MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

52 FACES

Israel Robledo is one of 52 Faces of Community.

Page 1B



TEXANS LOSE

The Titans defeated the Texans on Sunday, 24-13. Read about the game inside.

Page 1C

Company proposes Permian-Gulf Coast pipeline

■ Estimated at $1 billion, Magellan Midstream's pipeline would go from Crane to Three Rivers then to Gulf Coast

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Surging Permian Basin production has prompted plans for yet another new pipeline to carry the region's crude to market.

Magellan Midstream Partners LP has announced plans to develop a new pipeline that would originate from Crane to a location near Three Rivers, transporting various grades of crude and condensate from the Permian and Eagle Ford to the Corpus Christi and Houston markets.

The Tulsa-based company has launched an open season to gauge customer interest in the project; customers can submit binding commitments by 5 p.m. Feb. 1.

"We estimate the cost of the project will be in excess of a billion dollars," Thomas Byers, Magellan's manager, government and media affairs, said in an email. "However, given the numerous potential variations of this project, we are not providing a total dollar amount at this time."

He said the proposed pipeline expresses Magellan's confidence in the longer-term outlook for Permian Basin production and export markets.

The proposed project would include construction of an approximately 375-mile, 24-inch-diameter pipeline from Crane to Three Rivers, where shippers could opt to deliver crude and condensate to the Houston area via a new 200-mile pipeline, or to the Corpus Christi area via a new 70-mile pipeline. The pipeline system is expected to have an initial capacity of at least 350,000 barrels per day with the ability to expand up to 600,000 barrels per day for each destination, depending on demand.

Magellan is considering additional extensions for Midland and Orla, which would tie

Please see **PIPELINE**/2A

CALLED TO ADOPT



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Kevin Garrett plays with his newly adopted daughter, Dylan, 20 months old, on Thursday. Garrett's wife, Allison, and other children — Tenley, 5, and Beau, 7, look on.

Couple welcomes third child through adoption

■ Kevin Garrett: (We) fell in love with her the minute that we saw her'

By Simone Jasper
sjasper@mrt.com

As a mother of two, Allison Garrett felt called to bring another child into her home through adoption. She was surprised to discover her husband, Kevin, had the same desire.

"We were rocking along and just assumed that was our family and everything was complete," Allison said. "I felt God was talking to me and telling me that it's not done yet, and adoption was just on my mind."

Last month, the Garretts welcomed a third child, Dylan, into their family. The couple adopted the 20-month-old girl after forming a connection with her from the start.

"Once we saw her, it didn't matter if she had health defects, mental defects," Kevin said. "It didn't matter at that point. [We] fell in love with her the minute that we saw her."

The Garretts, who live in the Greenwood area, met Dylan when she was about 3 months old. She was born addicted to drugs and had been staying at Midland Memorial Hospital during withdrawal.

Patricia Acosta, foster care supervisor at Buckner Children and Family Services, was the Garretts' caseworker for a period of time. She said they often asked questions of medical personnel to find out details about the baby's health.

"At the hospital, they were just ready to help Dylan in any way that they could," Acosta said. "They were rearranging schedules, trying to work out what to do with their other kids so they could spend time at the hospital."

After bringing Dylan home, the Garretts were attentive to needs that stemmed from the girl having spent her first few months in the hospital. They noticed developmental delays and behavioral effects from staying in the clinical environment.

Acosta said the Garretts have devoted time and effort to help Dylan progress. She guided the family through a process that culminated at a National Adoption Month celebration event in November.

"I was there from when we went to the hospital until now when she's adopted," Acosta said. "She officially became a Garrett, and... they made what was in their hearts official."

Buckner this year has helped to facilitate 25 adoptions and license 17 new homes. Acosta said families are increasingly becoming aware of the need for foster care in this area.

About 44 percent of children in foster care in Midland County were placed outside Region 9 — which includes Midland and nearby counties — according to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services statistics from October.

Kevin and Allison initially thought about adoption. But they decided to become certified foster parents in hopes of taking in long-term placements.

Throughout the process, the Garretts kept in mind the

Please see **ADOPTION**/5A

Gingerbread Haven, MC Holiday Evening among events this week

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF EVENTS THIS WEEK IN MIDLAND.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 4A FOR PHOTOS FROM SATURDAY'S HOLIDAY EVENT.

Tuesday

■ The sixth annual Gingerbread Haven Extravaganza benefiting Midland Fair Havens will feature gingerbread house decorating and luncheon and a family house decorating party in the afternoon. Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; party, 4:30-6 p.m. at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. $95 luncheon, $80 party. mfh.org.

■ Betenbough Homes' annual Christmas event, "Oh,What Fun!" is 6-8 p.m. at 6728 N. State Highway 349. The event includes photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot cocoa, gingerbread cookie decorating and limo rides around Lone Star Trails. For more information, visit betenbough.com.

■ Reinbeer VII features a variety of craft beer samples, hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. 7-10 p.m. General admission is currently sold out but a wait list is available by calling 683-2882.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

■ Clint 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-$75. wagnernoel.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.

Please see **EVENTS**/4A

Visit us on social media

Did you know?
Santas can ski!
Santas gather in Maine to ski and snowboard. The event raises money for charity. Page 5A

The big number
5 million dollars
is the bond amount for the student who shot a Texas Tech officer. Page 2A

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

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DNA sketch leads to suspect confession in Texas slaying

By CLAUDIA LAUER
Associated Press

DALLAS — After her oldest daughter was killed in May 2016, Michelle McDaniel and the rest of her family isolated themselves in their small Texas town out of fear that the unknown killer could be standing in line with them at the grocery store or passing them on the street.

Then early last month, Brown County sheriff's investigators sent McDaniel a sketch of the man they suspected in her daughter's death, despite having no witnesses. The sketch was created using DNA found at the crime scene; a private lab used the sample to predict the shape of the killer's face, his skin tone, eye color and hair color.

Within a week, the sheriff's office had a suspect in custody.

For McDaniel, the DNA sketch technology known as phenotyping was an answered prayer. For law enforcement officers, it's a relatively new tool that can generate leads in cold cases or narrow a suspect pool. But for some ethicists and lawyers, it's an untested advancement that if used incorrectly could lead to racial profiling or ensnaring innocent people as suspects.

At a news conference a week after the sketch was released, Brown County Sheriff Vance Hill announced that 21-year-old Ryan Riggs had confessed to the beating death of 25-year-old Chantay Blankinship. Authorities have said they believe the killing was premeditated but have not released a motive. Riggs is being held without bond on a capital murder charge in the Brown County Jail about 170 miles (275 kilometers) southwest of Dallas.

"My son called me after seeing the sketch and said, 'Mom, I think I know this kid. He used to bully me in school.' He sat behind her in church. His mom picked her up every week and took her to church. ... He was best friends with my niece and her friends. And we wouldn't have known," McDaniel said.

Several private companies offer phenotyping services to law enforcement to create sketches of suspects or victims when decomposed remains are found. The process looks for markers inside of a DNA sample known to be linked to certain traits. Police in at least 22 states have released suspect sketches generated through phenotyping.

It works like this: Companies have created a predictive formula using the DNA of volunteers who also took a physical traits survey or had their face scanned by recognition software. That predictive model is used to search the DNA samples for specific markers and rate the likelihood that certain characteristics exist.

For some ethicists and lawyers, however, releasing a sketch of a suspect without any witnesses seems like a dangerous proposition. Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst at the American Civil Liberties Union, said that from what scientists have said and written, not enough is known about the link between genes and facial features to rely on the technology to produce a suspect.

"You can lose weight, gain weight, change gender, grow a beard, have plastic surgery," Stanley said. "It risks ensnaring innocent people in webs of suspicious investigations. It risks playing on existing societal racial prejudices. It risks diverting investigations down wild goose chases. If this technology were used to set up dragnets say to bring in every albino person in an area as a suspect because the DNA seemed to show someone had that trait, that's where we would object."

Stanley also noted previous issues with forensic science advancement in the past, including bad practices in DNA testing from hair samples a few years ago.

Steve Armentrout, the CEO of Parabon NanoLabs, which created the Brown County sketch, said phenotyping isn't meant to replace court-tested methods of identifying suspects. He said it's an investigative tool.

"In every case we are involved in there is DNA. This isn't meant to provide a positive identification. It's meant to jog someone's memory," he said. "The greatest value of the tool from an investigative perspective is efficiency, the ability to exclude portions of the suspect pool.

In the Brown County case, Hill said Riggs saw the sketch, went on the run for a few days and then confessed to the killing in front of the congregation at the church where he and Chantay both attended services. Hill had not said whether DNA tests were run yet to see if Riggs' DNA matches that found at the scene.

No attorney information was listed for Riggs, and his parents didn't return calls seeking comment on the case.

In Central Texas, Brazos County Sheriff Chris Kirk likened the skepticism about the technology to officers saying digital cameras wouldn't hold up in court when they were introduced because the photos could be manipulated.

"Now every department in every state uses them," he said.

National Geographic paired with Kirk's department earlier this year and paid the $3,600 to submit suspect DNA from the 1981 slaying of Virginia Freeman for a sketch in exchange for being able to film the search process. The department released a sketch of the potential killer when he was in his 20s and another age progressed to about 70.

"It has definitely renewed the interest of the public in the case. We've gotten a number of tips and phone calls," said Kirk, who is the only remaining officer in his department who was around when Freeman was found bludgeoned, strangled and stabbed to death. "That was a really traumatic crime for that family, for the department and for the whole community."

As of this week, no arrests had been made.

STATE CRIME BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LUBBOCK

Attorney: Death penalty to be sought in Tech officer death

An attorney for a 19-year-old college student charged in the fatal shooting of a Texas Tech University police officer says prosecutors intend to seek the death penalty against his client if he's convicted of capital murder.

KLBK-TV in Lubbock says defense attorney Dennis Reeves indicated in a court filing Tuesday that the state will seek to execute Hollis Daniels III if he's found guilty. Prosecutors have not said whether they will seek the death penalty. A gag order has been issued in the case.

The lawyer's filing also indicates that Daniels may not be found competent to stand trial. A previous attorney for Daniels requested that he receive a mental health evaluation.

Daniels, from the San Antonio suburb of Seguin, is being held on a $5 million bond.

MANSFIELD

Arrest made in Houston in 2008 Fort Worth-area slaying

Authorities in North Texas say a 24-year-old man has been arrested in Houston for a slaying near Fort Worth nearly a decade ago.

Police in Mansfield, about 20 miles southeast of Fort Worth, say the man in custody was 15 when Danny Lee Ramsey III was found unresponsive in a shopping center parking lot in June 2008. The medical examiner determined Ramsey, from Alvarado, had been shot in the chest.

Mansfield police say recently developed new information led to the arrest last week by their detectives and Texas Rangers. The man in custody isn't being identified because he was a juvenile at the time of the killing.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports he's held on $1 million bond and is awaiting transfer to the Tarrant County Jail.

AUSTIN

Man flees mental health facility, sets home on fire

An Austin man who told authorities he escaped from a mental health facility is charged with arson after investigators say he set a fire in his family's home.

Police say when firefighters arrived, they heard crashing sounds and found 28-year-old Edward Avalos inside the house with a shovel. Court documents show the blaze was confined to a bedroom but was intentionally set.

The Austin American-Statesman reports Avalos told authorities he fled a mental health facility after spending about three weeks there, became angry when his mother was upset to see him back at home and wasn't pleased to see his brother was staying in his room.

LAREDO

Chicago man arrested in Texas human smuggling case

A Chicago man has been arrested and charged with transporting undocumented immigrants after federal agents near the Texas-Mexico border found 12 people inside his tractor trailer truck.

The Border Patrol says Carlos Rodriguez was pulled over last week near Laredo after he failed to stop at a checkpoint on Interstate 35 north of the border city.

Court documents show the 12 people in the truck were from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.

The San Antonio Express-News reports one of the truck occupants from Guatemala told authorities he paid about $1,000 to be smuggled into the U.S. and that he'd have to pay another $4,000 once he reached his destination in Florida.

DALLAS

'Where's Waldo?' among list of banned books in Texas prisons

The children's book "Where's Waldo? Santa Spectacular" is among the 10,000 books banned from Texas prisons, but Adolf Hitler's autobiography "Mein Kampf" makes the cut.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice provided to The Dallas Morning News the list of banned publications and the more than 248,000 works that inmates are allowed to read.

Alice Walker's "The Color Purple," a Pulitzer-Prize winner for fiction and the 2005 best-seller "Freakonomics" also are not allowed. But two books by former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke are OK.

There are a variety of reasons why the Texas agency bans books, such as graphic depictions of illegal sex acts or information on criminal schemes.

The agency also won't allow covers that can be used to hide contraband, which is why the "Harry Potter: Film Wizardry" pop-up book isn't allowed.

Obituaries



Emma Lou Meeks Lynch

Emma Lou Meeks Lynch (Lou Lynch), of Midland, passed away peacefully with family by her side on December 2, 2017 at the age of 88.

The family will be accepting guests at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home on Monday, December 4, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be at First Baptist Chapel on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Lou was born on June 26, 1929 in Waurika, Oklahoma to Roy and Euna Meeks. Lou graduated from Amarillo High School in 1947. She worked in commercial insurance for more than 30 years. Her hobbies included sewing, crocheting, and yard work. Her passions were her kids, her grandkids and great-grandkids. She was very enthralled and proficient at Genealogy, being successful in the completion of several Family Trees.

She is survived by her daughter, Dana Toller of Midland; her son, Kevin Lynch of Houston; and by three grandchildren, Chris Toller and Monica, and Daniel Toller, all of Midland, and Taylor Lynch of Houston. She has seven great-grandchildren - Bethany, Courtney, Elliana, Logan, Emily, Greyson, and Adeleine; two sisters, Jo Austin of Ft. Worth and Tiva Jackson and brother-in-law Lee Jackson of Howardwick.

She is preceded in death by both parents, and her brother, Jimmy Meeks.

The family would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the staff at Senior Care of Midland for their care and comfort for the last few months, and to Compass Hospice for their guidance during this difficult time.

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

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



Rick T. Van Every

Rick T. Van Every, 56, of Midland, Texas, went home to be with our Lord on Friday, December 1, 2017, with his loving family surrounding him at the time of his passing.

Rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Funeral Mass will be 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at St. Ann's Catholic Church. Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park.

Pallbearers for the service will be Andrew Knapp, Robert Olgin, Jr., Matthew T. Olgin, Daniel Borrego, Tony Paredes, and Craig O'Conner.

Rick was born December 28, 1960 in Miami, Florida to Edwin Leroy Van Every and Margaret Lois Herboldsheimer Van Every, who preceded him in death.

Rick married the love of his life and his queen, Sandy, on September 5, 2015. His passion was to love and treat Sandy like a Queen.

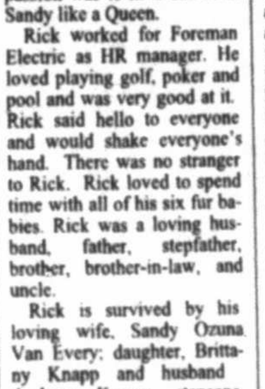
Rick worked for Foreman Electric as HR manager. He loved playing golf, poker and pool and was very good at it. Rick said hello to everyone and would shake everyone's hand. There was no stranger to Rick. Rick loved to spend time with all of his six fur babies. Rick was a loving husband, father, stepfather, brother, brother-in-law, and uncle.

Rick is survived by his loving wife, Sandy Ozuna Van Every; daughter, Brittany Knapp and husband Andrew Knapp; stepsons, Robert Olgin, Jr., and Matthew T. Olgin; sister, Linda Patterson of Jacksonville, Mississippi; brother, Steve Van Every of Jacksonville; and by several nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to Helping Hands, 1301 Brinson, Midland, TX 79703.

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

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Stanley Theodore Weiner

Stanley Theodore Weiner died on November 26, 2017 in Costa Rica living life to the fullest and doing what he loves the most, fishing in the Pacific Ocean. He had an incredible capacity to adapt to life's vicissitudes with fierce passion and grace. He taught by example that the greatest secret to life was found within relationships with others.

Stan was born in Midland, Texas on September 28, 1953 to Stanley Weiner and Mary Don Mask Weiner. He was one of the many neighborhood children and the third of five children, Suzanne Weiner Armistead (David Armistead), Diane Weiner Dillard (Robert W. Dillard), Samuel Frederick Weiner, and Patricia Ann Weiner. The house he grew up in on the corner of Broadway and Storey in Midland, Texas was a loving home. This house evolved into a place where the family's friends and loved ones routinely gathered to have parties and spend time together - they created an energy that made people want to be there. The neighborhood where this house is located was situated amongst a network of family and friends where people left their doors unlocked, the kids went to the soda shop after school, and neighbors raised their children together.

