patient and the family will be.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

International Space Station harbors thousands of germs

By Sarah Kaplan
Washington Post

Thousands of species have colonized the International Space Station — and only one of them is homo sapiens.

The interior surfaces of the 17-year-old, 250-mile-high, airtight space station harbor at least 1,000 and perhaps more than 4,000 microbe species — a finding that is actually “reassuring,” according to David Coil, co-author of a new study published in the journal *PeerJ*.

“Diversity is generally associated with a healthy ecosystem,” said the University of California at Davis microbiologist.

A varied population of microscopic inhabitants is probably a signature of a healthy spacecraft, he said. And as humanity considers even longer ventures in space — such as an 18-month voyage to Mars — scientists must understand what these microbes are.

The samples for Coil’s paper were collected in 2014 as part of the citizen science program Project MERC-CURI. The initiative, conceived by a group of National Football League

and National Basketball Association cheerleaders who are also scientists and engineers, involved swabbing down dozens of professional sports stadiums, identifying the microbes in the samples, and sending those species to the ISS to see whether they would thrive. (*Bacillus aryabhatti*, collected from a practice football field used by the Oakland Raiders, grew fastest.)

In exchange, the UC Davis scientists who partnered on the project asked the ISS astronauts to swab down the space station and return the samples to Earth. Seems like a fair trade.

The samples were taken from 15 sites on the station, including the audio terminal unit microphone, air vents, the tab used to close the privacy panel on the crew sleep compartment. These locations broadly correspond to places found in a terrestrial home — the audio terminal unit is like a telephone; the air vents, which suck up dust and debris, are similar to doorbells where dust bunnies gather; the privacy panel tab vaguely resembles the knob on the door to your bedroom.

The microbe samples were packaged and flown to Earth, where the scientists at UC Davis sequenced their genomes. In each sample, they identified between 1,036 and 4,294 operational taxonomic units — a biological measure used to classify closely related organisms that roughly reflects the number of species. Then they compared what they found with results from surveys of the microbiomes of humans and their homes.

The study revealed no “Andromeda Strains” that threaten the astronauts’ well-being; the ISS was dominated by human-associated microbes, particularly the kind that dwell on skin. (Then again, the sequencing technique the scientists used can only identify species that are already known, so the study doesn’t rule out the extremely unlikely possibility of something alien up there.)

“Honestly, I wasn’t very surprised at all by the findings,” said microbiologist Jenna Lang, the study’s first author. Because all the equipment that goes into space is thoroughly sterilized, any germs that colonize the space station must hitch a ride on an astronaut.

SALT

From 1B

practically the beginning of time (see Genesis).

Sodium is important

Not only is this mineral important, it’s “super important for our survival,” says Nancy DiMarco, director of the Institute for Women’s Health at Texas Woman’s University and a professor in the school’s department of nutrition and food sciences.

“It helps to regulate nerve contractions, nerve transitions, muscle contractions and facilitates the uptake of glucose into tissue and muscle. It’s responsible for electrolyte balance, for blood pressure. It’s like water and glucose, which I tell students are important for survival.”

It’s homeostatically regulated

That’s a fancy way of saying that if the sodium level is too high, “our bodies have the mechanism to bring it down,” DiMarco says. “If it’s too low, we have the mechanisms to bring it up.”

In other words, if we have too much salt in our bodies, our bodies get rid of it through urination. Too little, and our kidneys reabsorb it into our bloodstream.

“Sugar won’t do that,” says DiNicolantonio, adding that sugar is more of a dietary culprit than salt. “When you consume more sugar, you crave more.”

The catch is ...

When we’ve consumed so much sodium that this kidney flushing is repeated over and over, our kidneys can get worn out, explains Jane Brody in *The New York Times*. That can result in “increased pressure put on blood vessels and

excess fluid surrounding body tissues,” she writes.

That said ...

“I don’t think sodium is the issue,” DiMarco says. “There is an association between excess sodium in the diet and the development of hypertension, but there’s never been cause and effect.”

In his book, DiNicolantonio writes “there was never any sound scientific evidence” that salt increases blood pressure. But Dr. Wanpen Vongpatanasin, director of the Hypertension Section at UT Southwestern Medical Center, disagrees.

“There are multiple randomized studies that show that lowering salt intake reduces blood pressure in patients with both mild, uncomplicated hypertension and resistant hypertension,” Vongpatanasin, holder of the Norman and Audrey Kaplan Chair in Hypertension, writes in an email. “Reducing sodium intake has been shown to decrease stiffness of the arteries, which is another major risk factor for stroke and cardiovascular events.”

DiMarco blames Americans’ unhealthy diet in general for the three major causes of death: hypertension, cardiovascular disease and stroke.

“I think we’d go so much further by altering how we eat instead of focusing on a single nutrient like sodium. I get so frustrated with so many of these things that eliminate whole food groups, and when you do that, you eliminate a whole bunch of nutrients you can’t find in other types of food.”

Case in point

Iodine is a mineral that our bodies need, and it’s in iodized table salt. But when salt started getting a bad rap, people stopped

buying it and, thus, were cutting out iodine.

“We have seen since the 1980s that iodine intake has decreased by almost 100 percent,” says DiMarco. She has studied this topic extensively and is in the process of writing a review paper on a study TWU did of 110 women, 90 percent of whom didn’t know they should be buying iodized salt.

“Our concern is that iodine is super important in the reproductive years, ages 18 to 45,” she says. “In the first three months when the brain develops, it’s absolutely essential the fetus be receiving adequate amounts of iodine because of its connection with cognitive abilities.”

Salt shakers aren’t the problem

Salt, DiMarco says, has “gotten a bad rap because of where it finds itself, which is in all these processed foods.”

According to *webmd.com*, 5 percent of the sodium we consume comes from salt added during cooking, 6 percent from salting food at the table and 12 percent from foods that are natural sources of sodium. The remaining 75 percent comes from processed foods. For example, a half-cup serving of Campbell’s Chicken Noodle Soup has 890 milligrams of sodium, which is more than a third of the recommended daily requirement. And who among us eats only a half-cup of soup?

Eating diets low in salt, DiNicolantonio says, creates cravings and leads people “to eat all these processed foods to get salt. They should be using real salt on real food.”

No need to go overboard

“For the most part,

the addition of salt that chefs and cooks do is to enhance flavor already existing,” says Chris LaLonde, culinary coordinator and chef instructor at El Centro’s Food and Hospitality Institute. “That’s how we think of it, as a flavor enhancer, not a flavor in itself.”

Adds DiNicolantonio: “We’re more likely to eat healthier foods if we add salt.”

And finally, the all-around health secret

“The answer to everything,” DiMarco says, “is to eat fruits and vegetables. I tell my students the practice of good nutrition is not rocket science.”

“It doesn’t take a genius to eat well. You just have to be conscientious and mindful of what you’re putting in your mouth every day.”

Which leads to these tips

Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables.

Check labels. Aim for those with less than 140 milligrams of sodium per serving. Top sources of salt in the American diet, says Nancy DiMarco, are bread and rolls, pizza, cold cuts and cured meats.

Eat more potassium. “If we could balance our sodium with more potassium, we’d be a lot healthier,” DiMarco says. Good sources include bananas, apricots, spinach and potatoes.

Cook at home. Restaurant meals usually contain high amounts of sodium.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Kit Boyd

Centers



PTSD symptoms are divided into four categories

There has been a large body of research done on PTSD — post-traumatic stress disorder — in an attempt to find a more effective treatment. PTSD used to be called shell shock during World War I and battle fatigue during World War II. The terms were applied to soldiers involved in combat. Recently, the definition has broadened to include anyone who has been involved in or has witnessed a traumatic event, such as an accident, terrorist attack, death of a loved one, a natural disaster or rape.

Some of the symptoms of PTSD include flashbacks, night terrors, anxiety, depression and relationship issues. Additional symptoms may include problems sleeping, anger management issues or guilt.

Symptoms of PTSD are divided into four categories, according to *psychiatry.org*: having intrusive thoughts such as flashbacks or bad dreams of the trauma; avoiding people, places, situations or objects that are reminders of the trauma or refusing to talk about the event; negative thoughts and feelings such as guilt, fear and shame; and reaction such as irritability or self-destructive behavior.

Women are more at risk

to develop PTSD than men, according to National Institute of Mental Health. Also at risk for developing PTSD are those who have little or no support or who have a history of mental illness or substance abuse.

Some other risk factors are childhood abuse, genetic mental health issues, personality or temperament and how the brain regulates hormones and chemicals in response to a traumatic event, according to the Mayo Clinic. Reduced chemical production in the brain may lead to an inability to minimize the interference of past memories, and the response may be anxiety, panic and extreme stress.

Not everyone will develop PTSD after witnessing or being involved in a traumatic event. Resilience or the ability to recover from a trauma is a major factor in reducing the risk of developing PTSD, according to NIMH. Those who have support from family or friends and have effective coping strategies are less likely to have PTSD. Treatment options include medication (usually anti-depressants) and psychotherapy. Some of the coping strategies that can be taught are relaxation and cognitive behavioral techniques.

HOLIDAY

From 1B

effective remedies for dealing with these feelings besides food. The answer is different for everyone, but calling a friend, exercising or practicing meditation can work for some people. Take time to learn what works best for you.

I don’t need to “healthify” my beloved and traditional holiday recipe.

Enjoy your favorites as they should be — it’s just once a year! Really — no one wants sugarless sugar cookies or eggnog made from almond milk and flaxseeds.

I promise not to comment on the size, shape or weight of my friends and relatives.

Their weight is their business, not yours. The same is true for you — no one has the right to judge you or comment on your weight, either.

And if you are met with a rude comment about your appearance, it’s fine to tell someone why it’s not OK to talk about your weight.

I will enjoy quality time with people I love.

A very long-term (75-plus years) study at Harvard has been examining what makes people happy over the course of their lives. And guess what? It’s not a number on a scale or how many cookies they eat. Close relationships are the key to long-term health and happiness. So this year, mark the holidays by spending time with people you love, and try not to fret too much about what you will have for dinner. Embrace the joy of festive meals without feelings of stress and guilt, which should never be part of healthy eating.