He lived life to the fullest and enjoyed the fun things in life. This manifested in his love for meeting new friends, eating different foods, enjoying good drinks, making adventures, traveling to new places, and fishing in the Gulf of Mexico all the way to the Pacific Ocean. His mischievous, intelligent, opinionated, and humorous nature made every person he met a friend and he was said to have never met a stranger. He was not bogged down by convention and he rose above social expectation as an example to all about what freedom means and how freedom looks. Even though he suffered enormous losses throughout his life with the death of both his brother and his father at a young age, he approached life and others with enthusiasm and joy. His resilience and ability to handle equanimity with love and vitality eluded many.

He dedicated his life to his children and his world revolved around his love for them. His passion in being a father transcended categorical boundaries into friendship, mentorship, and leadership of adventure, freedom and enjoyment of life's best. He also dedicated himself to humor and the art of deals. He had an enigmatic energy that he put in to all endeavors and a propensity toward the positive, which attracted people to him. His gregarious and charismatic presence put others at ease. His friendly and expressive eyes made it easy to connect. Failure did not prevent him from putting his all in to creating - his failures were fodder for inspiration and growth.

Everyone was his family and because of that it will be difficult to name those who survive him: his children (Stanley Weiner, and Samantha Weiner and Zubair Khan); his grandchild (Elam Stanley Khan); his siblings (Suzanne Weiner Armistead and David Armistead, Diane Weiner Dillard and Robert W. Dillard, and Patricia Ann Weiner); his nieces and nephews (Robert W. Dillard III and Krista Dabney Dillard, James and Suzanne Dillard Winfield, Samuel and Lindsay Dillard, Donald and Meagan Dillard); and lastly, multitudes of extremely close friends whom he made into his family. Stan is joining his loved ones who died before him: his father (Stanley Weiner), his brother (Samuel Frederick Weiner), his nephew (Justin Davis Armistead), and his mother (Mary Don Mask Weiner.)

He died surrounded by beauty and full excitement. That's because there was light and love in the places he was. That was the way he saw the world and that was the world he created. At times, he exploded with passion, sometimes with humor, sometimes with anger, and sometimes with love. His mercurial nature made your time with him interesting and insightful. He had a profound connection to the things that make us human and helped others by showing that humanity. For him, it was OK to be human and to not comport oneself to the detriment of losing one's self.

A memorial service to honor Stan's life will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at The First Presbyterian Church in Midland, Texas at 1:00 p.m. A reception will follow at the Midland Country Club at 2:30 p.m. The church's address is 800 West Texas Avenue, Midland, Texas 79701.

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

PIPELINE

From 1A

into the company's 60-mile, 24-inch Delaware Basin pipeline that is being built to carry Delaware Basin crude and condensate from Wink to Crane.

The new pipeline system would offer Permian Basin and Eagle Ford shippers access to multiple destinations in the Houston and Corpus Christi areas, including refiners and fractionators and access to deep water export docks.

Subject to all permits and approvals, this new pipeline could be operational by the end of 2019.

Magellan's announcement comes a day after the company and its joint venture partner in the BridgeTex pipeline, Plains All American Pipeline, launched a supplemental open season to gauge customer interest in expanded capacity for the BridgeTex pipeline.

BridgeTex, which was just expanded from 300,000 barrels per day to 400,000 barrels per day, is being expanded again to 440,000 barrels per day. Byers said the pipeline will be able to accommodate additional commitments of up to 40,000 barrels by 2018. He said mechanical upgrades to the pipeline will be complete in early 2019.

Potential customers of this proposed additional expansion should submit binding commitments by 5 p.m. Dec. 30.

Woman caught trying to smuggle bologna into US

EL PASO — Customs and Border Protection agents in El Paso say a woman who initially told inspectors she had nothing to declare as she was entering the country from Mexico was found carrying 227 pounds of contraband bologna in her car.

The discovery last week was made at a secondary examination station and after the woman amended her declaration statement.

The 23 tubes of meat were hidden under the rear seats of her car.

The bologna contains pork and isn't allowed into the country.

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito
Masscult
[mas-kuhlt]
noun
1. the forms of culture, as music, drama, and literature, as selected, interpreted, and popularized by the mass media for dissemination to the widest possible audience.

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TODAYINMIDLAND

Things to do

■ Mingle all the Way! Enjoy refreshments, snacks and dancing at this event hosted by 100 Women Who Rock the Permian Basin. 7-9 p.m. at the Ballroom Dance Studio, 4400 N. Big Spring St.

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

■ Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. at Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

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

■ Open Shop Night hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public, 6:30-9 p.m. at 602 S. Main St. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects. midlandgemandmineral.org.

Meetings today

Planning and Zoning Commission
3:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

English tour

An educational tour of England is planned for May. The tour will be led by Marianne Woods, associate professor of art history at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

The tour is May 17-27 and includes London, Bath and Windsor. For information on price and itinerary, contact Woods at woods_m@utpb.edu or 552-2290.

When it's open

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

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

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

U.S. Postal Service
Downtown, 100 E. Wall St. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Village, 2315 W Louisiana Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Graves, 3304 W Wadley Ave. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday
ClayDesta, 612 Veterans Airpark Lane, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
GMF Midland, 1000 Loop 40 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

DISAPPOINTING LOSS FOR LEE



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Lee High fans look on during the Class 6A Division I regional playoff game against Euless Trinity Saturday at Shotwell Stadium in Abilene. More fan photos will appear in a future edition.

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2017. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History

On Dec. 4, 1942, during World War II, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time with a raid on Naples.

On this date:

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations by a vote of 65-7.

In 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins gathered for the first and only time for a jam session at Sun Records in Memphis.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission.

In 1984, a five-day hijack drama began as four armed men seized a Kuwaiti airliner en route to Pakistan and forced it to land in Tehran, where the hijackers killed American passenger Charles Hegna. (A second American, William Stanford, also was killed during the siege.)

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity.

Weather

Sunday's temperatures
High 75
Low 48
Normal high 60
Normal low 33

Dec. 3's records
Record high: 83 set in 1954
Record low: 19 set in 1985

Precipitation
Sunday ..... 0.00 in.
Monday ..... 0.00 in.
Month total ..... 0.98 in.
Year total ..... 17.34 in.
Normal total (year to date) ..... 14.06 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 17 mph
Gust speed: 22 mph

Today's forecast
High: 75
Low: 39

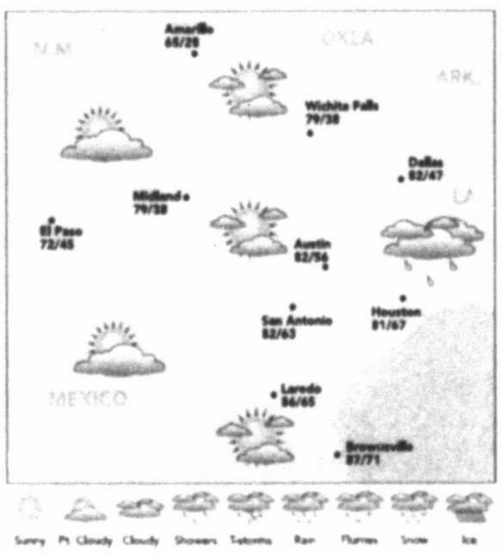
Conditions: Mostly sunny today/partly cloudy tonight

Winds: Southwest 10 mph today/southwest 5-10 mph tonight

Chance of rain: None

Sunrise ..... 7:34 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 Gemini if born before 3:37 p.m. (ET). Afterward, the Moon will be in Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Dec. 4, 2017:

This year you approach your life with greater happiness and openness than in the recent past. A relationship grows in significance, and you feel quite secure as a result. You will land well, no matter how wild the circumstances become. If you are single, you will have moments of great fun with someone special you meet. Do not allow feelings of insecurity to surface. If you are attached, you have gone through a lot with your sweetie. As a couple, you understand the power of good communication. CANCER might be too clingy for your taste.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your spontaneity could cause someone else to be upset. Some people might decide to take you on, and are likely to argue their opinions about what is happening. Recognize that you are responsible for having triggered all these reactions. **Tonight:** Head home and kick back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You perk up toward the end of the day. You have a lot on your mind, and you are more willing to share your thoughts. Someone you care about might withdraw. This person's behavior might not be reflective of his or her feelings toward you. **Tonight:** Be open to a suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might be driven by your reaction to what you consider an outrageous action and/or statement. Try to give the other party involved the space to talk through his or her feelings. You might have misunderstood this person's words. **Tonight:** Indulge in a favorite pastime.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You simply might not feel up to snuff until much later in the day. Make it OK to start your day slowly. In fact, play it low-key. Once you emerge later in the afternoon, you will feel better. You also might gain a new perspective on what has occurred. **Tonight:** Off to the gym.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The earlier part of the day is perfect for furthering a goal, though expect some flak from those around you. One person might not even understand where you are coming from. Later, you might think that a different approach would have been more effective. **Tonight:** Take it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You could be out of sorts, no matter what you do. You might want to pull back and let someone else take on the role of leader. Reassess your personal goals. A sensitive situation could change radically in a few hours. **Tonight:** Join a friend who is always light and full of fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ In the earlier part of the day, your ability to verbalize your ideas emerges. Others respond to you positively. By the late afternoon, you will notice that you are expected to take the lead in a project that you have suggested. Are you ready to do that? **Tonight:** Break past restrictions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A partner could dominate your thoughts. You might not know how to handle a problem. Ask for feedback, and you'll hear quite a few solutions, though some might not be as clear as you would like. You can work out the details later, if you so choose. **Tonight:** Follow your gut.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You seem to be in the mood to allow others to take control. One-on-one relating becomes necessary in order to bypass a problem. Confusion often seeps into what is occurring around you. Getting a clearer perspective could be close to impossible. **Tonight:** Love the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Making a strong decision seems close to impossible in the morning. Later in the day, a solution seems to present itself naturally. Know that others support you and your choices. Be direct about what you feel is best. **Tonight:** Let someone else take the lead for now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You will be exhausted from a creative brainstorming session that takes place in the morning. However, an excellent idea and game plan emerge as a result. A friend might want to be helpful but could feel quite insecure. **Tonight:** Do not fight the inevitable. Pick your battles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Relate directly to those around you. Your strength lies in one-on-one relating. Your ideas are unusually creative but difficult to actually execute, as they have a certain vagueness to them. Work on various ways of following through. **Tonight:** Allow yourself to be more playful.

BORN TODAY
Rapper Jay-Z (1969), TV personality Tyra Banks (1973), actor Jeff Bridges (1949)

Love Where You Live
The Village at Manor Park

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CHRISTMAS WISHES



HOLIDAY EVENT LIST CONTINUED

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 Emoji 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 940-3161.

■ 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-$59. midlandfestivalballet.org.

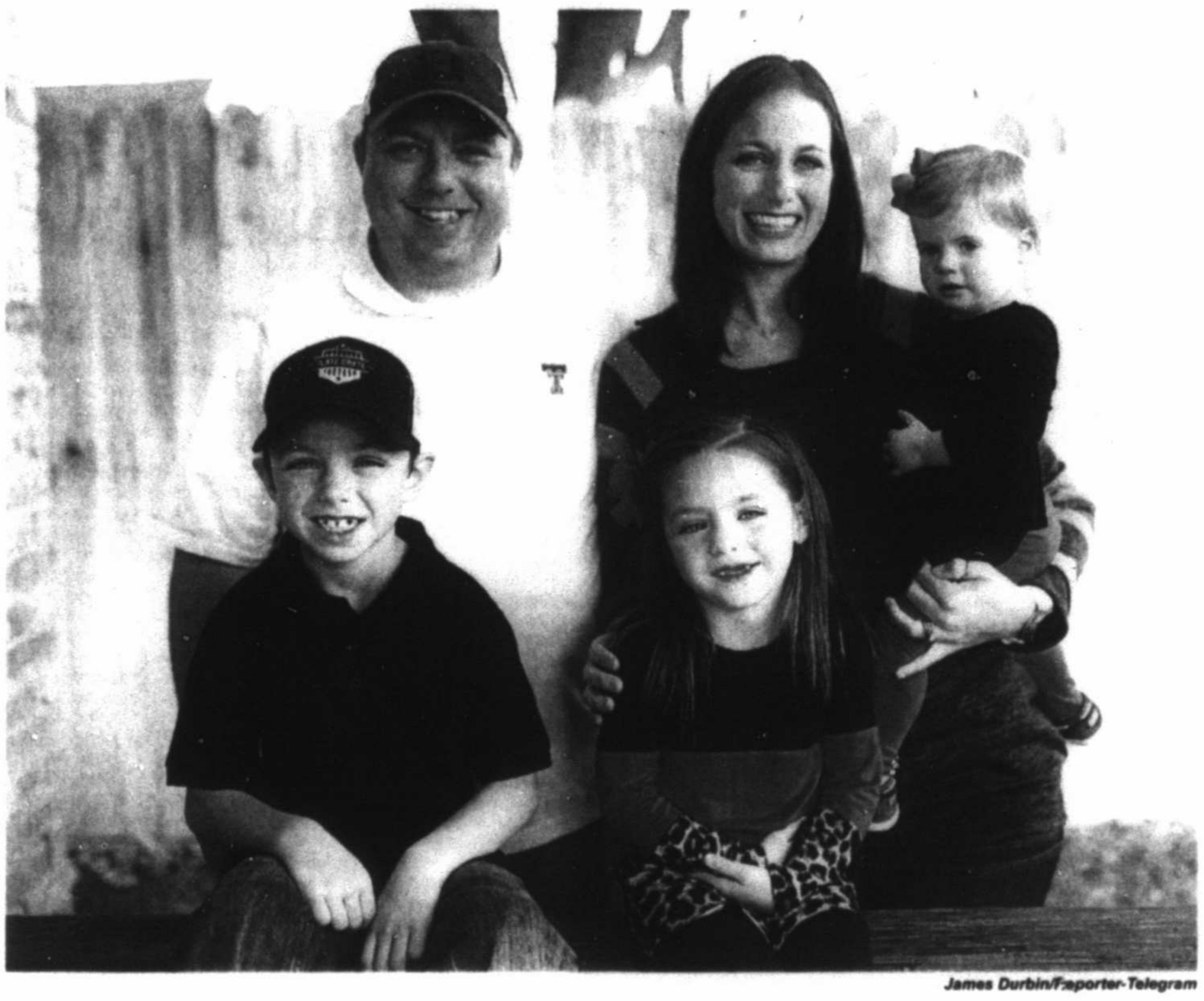


WITH SANTA



TOP: Presley Corral tells Santa and Mrs. Claus her wish list Saturday at Susie's South Forty. They were taking pictures with children and listening to their Christmas wish list. MIDDLE: Christopher Gonzalez, Elijah Romero and Lailah Ramero sit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. BOTTOM: Athina Haselton takes pictures of her children, Roland and Roxie, with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Photos byTim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Kevin and Allison Garrett adopted 20-month-old Dylan last month. The family — seen Thursday, at their Greenwood home — includes Beau, 7, left, and Tenley, 5.

ADOPTION

From 1A

well-being of their other children, Beau, 7, and Tenley, 5. They said their older the kids have become more thoughtful and express concern for those who are mistreated.

"They've lived a very loved, spoiled, protected life, so I think it did just open them up," Allison said. "You want to keep their innocence, but at the same time they need to be aware outside of their little world that there's a whole other world."

The foster care and adoption process also made an impact on the parents. Kevin said he learned about the demand for services locally.

"There are lots of kids out there that need help, more than I ever would have thought around this part," he said. "It's a sad situation how bad some of these kids get treated."

He and his wife hope people who have misgivings about foster care and adoption will start the process. Allison wants Midlanders to know there are tools for families who choose to provide foster care.

"Buckner held our hand and walked us through," she said. "The support system has been amazing, not even just at Buckner but other foster families in this area — it's a really close-knit group."



Robert F. Bukaty/Associated Press

Skiers and a snowboarder dressed Santa Claus ride the chairlift at Sunday River during the ski resort's 18th annual Santa Sunday event Sunday in Newry, Maine.

CHRISTMASBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MAINE

Skiing Santas ho-ho-hold court at ski resort's annual bash

NEWRY — Santa Claus is known for shimmying down chimneys, but for one day a year, dozens of Santas try to avoid tumbling down a mountain.

The 18th annual Santa event took place at Sunday River ski resort in western Maine on Sunday. The event is highlighted by Santas skiing and snowboarding down the slopes to raise money for the Sunday River Community Fund, which benefits groups in the area.

One of the Santas was Yelena Walsh of Boston, a 50-year-old financial analyst who was once a professional skier in Russia. Walsh said the event is the highlight of her holiday season.

"In Russia, we didn't celebrate Christmas. We celebrated New Year," she said. "This is a very good and very festive way to start the ski season. It's an opportunity to dress up and act like a child."

The skiing Santas participate in full Kringle garb, including, of course, a white beard and red hat. The Santas must all donate a minimum of $15.

Online registration to participate filled up in 10 minutes, said Darcy Lambert, a spokeswoman for Sunday River.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Small town's Christmas tree is part of a big rivalry

CHESNEE — A small South Carolina town is boasting a massive Christmas tree that's even taller than the one in the state capital.

Chesnee, with a population of about 900, boasts a tree that's about 60 feet, according to The Spartanburg Herald-Journal .

The tree that's planted in a city park was decorated Saturday with about 4,000 lights. Billy Jolley, who helped plant the tree and organizes Chesnee's Christmas festivities, says he's certain it's the tallest in the area.

Nearby Spartanburg and Greer have trees standing about 30 feet, while Inman boasts one that is between 30 and 40 feet when topped with a star. Across the state in Florence, a crowd turned out Saturday for the lighting of a 27-foot tree at Carolinas Hospital.

In Columbia, meanwhile, WYFF reports that the governor presided over the lighting last weekend of a 35-foot fir from a Maryland tree farm that serves as the state tree.



Kevin Wolf/Associated Press

Front row from left, 2017 Kennedy Center Honorees Carmen de Lavallade, Norman Lear, and Gloria Estefan, back row from left, LL Cool J and Lionel Richie celebrate following the State Department dinner for the Kennedy Center Honors on Saturday in Washington.

2017 Kennedy Center Honors recognize artists

By Ashraf Khalil
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — This year's Kennedy Center Honors recognizing outstanding artists and performers managed to skip the political drama that loomed over it earlier this year — just ask honoree Norman Lear.

Ahead of Sunday night's festivities at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the longtime television producer behind "All in the Family" and other hits reacted with mock surprise when reminded that President Donald Trump was not attending.

"Really? Wow!" Lear said as he entered the building. "I'm expecting a warm, funny, wonderful evening. My guess is that the focus tonight will be on the arts."

The president usually sits with the honorees and other guests. But Lear threatened to boycott the event over his opposition to Trump, and other artists expressed unease with the idea of meeting the president. A showdown was avoided when Trump announced in August that he and first lady Melania Trump would not attend.

Another honoree, rapper and actor LL Cool J, called the evening "an amazing, amazing moment" for a hip-hop artist who officials said was the youngest-ever Kennedy Center Honors recipient at 49.

He said there were many deserving rappers and performers from his generation but would not go so far as to say that anybody deserved the honor over him.

"I'm humble, but I'm not going to play pseudo-humble," he said before the program. "I'm the one!"

The 40th annual Kennedy Center Honors ceremony also paid tribute to dancer and choreographer Carmen de Lavallade and musicians Lionel Richie and Gloria Estefan.

Honorees each received a lengthy and personally tailored onstage tribute sprinkled with surprise guests.

Estefan was greeted with performances of her greatest hits and a solo performance by her daughter Emily.

For LL Cool J, they recreated a club onstage with performances by Busta Rhymes and members of The Roots as well as a testimonial by Queen Latifah.

For Lear, a series of quick changes transformed the stages into the sets from "Good Times," "All in the Family" and "Maude," with testimonials from Rob Reiner, Dave Chappelle and Anthony Anderson from the current hit show "Black-ish."

In addition to the Sunday ceremony, this year's recipients were honored Saturday at a gala State Department dinner. The program was to be televised Dec. 26 on CBS.

In the past, most U.S. presidents have attended the ceremony, but it's not unprecedented for a sitting president to skip it. Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton all missed ceremonies during their terms in office, but in all previous cases the first lady attended.

Kennedy Center officials didn't hide their relief when Trump announced he wouldn't attend. Kennedy Center President Deborah F. Rutter and Chairman David M. Rubenstein released a statement saying they were "grateful" to the Trumps for avoiding a conflict that would overshadow the ceremony.

"In choosing not to participate in this year's honor's activities, the administration has graciously signaled its respect for the Kennedy Center and ensures the honors gala remains a deservingly special moment for the honorees," the statement said.



Nation needs to focus on damage Trump is doing

■ President's shenanigans distract from what really is going on



DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

I bumped into Bret Baier, the Fox News host, at a Washington cocktail party Wednesday night when it seemed everybody was chatting about the latest White House insanity: President Trump joking about "Pocahontas" to Native Americans, reviving the Obama "birther" allegation, suggesting the Access Hollywood video was fake, retweeting anti-Muslim videos made by British white-supremacists.

Most assumed Trump was just being crazy, but Baier had a theory: Whenever Trump escalates such antics, he is agitated about news that is about to break. Maybe, Baier speculated, Trump knew something about the Russia probe that we didn't yet know.

Now we do. On Friday morning came former national security adviser Michael Flynn's guilty plea, the most ominous development for Trump yet in the Russia probe. Court documents show that Flynn is cooperating with special prosecutor Robert Mueller and that Flynn's Russian contacts were made under direction from higher-ups — and there weren't too many higher than Flynn on the campaign other than Trump himself. The notion that Flynn has the goods on Trump would explain why Trump was reluctant to fire him, tried to get the FBI to stop probing Flynn — and seemed unglued as the news of Flynn's cooperation was about to become public.

Though predictions are perilous in the age of Trump, this really could be the beginning of the end of the national horror his tenure has been. If Baier is correct — as I believe he is — that Trump gets ever more outrageous when he feels cornered, then this means the nation is entering a perilous new period. We can expect Trump to get ever more dangerous and desperate in his distractions as he hears Mueller's footsteps. Trump's erraticism is damaging in its own right, to alliances and civility, but the greatest danger is that while we chase Trump's distractions, we lose sight of real calamity.

[Last] week was a good example. Trump raised the level of crazy. We in the media took the bait. And you, dear reader, encouraged us.

I asked my digital colleagues at The Washington Post for the top 25 pieces that appeared online in the Post this week before the Flynn news broke. Along with news stories about current intrigue — the Matt Lauer firing, James O'Keefe's failed sting operation against the Post, Prince Harry's engagement — the top items were dominated by Trump insanity: his Muslim-video retweets, his insult of the British prime minister, his attacks on CNN, his war on the "war on Christmas," the insults he traded with Democrats, his "unhinged" behavior and his veering past "guardrails" of what's acceptable.

But in the top 25 were only two about the monstrous tax bill as it made its way through the Senate. There were only two about North Korea testing a missile that could strike anywhere in America. There was only one about Trump's takeover of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. And there wasn't a single story about the sprawling Russia scandal.

In other words: We are all being played for suckers as we get exercised over Trump's diversions.

It's possible that Trump does crazy things simply because he's crazy. But the outbursts serve a real purpose. They provide cover. While the nation gapes at Trump implying Joe Scarborough's involvement in the death of a congressional aide, the administration and its allies achieve all kinds of abominations.

If this tax bill were to see more sunlight, it would never become law. It adds $1 trillion in debt, ultimately increases taxes on those making less than $75,000 a year, gives most of the breaks to the wealthiest 1 percent, is forecast to add negligible economic growth and would force massive cuts to Medicare and Obamacare. But while Trump distracted the nation, GOP leaders strong-armed holdouts all week.

Likewise, the Post published several largely unnoticed pieces about the failure to renew the Children's Health Insurance Program, which expired on Sept. 30. States have begun to notify beneficiaries (9 million children) that they may be cut off.

I tried to ignore the Trump shenanigans, instead writing about the drug-industry executive Trump tapped to oversee drug pricing and about the administration lawyer who orchestrated Trump's takeover of the CFPB after serving as lawyer for a payday lender cited by the CFPB for abuses. But such pieces generate only a fraction of the "clicks" of pieces I and others write about Trump's pyrotechnics.

Those pyrotechnics are going to increase now that Mueller has turned Flynn. Trump's distractions will be impossible to ignore. But we — lawmakers, the media and the public — need to keep our focus on the real damage Trump is doing.

OPINION EXTRA

Outrageous T-shirts one example of automation's failure

Wal-Mart wants to sell you everything you'd ever want to buy. Until Thursday, that included a T-shirt that read "Rope. Tree. Journalist. SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED."

The company pulled the offending item, which first surfaced at a Trump rally, almost immediately after an advocacy group complained. Teespring, the third-party seller that posted the shirt on Wal-Mart's marketplace, did the same.

"As soon as we were alerted to this content promoting violence against journalists, we removed the content, added this content to our automated scanning systems, and kicked off a human sweep of the site to find and remove any similar content," Teespring told the Associated Press.

That's a fine idea, but this isn't the first time Teespring has run into trouble. In August, the apparel platform offered T-shirts decorated with swastikas alongside words such as "love," "peace" and "zen" on rainbow backgrounds. This was part of an effort by a designer to "share the beauty of this symbol detached from the Hatred associated with it."

The "master plan," as the company described it, did not go over well. Teespring yanked the shirts, only to catch more criticism the same week for garments featuring slogans such as "Hitler did nothing wrong ever" and "We're all Hitler now." Teespring removed those, too.

Then there were the "Keep Calm and Rape A Lot" T-shirts that appeared on Amazon back in 2013. (Amazon's founder, Jeffrey P. Bezos, also owns The Washington Post.) Wholesale clothing company Solid Gold Bomb blamed a "scripted computer process" designed to riff on the classic "Keep Calm and Carry On" World War II posters. The rape advocacy shirt, along with its companions "Keep Calm and Hit Her" and "Keep Calm and Knife Her," slipped through the algorithmic cracks. And Amazon missed them in turn.

Teespring's statement after the latest mistake points to the trouble that caused all these PR crises. Retailers that rely on third-party sellers, or sites that rely on third-party distributors of any kind, need some method of monitoring the content that makes it onto their platforms. Automated scanning systems, apparently, aren't up to the task on their own — at least not as they're built today.

That's a narrow threat when only apparel is at stake. The rainbow swastika T-shirt was at worst cruelly disrespectful to Holocaust victims. The "Keep Calm and Rape A Lot" slogan may normalize sexual violence, but it's unlikely it actually inspires men to go on an assault spree. And although the rope-tree-journalist shtick is similarly inflammatory (it's not just anti-reporter; it's also racist), the concrete danger to newspaper staff seems slim.

But the algorithm question goes beyond Teespring or Wal-Mart and Amazon. Social media platforms also run on content that doesn't come from their employees. These platforms have all missed things, too, and do every day: Russian propaganda, beheading and burning videos by terrorist organizations, old-fashioned harassment, and hate speech. Facebook's and Google's representatives even blamed algorithms for some of the nefarious ad targeting on their sites during the 2016 election.

With so much to sort through, companies can't possibly pay the number of people they need to distinguish the acceptable from the awful. That's why, even as today's algorithms fail, tomorrow's are heralded as our future saviors — and someday, they probably will be. But at this point, it's not responsible to throw human input entirely to the wayside and rely on automation alone. The recurring problem of the outrageous T-shirt is a small-scale example of a larger truth: For now at least, humans are going to have to keep coming to their own rescue.

— Molly Roberts
The Washington Post

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Navajo 'code-talkers' deserved better

■ Trump should have shelved politics during event that was meant to honor three World War II heroes



RUBEN NAVARRETTE
Washington Post Writers Group

Riddle me this: What is more racist? Jabbing at a white person by calling her "Pocahontas," or that same white person claiming Native American lineage in a way that may have taken a job meant for an actual Native American?

I'm going with No. 2.

Donald Trump owns the media. He knows where our buttons are, and how to push them. And now, in what has become standard operating procedure during the Trump era, the media is once again all worked up over the wrong things.

We've been talking for days about how President Trump is "racist" because he ruined what should have been a lovely moment at the White House honoring three Navajo "code talkers" of World War II by appearing to once again refer to Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts as "Pocahontas."

By the way, allow me to make a quick comment about the "r-word." I always cringe when Trump says something racist. Of course, I also cringe when I hear the liberal media call him out for saying something racist. The reason for all the cringing is that I have a fairly good memory.

And here's what I remember: For much of the media, the first whiff of racism from Trump, as a presidential candidate, came in December 2015, when the real estate mogul proposed what became known as a Muslim ban. The Trump campaign would later clarify that what the GOP hopeful was talking about was simply applying stricter scrutiny to immigrants and refugees from a specific list of countries that were known to sponsor terrorists. But it was too late. The idea had taken hold that Trump wanted to ban followers of a particular religion from entering the United States. For many, that was racism.

But, as this was happening, in the Latino community, there was a feeling of: "What took you guys so long?" Six months earlier, Trump had kicked off his campaign by kicking Latinos in the head with a scurrilous attack on Mexican immigrants as criminals and rapists. He said that Mexico wasn't sending its "best" people, and that the United States had become a dumping ground for its neighbor's problems.

And this wasn't racism? Many media outlets barely used the word. And when they did, it was often framed narrowly as something for Mexicans to worry about — instead of added evidence of Trump's ugly habit of playing racial politics.

So liberals, spare me your moral outrage now that you've rediscovered Trump's racist tendencies. At this point, it's not worth much.

Instead, in the wake of Trump's "Pocahontas" outburst, Americans should be talking about three things: the story of the "code talkers," which is fascinating; Warren's opportunistic attempt at cultural appropriation, which is foul; and Trump's juvenile psychological defect of saying whatever inappropriate thing pops into his head, which is frightening.

As creatures of Washington, Warren and Trump are not likely to acknowledge wrongdoing or change their ways.

So let's focus on a more admirable group: the code talkers.

It's a great story. Originally, there were 29 Navajo recruited by the U.S. Marines during World War II specifically due to their language skills. Presented with the challenge of coming up with a way for Marines to communicate with one another that the Japanese couldn't decipher, the recruits spent months developing and memorizing a special code based on their shared Navajo language. Assigned to all six Marine divisions, the Navajo code talkers took part in every assault in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. The Navajo "code talk" baffled the Japanese, stumping their expert code breakers. The messages got through. And in the process, countless American lives were saved — thanks to the Navajo.

And the irony to all this is that, throughout the last part of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century, there was a government-sponsored policy of forced assimilation imposed on Native Americans. It included attempts to strip them of their language by punishing those who spoke it, especially the children who attended government-run boarding schools whose mission was to "de-Indianize" the native people. Had those repugnant efforts been successful, there would have been, in all likelihood, no Navajo code talkers to celebrate today.

That's the story Trump should have told at the White House, as he attempted to honor a few of these heroes. He should have shelved the politics, and focused all of his attention on the Navajo.

But this would have required something that the president doesn't have much of — class.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Sex cases put spotlight on sex addiction, but is it real?

By Lindsey Tanner
AP Medical Writer

Is sex addiction a true addiction, a crime, or a made-up condition used by misbehaving VIPs to deflect blame or repair tarnished images?

A tide of high-profile sexual misconduct accusations against celebrities, politicians and media members has raised these questions — and sowed confusion. Sex addiction is not an officially recognized psychiatric diagnosis, though even those who doubt it's a true addiction acknowledge that compulsive sexual behavior can upend lives.

Either way, there is an important distinction, sometimes blurred, between a mental condition and a crime. Some men who have been accused of assault or other sexual crimes have sought treatment for sex addiction or other unspecified conditions. But compulsive behavior is very different from a crime, and the vast majority of people who suffer from sexually compulsive behavior do not harass or assault others.

There's "an extremely fine line between addict and offender" and sometimes the two overlap, said psychologist Leah Claire Bennett of Pine Grove Behavioral Health & Addiction Services, a rehab center that offers sex addiction treatment in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Despite pressure from some therapists, sex addiction was not included in the most recent edition of the manual that psychiatrists use to diagnose mental illness. "The reason is very simple," said Dr. Charles O'Brien, a University of Pennsylvania psychiatry professor involved in the manual's 2013 update. There is no rigorous scientific proof that compulsive sexual behavior affects the brain in the same ways that have been shown with addiction to drugs or alcohol, he said.

"There's an overuse of the word 'addiction,'" O'Brien said. "There are many treatment programs. That doesn't make it a disorder."

Still, some skeptics don't dispute that compulsive sexual behavior can become a serious problem. The issue for some, is whether it amounts to mental illness, or whether it might result from a different psychiatric condition, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Robert Weiss, a California-based sex addiction therapist, said the condition involves unrestrained compulsive sexual behavior without regard to consequences. Sometimes that leads to illegal behavior.