Cara Rosenbloom is a registered dietitian.

Be sure to check out Sunday’s edition to read weekly LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

the CLOCK DOC

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Midland Health events

■ Advance Care Planning Seminar, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. today, Midland Memorial Hospital; Betsy Repman, 221-4212, betsy.repman@midlandhealth.org.

■ Weigh to Success Support Group, 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus; Sundae Adkins, 638-8081, sundae.adkins@midlandhealth.org.

■ Plant-based Grocery Store Tour presented by Lifestyle Medicine Center, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, H-E-B on Loop 250; \$5 fee; 221-5433; to register, go to midlandhealth.org and click on classes & events.

■ Babycare/Infant CPR, 9 a.m. Saturday, Midland Memorial Hospital; \$10 per family; Amber Cunningham, 221-3283, childbirtheducation@midlandhealth.org; to register, go to midlandhealth.org and click on classes & events.

■ Breastfeeding Class, 6 p.m. Monday, Midland Memorial Hospital; Amber Cunningham, 221-3283, childbirtheducation@midlandhealth.org; to register, go to midlandhealth.org and click on classes & events.

Weekly support groups & hotlines

(subject to change)

■ TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Christian Church of Midland, 2609 Neely Ave. 694-8643

■ Overeaters Anonymous; 3 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, St. Stephen's Catholic Church 553-1031.

■ Survivors of sexual abuse; interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available, House of Hope, 570-5935.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and

HEALTHBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

their families, 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.

■ PDAP meetings: 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays: Parents group and younger group (12-17), 1208 W. Wall St.; college group (18-26), 2503 W. Ohio Ave.; older group (27 and over), First Presbyterian Church 11:30-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays: older group, 1208 W. Wall St., includes lunch.

■ Alcoholics Anonymous — hotline 580-7868.

■ Serenity Group, 8 p.m. daily, 3101 N. "A" St., Building C; 685-3100. 710 Group, 7 a.m. noon and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 710 Ohio Ave., 682-8162.

■ Alpha Omega, 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 311 S. Pecos St.

■ 12-Step Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays; PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 553-7220.

■ Narcotics Anonymous — hotline 582-2926.

■ Laundry Group, 8 p.m. daily and noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 104 N. Marshall St.

■ Xodus Group, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 634-7609.

■ CODA Group, 12-step program for relationships, 7 p.m. Fridays and Sundays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St., 599-4490.

■ La Hacienda Alumni, support group for former patients, 7 p.m. Thursdays, PDAP, 1208 W. Wall St. 553-7220.

Hope Chest

Hope Chest is a program that provides support for women during

their pregnancy and after their baby is born.

Hope Chest allows mothers and mothers-to-be to earn necessities such as diapers, wipes, clothing and car seats through a point system.

Points are earned by attending prenatal appointments and childbirth classes, and once the baby is born, moms continue to earn points at pediatrician visits until the child turns 2.

The program office is at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus. For more information or to enroll in the program, call 221-1150. To make a monetary donation or donate brand new baby items to Hope Chest, call the March of Dimes office at 416-7310.

MMH payment options

Midland Memorial Hospital recognizes that our community is facing challenging financial times. Resources are tight and families are having to make important decisions about what to spend money on now and what has to wait.

Realizing health care can be expensive and the increasing deductibles make it hard to manage, the hospital has adjusted its payment procedures. We want to make sure you receive the care you need, when you need it. To find out about the new options now offered to better accommodate your payment needs, call 221-4705.

Source: Midland Memorial Hospital

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.

Help line for long-term or disabled care

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services has a toll-free number residents can call to obtain information on services for the disabled or long-term care.

For more information, call 855-937-2372.

Contact your Hospital District representative

Midland Memorial Hospital 400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway, Midland, Texas, 79701 Phone: 221-1111

Website: www.midlandmemorial.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/MidlandMemorialHospital Twitter: twitter.com/MidlandMemorial

President Russell Meyers 221-1584

Directors — District 1: Tracie Greene, District 2: Dwain Tomlin, District 3: Larry Mercer, District 4: Cressida Hyatt, District 5: Cari Chaplin, District 6: Joe Kiowski, District 7: Jeffrey Beard

Finding a doctor

Access to a primary care provider is one mission of Midland Health. Residents who need help finding a physician or setting up an appointment can call 221-3627 (221-DOCS).



Christian Gooden/St. Louis Post-Dispatch/TNS

Jeanne Carbone, left, a therapeutic horticulture instructor, presents Rita Armstead of St. Ann with a bouquet of aromatic clippings during treatment on Nov. 30 at Siteman Cancer Center near St. Louis.

Working and playing with plants helps cope with illness, disabilities

By Mike Faulk
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Half-reclined and wrapped in a shawl, Lauren Underhill spins a sprig of red-blossomed pineapple sage with her left thumb and index finger.

Under the shawl, a catheter tube connects to a vein infusing her bloodstream with a cocktail of anti-cancer drugs. Underhill, who has stage 4 colon cancer, spends up to five hours at the Siteman Cancer Center south of St. Louis during such appointments, waiting in repose.

Underhill turns her attention to her right, where Missouri Botanical Garden therapeutic horticulture instructor Jeanne Carbone holds a piece of rue — an herb, Carbone says, that likes a lot of sunshine and little attention.

"Oh, that's like me," Underhill says, reaching for it. "That's my kind of plant."

The botanical garden's therapeutic horticulture program has grown in popularity in recent years, offering connections with nature to those enduring serious illness, developmental disabilities, or

physical or mental trauma. It includes sessions at the garden, in a part known as the Sensory Garden, as well as outreach at area treatment centers such as Siteman.

"We believe that connection to nature provides healing," Carbone said. "I can bring this to people who are probably in the worst situation they've ever going to be in."

Thomas Brook, 68, has received regular anti-cancer drug infusions since January to treat his lymphoma. Brook, who grew up on a farm in Arnold, said he didn't have electricity until 1978 and had always had a special connection with plant life, roses in particular.

Brook had Carbone make a little flower display of mums ringed by green herbs. He'll be in the treatment pod for a few more hours, but in that moment he's focused on where he'll put the flowers, on a wood bench in his living room that gets sun in the morning.

"It brings a little joy to a place like this," Brook said. "It's so nice to see the

Please see PLANTS/6B

× UGLY CHRISTMAS ×
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This event is sponsored in part by FMH Foundation,
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PROCEEDS FOR PREEMIEES



Courtesy photo

Jill Skaggs, Texas Perinatal Association Board member, left, on Nov. 27 presented a \$2,000 check to Dr. Lea Keesee, director of the F. Marie Hall SimiLife Center at Midland College. The funds will be used to purchase a perinatal mannequin for the Little Babies/Big Need project — training for the care of premature babies. The mannequin will be a size of a 28-week premature baby, according to a press release from MC.

PLANTS

From 4B

different flowers, what God has given us."

Some other locations where the botanical garden offers therapeutic horticulture include Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital, Hope Lodge and Crisis Nursery. At the Sensory Garden, visitors are treated to scented flowers, spicy herbs, the sounds of a bell tree and fountain and plants with unique textures including annuals and perennials.

Susan Bussen, a liver cancer patient, said such activities helped her pass the time during treatments, which "last long enough to have doughnuts and gossip" with friends who have joined her.

Bussen said she had always grown herbs at home, and Carbone's rue plant reminded her of one she used to have outside her front door.

"I read that rue keeps evil spirits away," Bussen said. "I used to joke I put

it there to keep my sisters out."

The American Horticultural Therapy Association website says the benefits "have been documented since ancient times," and in modern times the practice has gained acceptance among medical professionals. In the 1940s and 1950s, medical care providers increasingly used garden environments for therapy with returning U.S. war veterans, and the practice continued growing from there.

Botanical garden representatives say therapeutic horticulture is for everyone, not just those with specific needs. For cancer patients such as Bussen, it's an opportunity to think about better things.

"You're not dreading being in treatment," Bussen said. "It's more like I've done something fun today, rather than something I had to do."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Study: Religious beliefs best predictor of vaccine skepticism

By Lena H. Sun
Washington Post

When it comes to persuading parents in the United States who are hesitant about vaccinating their children, the public health messages often rely on facts and science to explain how immunization not only protects those children but also shields other vulnerable people from dangerous infectious diseases.

But information campaigns that emphasize fairness or preventing harm sometimes backfire and can worsen vaccine hesitancy, research has shown. A study published Monday in *Nature Human Behaviour* suggests a more effective way to reach vaccine-hesitant parents may be to focus on two potentially powerful moral values that underlie people's attitudes and judgments: individual liberty and purity.

Compared with parents who approve of vaccines, parents who are most reluctant to vaccinate are strongly concerned with liberty and purity, the researchers found. In this framework, liberty is associated with belief in personal responsibility, freedom, property rights and resistance to state involvement in citizens' lives. Concerns about purity center on boundaries and protection from contamination.

Although the vast majority of parents across the country vaccinate their children and follow recommended schedules for this basic preventive-medicine practice, vaccine skepticism and outright refusal in recent years have led to places where there are communities of undervaccinated children who are more susceptible to disease and pose health risks to the broader public.

Minnesota's measles outbreak in the spring sickened 79 people and exposed 8,000 to the virus, including more than 500 people who were asked to stay home from school, child care or work because they were unvaccinated and at risk of contracting and spreading the disease.

The new study used a social psychology theory known as Moral Foundations Theory to assess the underlying moral values most strongly associated with vaccine-hesitant parents. Their findings correspond with the reasons many vaccine-hesitant parents give for delaying or refusing some vaccines, and with many of the claims on anti-vaccination websites.

A main message of one of the most

ALTHOUGH THE RECOMMENDED SCHEDULES FOR THIS PRACTICE, VACCINE IN RECENT YEARS HAVE LED TO UNDERVACCINATED CHILDREN WHO ARE TO DISEASE AND POSE TO THE BROADER PUBLIC.

organized and politically active anti-vaccine groups, Texans for Vaccine Choice, for example, focuses on parents' rights to choose and individual liberty.

"Parents with the most concerns about vaccinating their children were twice as likely to have a high score for those clean, pure, wholesome themes as well as support of themes of individual liberty, compared to parents with the fewest concerns," said Avnika Amin, a doctoral student in epidemiology at Emory University, and one of the study's authors.