The International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals says sex addiction affects from 2 percent to 5 percent of the general population but that only 10 percent of those with this addiction engage in criminal sexual behavior. Most patients and sex offenders are men.

Some treatment programs won't admit patients accused of rape and other violent sex crimes, referring them to centers or therapists who specialize in treating sex offenders.

Addiction treatment at Pine Grove, The Meadows in Arizona and other high-profile residential rehab centers can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Despite country club-like settings, there's nothing cushy or indulgent about sex addiction therapy, Weiss said.

Pine Grove requires daylong sessions including group therapy daily for up to three months. Some centers use 12-step programs similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, but they don't require swearing off sex for good. Some use brain "retraining" exercises, or sharing stories about bad behavior with a roomful of strangers.

Some centers use equine therapy. Weiss says that interacting with horses can help patients recognize problems sometimes associated with sex addiction, including overly aggressive, controlling behavior.

The New York Post published a photograph last year that it said showed former New York Congressman Anthony Weiner riding a horse as part of treatment at a Tennessee sex addiction rehab center. Weiner was sentenced in September for sexting with a teenager. He said at the time that he was undergoing therapy and had been "a very sick man for a very long time."

Weiss and other therapists say sex addicts are never cured, but they can learn to manage their behavior and avoid triggers, including avoiding jobs and circumstances that could lead to a repeat of problem behavior.

L.J. Schwartz, a former real estate adviser in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, says a nearly 30-year addiction to sex almost ruined his life.

Schwartz says his addiction included having sex with strangers at adult bookstores or masturbating there while watching porn nearly every chance he got; working as a stripper and phone sex. He was never arrested but says his behavior endangered his job and marriage.

"There's no pleasure derived from sex addiction; it's pain," Schwartz said.

He says a 12-step program helped him resist his compulsions and he now works as a recovery coach for other patients.

But hard evidence that treatment works is lacking. "There's not a lot of data," Bennett acknowledged.

"We have a lot of anecdotal evidence. We can see the change in people," she said. She said Pine Grove plans a long-term study to measure the benefits.

Whether treatment can repair tarnished images is uncertain.

"The accusations levied against Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K. and others for sexual assault, harassment and abuse have created righteous outrage and concerns that 'sex addiction treatment' is being used to excuse their offensive behavior," the addiction professionals institute said in a recent statement.

Whether any of these men have a diagnosed mental condition has not been publicized.

A representative for Weinstein confirmed that he is receiving treatment and has been taking his recovery and sessions seriously. But the representative declined to specify Weinstein's condition or the treatment he is receiving for it. A former publicist for Spacey said he also is seeking unspecified treatment.

Bennett said some people do use sex addiction as an excuse, "but that's not who we're treating here at Pine Grove. These peoples' lives are in shambles. They've been traumatized throughout their lives. They have huge psychological wounds and are using very maladaptive ways of coping."

Actor David Duchovny voluntarily sought rehab for sex addiction in 2008 while starring on Showtime's "Californication." Married to actress Tea Leoni at the time, he had been dogged by cheating rumors. His career never stalled. He returned to "Californication" for the remainder of its run and has continued to appear in high-profile roles.



Michael Dwyer/Associated Press

Boston Symphony Orchestra music director James Levine conducts the symphony on its opening night performance at Tanglewood on July 7, 2006, in Lenox., Mass. New York's Metropolitan Opera says it will investigate allegations that its longtime conductor, Levine, sexually abused a teenager in the mid-1980s. Details of the police report were first reported Saturday on the New York Post website. Levine, 74, stepped down as music director of the Met in April 2016.

Met opera to probe misconduct charges against conductor

By Tom Hays And Verena Dobnik
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York's Metropolitan Opera said Saturday it will open an investigation into allegations that its longtime conductor, James Levine, sexually abused a man three decades ago beginning when the man was a teenager.

Levine's accuser, now middle-aged, contacted the police department in Lake Forest, Illinois, in October of 2016 to report that he'd had sexual contact with the conductor when he was under age 18.

He said he was reaching out to police in Lake Forest because some of his encounters with Levine took place there in the mid-1980s. Levine served as music director at the Ravinia Festival, outside Chicago, from 1973 to 1993.

Details of the police report were first reported Saturday on the website of the New York Post. Met officials said they learned of the police report last year.

"This first came to the Met's attention when the Illinois police investigation was opened in October 2016," the Met said in a statement. "At the time, Mr. Levine said that the charges were completely false, and we relied upon the further investigation of the police. We need to determine if these charges are true and, if they are, take appropriate action. We'll now be conducting our own investigation with outside resources."

An email to Levine's manager seeking comment on the accusations was not immediately returned.

The accuser, whose name is being withheld by The Associated Press, contacted reporters from several news organizations and posted a handful of items on social media accusing Levine of abusing him when he was young.

The Lake Forest department assigned a detective who spent at least seven months investigating the allegations, according to a redacted copy of her written reports on the case.

The accuser, who at the time was hoping for a career in music, told police the conductor had invited him to audition for him in New York and then encouraged him to engage in sexual "experimentation."

He also said that his relationship with Levine extended well into adulthood and that the composer gave him money over the years when he was having financial problems, amounting to more than $50,000.

The man told police he last spoke with Levine in 2014. At the time, he said, Levine said he wouldn't send him money anymore.

The Associated Press does not generally name alleged victims of sexual abuse without their consent. In this case, the man asked that his name not be published and declined to be interviewed on the record.

The accusations against Levine, among the most prominent classical music conductors in the world, are the latest in a stream of sexual misconduct charges involving high-profile men in entertainment and the media that have rocked the nation since accusations against film mogul Harvey Weinstein were reported in October.

Levine served as music director of the Met from 1976 to 2016, when he assumed the position of music director emeritus.

Levine has struggled with health problems including Parkinson's disease in recent years but is scheduled to conduct several productions this season.

Roiled by claims, Alabama Senate race goes off the rails

By Kim Chandler
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Shouting matches and threats. A feud with a late-night television host. Standing ovations and standoffs with the media. Long stretches without campaigning.

Republican Roy Moore's supposedly smooth ride to the U.S. Senate has become an off-color demolition derby since he was hit with decades-old allegations of sexual misconduct involving teenagers.

Moore has made limited public appearances, leading to Democrat Doug Jones, who held a flurry of events over the weekend, to mock Moore for hiding.

"We're on the campaign trail meeting all of you and meeting folks here as no one knows where Roy Moore is," Jones said Friday to a crowd of reporters interviewing him.

Moore made three campaign stops last week. Adoring audiences in little country churches still welcome the Bible-toting Moore. But the campaign also has been punctuated by tense moments and odd exchanges, including an online spat with late night television host Jimmy Kimmel.

The Rev. Jeremy Ragland was taken aback by the furor after he invited Moore to speak at a "God and Country" service held Thursday night in the gym at tiny Bryan Baptist Church in rural Walker County northwest of Birmingham. Ragland said he received death threats and lewd suggestions about his own children before the event, prompting a show of security that included uniformed constables, a burly doorman and plainclothes bodyguards.

"I'm just a rural preacher," an exasperated Ragland said afterward. "When you've got people threatening to kill you, saying your children should be molested, what are you going to do?"

Moore's campaign has been on the defensive since The Washington Post reported claims that he assaulted a young woman and tried to date other teen girls in the 1970s and 1980s. Moore was likely to win easily before the story, but the fallout has given Jones a shot in Republican-controlled Alabama. The Post quoted a Donald Trump-supporting Republican claiming Moore pursued her when she was 14 and he was 32, and that he eventually stripped down to his underwear and touched her. Another woman held a news conference in New York to claim Moore groped her also, and other women said Moore pursued them for dates while they were still in high school.

After days out of the public spotlight, Moore returned to campaigning with dodge-and-jab tactics. He has avoided reporters while speaking to enthusiastic audiences in evangelical churches as he tries to rally his base.

Appearing at Magnolia Springs Baptist Church in Theodore, located near Mobile in southwest Alabama, the former judge known for his intense opposition to same-sex marriage blamed his political enemies for the allegations.

"They've done everything. When I say they, who are they? They're liberals. They don't want conservative values. They're the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. They're socialists who want to change our way of life, putting man above God and that government is our God. They're the Washington establishment who simply wants to keep their job," Moore said.

Moore — whose speeches typically include long, memorized recitations of scripture and quotes from early America patriots — got into an uncharacteristic Twitter spat with Kimmel after "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" regular Tony Barbieri crashed the event in Theodore.

After a heckler interrupted Moore and was hustled out by security, Barbieri jumped up in front of the pulpit where Moore stood.

"That's a man's man," Barbieri shouted. "Does that look like the face of a child molester?"

That led to the social media knock-down between Moore and the comedian. Moore's campaign wrote: "@jimmykimmel If you want to mock our Christian values, come down here to Alabama and do it man to man."

"Sounds great Roy - let me know when you get some Christian values and I'll be there!" Kimmel replied.

A crew from Fox News — the TV channel of choice for many Republicans — were shoved by two event organizers when they tried to film Moore entering a building before a rally in rural Henagar, in northeastern Alabama. Elsewhere, Moore has dodged the media by having security block access or using unexpected exits.

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Trump lashes out at own FBI in a series of tweets

By Ken Thomas
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump launched a fresh attack Sunday on the credibility of his own FBI, responding to revelations that an FBI agent was removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's team investigating Russian election meddling because of anti-Trump text messages.

Trump, two days after his former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, again denied that he directed FBI Director James Comey to stop investigating Flynn.

The Republican president offered a running Twitter commentary Sunday amid renewed focus on Mueller's probe and Flynn's decision to cooperate with the investigation as part of his plea agreement. Democrats said the developments suggested growing evidence of coordination between Trump's circle and Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the panel is beginning to see "the putting together of a case of obstruction of justice" against Trump.

"I think we see this in indictments ... and some of the comments that are being made. I see this in the hyperfrenetic attitude of the White House, the comments every day, the continual tweets," Feinstein said. "And I see it most importantly in what happened with the firing of Director Comey, and it is my belief that that is directly because he did not agree to lift the cloud of the Russia investigation. That's obstruction of justice."

In a series of tweets, Trump questioned the direction of the federal law enforcement agency and wrote that after Comey, whom Trump fired in May, the FBI's reputation is "in Tatters — worst in History!" He vowed to "bring it back to greatness." The president also retweeted a post saying new FBI Director Chris Wray "needs to clean house."

The president seized on reports that a veteran FBI counterintelligence agent was removed from Mueller's team last summer after the discovery of an exchange of text messages that were viewed as potentially anti-Trump. The agent, Peter Strzok, had also worked on the investigation of Democrat Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, said Mueller removed Strzok from the team "immediately upon learning of the allegations." He would not elaborate on the nature of the accusations. The person who discussed the matter with The Associated Press was not authorized to speak about it by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump tweeted Sunday: "Tainted (no, very dishonest?) FBI 'agent's role in Clinton probe under review.' Led Clinton Email probe." In a separate tweet, he wrote: "Report: 'ANTI-TRUMP FBI AGENT LED CLINTON EMAIL PROBE' Now it all starts to make sense!"

Strzok's removal almost certainly reflected a desire to insulate the investigators from any claims of political bias or favoritism. Trump and many of his supporters have at times sought to discredit the integrity of the investigation, in part by claiming a close relationship between Mueller and Comey and by pointing to political contributions to Democrats made by some lawyers on the team.

Following the tweets, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., warned the president to tread cautiously. "You tweet and comment regarding ongoing criminal investigations at your own peril. I'd be careful if I were you, Mr. President. I'd watch this," Graham said.

Mueller has been investigating whether Trump campaign associates coordinated with Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, and Strzok's background in counterintelligence would have been seen as particularly valuable for a secretive FBI probe examining foreign contacts.

Mueller's investigation has so far netted charges against four people, with the most recent criminal case brought Friday when Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with the Russian ambassador.

On Saturday, Trump tweeted that he "had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!"

The tweet suggested that Trump was aware when the White House dismissed Flynn on Feb. 13 that he had lied to the FBI, which had interviewed him weeks earlier. Comey has said Trump the following day brought up the Flynn investigation in private at the White House and told him he hoped he could "let this go."

Amid questions raised by the tweet, Trump associates tried to put distance Saturday evening between the president himself and the tweet. One person familiar with the situation said the tweet was actually crafted by John Dowd, one of the president's personal attorneys. Dowd declined to comment when reached by the AP on Saturday night.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said given that Mueller could have charged Flynn with more crimes but instead limited it to just one offense, "Bob Mueller must have concluded that he was getting a lot of value in terms of Gen. Flynn's cooperation."

"I do believe he will incriminate others in the administration. Otherwise, there was no reason for Bob Mueller to give Mike Flynn this kind of deal," Schiff said, adding, "Whether that will ultimately lead to the president, I simply don't know."

Feinstein spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press," Graham spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation," and Schiff spoke on ABC's "This Week."



Susan Walsh/Associated Press

President Donald Trump gestures as he walks toward Air Force One at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on Saturday. Trump spent the day in New York attending a trio of fundraisers.

Senator: It's time for US military families to leave SKorea

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Lindsey Graham said Sunday that he believes it's time to start moving the families of American military personnel out of South Korea as North Korea pushes the U.S. closer to a military conflict.

Graham, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he will also urge the Pentagon not to send any more dependents to South Korea.

"It's crazy to send spouses and children to South Korea, given the provocation of North Korea. South Korea should be an unaccompanied tour," the South Carolina Republican said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "So, I want them to stop sending dependents, and I think it's now time to start moving American dependents out of South Korea."

About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea to deter potential aggression from the North.

Last week, North Korea shattered 2½ months of relative quiet by firing off an intercontinental ballistic missile that some observers say showed the reclusive country's ability to strike the U.S. East Coast. It was North Korea's most powerful weapons test yet.

The launch was a message of defiance to President Donald Trump's administration, which a week earlier had restored North Korea to a U.S. list of terror sponsors. It also hurt nascent diplomatic efforts and raised fears of a pre-emptive U.S. strike. Threats traded by Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have further stoked fears of war.

Graham expressed confidence in the Trump administration's ability to manage the growing conflict with North Korea.

"He's got the best national security team of anybody I have seen since I have been in Washington," said Graham, who has served in Congress since 1995.

The Trump administration has vowed to deny North Korea the capability of striking the U.S. homeland with a nuclear-tipped missile.

"Denial means pre-emptive war as a last resort. The pre-emption is becoming more likely as their technology matures," Graham told CBS. "I think we're really running out of time. The Chinese are trying, but ineffectively. If there's an underground nuclear test, then you need to get ready for a very serious response by the United States."

Trump has said he spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping about Pyongyang's "provocative actions," and he vowed that additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea. China is North Korea's only significant ally, but it has grown increasingly frustrated over the North's nuclear and missile tests that have brought a threat of war and chaos to China's northeastern border.

Conservatives rebel against House GOP plan to avert shutdown

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hard-right conservatives are rebelling against a plan by House GOP leaders for a two-week reprieve from a possible government shutdown next week.

Speaker Paul Ryan and other GOP leaders want to set a new government shutdown deadline just prior to Christmas to give time for talks with Democrats on the budget, hurricane relief and other unfinished business. Right now, Washington faces a Dec. 8 deadline.

But conservatives said Friday that they fear the new Dec. 22 deadline means they'll get legislation they don't like jammed through.

Democrats won't commit to helping the GOP pass the two-week funding bill. They want assurances that immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. as children will be given protection from deportation — and many insist that it pass this year.

If Democrats don't provide the votes to prevent a shutdown, Republicans would have to pass a temporary spending bill, known as a "continuing resolution," on their own.

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy insists "it'll be fine" and that they want to get all the work done.

"Look, two weeks isn't very long," said McCarthy, R-Calif. "We want to keep up the pressure up."

But conservatives fear a torrent of spending bills and legislation to shore up Obamacare insurance markets, and also worry that immigration issues would be addressed in the year-end crunch.

"I am a hard no on any (continuing resolution) ending the week of Christmas," said Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas. "That tells me that they have an absolutely horrible bill that they want to try to jam through."

With the additional two weeks, congressional leaders in both parties hope that talks over spending could produce the framework for a longer-term "omnibus" appropriations bill. That legislation would award the Pentagon and domestic agencies with spending increases that could total more than $100 billion in 2018 alone.

There's other unfinished business too, including reauthorization for a popular childrens' health program and tens of billions of dollars in aid for states and U.S. territories slammed by hurricanes.

A temporary government funding bill spending runs out Dec. 8. Some conservatives are even suggesting that Congress work Christmas week rather than face pre-Christmas deadline pressure.

The GOP plan is for a stopgap measure that's "clean" of unrelated add-ons — with one exception. That would be a technical tweak to the Children's Health Insurance Program to prevent a handful of states that are about to run out of funding to stay solvent through Dec. 22, as well.

Meanwhile, the Office of Management and Budget held a call Friday with federal agencies to discuss contingency plans ahead of a potential shutdown. It's a required step that happens regardless of whether a shutdown appears imminent.

McConnell: No government shutdown this week over immigration

By Hope Yen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Testing the resolve of Democrats, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared Sunday there won't be a government shutdown this week over the question of protecting immigrants brought to the country illegally as children, describing it as a "non-emergency" to be addressed next year.

"There's not going to be a government shutdown. It's just not going to happen," said McConnell, R-Ky.

House GOP leaders unveiled a short-term plan over the weekend to avert a shutdown and keep the government open through Dec. 22. The measure would buy time for bipartisan talks on a bigger budget agreement that would give the Pentagon and government agencies significant relief from a pending budget freeze.

Congress faces a Friday deadline to fund the government through the end of next September.

Democrats and a few Republicans have suggested they may not vote for government funding without the protections for tens of thousands of young immigrants, known as "Dreamers," who are currently protected by an Obama administration program. That program is set to expire in March.

Meanwhile, some Republicans are divided over what programs the government should pay for, and how much.

GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Florida has joined Democrats on the immigration issue, while Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said he received commitments from party leaders and the administration to work with him on restoring "Dreamer" protections in exchange for his vote early Saturday on the tax overhaul bill.

President Donald Trump backs the immigration safeguards despite issuing an executive order reversing the Obama-era protections, officially called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

Talks on a budget agreement are likely to restart this week after a setback last week when top Democrats pulled out of a meeting with Trump after he attacked them on Twitter.

On Sunday, McConnell insisted the GOP-controlled Congress will be able to keep the government running, calling the demand for action on DACA by year's end "ridiculous."

"I don't think the Democrats would be very smart to say they want to shut down the government over a non-emergency that we can address anytime between now and March," McConnell said. "There is no crisis."

Still, Republicans are not entirely unified, with GOP conservatives concerned they are being set up for a massive pre-Christmas spending deal they won't like. That raises the likelihood that some Democratic votes will be needed to approve new funding to keep the government open.

On Sunday, White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney was equivocal about shutdown prospects, but said he didn't think it would happen even with a "broken" system of spending.

"It's funny to see now that the Republicans are in charge I think there's a group of right-wingers in the House who say they want to shut the government down. There's a group of Democrats who want to shut the government down over DACA. And there's a group of lawmakers from some of the hurricane states who want to shut the government down until they get what they want," he said.

"This just sheds light on the fact that the appropriations, the spending system is broken when any little group can sort of hold the government hostage. We need to get beyond that," Mulvaney added.

The proposal from House GOP leaders also contains a short-term fix to prevent several states from running out of money to operate a popular program that provides health care to children from low-income families. The Children's Health Insurance Program's authorization ran out Oct. 1 and states have been limping along using carry over funding since then.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., says the new stopgap funding measure "will allow for additional time for a deal to be reached on top-line spending levels for this fiscal year. Once this agreement is made, my committee will rapidly go to work with the Senate to complete the final legislation."

Separately, McConnell expressed confidence that House and Senate negotiators will work out differences on the tax overhaul bill after the Senate approved its version on a narrow 51-49 vote early Saturday. Acknowledging the plan won't provide a tax cut to all middle-class families, McConnell said it was "impossible" to craft legislation that could guarantee that.

"What I can tell you is that every segment of taxpayers, every category of taxpayers on average gets significant relief," McConnell said.

Trump appeared to inject uncertainty into the tax plan over the weekend, when he suggested Saturday he may be willing to negotiate changes to the corporate tax rate, setting it at 22 percent compared with the 20 percent rate that he has pushed for with House and Senate Republicans.

But on Sunday, Mulvaney downplayed Trump's comments, saying he didn't expect "any significant change in our position on the corporate taxes."

McConnell spoke on ABC's "This Week" and CBS' "Face the Nation," and Mulvaney also appeared on CBS.

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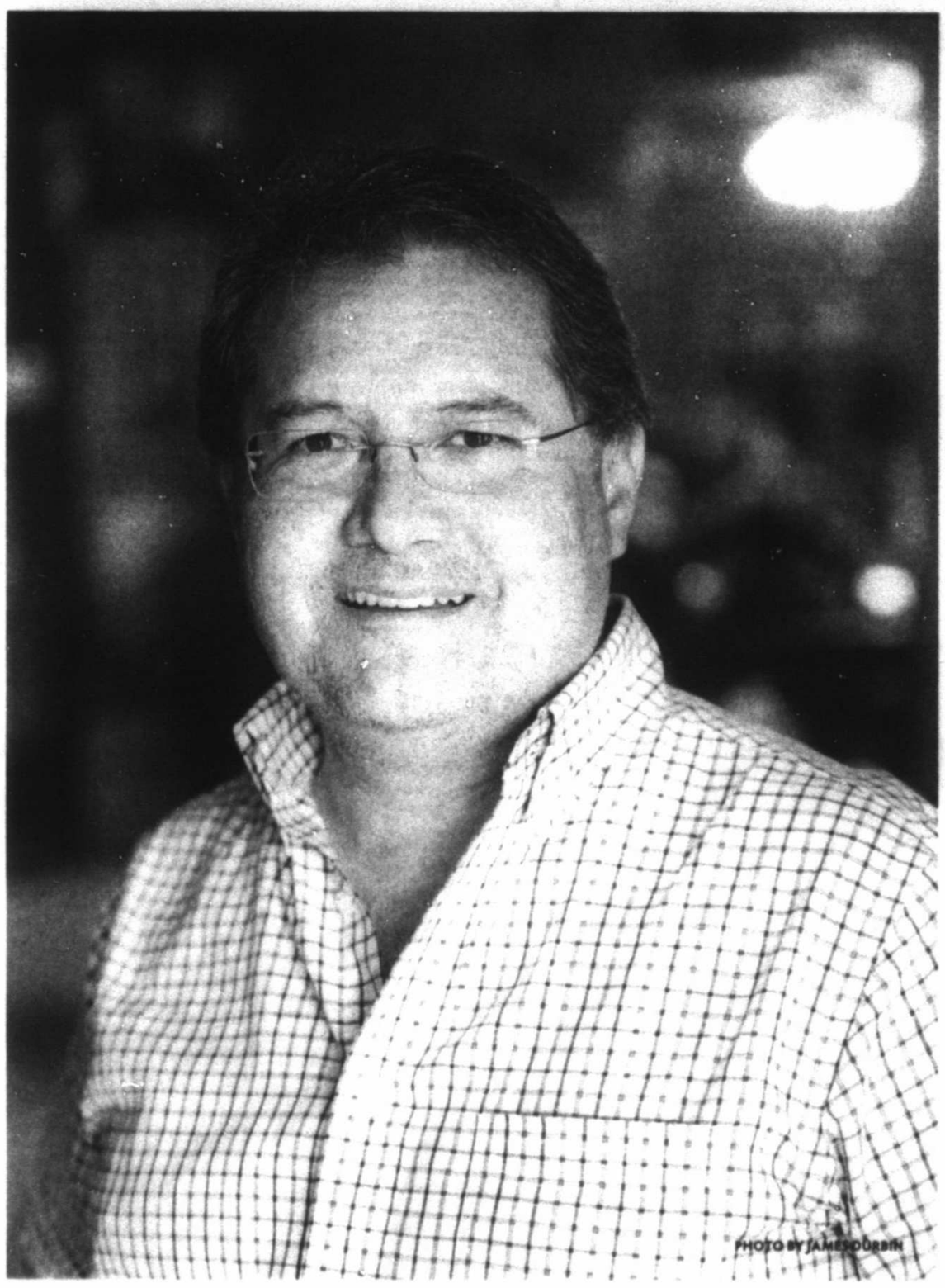


PHOTO BY JAMES DORBIN

ISRAEL ROBLEDO

PARKINSON'S DISEASE ADVOCATE

Professional and community involvement: Special education teacher for MISD; Michael J. Fox Foundation Patient Council member; Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs integration panel member; member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Parkinson's Disease; blogger (www.parkinsonsoutreach.wordpress.com); and author of "The Day I Found Out Why – My Life's Journey With Parkinson's Disease." (The title is based on Mark Twain's quote, "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born, and the day you find out why.")

How did you decide to serve the community as a volunteer with Michael J. Fox Foundation? I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2007 at 42 years old. After prolonged depression and finally coming to terms with my diagnosis, I made a promise to myself to do what I could, while I still could, to help make a difference in the PD community. My initial involvement was focused on increased clinical trial participation, which moved toward advocating for research funding and then quality-of-life issues that impact the whole community.

What talents/skills do you share with the community through your role with the MJFF? Having a platform that includes issues such as Medicare and telemedicine has allowed me to speak on behalf of others. Recently, I took part in a congressional briefing on telemedicine in Washington, D.C. As part of the panel, my comments focused on the need for Medicare and Medicare Advantage to expand services through telemedicine to provide high-quality medical care to patients who otherwise would not receive this care, which can lead to a diminished quality of life. At the state level, submitting testimony to legislative committees has also been a part of my outreach so laws related to telemedicine can cover more people across the state.

Why is volunteerism a priority for you? I've never been one to say, "Let someone else figure this out or deal with these issues" that impact a person's quality of life. I don't like to see people struggle with a condition that I feel, through my involvement and that of many others in our area, will one day be eradicated. If I want others to help out, my commitment needs to be on the same level or higher. An example of this would include my participation on the integration panel for the Parkinson's research program at the federal level. Providing input on Parkinson's research is rewarding, but being in a position to recommend projects for funding truly does allow me to make a difference in the lives of those of us living with a neurodegenerative disease for which there is no cure. (yet).

How long has Midland been your home, and why have you stayed? I was born, raised and educated in Midland. Except for the years I spent in Abilene attending and graduating from McMurry University, Midland has remained my home. In my travels throughout the country and internationally, I often share that there may not be much to see here, but the people make it all worthwhile. There isn't any other place like Midland.

"HE WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OTHERS"

Mr. Robledo was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2007 and is very involved in the Parkinson's community.

He serves as a patient advocate for clinical research for several nationally recognized organizations. He serves on the Michael J. Fox Foundation and was recently featured with Mr. Fox in a "CBS Sunday Morning" program that is hosted by Jane Pauley. He has written a book about his journey with Parkinson's. He has served on an international Parkinson's board and has met with senators/congressmen to encourage their support of funding for Parkinson's research.

His compassion for helping others makes him a very special person. Along with teaching and working with softball and baseball programs, he can be found on Friday nights running the chains at football games.

He has a remarkable story that brought him from despair and anguish to becoming a highly sought after advocate. He is not the kind of person to bring attention to himself, and he works behind the scenes to make a difference for others.

He is a native Midlander, and someone deserving of recognition.

***Bennita Clark**, friend*

"HE FORMS A STRONG BOND WITH EACH STUDENT WITH WHOM HE WORKS"

The Special Services Department of Midland Independent School District is especially fortunate to have Israel Robledo on staff. In his work for MISD, Israel travels the district as a resource teacher, working with our Spanish-speaking students who have been identified with learning disabilities. He forms a strong bond with each student with whom he works, patiently discovering individual learning patterns and areas of strength and never letting the student forget that he or she can learn — and will learn.

Not only is he a teacher, he is an encourager — for students, their parents and for our special education teachers, as well. He shares his strategies for working with struggling readers, through a series of trainings to promote the growth of students, and contributes to the knowledge of others in the professional learning communities.

In his "spare" time, Israel works tirelessly in the field of Parkinson's research, reviewing articles for congressionally directed research, addressing the patient view for various national and overseas research groups and working with the Michael J. Fox Foundation. His work in the efficacy of various treatments led to a recent group interview by Jane Pauley for "CBS Sunday Morning," publication in a variety of scientific magazines, publication of his book "The Day I Found Out Why" and multiple meetings with internationally renowned individuals — including a Nobel Prize winner.

He serves on the MJF Patient Council, the Executive Council of the Parkinson's Movement (an initiative of the Cure Parkinson's Trust in England), the integration panel for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs and as an ambassador for Texas on the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

This gifted and caring individual is a great example of a Midland teacher giving back to his community and enriching the lives of others.

***Dawn Miller**, executive director, Special Services for Midland ISD*

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Apple Watch users can enroll in medical study

Stanford University School of Medicine will use device to check for irregular heart rate

By Hayley Tsukayama
Washington Post

Apple's trying out something entirely new: a medical study.

Apple Watch users are now able to enroll in a new study Apple is conducting with Stanford University School of Medicine, which uses the device's heart-rate monitor to check for an irregular heart rate. While others have used Apple's software and devices in medical studies, this is the first time that it's actually sponsored one itself. The move underscores Apple's focus on using its products for health care.

"Working alongside the medical community, not only can we inform people of certain health conditions, we also hope to advance discoveries in heart science," said Apple chief operating officer Jeff Williams, in a statement.

Health and fitness have been a key focus for Apple, especially since launching the Apple Watch two years ago. Apple already employs a small staff of medical professionals to develop its health products, and it is reportedly working on a diabetes glucose-monitoring device that won't pierce the skin. It's also worked with hospitals to include more of its tech in patients' rooms.

This study takes all of that a step further: Now Apple itself will be running a study and submitting data to the Food and Drug Administration. The heart-rate researcher will look specifically at atrial fibrillation — or afib — which refers to an irregular heart rate and is a leading cause of stroke and other heart conditions. The condition kills around 130,000 people per year, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To join the study, Apple Watch owners must download the Apple Heart Study app. Participants must be over age 22. Once they have signed up, the Watch and Heart Study app will work to detect an irregular heartbeats. If it notices something amiss, it will notify that person on the Watch and iPhone. From there, he or she may opt to see a doctor online, for a free consult on their health. Apple and Stanford are partnering with Boston firm American Well to provide those consults.

Study researchers will also then send an electrocardiogram patch to participants experiencing irregular heartbeats, for a further reading.

Heart-rate monitoring features have been a core part of the Watch since it debuted as a heavily health and fitness focused product. More advanced software to take your pulse were a major addition to Apple's latest Watch software upgrade, and users can already get alerts when you appear to have an elevated heart rate but aren't active.

This move takes Apple a step further, into actually using all that data to conduct its own medical research. The company declined to say whether it would take on further research in the future.

Apple has previously noted how its products can make it easier for researchers to find study participants, thanks to their broad reach. Traditionally, researchers have had to seek out study participants directly — through medical facilities, by email or with fliers. Then, they often must visit them in person to collect data. By enrolling using devices, Apple has said, it makes it easier for scientists to both find and monitor study participants.

At least 33 million units of the Watch have been sold, according to Asymco analyst Horace Deidu — Apple itself does not officially release sales figures, nor information on who is buying the Watch. But Apple researchers said they believe the Watch will provide a representative sample of the population for their study.

Apple declined to say how long the study will run.

VIRTUAL CURRENCY



N.Y. Times file photo

A visitor uses an ATM at Coinone Blocks, the first offline cryptocurrency exchangeSept.28 in Seoul. Bitcoin is on an extraordinary run, with the price of a single Bitcoin crossing $10,000 on some exchanges for the first time Wednesday — less than two months after it crossed $5,000 for the first time.

AP explains: What is bitcoin? A look at the digital currency

Associated Press

LONDON — The price of a single bitcoin has pierced the $10,000 level and some experts say it could rise further. The world's most popular virtual currency allows people to buy goods and services and exchange money without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties.

It has a fuzzy history, having been used by hackers to demand ransom and for the purchase of illegal drugs online. But recently it's become more popular with a different crowd: speculative investors.

As its price keeps rising, here's a brief look at bitcoin.

How bitcoins work

Bitcoin is a digital currency that is not tied to a bank or government and allows users to spend money anonymously. The coins are created by users who "mine" them by lending computing power to verify other users' transactions. They receive bitcoins in exchange. The coins also can be bought and sold on exchanges with U.S. dollars and other currencies.

How much is it worth?

Bitcoin was trading over $11,000 Wednesday before dipping to around $9,800 later in the day, according to coindesk, a website that monitors the price. That's about a tenfold increase from the start of the year, when it was worth under $1,000.

The value of bitcoins can swing sharply, though. A bitcoin's value plunged by 22 percent against the dollar in just three days earlier this month.

Why bitcoins are popular

Bitcoins are basically lines of computer code that are digitally signed each time they travel from one owner to the next. Transactions can be made anonymously, making the currency popular with libertarians as well as tech enthusiasts, speculators — and criminals.