Much research about vaccine attitudes and interventions to boost vaccination rates focuses on education, she said. "The assumption is that if we throw some fact out there, it will change their minds," she said.

But that doesn't really address the root of the problem, she said, because people don't make decisions solely based on facts.

Amin and Emory colleagues conducted online surveys of 1,100 U.S. parents of children under 13. They assessed the parents' level of vaccination hesitancy and explored how important different moral values were to them when deciding if something was right or wrong.

They found that other factors, such as age, sex, level of education or political views didn't seem to affect the relationship between concern about vaccinations and their concerns for liberty and purity, she said.

Another group of researchers at Loyola University in Chicago, working independently from Amin's group, validated the main findings of the Emory group in another study. The Loyola researchers went one step further and also found that purity and liberty values seem to influence belief in false or misleading statements on anti-vaccination websites.

Other recent research suggests that religiosity, as well as concerns about moral purity, consistently predicted vaccine skepticism. In a study pub-

lished Friday in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, researchers at the University of Amsterdam and University of Kent explored the ideological roots of science skepticism about climate change, vaccination and genetic modification in food.

Based on online surveys of people in the United States, the researchers found that a person's strong religious beliefs were the best predictor of vaccine skepticism, and religious conservatives had low support for science overall. Religiosity, they said, was the best predictor, "over and beyond political ideology, moral concerns, and scientific literacy."

In both papers, the authors said the results show a correlation but not a causal link.

Amin said incorporating the moral foundations of a person's health decision could be one way to improve public health communication.

If a mother has concerns about the chemicals in vaccines, her physician might address her concerns with that "purity" value in mind, she said.

For example, one intervention might urge parents to vaccinate as a way of boosting a child's natural defenses against disease and keeping the child "pure of infections," and show a picture of a child with measles, the researchers said. Another liberty-oriented message might urge parents to take personal control of a child's health because vaccinations can help the child and others be free to live a happy and healthy life, they said. Such messages could be displayed at schools, doctors' offices and on the internet, where parents frequently get their information about vaccines.

The researchers cautioned that their suggestions have not been formally tested.

"But maybe it can help us, at least, better craft a message that is framed in a way that underscores these values that concern parents when they're making these vaccination decisions," Amin said.



THE LIFESTYLE MEDICINE CENTER

Open Now

At Midland Health, we believe that one cannot be truly healthy without considering the mind, body, and spirit. Because of this, we created the Lifestyle Medicine Center—a resource for the community to provide physical, mental, and spiritual education so that people can experience the best life possible. The Lifestyle Medicine Center is one of the only programs in the United States to offer a variety of comprehensive lifestyle intervention programs at one location.

Two of the programs offered are the **Ornish Lifestyle Medicine™** program for Reversing Heart Disease® and the **Lifestyle Medicine Clinic** with Dr. Padmaja Patel. Dr. Ornish's Program has been proven to undo heart disease by dealing with the root causes through lifestyle changes, and is based on more than three decades of research. Dr. Padmaja Patel's program is a medically-supervised, comprehensive lifestyle program—a unique clinic where lifestyle interventions will be offered as the first line of treatment while using medications only on an as-needed basis. Some of the other programs offered are Cardiac Rehab, BetterU, Nutrition Education, and Diabetes Education: Self-Management Training.

Providing holistic health resources for the community is one more example of how Midland Health is helping to make Midland the healthiest community in Texas. The **Lifestyle Medicine Center** is now open at **4214 Andrews Hwy, Ste 107**. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call **432.221.LIFE** (5433). You can also visit us at midlandlifestylemedicine.org.

lifestyle medicine
center



SPORTS

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

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, December 6, 2017 | Section C

Oakland A's name Steinmann as RockHounds manager for 2018

From staff reports

The Midland RockHounds will have a new manager and two new coaches on their staff during the 2018 campaign.

The Oakland A's, parent club of the RockHounds, announced Tuesday that Scott Steinmann will be the team's manager in 2018, taking over for Fran Riordan, who has been promoted to manager of Triple-A Nashville of the Pacific Coast League.

Riordan, in his only season as manager, led Midland to its fourth straight Texas



Steinmann

League title.

The RockHounds also announced that Steve Connelly will assume pitching coach duties and that former RockHound Tommy Everidge will take over as hitting coach.

Steinmann, 45, managed for seven seasons in the Seattle Mariners' organization and has managed for three seasons in the Oakland Athletics' system.

In 2017, Steinmann managed low Single-A Beloit to a 65-73 record in the Midwest League.

The Ohio native's best season as manager occurred in 2005 when he led the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers to the Midwest League Championship Series, losing the best-of-five series, 3-2, to South Bend.

Steinmann played three seasons in the

Mariners' minors (1996-98) before embarking on a 17-year coaching stint with Seattle, beginning in 1999.

Everidge played for Midland in 2007-2009. In 2008 as a Texas League All-Star, Everidge had 10 RBI in a May 26 game at Tulsa, and remains just one of seven players in league history to eclipse 10 RBI in a single game.

Everidge, who had a 24-game major league stint with Oakland in 2009, has been a hitting coach in the Athletics' organization in each of the last four seasons, which included an assignment with high Single-A Stockton from 2016-17.

Connelly briefly pitched for Oakland in the majors in 1998.

Connelly joined the Athletics' organization as a coach in 2014 and is coming off

a two-year stint as Stockton's pitching coach.

Connelly was a member of the 1994 University of Oklahoma baseball team that captured the College World Series championship.

Brian McArm and Don Schulze, the team's 2017 hitting coach and pitching coach, have been reassigned within the organization to be closer to their homes.

McArm, an Elk Grove, California resident, will coach with Stockton in 2018, while Schulze, who hails from the Chicago area, will coach Beloit.

The RockHounds announced that athletic trainer Justin Whitehouse will be back for his 11th season, and that Omar Aguilar will serve as the team's new strength and conditioning coach.

One-sided affair



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Sadie Govan (15) dribbles against San Angelo Central on Tuesday at Midland High.

Well-rounded MHS blows past SA Central

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

From day one, Midland High girls basketball coach Wes Torres has said the key to his team's success is the sum of the parts, not any one player.

The Lady Bulldogs' well-roundedness and depth was on display in Tuesday's non-district game against San Angelo Central.

MHS played stellar defense and got key contributions from a handful of players during its 52-27 victory over the rival Lady Bobcats at the Midland High gym. Guards Sadie Govan and Taysha Rushon led the Lady Bulldogs (8-6) with 10 points apiece.

But addition to their efforts, MHS got a spark off the bench from Jurnee

Williams and Jenia Mitchell in the second half, received steady defensive play and long-range shooting from seasoned senior Jayci Streun and got gritty rebounding from post players Zoe Taylor and Racey Haile.

The result was a one-sided affair where the Lady Bulldogs held the lead over Central (11-6) for 29 minutes, beginning in the first quarter.

"That's the one thing we talked about before the season, it's not a one-man show," Torres said. "It's not a two-man show. Obviously, people are going to try to do one thing and when they try to do that, we got other girls. We welcome that because if girls step up and do their jobs, like they did tonight, we will be just fine."

With MHS leading 26-12 at halftime, the Lady Bobcats played their best quarter in the third as Parris Parmer scored 10

of her team's 12 points during the period, cutting MHS' lead to nine points twice.

Torres summoned Mitchell off the bench to defend Parmer, holding the junior guard to no field goals made in the fourth quarter.

Mitchell also scored on a jumper and layup in transition in the fourth quarter, spearheading Midland High's dominant 17-3 run to close the game.

"She came in, she shut her down," Torres said. "Jenia did a phenomenal job. She knocked down a big shot, just did some great things for us."

The Lady Bulldogs shined the brightest on defense, as they held Central to only one field goal made and four points during the first quarter. MHS finished the game just like it started, yielding only one

Please see MHS/3C

Houston's Watt confident he'll be ready for next season

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — J.J. Watt is confident he'll return to the field for the Houston Texans next season, feeling good as he recovers from a broken leg.

Watt, who broke his left leg on Oct. 8, began walking without the help of crutches last week and is looking forward to the next steps in his rehabilitation.

"It's a long process," he told The Associated Press. "So it's walking, it's strengthening, then eventually it's running and getting back to football. But we're on track, and next season shouldn't be a problem I don't believe. I have a very excited attitude and we obviously have great rehab guys and trainers and stuff so it's going to be good."

Watt sustained a tibial plateau fracture to end his season early for the second straight year. The three-time Defensive Player of the Year returned in 2017 after

missing the last 13 games of last season following his second back surgery. The defensive end played every game in his first five seasons in the NFL before his injury last year.

He knows that he has a long way to go before he'll be ready to play football again, but the 28-year-old got a boost when he was able to walk again.

"Friday was my first day walking and it was an extremely happy day," he said. "You don't get to walk for two months, it's crazy how such a simple thing like walking can really just — it was awesome. So now to be able to move around I feel great. I feel really good. I'm very excited about the rehab process. Obviously it's a long process but I'm excited."

Watt had 15 tackles this season, but didn't get a sack in five games. He had 1 1/2 sacks last season, after leading the NFL with 17 1/2 sacks in 2015 and finishing second in



Eric Christian Smith/AP File Photo

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt uses crutches to walk on the field on Nov. 19 in Houston. Watt is confident he'll return to the field for the Texans next season, feeling good as he recovers from a broken leg.

2014 with 20 1/2.

Before his latest injury Watt became a key figure in Houston's rebuilding efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey after a fundraiser he began raised more than \$37 million. He's been extremely

hands on in working with the organizations and visiting the people who have received the donations, raising the question of if he plans to focus on humanitarian efforts when his

Please see WATT/4C

Lady Rebels pull away for win over Lubbock High

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

The Lee girls basketball team aimed to create offense with its pressure defense against visiting Lubbock High on Tuesday.

And leading 39-36 after three quarters, the Lady Rebels rose to their task at the perfect time. A fierce press forced Lubbock High into nine fourth quarter turnovers and provided all the fuel Lee needed to score 24 points in the frame and earn a 63-49 victory over the Class 5A Lady Westerners.

Senior forward Quinci Strambler tallied a game-high 20 points — 11 in the fourth quarter — for Lee (4-7), while Paige Low added 13.



Low

Lee assistant coach Matt Sutherland — filling in for head coach Alfred Acosta, who was attending a family matter — said he knew the contest would come down to his team's ability to execute in the final minutes.

The Lady Rebels didn't just execute. They ran away with the win.

Junior guard Braydyn Hill scored on an and-1 layup. Strambler added four points after a pair of Lee steals and Alaysha Green scored on a layup on a third steal — all in a nearly 45-second span to put the game out of reach.



Strambler

"With about three minutes and 30 seconds left, we called a timeout and we talked about the next two minutes being extremely important on the defensive end, making sure we were creating opportunities for ourselves," Sutherland said. "Out of the timeout, we went on an 8-0 run and that put us up 15 with two minutes to go. That was big for us."

The timely spurt helped Lee re-establish control after Lubbock High had battled back into the game with a hot-shooting third quarter. The Lady Westerners sunk three of their five 3-point attempts in the quarter and at one point trailed just 33-29.

Sutherland said his team's foul trouble was a culprit, as Lee was forced to fall into a zone defense and expose itself to outside shots.

"If we get into foul trouble early like we did in this game, then we've got to pull some of that pressure back," Sutherland said. "That makes it more difficult for us to create offense off of our defense. I think the ladies did a good job responding to the way the refs were calling the game. That gave us the opportunity in the fourth quarter to go back to putting that pressure on."

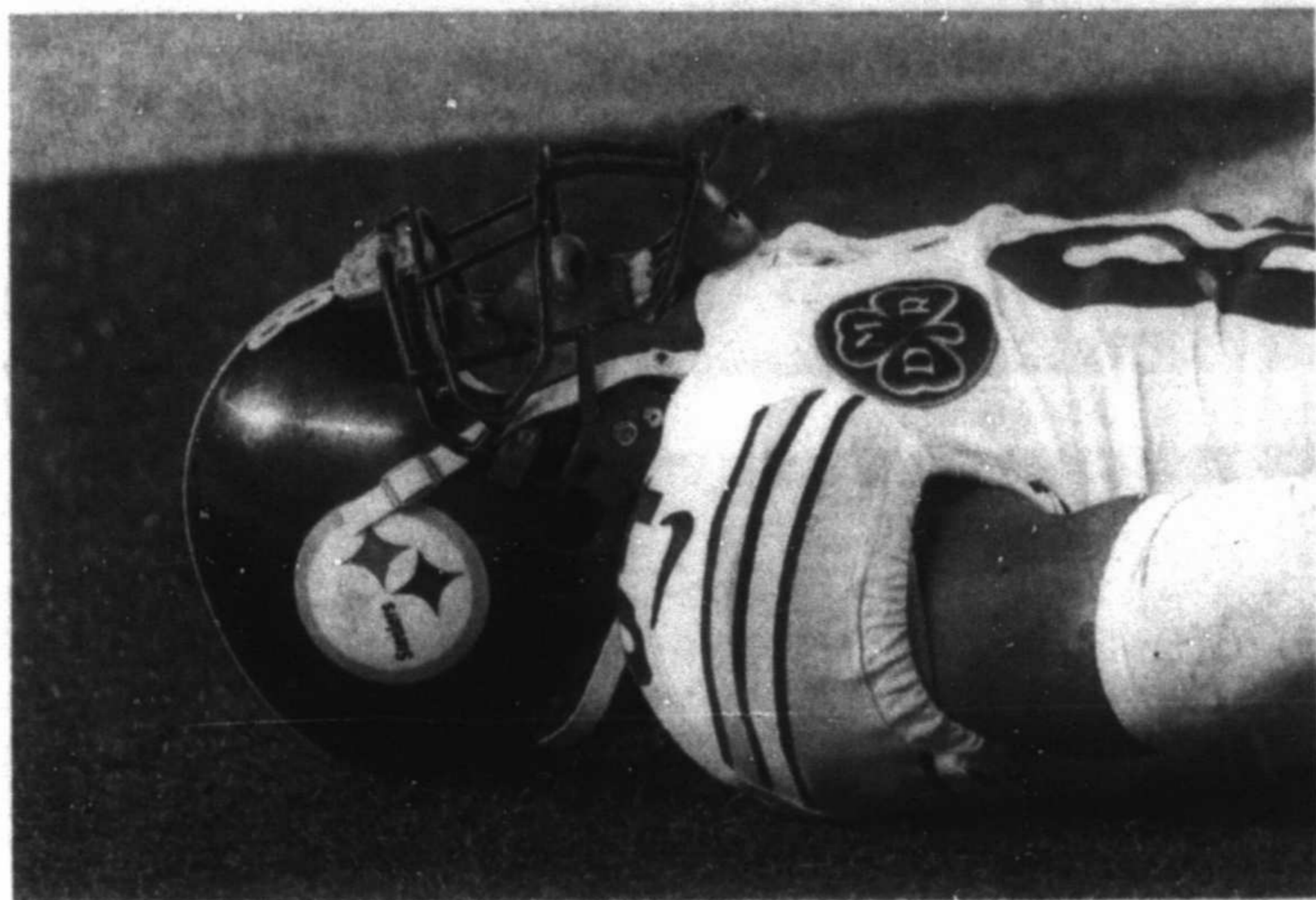
It was an inability to break Lee's relentless press that doomed Lubbock High following the rally. LHS head coach Brent Palmer said his team has struggled to handle pressure all season long.

"That has been our Achilles heel all year — turning the ball over against pressure defense," Palmer said. "I've got veteran guards that, for whatever reason, continue to turn the ball over and that has been something we've fought all year. They started pressing us and we just fell apart."

Strambler said Tuesday's gritty win should serve her team well when it opens play against TAPPS power Midland Classical Academy Thursday in the Tall City Oilman's Tournament.

"We want to go into this tournament

Please see LEE/3C



Frank Victoria/Associated Press

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown celebrates after catching a touchdown pass in the second half against the Cincinnati Bengals, Monday in Cincinnati.

Discipline starts fallout for cringe-worthy Steelers-Bengals

By Joe Kay
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Two players carted off, two others suspended, many fines to follow. One of the NFL's nastiest rivalries set new lows in prime time, forcing fans to avert their eyes.

What's to be done about this long-running animosity between the Steelers (10-2) and Bengals (5-7)? Do the teams encourage the mayhem by downplaying it? Do the NFL and the networks promote it by showing it in prime time every season?

Those questions were raised in the aftermath of a game so brutal that it made viewers cringe. Pittsburgh rallied for a 23-20 victory at Paul Brown Stadium on Monday night, its sixth straight win over the Bengals.

What it'll be remembered for, though, is how it felt more like a street brawl at times. The NFL responded by suspending Steelers receiver Juju Schuster-Smith and Bengals safety George Iloka for one game each on Tuesday, and fines for other players are expected later in the week.

"I'll acknowledge there were some unfortunate things in that game that we don't need in our game — by both sides," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday.

It's been going on for years, with grudges deepening.

Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict — a focal point for much of the animosity — left the field on a cart with a concussion after Schuster-Smith leveled him with a blindside hit. The receiver then stood over the fallen linebacker to taunt him.

As Schuster-Smith apologized for taunting after the game, receiver Antonio Brown yelled: "Karma! It's called karma!"

The NFL's letter to Schuster-Smith informing him of the suspension said the egregious hit and the taunting "fell far below the high standards of sportsmanship expected of an NFL player."

Iloka hit Brown in the head after his touchdown catch tied the game in the fourth quarter. Brown wasn't hurt, but the NFL suspended the Bengals safety for the type of flagrant hit that has "no place in our game."

Those moments have defined the rivalry since 2015, when Burfict made a twisting tackle on Le'Veon Bell that left the Steelers running back with a torn knee. Burfict celebrated — the Bengals say he was just happy to make a big play — but Bell and the Steelers took umbrage.

Players went back-and-forth on social media, and they got into a skirmish on the field during pregame warmups in the rematch in Cincinnati. They met again in the playoffs that season at Paul Brown Stadium, and Burfict's hit to Brown's head in the closing seconds moved the Steelers in range for a field goal and an 18-16 win.

In response, the NFL suspended Burfict for three games. Burfict went to it with some of the Steelers on social media. The raw feelings grew deeper.

This year's unpleasanties began with Burfict refusing to shake Steelers' hands at the coin toss on Oct. 22 at Heinz Field. During the game, Burfict kicked Steelers running back Roosevelt Nix in the chest and was fined \$12,154 by the league.

After the game, Bell tweeted video of Burfict's kick and said: "man dude gotta go man ... that's not football AT ALL!"

The teams went their ways, but didn't forget.

After Bengals receiver A.J. Green was ejected from a game at Jackson-

ville for wrapping his arm around Jalen Ramsey's neck, taking him down and punching him, Bell and Schuster-Smith had fun at Green's expense in the Steelers' next game at Indianapolis. They re-enacted Green's takedown of Ramsey as part of their touchdown celebration.

Back together in Cincinnati on Monday night, they wasted no time going at it again.

On the game's sixth play, Bell and Burfict went face-to-face during an interception return. Bell grabbed the linebacker's facemask and shoved him to the ground, drawing a foul for unnecessary roughness, part of a combined 20 penalties totaling 239 yards. Cincinnati was penalized 13 times for a club-record 173 yards.

Some of the Bengals' frustration comes from the Steelers' ability to keep pulling out victories. The Steelers have won six straight, nine of 10 and 14 of 17 in the series.

These two teams are through with each other for the season — on the field, anyway. What comes next?

Bengals coach Marvin Lewis — who has steadfastly defended Burfict — is finishing his contract and could be done in Cincinnati after a 15-year run. He's 0-7 in the playoffs — including two losses to Pittsburgh — and he's 8-24 against the Steelers overall.

Burfict will stay. He got a contract extension earlier this year while serving another three-game suspension for an egregious preseason hit. He also was ejected from a game in Tennessee for pushing an official's arm away.

The question is how to keep it from turning a rivalry into a rumble.