Is it really anonymous?

Yes, to a point. Transactions and accounts can be traced, but the account owners aren't necessarily known. However, investigators might be able to track down the owners when bitcoins are converted to regular currency.

Who uses bitcoin?

Some businesses have jumped on the bitcoin bandwagon amid a flurry of media coverage. Overstock.com accepts payments in bitcoin, for example. The U.S. exchange operator CME Group said in October that it plans to open a futures market for the currency before the end of the year, if it can get approval from regulators. Still, its popularity is low compared with cash and cards, and many individuals and businesses won't accept bitcoins for payments.

Some high-profile banking executives have spoken against bitcoin, with JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon calling it a "fraud."

That said, JPMorgan is starting to use the underlying technology behind bitcoin, known as blockchain, as a potential way for banks to

Please see **BITCOIN**/4B

Tech firms train their own IT workers

■ IBM, Amazon, Microsoft start US apprenticeship programs

By Emery P. Salesio
Associated Press

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Some information technology companies are growing so concerned about their inability to find enough digital talent that they're training their own.

IBM, Amazon and Microsoft all now have apprenticeship programs that pay workers while they train for jobs demanding hard-to-find IT skills. Tech companies view apprenticeships — a staple of European labor for centuries and common in the U.S. for trades such as welding and carpentry — as addressing the shortage of workers trained in skills that growing companies need.

It's a problem that the U.S. Labor Department identified 20 years ago. And it persists even though the median pay last year for computer and information technology occupations was about $83,000, compared to $37,000 for all jobs, with demand growing rapidly over the next decade, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

IBM now has several hundred open jobs in the U.S. for people early in their IT careers — a number expected to grow over time — and is tackling the vacancies with its new apprenticeship program, vice president for talent Joanna Daly said.

"It's not just IBM," Daly said. "When you look at nationally, there's a half-million open technology jobs in this country, and we're only producing 50,000 computer science graduates each year. So, for the industry, we have a technology skills gap."

IBM has long had apprenticeships at its operations in Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia, Daly said. The tech giant hired hundreds of people who've completed those apprenticeships, but hasn't pinpointed if the program is mainly responsible for greater talent supply, she said.

Industry coalitions, as well as states like Minnesota and Washington, have invested in encouraging IT apprenticeships.

Please see **TRAIN**/4B

GM plans autonomous ride-hailing service

■ Driverless cars could hit the road as early as 2019

By Peter Holley
Washington Post

A General Motors executive said Friday that the company is rushing to launch autonomous vehicles for a ride-hailing service that could compete with Uber and Lyft, the latest example of how aggressively the legacy carmaker is pushing to stay at the forefront of automotive innovation.

GM says those robotic vehicles — battery-powered Chevy Bolts that are being developed by Cruise Automation, a subsidiary — will appear on American streets without a driver in 2019.

The company said vehicles will not have human backup drivers.

The ambitious timeline could place GM in an enviable position: with the unique ability to provide existing ride-hailing companies like Lyft or Uber with a growing fleet of autonomous vehicles or, better yet, to unleash their own service. Using their vast dealership networks, nationwide influence and manufacturing prowess, a GM-driven ride-hailing service may be positioned to leapfrog the Silicon Valley startups that have been trying to disrupt the auto industry. GM has invested $500 million in Lyft, which did not respond to a request for comment.

"We have been committed since we first started talking about our efforts and when we purchased a portion of Lyft to building self-driving cars that operate in a ride-sharing environment," Ray Wert, head of Storytelling and advanced technology communications at General Motors, said. "We're very happy with how the technology is progressing and given that we feel we have the capability to move forward with one partner, many partners or no partners at all."

"We will pick the solution that helps us achieve our mission of safely developing and deploying self-driving cars at scale," Wert added.

GM hasn't said where it plans to launch autonomous ride-sharing fleets or how many vehicles they might include, but the company's chief executive Mary Barra, said this week that they believe the "biggest opportunities are in the coastal areas."

The car-maker is already testing autonomous vehicles on busy San Francisco streets — as well as in Phoenix and its hometown, Detroit. At those locations, engineers have a chance to refine the vehicle's self-driving capabilities and the still-precarious rider

Please see **GM**/4B

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For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST																	
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Great Christmas Light Fight (SP) (N)		The Great Christmas Light Fight (N)		The Good Doctor "Sacrifice" (N)		Local 2 News (N)	(3:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(3:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Man With a Plan (N)	Donuts (N)	9-1-1 (N)	Scorpion "Dirty Seeds, Done Dirt Cheap"		CBS 7 News (N)	(3:35) The Late Show		(3:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Mama's Family	ALF	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason		Twilight Zone
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Lucifer "The Sinnerman" (N)		The Gifted "outloX" (N)		Fox 24 News (N)	TMZ	Mom	Modern Family	Modern Family	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Faith for Families	The Wings of Truth	Update News	Mani Erfan	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Update News	Housecall	Aleph Course	Sounds of Shofar
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsW-est 9 (N)	NewsWest 9 Now	The Voice "Live Top 10 Performances" The top ten artists perform in front the judges. (N)				The Wall (N)		NewsW-est 9 (N)	(3:35) The Tonight Show		(3:35) Late Night (N)
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Antiques Roadshow "Anaheim (Hour One)"		Antiques Roadshow "Anaheim (Hour Two)"		Independent Lens "Mimi and Dona"		To Be Announced		News (N)	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Enamorandome de Ramon		La rosa de Guadalupe		Mi marido tiene familia		Caer en Tentacion		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero nocts.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Last Man	Last Man	Law & Order: S.V.U.		Law & Order: S.V.U.		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Game	Game
PREMIUM																	
FLIX	340	575			185	(5:00) The Illusionist		★★ Forces of Nature				(:250) ★★★ Running With Scissors Annette Ening.				★ Brokeback Mo...	
HBO	300	550	14	14		Movie	News (N)	Newspaperman (N)				★★★★ All the President's Men		(:250) Michelle Wolf		(:550) Curb	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	Movie	All Def!	Curb "Fatwa!" (N)		★ Assassin's Creed Michael Fassbender.				Boxing HBO After Dark			
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:210) ★ Criminal Activities Michael Pitt.				Too Many Stars				(:111) ★★★ The Dark Knight			
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:00) ★ Butch Cass...		★★★★ The Verdict Paul Newman.				(:510) ★★★ Identity		(:40) ★★ Runaway Jury			
MAX2	382	559	18	122		(:210) ★ The Wash ('01, Com) Dr. Dre.		★★ Notorious ('09, Bio) Jamal Woolard.						(:05) ★ Now You See Me 2 Jesse Eisenberg.			
PLEX			96			(5:15) ★ Ghost Town		★ The Jane Austen Book Club		(:50) ★★ Down to You				(:20) ★★★ The Evening Star			
SHOW	320	545	19	140	25	(5:15) ★ While You...		SMILF	White	Shameless		SMILF	Ill (N)	(:05) Shameless		(:05) White	(:25) Ill
TMC	336	579	22	155	26	(:05) ★★★ Dick Tracy Warren Beatty.				★★★ Gangs of New York ('02, Dra) Leonardo DiCaprio.						★★ The Spirit	
CABLE																	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	The First 48 "Mother of Two"		First 48: Gangland "Twisted Horror" (N)		The First 48: Lost "Lester Street"		The First 48 "Silent Rage"		(:05) The First 48 "A Man's Game"		(:05) First 48: Gang "Twisted Horror"	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(5:00) ★★★ Goodfellas ('90, Crl) Ray Liotta.		Ride Reedus (N)				History of Comics (N)		★★★ Goodfellas ('90, Crl) Ray Liotta.			
BET	58	-		40		Movie	★ To Be Announced							★ To Be Announced			(:35) Martin
BRAVO	65	76		41		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump R. (N)		RelationShip (N)		Watch (N)	Vanderpump Rules		Relation
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Street Outlaws (N)		Street Outlaws		Street Outlaws		Cash Cab	CashCab	(:05) Street Outlaws		CashCab	CashCab
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Raven's.	Andi M.	StuckMid.	Bizaard.	Raven's.	Underc.	LivMad	Bizaard.	Raven's.	StuckMid.	Bunk'd
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	(5:00) Countdown (L)		(:15) NFL Football Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati Bengals (L)						(:25) SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)			
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball Florida State at Florida (L)				Basketb.	Featured	E:60	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking (N)		Cookie Challenge (N)		Vegas Ca	TeenyTin	Holiday Baking	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(5:40) ★★★ Elf Will Ferrell.				(:55) ★ National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation				The 700 Club		★ Four Christmases	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Focused	Mavericks Insider	Mavs Pre (L)		NBA Basketball Denver Nuggets at Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)				Mavs Post (L)	Cowboys/ Conf. (N)	Cowboys Legends	HS Spotlight
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(6:30) ★★ Spy		★★ Tod 2 ('15, Com) Mark Wahlberg, Seth MacFarlane.				★★ Tod 2 ('15, Com) Mark Wahlberg, Seth MacFarlane.					
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Chlas Tree (N)		★ Miss Christmas ('17, Rom) Brooke D'Orsay.				★ A Rose for Christmas Rachel Boston.				★ Just in Time for...	
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		H.Hunter	House (N)	H.Hunt	House	Love It or List It	
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Manson Speaks "Part 1"				Manson Speaks "Part 2" (N)				(:05) Manson Speaks "Part 1"			
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Grey's Anatomy "I Bet It Stung"		★★★ The Holiday Cameron Diaz. Two women with romance issues swap homes and fall for men in their new neighbourhoods.						Christmas Snowm...	UglyChlas DelChlas	★★★ The Holiday	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball (N)		All In (N)		Rachel Maddow (N)		The Last Word (N)		The 11th Hour (N)		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				Poker Masters		Poker Masters		Poker Masters		Poker Masters		Poker Masters		Poker Masters	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Thunder	Sponge	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(4:25) ★ Ocean's Th...		Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	American Dad!	Conan (N)		Seth. "The Outing"	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:15) ★ Brute Force		★ Requiem for a Heavyweight				(:45) ★★ Fat City ('72, Dra) Stacy Keach.			★ Somebody Up There Likes ...		
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		De Navidad (N)		Sangre de mi Tie (N)		Señora acero (N)		Al rojo	Titulares	Sangre de mi Tierra	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Family "The Letters Just Stopped Coming"		Lost Family "There's More to Saying Sorry"		LI Medium "Southern Fried Spirit" (N)		(:05) The Healer "My Life Changed" (N)		(:10) Long Lost Family		(:10) L.I. Medium "Southern Fried Spirit"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(4:30) ★★ Need for Speed Aaron Paul.		★★ Ant-Man Paul Rudd. A con man dons a suit that shrinks him do...n, but bestows him with incredible strength.				★★ Need for Speed A blue-collar mechanic joins a cross-country car race in the hopes of exacting revenge.					
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	MASH	(:20) MASH	(:40) Ray	(:50) Ray	(:20) Ray "The Finale"		Mom		Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Monday Night Raw							(:40) Modern	(:05) Modern	(:40) Modern	(:05) Modern
WGN	19	85				M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

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Only child feels pressure of his parents' expectations

Dear Abby

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Her column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.



DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and so is my boyfriend. He is an only child, and all throughout his life, his parents have put a lot of pressure on him. Recently, they've been talking about him getting into an honors program in a college. Abby, his parents act like if he doesn't get in, they won't be proud of him. He always feels like he's disappointing them because they never give him any words of encouragement or let him know he's on the right track.

It seems to me that he just wants to know that they're proud of him. It's hard for me to constantly try to support him through this because he needs his parents' approval, and I can't give that to him. Is there any way I can help him? He refuses to talk it out with his parents, but I just want them to be on the same page. Can I help without getting too involved with their family dynamics? — THERE FOR HIM IN DALLAS

DEAR THERE FOR HIM: Much as you would like to help your boyfriend, if you approach his parents about the way they are raising their son, it won't help the situation. The odds are great that it will cause them to resent you. However, if your boyfriend would discuss this with a counselor at school or a teacher he trusts, that person — an educator who is a contemporary of your boyfriend's parents — might suggest that their son needs positive reinforcement to reach his full potential.

DEAR ABBY: I was married for many years to my ex-wife. I met another woman, wound up divorced, and I am now with this other woman.

The problem is, my ex is disabled. Somebody stays with her during the week and cooks for her and such. Sundays are different, and I usually bring food to her, which takes about an hour.

My new lady friend is having a fit about this to the point that we may break up over it. Am I wrong for helping my ex, who has very little family and no children? — GOOD DEED PUNISHED IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR GOOD DEED: You are a kind and caring individual. That your new lady friend cannot recognize this for what it is, an act of compassion, and realize that you would do the same for her if she needed it, is sad. You are not wrong for helping your ex, because there is no one else who seems willing. If this woman is so threatened that she can't cut you some slack one hour a week, perhaps breaking up would be best for both of you.

DEAR ABBY: I am biting my tongue all the way through at work. One co-worker regularly brings her breakfast to eat. The other, even worse, comes in with wet hair and uses a curling iron at her computer station — in shared space! Am I too old-fashioned? — BITING MY TONGUE

DEAR BITING: Many people bring their breakfast to work. Unless there is a rule against it, I see nothing wrong with it.

As to your other co-worker, I agree what she's doing is inappropriate. She'd probably do a better job if she groomed herself in the restroom or at home before work. Is your supervisor or boss aware she's doing it? If not, the person should be informed. If so, then MYOB.

Goren Bridge

With Bob Jones

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 9 ♡ K J 8 6 5 ◇ K Q 10 ♣ K Q J 10

Right-hand opponent opens one spade. What call would you make?

A — Double or two hearts? We like two hearts, intending to double next if they compete to two spades. Doubling now and bidding hearts later would show a stronger hand.

Q 2 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q 10 6 4 3 ♡ 10 4 2 ◇ A 4 ♣ A 8 5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Dbl	Pass	?

What call would you make?

A — Pass might work, but the trump holding is pretty soft "under" the bidder. Bid one no-trump.

Q 3 — North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q J 9 3 ♡ K Q 10 9 8 4 ◇ 9 3 ♣ 10

As dealer, what call would you make?

A — The spade suit is decent, but we wouldn't want to suppress this excellent heart suit. Open two hearts.

Q 4 — East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K ♡ J 7 5 ◇ J 4 3 2 ♣ 10 8 7 6

Partner opens one club and right-hand opponent bids one spade. What call would you make?

A — If you are willing to bid three clubs later should the opponents compete to two spades, you can bid one no-trump now. If not, bid two clubs now.

BITCOIN

From 2B

more accurately track trading and assets.

SHOULD INDIVIDUALS OWN BITCOINS?

There are basically two reasons why an individual would want to buy bitcoin: to use it as a form of payment, or as an investment to store value.

Bitcoin's usage among mainstream merchants is limited. Microsoft accepts it as a form of payment on its Xbox and Windows Store platforms. Overstock.com accepts it. But don't expect to spend it at Wal-Mart or Amazon.

The virtual currency is a matter of debate among investors. Some, like Dimon and billionaire Mark Cuban, are strongly against it, while others are enthusiastic about it. Wall Street is starting to build products around it. The more grounded investors see bitcoin as a highly speculative, highly risky investment that a person should not put all their money into, not unlike gold, commodities or traditional currencies.

HOW BITCOINS ARE KEPT SECURE

The bitcoin network works by harnessing individuals' greed for the collective good. A network of tech-savvy users called miners keep the system honest by pouring their computing power into a blockchain, a global running tally of every bitcoin transaction. The blockchain prevents rogues from spending the same bitcoin twice, and the miners are rewarded for their efforts by being gifted with the occasional bitcoin. As long as miners keep the blockchain secure, counterfeiting shouldn't be an issue.

ORIGIN OF BITCOIN

It's a mystery. Bitcoin was launched in 2009 by a person or group of people operating under the name Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoin was then adopted by a small clutch of enthusiasts. Nakamoto dropped off the map as bitcoin began to attract widespread attention. But proponents say that doesn't matter: The currency obeys its own internal logic.

An Australian entrepreneur last year stepped forward and claimed to be the founder of bitcoin, only to say days later that he did not "have the courage" to publish proof that he is.

TRAIN

From 2B

Trade groups including the Information Technology Industry Council and the Telecommunications Industry Association say more federal funding is needed. President Donald Trump recently signed into law legislation increasing access to apprenticeship programs that train veterans.

But individual companies, too, are launching apprenticeship programs — a mix of classroom and paid on-the-job training to master skills — that cost them tens of thousands of dollars per person.

Carousel Industries, which integrates and maintains communications and data networks, spends about $54,000, including salary, for each of the apprentices in its year-long program, Chief Client Officer Tim Hebert said.