"The rivalry is real," Bengals linebacker Kevin Minter said after the game. "We come for them, and they come for us."

Taggart leaving Oregon to be next Florida St. football coach

By Joe Reedy
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Willie Taggart is returning to the Sunshine State, this time as head football coach at Florida State.

Taggart has agreed to become Florida State's next coach, replacing Jimbo Fisher. Taggart told his Oregon players during a team meeting on Tuesday that he is leaving.

Florida State has called a news conference for Wednesday morning to introduce Taggart.

The 41-year-old Bradenton native coached at South Florida for four seasons before going to Oregon. Fisher resigned Friday to accept the opening at Texas A&M.

Taggart has a 47-50 career record, including 7-5 this season, but is known as a rebounder. He arrived in Eugene after four years at South Florida, where he guided the Bulls from a 2-10 record his first year to a 10-2 mark last year and a spot in the Birmingham Bowl.

Before that he spent three seasons as head coach at his alma mater, Western Kentucky, inheriting a winless program that he turned around with back-to-back winning seasons.

The Seminoles have entered new territory following Fisher's departure.

Taggart, and Odell Haggins — Fisher's replacement on an interim basis — are the first black head football coaches at Florida State.

Haggins will hold the position for two games before turning over the reins to Taggart. Haggins led the Seminoles (6-6) to a 42-10 win over Louisiana-Monroe in Saturday's regular-season finale. He will coach the Seminoles in the Dec. 27 Independence Bowl against Southern Mississippi.

This was the first time Florida State had to conduct a coaching search since 1975. Bobby Bowden was the Seminoles' coach for 34 seasons and put the program on the map with two national championships.

Fisher was hired as offensive coordinator in 2007 and was also named as the head-coach-in-waiting. He took over in 2010 following Bowden's retirement.

When Taggart was hired by Oregon, he said he had three basic tenets: "Make no excuses, blame no one, do something." "Do Something" became his tagline for his first season with the Ducks.

Oregon started this past season 4-1 and even briefly popped into the AP rankings, but starting quarterback Justin Herbert broke his collarbone and the Ducks floundered, going 1-4 without him.

Herbert returned for the final two games of the season, both wins that got the Ducks into a bowl game in Taggart's lone season. Co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach Mario Cristobal will be the interim head coach when Oregon faces Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 16.

Taggart will be tasked with restoring a Florida State program that has failed to live up to expectations the last two seasons.

Since winning 33 of 34 games between 2013 and '15, including a national championship, the Seminoles are 20-12, including 10-10 in the ACC.

Florida State was ranked third in the Top 25 pre-season poll but lost quarterback Deondre Francois in the opener against Alabama and was beset by other injuries. They won their final three games to finish 6-6 and extend their bowl streak to 36 consecutive seasons.

Taggart's contract with Oregon was for \$16 million over five years that includes a \$3 million buyout if he left before Jan. 31, 2018. He was offered a four-year, \$20 million extension a week ago when it appeared that the Florida State job would be open. His first job at Florida State will be salvaging a recruiting class that saw six prospects over the past week announce that they were reopening their searches of where to attend college.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

FLORIDA
UCF tabs Josh Heupel to be Knights' next football coach

ORLANDO — UCF has hired Josh Heupel as the Knights' next football coach.

Heupel, who has been the offensive coordinator at Missouri the past two seasons, is scheduled to be introduced at a news conference Tuesday.

Heupel says in a statement that he is excited "to get a staff together and get to work with our wonderful student-athletes."

The 39-year-old Heupel replaces Scott Frost, who accepted the Nebraska coaching job after leading UCF to a 12-0 record and the American Athletic Conference title. The Knights will play Auburn in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta on Jan. 1.

Athletic director Danny White says he believes UCF has "identified one of the brightest minds in college football" in Heupel.

OKLAHOMA
Woman files protective order against RB Anderson

NORMAN — A woman has filed a protective order against Oklahoma running back Rodney Anderson in Cleveland County Court.

Court documents say a hearing is scheduled for Dec. 18. An Oklahoma spokesman said the school is aware and gathering information.

Anderson has been one of Oklahoma's breakout stars this year. He had season-ending injuries the past two years, then started slowly this season before becoming one of the nation's most productive backs the second half of the season. He leads the Sooners with 960 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns and has 283 yards and five touchdowns receiving. Oklahoma plays Georgia in a national semifinal on Jan. 1.

WATT

From IC

NFL career is done. But Watt isn't quite ready to declare what his plans for after football will be.

"I'm not sure," he said. "In the past I've had quite a few thoughts about what I'd do after my career. But honestly I'm just so excited and so focused on getting back on the field that I'm really not thinking a whole lot about after because I'm hoping I get to stay on the field for quite a while. So I'm honestly just really, really excited to get back on the field."

Watt was honored Monday night, along with Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve, as Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year.

Along with returning to be the fearsome defender he once was for the Texans, Watt is also hoping he'll be invited back to an Astros game to throw out the ceremonial first pitch after his last try wasn't up to his lofty standards.

In his first public appearance which came less than three weeks after his injury, Watt's throw before Game 3 of the World Series sailed a bit outside after he handed his crutches to his girlfriend and tossed it while balancing on his right leg.

"It was more frustrating that I missed the plate," he said. "So I put that one on myself. So no excuses even on crutches. So hopefully next year I can go back out there and throw one across the plate."

Rivals Manning, Spurrier enter College Hall of Fame

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After the class picture of the latest Hall of Fame inductees was taken, Peyton Manning made his way over to Steve Spurrier for another handshake and some chit-chat before heading off in opposite directions to do media interviews.

The former Tennessee quarterback and former Florida coach had a one-sided rivalry that helped define an era of Southeastern Conference football. Manning set records in Knoxville, Tennessee, and won just about every award short of the Heisman Trophy, but his teams never beat Spurrier's mighty Gators.

Famous for his zingers, Spurrier said on the rare occasion he runs into Manning these days, there is no trash talk. There's just mutual admiration and the chance to talk ball with one of the best quarterbacks the coach has ever seen. The secret to beating Manning was really no secret at all, Spurrier said.

"We just got ready to play the best we could," Spurrier said. "Offense. Defense. Just seemed to work out. They didn't have their best game a lot and it seemed like we always played well."

Spurrier and Manning were inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame on Tuesday night at the National Football Founda-



Richard Drew/Associated Press

Former University of Tennessee football quarterback Peyton Manning, left, and former University of Florida football quarterback Steve Spurrier get together after a news conference of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame, in New York, Tuesday.

tion's awards banquet in Manhattan.

The rest of the players in Hall of Fame class included Marshall Faulk of San Diego State; 2004 Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart of Southern California; Bob Crable of Notre Dame; Kirk Gibson, the National League MVP in 1988 and former Michigan State receiver; Bob McKay of Texas A&M; Mike Ruth of Boston College; Brian Urlacher of New Mexico; and Adrian Peterson of Georgia Southern.

"He's the real Adrian Peterson," Urlacher said of his old Chicago Bears teammate.

Peterson's college career ended in 2001, a few years before that other Adrian Peterson became a star at Oklahoma and went on to a

brilliant career in the NFL. This Peterson still holds the Division I career rushing record with 6,559 yards.

Peterson said he always remembered what his first football coach told him when he was growing up in Alachua, Florida.

"You should never let one person bring you down. From the age of 6, that kind of stuck with me," he said.

The other coaches inducted into the Hall of Fame were Larry Kehres, who led Division III Mount Union to 11 national titles and a .930 winning percentage in 27 seasons, and Danny Ford, who coached Clemson to its first national championship at the age of 33.


Spurrier became the fourth person to be inducted into the hall as both a player and a coach. Spurrier



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Channel	Time	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KMD ABC	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
KWTT CW	5	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	
KPEI FOX	8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
KMLH HD	11	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	
KWIS NBC	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
KWTT PBS	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	
KUPB UNI	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
KOSA HD	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	
FLIX	340	375	185	340	375	185	340	375	185	340	375	185	
HBO	300	360	14	300	360	14	300	360	14	300	360	14	
HBO2	302	391	15	302	391	15	302	391	15	302	391	15	
HBO3	304	392	16	304	392	16	304	392	16	304	392	16	
MAX	380	387	17	380	387	17	380	387	17	380	387	17	
MAX2	382	388	18	382	388	18	382	388	18	382	388	18	
PLEX	386	386	18	386	386	18	386	386	18	386	386	18	
SHOW	326	365	19	326	365	19	326	365	19	326	365	19	
TMC	336	370	22	336	370	22	336	370	22	336	370	22	
AMC	27	58	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	
BET	58	-	40	-	-	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	
BRAVO	65	76	41	-	-	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	
CNBC	46	52	39	72	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
HALLMARK	54	71	58	34	-	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
HISTORY	63	69	26	48	44	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
MSNBC	47	53	49	73	-	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
NBCSN	38	43	-	-	-	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
SPICE	30	-	55	53	58	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
SYFY	66	62	41	57	67	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
TELE	28	-	10	20	-	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
WGN	19	85	-	-	-	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	




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Teen girl feels pressure from society to have sex

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teenage girl who has always heard and seen on TV and in movies that there's pressure from guys to have sex. That may be true, but I feel there is also pressure from society. I never thought I would feel like that when I got to high school, but now I do. It hurts, and I am writing this for all the girls who feel the same way I do about it. I have been struggling with it for a few days, and it is messing with me a lot.

I know I don't want to have sex yet, but I still feel like I have to. "Tom" really wants to, but he isn't a virgin. It scares me, and while he isn't pressuring me, I feel like there is a boulder on my shoulders. If you know how I can stop feeling like this, please let me know. — **PRESSURE FROM SOCIETY**

DEAR PRESSURE: A sure-fire way to feel less pressured into doing something you're not ready for would be to stop assuming Tom's sex drive is YOUR responsibility.

Remember that although many teenage girls have been pressured into having sex, a sizable number have not. If you choose to wait until you are older, that's your privilege, because regardless of what you're seeing on TV and in the movies, "everyone else" ISN'T doing it.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I

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.

have two amazing children, and while they do require a lot of attention, I feel like I'm getting the short end of the stick. My wife works third shift, while I work 8 to 5. She's off two days out of two weeks, but even then, she's on call it seems like all the time. When I try to make time for us, things come up more often than not and it gets pushed aside.