"Finding good talent today is really hard, especially at entry levels," where searching can take months, Hebert said. "We feel that the amount of money we're saving in the recruiting process helps offset some of the expense that we have, but it also gives us better-quality candidates."

In the decade since Hebert started the apprenticeships at a company that Exeter, Rhode Island-based Carousel bought last year, 90 percent of the more than 320 workers who completed the program remain, he said.

In October, IBM enrolled its first U.S.-based group of seven apprentices working at the company's sprawling North Carolina campus. All will spend a year learning software engineering, including working in teams on actual tasks IBM needs to be accomplished, while earning benefits and a starting paycheck about 40 percent below the position's regular salary. Several are shifting from other careers.

One is Tara Welch, 43, who was a licensed practical nurse for 23 years but had to quit because of chronic pain. She said she always had an interest in computers, as a child programming on her old, basic Commodore and as an adult teaching herself coding languages in her free time.

"When you're in a career and you have bills to pay — especially as you're getting older and have a house and car payment — changing careers because you're really interested is not always an option. But then when I got sick, I had no choice," Welch said.

Her earlier dabbling led her to enroll in community college to study programming and software development.

There she heard about IBM's new apprenticeship program, which requires a high school diploma or equivalency and some familiarity with coding, but didn't require any formal certifications or hands-on experience.

After the new year, IBM plans to add another 100 apprentices in Research Triangle Park; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Dallas and Emeryville, California. They'll also start training workers in mainframe system administration and project management, later adding roles in data analytics and cybersecurity.

GM

From 4B

experience ahead of the ambitious deadline. Instead of testing its vehicles on a closed course or a "simple suburban setting," Wert said, the company has opted to test the vehicles in an environment that resembles where they'll actually be deployed. Real-world conditions, company officials believe, accelerate the technology and unlock economic opportunity.

"That's why we're committed to the aggressive timelines that we're committed to," he said. "The faster we can do that the greater impact we can have on society."

GM is far from the only traditional automaker investing in autonomous technology and ride-hailing services. Last month, Volvo announced plans to provide Uber with up to 24,000 vehicles for a fleet of driverless taxis that are expected to appear on American streets in 2019.

Google's Waymo, German automaker Daimler and Ford are also developing self-driving cars that would be available for ride-sharing services.

GM considers autonomous vehicles the "biggest business opportunity since the creation of the internet," a market with multitrillion dollar potential that goes hand-in-hand with electric vehicles.

In a note to clients Friday, Barclays analyst Brian Johnson wrote that instead of the "overly-aggressive timelines pushed by Tesla," GM's ability to launch autonomous vehicles for a ride-sharing service now "seems possible."

"The tech is real," he wrote, noting that GM's vehicles will be "monitored by humans at a control center" and the company will benefit from their aggressive timeline.

After joining a test-drive in one of the prototypes, Johnson said the car was "impressive."

"There were no disengagements," he wrote. "While the vehicle drove conservatively (i.e., taking time, strictly obeying speed limits, checking carefully at both sides before turning at an intersection), we'd also note that the driving environment was quite complex."



Snapchat via AP

This photo provided by Snapchat shows screen examples of Snapchat's redesign. Snapchat is separating what friends share and what media organizations publish in an attempt to appeal to a broader range of users. Users will now see two separate feeds: one from friends and one from publishers and non-friend accounts they follow.

Snapchat seeks to attract more users by redesigning its app

By Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Snapchat is separating what friends share and what media organizations publish in an attempt to appeal to a broader range of users.

Users will now see two separate feeds. Before, the visual-messaging app was mixing posts from friends, publishers, celebrities and others, much the way Twitter, Facebook and other rivals continue to do.

Snap Inc. CEO Evan Spiegel took a jab at rivals, writing that social media "fueled 'fake news'" because of this content mixing.

"After all, how many times have you shared something you've never bothered to read?" Spiegel wrote on Axios.

Snapchat has not been gaining enough users, especially beyond its core of younger people. Instead, rival services have managed to copy Snapchat's most popular features and make them available to a broader audience. This includes Stories, a way to show photo and video snippets that disappear after 24 hours; Snapchat pioneered it, while Facebook's Instagram popularized it.

With growth stagnant, parent company Snap's stock is down sharply since its initial public offering earlier this year. Snap hinted at changes three weeks ago, but didn't provide details then.

Beyond separating feeds, Snapchat will now order posts using a formula to try to appeal to users' likes, instead of listing them chronologically. Facebook has long done that; Twitter and Instagram followed more recently.

Even so, Spiegel seems determined to set Snapchat apart from its bigger rivals. When users open Snapchat, for instance, they will still see the app's camera first.

"Snapchat began as an escape from social media, where people could send photos and videos to their friends without the pressure of likes, comments, and permanence," Spiegel wrote.

TOPS@ iTUNES

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Apps

App Store Official Charts for the week ending Nov. 26:

Top Paid iPhone Apps:
1. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
2. Minecraft, Mojang
3. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
4. kirakira+, Kentaro Yama
5. Bloons TD 5, Ninja Kiwi
6. Monument Valley 2, ustwo Games Ltd
7. Trivia Crack (No Ads), Etermax
8. NBA 2K18, 2K
9. MONOPOLY Game, Electronic Arts
10. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB

Top Free iPhone Apps:
1. Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp, Nintendo Co., Ltd.
2. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
3. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google, Inc.
4. Messenger, Facebook, Inc.
5. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
6. Facebook, Facebook, Inc.
7. Rules of Survival, NetEase Games
8. Bitmoji, Bitstrips
9. Amazon Mobile, AMZN Mobile LLC
10. Dunel, Voodoo

Top Paid iPad Apps:
1. Minecraft, Mojang
2. Minds On Physics the App - Part 1, Physics Classroom, LLC
3. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
4. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
5. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
6. Monument Valley 2, ustwo Games Ltd
7. The Escapists, Team17 Software Ltd
8. Toca Life: Office, Toca Boca AB
9. The Game of Life, Marmalade Game Studio
10. Terraria505, Games (US), Inc.

healthy living

PAID CONTENT

To appear here call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

Want to be treated as a real person by your health care practitioner? ConciergeMD does exactly that

For many patients a visit to their physician has become a little like seeing the holographic doctor on *Star Trek: Voyager*—the visit is so rushed, due to the pace at which doctors currently must work, that you wonder if he's really there at all. To be sure, most physicians are also very frustrated with this reality.

What if there was a way to return to the Marcus Welby, M. D. days (continuing the theme of TV doctors), where your physician actually had time to sit and listen to your concerns and symptoms—and to run tests or decide on a treatment without worrying about deductibles, coverages, co-pays and paperwork? You could see that the doctor was treating you as a person, not as a condition, and he or she could concentrate on keeping you well rather than treating a problem.

This is exactly what happens with ConciergeMD at Medical Spa of Midland. Chrissy Russell, FNP-C (Certified Family Nurse Practitioner), under the direction of Supervising Physician and ConciergeMD Owner Jeff Durgin, MD, FACS are excited about the way concierge medicine allows the opportunity to treat every patient as a whole person instead of just as a set of presenting symptoms.

Here's how it works for you: a patient pays a flat fee to the physician on a regular basis and, in return, gets much more time to have a conversations with the doctor, explain all the symptoms and get more thought-out treatment when needed. To make this work, a concierge doctor limits his practice to around 100 people.

"This way I can focus on whole health instead of treating one or two symptoms at a time," says Chrissy. "Since costs are not a concern, I can focus 100 percent on their health. I can be proactive, catching small issues before they become big."

One of the biggest benefits is that you no longer see more of Ellen or Dr. Phil on the waiting room TV than you do of your own health care practitioner. Usually you go right in to see her, for as long as you need. While this is great for everyone, it is of particular value to busy oil company executives and employees, for whom business decisions can't deal with waiting room delays.

"Now I can truly make a difference," says Chrissy. "Because I am more relaxed I can take the time improve my patients' overall health. Patients trust me with everything I need to know to really make them better."

And she is well qualified to help. She is licensed by the State of Texas as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), and is board certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners as a Family Nurse Practitioner. A native West Texan, she graduated from Seminole High before pursing her nursing education and career. She has more than 10 years' experience in a variety of health care fields.



With ConciergeMD at Medical Spa of Midland, Chrissy Russell, FNP-C, can really be your own health care practitioner—taking all the time you need to voice your concerns as well as your symptoms. Call 432-689-6300.

Are you ready for the new medicine that's really the old-fashioned medicine? Have you been wishing for a physician who had the time to listen to you instead of the distant office of the insurance company? Call Medical Spa of Midland today to learn more about how ConciergeMD can help you stay healthy.

Medical Spa of Midland is located at 4506 Briarwood, Suite B. The phone number is 432-689-6300. Their web address is www.conciergemdmidland.com.

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Alabama joins Clemson, Oklahoma and Georgia in playoff

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Alabama is in, winning the great debate over Ohio State to reach the College Football Playoff yet again.

The Crimson Tide got the nod Sunday for the fourth and final spot over Buckeyes and will play Clemson on Jan. 1 in the Sugar Bowl. Oklahoma and Georgia will meet in the Rose Bowl semifinal a few hours earlier.

Tide or Buckeyes was the question facing the selection committee, the toughest call in the four-year history of the playoff.

The Tide had been more consistent and lost just once. The Buckeyes lost twice, including an embarrassing 31-point loss at unranked Iowa, but have the more impressive set of victories. Ohio State won the Big Ten while Alabama did not even win its Southeastern Conference division.

The committee rolled with the Tide, and for the first time the playoff will include two teams from the same conference. Alabama joins SEC champion Georgia and an all-SEC title game on Jan. 8 in Atlanta is possible.

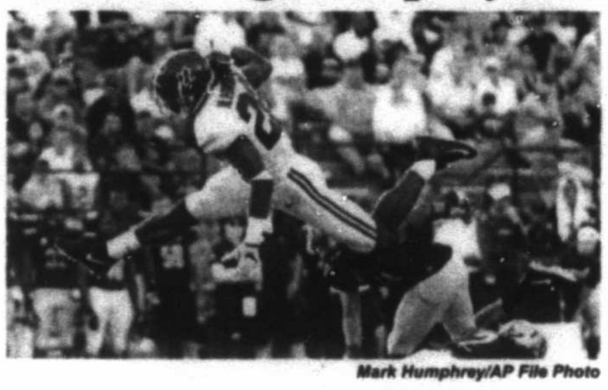
Ohio State was ranked fifth by the CFP, Wisconsin was sixth and Auburn was seventh. Southern California finished eighth, followed by Penn State and Miami. Washington was 11th and unbeaten UCF was 12th.

The rest of the New Year's Six bowls fell this way: USC (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2) in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 29; Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2) in the Fiesta Bowl on Dec. 30; Miami (11-1) vs. Wisconsin (12-1) in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 30; and UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3) in the Peach Bowl on Jan. 1.

Committee chairman Kirby Hocutt said the Iowa loss hurt Ohio State and the Buckeyes were not close enough to the Tide for the Big Ten championship result — a 27-21 win over previously unbeaten Wisconsin — to matter.

"As we saw Alabama play week in and week out, the selection committee believed Alabama was the better football team," Hocutt told ESPN. "When we looked at Ohio State, when you looked at

Please see **PLAYOFF**/4C



Mark Humphrey/AP File Photo

Alabama running back Najee Harris (22) leaps over Vanderbilt safety Arnold Tarpley III (2) in the second half on Sept. 23 in Nashville, Tenn. The Crimson Tide got the nod over Ohio State and will play Clemson in the College Football Playoff on Jan. 1, in the Sugar Bowl.

Missed opportunities



Brett Coomer / Houston Chronicle

Houston Texans wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) sits in the end zone after the Tom Savage pass intended for him was intercepted by Tennessee Titans cornerback LeShaun Sims during the fourth quarter Nissan Stadium on Sunday in Nashville.

Titans win 6th time in 7 games, beat battered Texans 24-13

By Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — LeShaun Sims intercepted a pass intended for DeAndre Hopkins in the end zone with 1:02 left, and the Tennessee Titans beat the Houston Texans 24-13 on Sunday to stay atop the AFC South.

Marcus Mariota also ran for a touchdown and threw for another, but the Titans needed the interception to preserve the win with Tom Savage throwing for a career-high 365 yards despite the Texans losing four offensive players to injuries during the game.

The Titans (8-4) won their second straight and sixth of their past seven. They improved to 4-1 in the AFC South to stay ahead of Jacksonville, a winner over Indianapolis.

Tennessee didn't look ready to take advantage of a chance for a little payback against Houston for the 57-14 beat-down the Texans put on them Oct. 1 when Deshaun Watson and J.J. Watt were healthy. The Titans even fell behind 10-0 before rallying to tie it up at halftime.

Injuries have taken a toll on the Texans (4-8), but a rearranged offensive line gave up only four sacks. Savage even made up for three consecutive false starts by Jeff Allen, who slid over to left tackle, after having fourth-and-4. Savage found Stephen Anderson with a 22-yarder.

Sims beat Hopkins for the interception on the next play, and Derrick Henry ran 75 yards up the left sideline for a TD three plays later to seal the win. Henry finished with 109 yards rushing.

Mariota's legs

The Titans quarterback ran for only four TDs combined through his first two seasons. He ran for a 9-yard TD in the second quarter, giving him a career-high five TD runs through 11 games. He also tossed a 24-yard TD pass to Delanie Walker in the third quarter, which gave Tennessee its first lead.

Texans kicker struggles

Ka'imi Fairbairn struggled mightily. He clanked a 48-yard field goal attempt off the left upright with 38 seconds left

Please see **TEXANS**/3C

Sunday's Week 13 NFL Scoreboard

Vikings	**14**	**Jaguars**	**30**
Falcons	9	Colts	10
Patriots	**23**	**Ravens**	**44**
Bills	9	Lions	20
49ers	**15**	**Chargers**	**19**
Bears	14	Browns	10
Packers	**26**	**Raiders**	**24**
Buccaneers	20	Giants	17
Titans	**24**	**Saints**	**31**
Texans	13	Panthers	21
Dolphins	**35**	**Rams**	**32**
Broncos	9	Cardinals	16
Jets	**38**	**Seahawks**	**24**
Chiefs	31	Eagles	10

Fowler rallies with 61 to win in Tiger's return

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — Rickie Fowler and Tiger Woods each had cause for celebrations large and small Sunday in the Hero World Challenge.

Fowler rallied from a seven-shot deficit by starting his final round with seven straight birdies at Albany Golf Club and closing with an 11-under 61 for a four-shot victory over Charley Hoffman. It was the second victory of the year for Fowler, and the second time he has ended a year with multiple victories worldwide.

"Finally just kind of got everything to piece together," said Fowler, who moves to No. 7 in the world.

In a week that began with so much curiosity over how Woods would perform, he had his best result in four years. More than his score, he looked just as strong at end, including a vicious recoil on a 2-iron he hit from 265 yards on the third hole that ran through the green.

Playing for the first time in 10 months while recovering from fusion surgery on his lower back — his fourth back surgery in three years — Woods shot another 31 on the front nine, closed with back-to-back bogeys and shot a 68.

He tied for ninth in the 18-man field, his best result since a playoff loss at this holiday event in 2013 at Sherwood Country Club in California.

"I'm excited," Woods said. "This is the way I've been playing at home."

He still finished 10 shots behind Fowler. Then again, Fowler didn't give anyone much of a chance.

Fowler, whose lone PGA Tour victory this year was in the Honda Classic, was close to flawless on the front nine. He holed birdie putts of about 12 feet on the first two holes, hit a gap wedge to 3 feet on the par-5 third, made his toughest putt into the green from 15 feet on No. 4, and then holed a bunker shot on No. 5. He followed that with another wedge that spun back to a foot on the par-5 sixth, and he hit out of a bunker to about 7 feet on the next hole.

"I knew I needed to get off to a quick start to at least show Charley I was there," Fowler said.

By then, he was tied for the lead as Hoffman, who birdied his first hole, began to drop shots and work to make par. He never caught up and shot 72.