We used to have time for each other, and we are talking about having another child. How do I find the time for one more child when we don't have enough time for each other? I'm beginning to think she doesn't want to be around me anymore, or she's no longer in love with me or that she's cheating on me. I don't want to believe it, but I don't know what else to think. What should I do? — **NEEDS TIME TOGETHER**

DEAR NEEDS TIME: Have you told your wife all the things you are telling me? If you haven't, place it at the top of your agenda. Feeling the way

you do, you should be talking about improving your marriage before enlarging your family and the responsibilities that go along with it. Not only should you and your wife be scheduling alone time together, you should also consult a licensed family therapist to reopen the lines of communication between the two of you.

DEAR ABBY: Could you please tell me what's proper in a situation like this? My husband and I are always invited to his family's holiday celebrations. When we accept, the invitation is also extended to my mother and sister. If my husband and I are unable to attend, should my mother and sister still go or consider their invitation canceled? — **JAN IN SAN CLEMENTE, CALIF.**

DEAR JAN: If the invitations that were extended were accepted by your mother and sister, and they are expected, they should attend.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Oops!

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH
♠ 9 3
♥ A 4
♦ A K 8 6 4 3
♣ K 6 4

WEST
♠ K 10 6
♥ Q 10 7
♦ Q J 7 5
♣ Q 7 3

EAST
♠ A 8 4 2
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 10 9
♣ 10 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 7 5
♥ K J 9 8 6
♦ 2
♣ A J 8

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
2NT Pass 3♣ Pass
3♠ Pass 4♠ All pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

It's possible that you and your partner would have reached a different contract on this deal. It came up late in the cocktail hour and North had been enjoying himself. He had a blind spot over South's three spade bid and thought that South had opened one spade and rebid hearts, instead of the

other way around. Anyway, the play's the thing.

The opening club lead went to South's jack. South had only been drinking iced tea. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, and then ruffed a heart in dummy. This was followed by the ace and king of diamonds, and then a third diamond. East saw no point in ruffing, so he discarded a club as declarer ruffed low.

South cashed the ace of clubs and led a club to dummy's king. That was nine tricks in the bag with two hearts, two diamonds, and three clubs, along with a ruff in each hand. Declarer still had the queen-jack-seven of trumps remaining and there was no way for the defense to prevent him from scoring another trump trick. Four spades bid and made!

East-West didn't feel too bad about this, telling themselves that South would surely have taken nine tricks in the more traditional contract of three no-trump.

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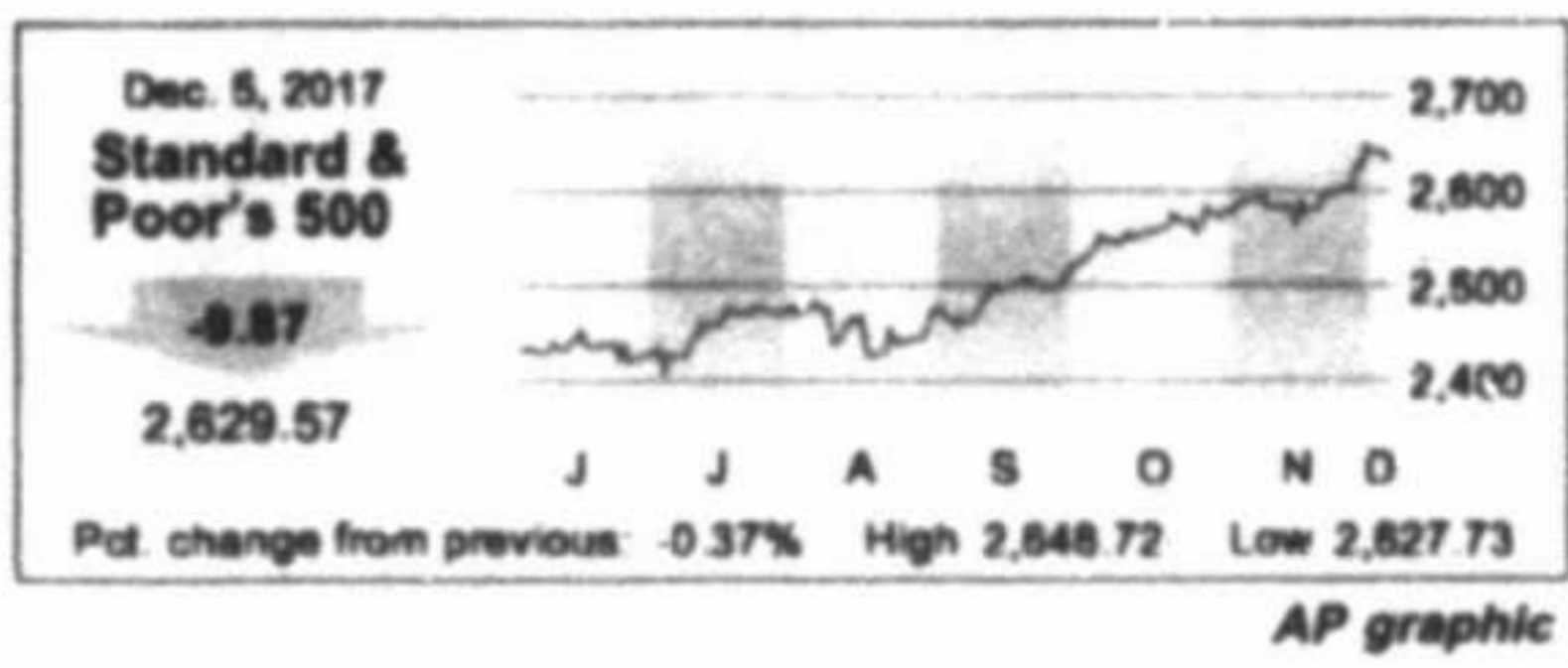
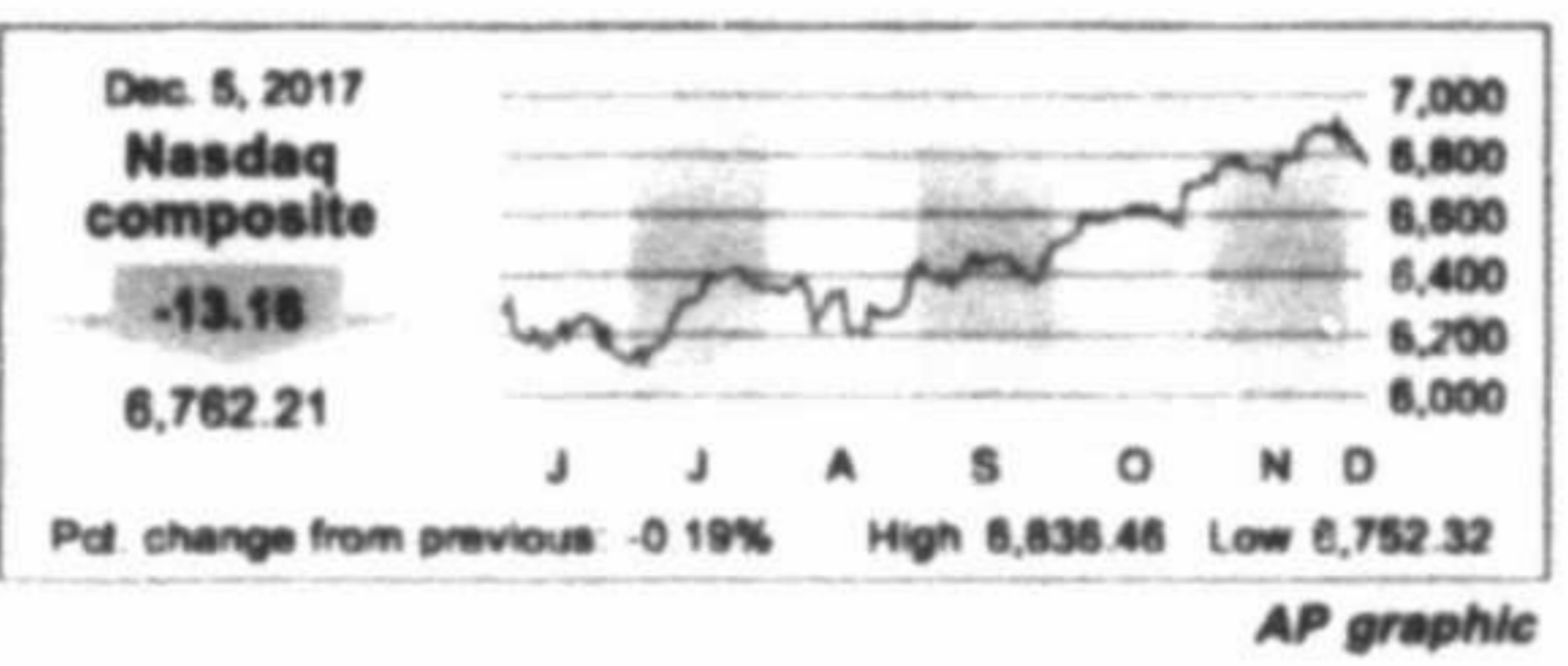
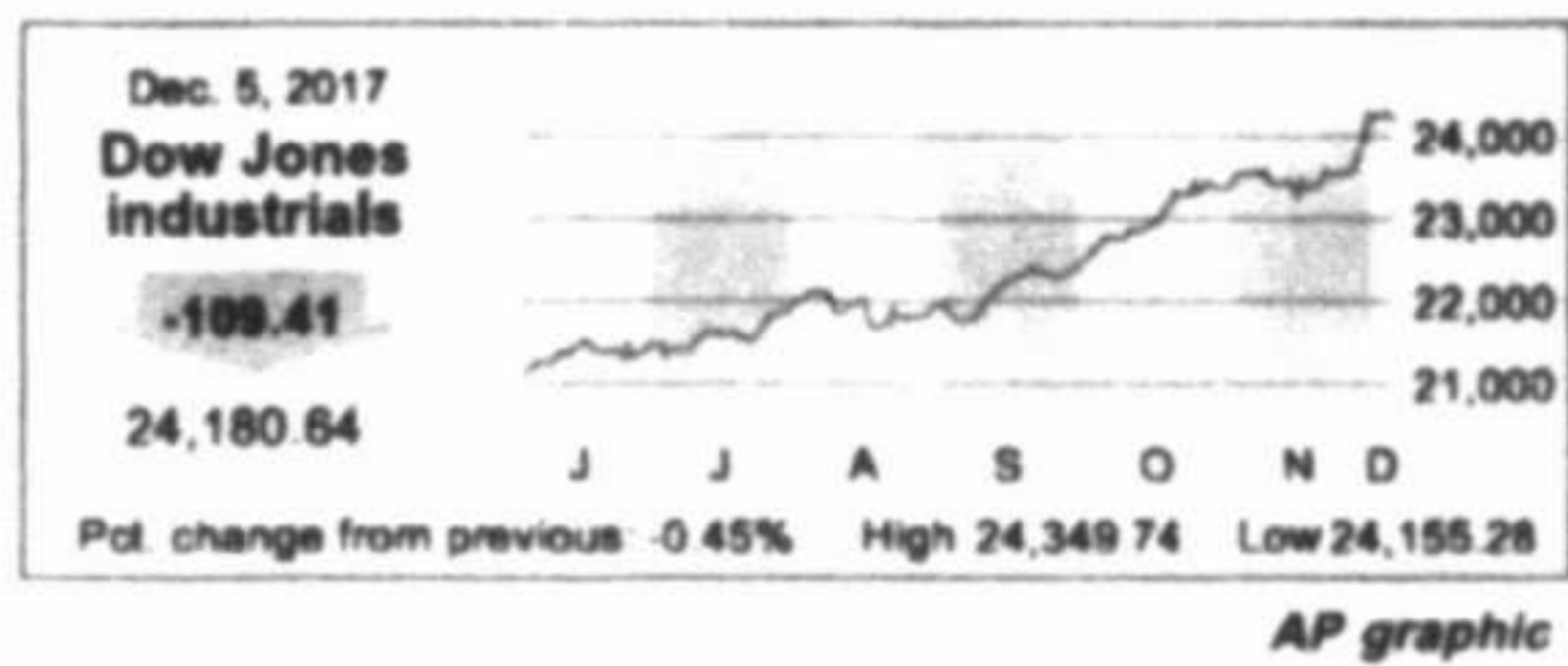
FAMILY CIRCUS



BUSINESS & OIL

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt.com | Wednesday, December 6, 2017 | Page 7C

A DAY ON WALL STREET



OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Tuesday: \$57.62
Previous: \$57.47

POSTED

Tuesday: \$54.00
Previous: \$54.25

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Tuesday: \$51.25
Previous: \$51.50

NATURAL GAS

Tuesday: \$2.914
Previous: \$2.985



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on week)

Name	Vol	Last	Chg
SPDR Fin	76280	27.85	-15
SPDR Fin	76280	27.85	-15
SPDR Fin	76280	27.85	-15
SPDR Fin	76280	27.85	-15
SPDR Fin	76280	27.85	-15

LOSERS (\$2 on week)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Edison	70.00	-10.26	-12.8
Edison	70.00	-10.26	-12.8
Edison	70.00	-10.26	-12.8
Edison	70.00	-10.26	-12.8
Edison	70.00	-10.26	-12.8

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on week)

Name	Vol	Last	Chg
DigitalP	370021	3.66	+17
DigitalP	370021	3.66	+17
DigitalP	370021	3.66	+17
DigitalP	370021	3.66	+17
DigitalP	370021	3.66	+17

LOSERS (\$2 on week)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Contango	2.62	-44	-14.4
Contango	2.62	-44	-14.4
Contango	2.62	-44	-14.4
Contango	2.62	-44	-14.4
Contango	2.62	-44	-14.4

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on week)

Name	Vol	Last	Chg
MicroT	554728	41.21	+1.31
MicroT	554728	41.21	+1.31
MicroT	554728	41.21	+1.31
MicroT	554728	41.21	+1.31
MicroT	554728	41.21	+1.31

LOSERS (\$2 on week)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PyraTr	4.90	-1.79	-36.5
PyraTr	4.90	-1.79	-36.5
PyraTr	4.90	-1.79	-36.5
PyraTr	4.90	-1.79	-36.5
PyraTr	4.90	-1.79	-36.5

UPS warns of temporary delays as Cyber Monday swamps network

Bloomberg

United Parcel Service is expecting slight delays in package deliveries through midweek after a surge in e-commerce sales swamped its network after Thanksgiving.

Online orders on Cyber Monday and the days after overwhelmed expectations, UPS spokesman Steve Gaut said Tuesday, causing a "bubble" to develop at certain package centers. Heavy volumes forced one- or two-day delays for certain items ordered last week. The company worked over the weekend to catch up.

Much of the backlog is already cleared, and UPS doesn't expect to miss Christmas deadlines because of it, Gaut said.

"The bubble has worked its way through the system, and we expect everything to be back in line with our forecasts by tomorrow," Gaut said.

UPS has been preparing for months to handle the spike in deliveries during the peak holiday season, implementing a 27-cent surcharge for the first time on packages shipped to U.S. residences over certain weeks. The company also expects to add 95,000 temporary workers.

The shopping surge prompted the company to notify many of its drivers that they would be required to work as many as 70 hours over an eight-day spell, Gaut said. Sixty hours over a seven-day period is more typical during peak season. Drivers are entitled to an extended rest following that period.

S&P 500 drops to third straight loss after tech rally fades

NEW YORK — Another afternoon fizzle for stocks left the Standard & Poor's 500 index with its third straight loss on Tuesday.

The market seemed like it was headed for a gain in the morning, after technology stocks recovered from one of their few stumbles this year. But the tech rally lost momentum as the afternoon went on, and losses for telecom stocks and utilities helped cement the S&P 500's longest losing streak in nearly four months.

The S&P 500 fell 9.87 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,629.57. It had been up 0.3 percent in the morning, and it marked the second straight day where an early rally ended up petering out.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 109.41, or 0.5 percent, to 24,180.84, and the Nasdaq composite fell 13.15, or 0.2 percent, to 6,762.21. Losers outnumbered winners on the New York Stock Exchange by nearly two to one.

Cineworld agrees to buy Regal in \$3.6 billion theater deal

Bloomberg

The U.K.'s Cineworld Group agreed to buy U.S. theater operator Regal Entertainment Group for about \$3.6 billion to expand into the biggest movie market.

The \$23-a-share deal comes a week after the companies confirmed news reports of takeover discussions, jolting cinema-operator stocks. The price represents a 26 percent premium to Regal's close on Nov. 27, the day before discussions became public.

Cineworld will gain opportunities for growth outside Britain, where consumer spending is falling ahead of the country's exit from the European Union. Movie-theater operators are consolidating to wring out costs and afford reclining chairs and expanded food-and-drink options to entice customers away from their Netflix binges at home.

"The joint group is going to create the best place to watch a movie," Cineworld Chief Executive Officer Mooky Greidinger said in an interview Tuesday. Cinemas remain the "key drivers" of the industry, not home entertainment, he said. "The place to premier the big movies is in the cinemas."

Shares of Cineworld have fallen 19 percent since news of the talks emerged.

"The fact that if, in a certain year, there is a drop of 2 or 3 percent, it's not the end of the world," Greidinger said. Bigger movies still draw larger audiences and those who watch Netflix and Amazon at home are still likely to go to the theaters, he said.

Cineworld has been refurbishing movie theaters in the U.K., Europe and Israel to offer "top of the class" facilities, Greidinger said, including wider seats, a variety of food offerings, better sound systems and bigger screens.

The deal will give the companies \$150 million a year in pretax savings and structural synergies, Cineworld estimates.

Changes it's considering include modernizing Regal's movie theaters and ticketing systems, people familiar with the offer said last week, asking not to be identified as the deliberations were private.

Metal prices fall

Gold slipped \$12.80 to settle at \$1,264.90 per ounce, silver lost 31 cents to \$16.07 per ounce and copper dropped 14 cents to \$2.95 per pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Public Traded Companies

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price \$138.31 Down 0.88

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price \$5.07 Down 0.06

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price \$109.06 Up 0.04

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price \$1.50 Down 0.03

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price \$4.50 Down 0.01

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price \$25.55 Down 1.20

ProPetro Holdings (PUMP)
Closing Price \$18.22 Down 0.69

RSP Permian (RSP)
Closing Price \$36.34 Down 0.34

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price \$14.42 Down 0.38

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price \$21.71 Up 0.22

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD	Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD
AT&T Inc	1.96	14	36.55	-72	-1.41	+11.6	CocaCola	1.48	28	46.26	+83	+11.6	+15.0	ProEgg	—	—	—	—	—	-6.8	Starbucks	1.20	30	59.24	+58	+6.9	+25.0
Abraxas	—	—	2.29	-0.1	-4.4	-14.4	ColPalm	1.89	28	74.59	+87	+14.8	+15.0	PUVST	—	—	13.85	-12	-0.8	-12.2	TelEcp	1.28	—	19.82	-89	-4.9	-11.9
AdVeeq	1.32	—	14.82	-0.2	-1.6	-14.8	Concast	0.1	19	29.52	-80	-14.5	-14.5	ProEgg	0.79	23	91.48	-81	-8.7	-9.4	3M Co	4.70	28	236.26	-1.00	-0.4	-0.4
AMD	—	—	9.91	-12	-12.8	-12.8	ConEd	0.8	21	37.17	-7.8	-20.9	-20.9	ProEgg	0.8	19	17.28	-59	-3.7	-21.5	Towmark	0.19	—	89.88	-48	-5.3	-5.3
AbtInc	48	168	96	-50	-52.4	-52.4	ConEd	—	—	138.21	-88	-63.3	-63.3	ProEgg	0.8	24	22.08	+1.05	+4.7	+4.7	WGS	1.88	—	26.57	-84	-3.1	-3.1
Alibi	—	—	10.40	-0.7	-7.5	-7.5	ConEd	1.06	41	91.23	-88	-22.2	-22.2	ProEgg	0.8	18	18.87	-0.6	-3.2	-3.2	21stCenA	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	68.13	-18	-26.3	-26.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenB	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	6.30	+0.2	+3.3	+3.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenC	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	178.87	-82	-45.8	-45.8	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenD	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	48.28	-33	-68.3	-68.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenE	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	42.15	-1.98	-4.7	-4.7	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenF	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	168.04	+16	+9.5	+9.5	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenG	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	98.08	+21	+21.5	+21.5	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenH	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	9.70	-50	-51.5	-51.5	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenI	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	2.10	-51	-24.3	-24.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenJ	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	3.83	-0.1	-2.6	-2.6	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenK	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	91.46	-25	-27.3	-27.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenL	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	115.68	+87	+75.2	+75.2	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenM	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	39.73	-18	-45.3	-45.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenN	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	29.93	-13	-43.5	-43.5	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenO	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	32.45	-14	-43.2	-43.2	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenP	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	1.54	+0.3	+19.5	+19.5	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenQ	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	13.77	-14	-10.2	-10.2	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenR	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	45	—	—	—	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenS	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	3429485.00	+1385.02	+39.5	+39.5	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenT	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	1.15	+47	+40.4	+40.4	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenU	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	24.94	+04	+15.3	+15.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenV	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	62.62	-45	-71.9	-71.9	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenW	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	62.29	-28	-44.9	-44.9	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenX	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	62.21	-88	-141.3	-141.3	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenY	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	71.01	-68	-95.8	-95.8	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenZ	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	12.65	-28	-221.4	-221.4	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenAA	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	11.37	+83	+730.8	+730.8	ConEd	—	—	7.54	-52	-6.7	-6.7	ProEgg	0.8	17	63.99	-1.6	-2.5	-2.5	21stCenAB	0.36	20	32.90	-10	-3.0	-3.0
Alibi	—	—	140.14	-1.36	-0.9	-0.9	ConEd																				

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MANAGEMENT-EXECUTIVE

District Manager
The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening for a Circulation District Manager. This individual would be responsible for overseeing a delivery force of independent contractors/carriers, as well as performing other duties involved with the delivery and distribution of our newspaper, other contracted products, and niche publications.
This position requires excellent communication skills, must be able to work flexible hours (largely in the early morning hours including weekends), have reliable transportation. Candidate with previous newspaper delivery experience preferred but not required.
This is a full time salaried position, eligible for full benefits including health, vision, dental and paid time off with excellent starting salary.
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NOW HIRING

ARROWS UP

Open Interviews - Heavy Equipment Operators
Thursday, December 7th
12pm - 5pm - Courtyard By Marriott - 1505 Tradewind Boulevard, Midland, TX.
www.arrowsupllc.com - Logan Wurtz 303-398-0319

SERVERS
Petroleum Club of Midland is hiring Seasonal Banquet and Buffet Servers. Please apply in person at 501 W Wall St between 9-11 am M-F or email your resume to Brad Miller at brad@pcmidland.com

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
Now hiring all positions. Apply in person from 2-5pm. Buffalo Wild Wings 5107 W Wadley Ave.

RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICES

Barenders, Expeditors, Runners, Waitstaff, Pizza, Line & Broiler Cooks
Petroleum Club of Midland is opening an upscale Sports Casual fun Dining Room. We are looking to hire Fun, Outgoing, and Hardworking individuals to join our team as Barenders, Expeditors, Food Runners, Waiters, and Waitresses. We are also seeking to hire experienced Pizza cooks for our Stone Baked Oven, as well as Line Cooks and Broiler Cooks.
Please apply in person at 501 W Wall St between 9-11 am M-F or email your resume to Brad Miller at brad@pcmidland.com

Restaurant Positions
Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Would you like to make \$15 to \$20 an hour, depending on position?
Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Barenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Come apply in person: 11am-2pm at 1287 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706 or online at: www.osaka.com

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SUPERINTENDENTS
Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave. Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

Plumbers & Helpers
Cary Eary Plumbing now hiring licensed plumbers and helpers. Apply in person at 1300 W. Dakota

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Hazmat, Tankers & Class A CDL
Contact Roman Hernandez 432-894-1416
Fernando Uribe 432-558-0966
Send Resume to: Lydia.Garcia@CatalystOffield.com

Frac Sand CDL Drivers & Owner Operators
Local trucking company Now hiring Frac Sand Class A CDL, Drivers & Owner Operators, clean driving record is required. Must pass a criminal background check and DOT drug test. Apply in person at 5913 FM 715, Midland, Texas 79706

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Legal and Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BID

Midland County Hospital District is accepting bids for the project entitled **Texas Tech Behavioral Health Tenant Finish Out/ Renovation at Midland Memorial Hospital, 2301 W Michigan Avenue, Midland, Texas, 79701**

Bidders may contact Jonathan Greening for bid documents and questions on or after Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

Jonathan Greening
400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway
Midland, Texas 79701
Telephone: 1-432-221-4892
Jonathan.Greening@MidlandHealth.org

Pre-Bid conferences will be held on December 19, 2017 and January 9, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at jobsite location, 2301 W Michigan Avenue, Midland, Texas. All interested Sub-Contractors are encouraged to attend.

A Bid Bond in an amount of not less than five percent (5%) will be required for all bids. The successful bidder will be required to enter into a general contract with the Midland County Hospital District. Payment and Performance Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price will be required by Owner upon contract execution.

Three (3) hard copies and one (1) Electronic copy of all bids must be received in the Department of Materials Management of Midland Memorial Hospital, Main Campus, 400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway, Midland, Texas, 79701, by **2:00 PM, Tuesday, January 16, 2018**. Under no circumstances will bids received beyond January 16, 2018, 2:00 PM be accepted.

All bids must be sealed and labeled "BID # 1235-120617 Enclosed".

Fixed bids from bidders will not be accepted.

All bids must be price protected until May 11, 2018.

All bids will remain confidential until after an award has been made. Vendors will then be allowed to review the bids in the purchasing office according to the policy/procedure of Midland Memorial Hospital. Midland County Hospital District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities.

Bids shall be addressed to:
Amy Jean Fultz
Director of Supply Chain
Midland County Hospital District
Midland Memorial Hospital
400 Rosalind Redfern Grover Parkway
Midland, Texas 79701
Amy.Fultz@midlandhealth.org

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Bid(s) will be received until 2:00 P.M., December 27, 2017 to be opened at 2:00 P.M., in the Office of the City Secretary City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas for the following Bid(s):

Bid No. 18000358

For: Light Trucks

If the Contract is awarded, it will be awarded to either the lowest responsible bidder, or to the bidder who provides goods or services at the best value for the City of Midland. In determining the best value for the City of Midland, the City of Midland may consider the criteria enumerated in Section 252.043 of the Texas Local Government Code. Information for bidders, Proposal Forms, Specifications and General conditions for bidding may be obtained from the office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas.

Purchasing Division
City of Midland, Texas

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Proposals will be accepted by the Midland County Purchasing Agent, located in Suite 1101 of the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine Street, Midland, Texas 79701 until 10:00 a.m. Local Time, Friday, December 8, 2017. The proposals will be opened and acknowledged at 10:05 a.m., Local Time, December 8, 2017.

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

RFP 17MCO526 - OIL AND GAS LEASE

Pursuant to Chapter 71 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, Midland County, Texas is accepting proposals for the purpose of entering into a Non Surface Use Oil and Gas Lease for certain designated County owned property.

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

The RFP will be available on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Information may be obtained from the County Purchasing Agent's Office 432-688-4873 or par103@co.midland.tx.us or on the Midland County Purchasing webpage www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/purchasing

Kristy Engeldahl
Midland County Purchasing Agent

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Solaris Water Midstream, LLC, 9811 Katy Freeway, Ste 900, Houston, TX 77024, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres Formation, Boylan SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 2.13 miles southwest of Lenora, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Martin County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4,030 to 5,000 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen (15) days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control, Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, TX, 78711, telephone (512) 463-6792.

General Announcement

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Legal and Public Notices

CAUSE NO. P-19,254

ESTATE OF JIM REED GERRON DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JIM REED GERRON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jim Reed Gerron, Deceased, were issued on November 15, 2017, under Cause No. P-19,254, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to Patsy Gerron.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative:
Estate of Jim Reed Gerron, Deceased
c/o Shaffer, Davis, O'Leary & Stoker
Christopher J. Terry
P. O. Drawer 1552
Odessa, Texas 79780

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED December 4, 2017

Respectfully submitted,
SHAFER, DAVIS, O'LEARY & STOKER
Post Office Drawer 1552
Odessa, Texas 79780-1552
Telephone: 432-322-0893
Facsimile: 432-335-8329
/s/ Christopher J. Terry
Christopher J. Terry
State Bar No. 24079446
cterry@shafferfirm.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

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

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 500 W Illinois Street, Suite 100, Midland, Texas 79701 applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to amend an existing injection permit to inject produced water and salt water into a porous formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the Clearfork and Wichita Formations in the Fullerton Clearfork Unit Lease, well number 1612W. The proposed injection well is located 20 miles West from Andrews in the Fullerton Field, in Andrews County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5660 - 7300 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792)

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Distillers and Rectifiers Permit by Blue Topaz Distilling, LLC dba Blue Topaz Distilling, LLC to be located at 9613 West County Road 152, Midland, Midland County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Ailie Lansford President and Luke Alejandro Vice-President

Legal and Public Notices

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Solaris Water Midstream, LLC, 9811 Katy Freeway, Ste 900, Houston, TX 77024, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres Formation, Jester King SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 5.13 miles northwest of Knott, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Martin County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,370 to 4,800 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of IVA WILLS, Deceased, were issued on March 21, 2017, in District Number P-18,988, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas to DEBBIE DUNCAN Independent Executor.

The address of record for DEBBIE DUNCAN is 4817 Taltersham, Midland, Midland County, Texas 79705

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 22nd day of March, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF J. BRIAN MARTIN
J. Brian Martin
3700 N. Big Spring St.
P.O. Box 3881
Midland, Texas 79705
Ph: 432-684-0402
Fax: 432-683-8087
State Bar#13084500

ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE OF IVA WILLS

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