Please see **FOWLER**/5C



Dante Carrer/Associated Press

Rickie Fowler poses with the trophy after winning the Hero World Challenge golf tournament at Albany Golf Club in Nassau, Bahamas on Sunday.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Men's College Basketball
Michigan at Ohio State, 5:30 p.m., FS1
Wisconsin at Penn State, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Sam Houston State at Baylor, 7 p.m., FSSW+
UTSA at Oklahoma, 7 p.m., FCSC
Florida State at Florida, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Northern Illinois at Iowa State, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Men's Soccer
Serie A: FC Crotone vs. Udinese Calcio, 11:55 a.m., beIN
FA Cup: Slough Town vs. Rochdale, 1:40 p.m., FSP
La Liga: Girona vs. Alaves, 1:50 p.m., beIN E
Serie A: Hellas Verona FC vs. Genoa CFC, 1:55 p.m., beIN

National Basketball Association
Milwaukee at Boston, 6:30 p.m., NBAtv
Denver at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW
Detroit at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., FSSWSA

National Football League
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., ESPN, ESPNDEP

National Hockey League
San Jose at Washington, 6 p.m., NHL

Women's College Basketball
Virginia at Rutgers, 5 p.m., BTN

RADIO

National Basketball Association
Denver at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)
Detroit at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m., KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP TOP 25 POLL

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 2, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Clemson (43)	12-1	1506	1
2. Oklahoma (18)	12-1	1474	2
3. Georgia	12-1	1409	6
4. Alabama	11-1	1307	5
5. Ohio St.	11-2	1300	8
6. Wisconsin	12-1	1162	3
7. Auburn	10-3	1123	4
8. Southern Cal	11-2	1101	11
9. Penn St.	10-2	1008	9
10. UCF	12-0	983	12
11. Miami	10-2	948	7
12. Washington	10-2	820	13
13. TCU	10-3	816	10
14. Notre Dame	9-3	632	15
15. Stanford	9-4	629	14
16. LSU	9-3	599	17
17. Oklahoma St.	9-3	549	18
18. Michigan St.	9-3	487	19
19. Memphis	10-2	475	16
20. Northwestern	9-3	398	20
21. Washington St.	9-3	342	21
22. Virginia Tech	9-3	323	22
23. South Florida	9-2	115	23
24. Mississippi St.	8-4	103	24
25. Boise St.	10-3	59	NR

Others receiving votes: NC State 54, San Diego St. 40, Toledo 25, Louisville 11, FAU 8, Michigan 8, Fresno St. 6, Missouri 3, Troy 1, Kansas St. 1

The Amway Top 25 football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 2, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Clemson (48)	12-1	1510	1
2. Oklahoma (10)	12-1	1462	2
3. Georgia (2)	12-1	1416	6
4. Alabama	11-1	1312	5
5. Ohio State	11-2	1298	17
6. Wisconsin	12-1	1162	3
7. Southern California	11-2	1140	9
8. Auburn	10-3	1085	4
9. Penn State	10-2	1006	10
10. Central Florida	12-0	986	11
11. Miami (Fla.)	10-2	934	17
12. Washington	10-2	855	13
13. TCU	10-3	807	12
14. LSU	9-3	638	16
15. Notre Dame	9-3	628	17
16. Stanford	9-4	607	15
17. Oklahoma State	9-3	522	18
18. Memphis	10-2	485	14
19. Michigan State	9-3	474	19
20. Northwestern	9-3	370	20
21. Washington State	9-3	310	22
22. Virginia Tech	9-3	302	21
23. Mississippi State	8-4	134	24
24. South Florida	9-2	126	23
25. Boise State	10-3	72	NR

Others receiving votes: North Carolina State 54, San Diego State 50, Florida Atlantic 24, Toledo 21, Michigan 11, Troy 11, Fresno State 5, Louisville 4, South Carolina 4

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
National League
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Signed executive vice president/general manager A.J. Preller to a contract extension through the 2022 season.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NHL — Fined San Jose F Joe Thornton $5,000 for slashing Tampa Bay F Tyler Johnson during a Dec. 2 game.
ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled D Jason Chimera from Tucson (AHL). Assigned D Andrew Campbell to Tucson.
DALLAS STARS — Recalled F Jason Dickinson from Texas (AHL). Placed C Martin Hanzal on injured reserve, retroactive to Nov. 28.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned D Jamie McBain to Syracuse (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled F Travis Boyd from Hershey (AHL).

American Hockey League
AHL — Suspended Bridgeport F Connor Jones three games for a slew-footing incident in a Dec. 1 game at Utica.

ECHL
ECHL — Suspended Reading's Loic Lafaut indefinitely and fined him an undisclosed amount for a game misconduct for physical abuse of an official during a Dec. 2 game at Wheeling. Suspended Wheeling's Garrett Meurs indefinitely and fined him an undisclosed amount for a tripping infraction and Wheeling's Jeff Taylor indefinitely and fined him an undisclosed amount for his game misconduct under for leaving the bench during an altercation in the game against Reading.

COLLEGE
WASHINGTON — Named Bush Hamdan offensive coordinator, effective at the end of the Atlanta Falcons season.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	26	18	6	2	38	95	67
Toronto	28	17	10	1	35	99	84
Montreal	28	13	12	3	29	78	86
Boston	24	12	8	4	28	66	68
Detroit	27	10	12	5	25	74	90
Ottawa	25	9	10	6	24	74	86
Florida	26	10	13	3	23	75	88
Buffalo	27	6	17	4	16	56	94

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GFGA
Columbus	27	17	9	1	35	79 66
New Jersey	26	15	7	4	34	80 60
Pittsburgh	28	15	10	3	33	83 91
N.Y. Islanders	25	15	8	2	32	94 82
Washington	27	15	11	1	31	80 83
N.Y. Rangers	26	14	10	2	30	87 78
Carolina	25	11	9	5	27	72 77
Philadelphia	26	9	11	7	25	70 81

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GFGA
Winnipeg	27	17	6	4	38	94 71
St. Louis	27	17	8	2	36	88 72
Nashville	26	16	7	3	35	82 75
Dallas	27	16	10	1	33	84 76
Minnesota	26	13	10	3	29	76 77
Chicago	27	12	10	5	29	82 73
Colorado	25	12	11	2	26	79 82

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GFGA
Los Angeles	28	17	8	3	37	85 61
Vegas	26	16	9	1	33	90 82
San Jose	25	14	9	2	30	65 57
Vancouver	27	13	10	4	30	75 77
Calgary	26	14	11	1	29	78 83
Anaheim	27	11	11	5	27	72 82
Edmonton	27	11	14	2	24	78 92
Arizona	30	7	18	5	19	73 104

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's Scores
Los Angeles 3, Chicago 1
Winnipeg 5, Ottawa 0
Vegas 3, Arizona 2, OT
Dallas 7, Colorado 3

Today's Games
San Jose at Washington, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Calgary, 8 p.m.

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	4	.833	—
Toronto	14	7	.667	4½
Philadelphia	13	9	.591	6
New York	11	11	.500	8
Brooklyn	8	14	.364	11

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	12	10	.545	—
Miami	11	12	.478	1½
Orlando	10	14	.417	3
Charlotte	8	13	.381	3½
Atlanta	5	17	.227	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	16	7	.696	—
Detroit	14	8	.636	1½
Milwaukee	12	9	.571	3
Indiana	12	11	.522	4
Chicago	3	18	.143	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	17	4	.810	—
San Antonio	15	8	.652	3
New Orleans	12	11	.522	6
Memphis	7	15	.318	10½
Dallas	6	17	.261	12

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	13	9	.591	—
Minnesota	14	10	.583	—
Portland	13	10	.565	½
Utah	12	11	.522	1½
Oklahoma City	10	12	.455	3

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	18	6	.750	—
L.A. Clippers	8	14	.364	9
L.A. Lakers	8	14	.364	9
Phoenix	8	16	.333	10
Sacramento	7	16	.304	10½

Sunday's Scores
Orlando 105, New York 100
Golden State 123, Miami 95
Minnesota 112, L.A. Clippers 106
Oklahoma City 90, San Antonio 87
Houston at L.A. Lakers, late

Today's Games
New York at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Golden State at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 8 p.m.

FIGHT SCHEDULE

Dec. 8
At Hialeah Park Racing & Casino, Hialeah, Fla. (FS1), Jean Pascal vs. Ahmed Elbali, 10, light heavyweights; Chad Dawson vs. Edwin Rodriguez, 10, light heavyweights.

Dec. 9
At The Theater at Madison Square Garden, New York (ESPN), Vasyl Lomachenko vs. Guillermo Rigondeaux, 12, for Lomachenko's WBO World super featherweight title; Christopher Diaz vs. Casey Ramos, 10, junior lightweights.
At Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas (HBO), Orlando Salido vs. Miguel Roman, 10, junior lightweights; Teon Fiemier vs. Kenichi Ogawa, 12, for vacant IBF junior lightweight title; Francisco Vargas vs. Stephen Smith, 10, junior lightweights; Jaime Munguia vs. Steven Martinez, 10, junior middleweights.

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

Dec. 16
At Place Bell, Laval, Quebec (HBO), Billy Joe Saunders vs. David Lemieux, 12, for Saunders' WBO middleweight title; Antonio Douglas vs. Gary O'Sullivan, 10, for the WBO intercontinental middleweight title.

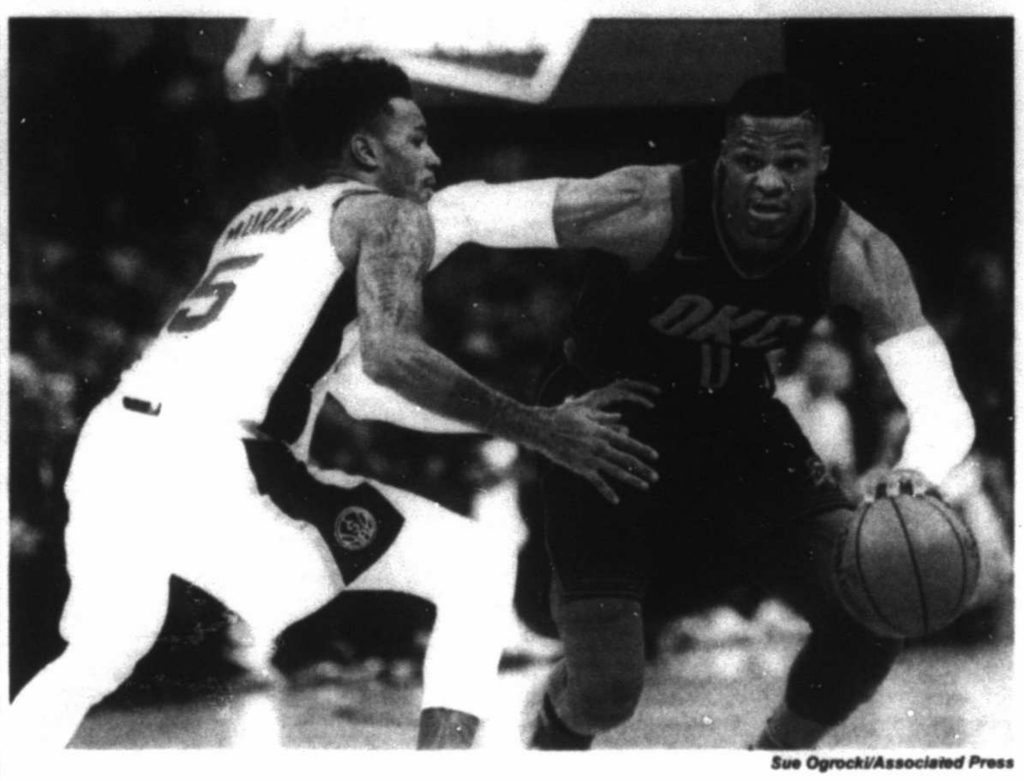
2018
Jan. 13
At TBA, United States (SHO), Errol Spence Jr. vs. Lamont Peterson, 12, for Spence's IBF World welterweight title.

Jan. 19
At Macao, China, Donnie Nietes vs. Juan Carlos Reveco, 12, for Nietes' IBF World flyweight title.

Jan. 20
At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. (SHO), Errol Spence Jr. vs. Lamont Peterson, 12, for Spence's IBF welterweight title.

Feb. 24
At Los Angeles, Wasteel Wongek vs. Juan Francisco Estrada, 12, for Wongek's WBC World super flyweight title.

Get the best energy news every week in the
OIL REPORT
Look for it in Sunday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram



Sue Ogrocki/Associated Press

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives around San Antonio Spurs guard Dejounte Murray (5) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday.

NBA ROUNDUP

THUNDER 90
SPURS 87

OKLAHOMA CITY — Russell Westbrook had his seventh triple-double of the season to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the short-handed San Antonio Spurs 90-87 on Sunday night.

Westbrook had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Thunder.

Steven Adams added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won even though No. 2 scorer Paul George had just eight points on 2-for-17 shooting.

Dejounte Murray had 17 points and Derrick White added 16 for San Antonio. With a chance to tie it at the end, Brandon Paul missed a 3-pointer and the Thunder rebounded.

Spurs starters LaMarcus Aldridge and Tony Parker sat out. San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said Aldridge rested with a minor knee issue and Parker was "dinged-up." The Spurs still are waiting for forward Kawhi Leonard's right quadriceps injury to heal. San Antonio's Kyle Anderson sprained his left knee with a minute remaining in the third quarter and did not return.

WARRIORS 123
HEAT 95

MIAMI — Stephen Curry scored 30 points in 30 minutes, Kevin Durant added 24 and the Golden State rode a big third-quarter run to pull away and beat Miami.

Klay Thompson scored 19 points for the Warriors, who started the second half on an 18-3 run and outscored Miami 37-17 in the third. Golden State's lead was only two at the half, then ballooned to 99-77 going into the fourth.

Curry — playing with a sore finger on his shooting hand — had 16 of his points in the first quarter, then 10 more in the third.

Goran Dragic scored 20 points for the Heat. They led by eight in the early going and 36-33 after the first quarter. The Heat then scored 41 points in the next 24 minutes.

Starting with a layup by Curry late in the half, Golden State made 10 out of 11 shots in one stretch. Curry had two 3-pointers in that third-quarter barrage, and his driving score pushed the lead out to 80-63. At that point, he had 30 points in the game's first 28 1/2 minutes. He didn't score again, didn't even play in the fourth, and the Warriors didn't need much more help anyway.

MAGIC 105
KNICKS 100

NEW YORK — Nikola Vucevic scored 34 points — eight straight in a decisive 10-0 fourth-quarter run — and Orlando beat New York.

With the score tied at 85 midway through the fourth quarter, Vucevic made a short basket, a three-point play and a 3-point shot in succession to give the Magic the lead for good.

Evan Fournier had 20 points, Jonathon Simmons added 16, and Elfrid Payton had 15 for Orlando.

Michael Beasley, who replaced the injured Kristaps Porzingis in the starting lineup, led the Knicks with 21 points. Courtney Lee had 19, and Enes Kanter added 18 points and 16 rebounds.

TIMBERWOLVES 112
CLIPPERS 106

MINNEAPOLIS — Jimmy Butler scored 20 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter, Taj Gibson added 20 and Minnesota outlasted Los Angeles.

The Wolves overcame a season-high 30 points from Austin Rivers, who matched his career best with seven 3-pointers. Rivers' final 3-pointer gave L.A. a 92-91 lead with 6:54 to play before Butler scored nine in a row to send the Clippers to their third straight loss.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota for his NBA-leading 19th double-double of the season.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

NO. 2 TEXAS 81, GEORGIA 53

ATHENS, Ga. — Ariel Atkins had 17 points and nine rebounds. Jatarie White added 13 points and Texas cruised past Georgia.

Brooke McCarty and Lashann Higgs each scored 12 points as the Longhorns (7-0) dominated on both ends of the floor. Texas' defense kept the Lady Bulldogs from getting to the rim and from generating any momentum beyond the arc. Mackenzie Engram had 17 points for Georgia (7-1).

NO. 9 BAYLOR 81, NO. 16 STANFORD 57

WACO — Kalani Brown had 28 points for Baylor, which scored the game's first nine points and led throughout against Stanford.

Brown was 12 for 16 from the floor and beat the Cardinal with postups, drives to the basket and shots from the top of the key. Lauren Cox and Kristy Wallace added double-doubles for Baylor (7-1).

Associated Press

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

Men

SOUTHWEST
Oklahoma St. 89, MVSU 62

SOUTH
Auburn 79, George Mason 53
Clemson 83, UNC-Asheville 52
Idaho 79, Nicholls 68
Jacksonville St. 89, Samford 58
Kansas St. 84, Vanderbilt 79
Mississippi St. 61, Dayton 59
North Carolina 97, Tulane 73
Seton Hall 79, Louisville 77
Southern Miss. 109, Rust College 61
Tennessee 77, Georgia Tech 70
UCF 85, Alabama 62

FAR WEST
Boise St. 77, Portland 54
Long Beach St. 76, Stanford 68
N. Colorado 87, Western State 75
New Mexico St. 69, Prairie View 57
Pacific 105, UA Fort Smith 68
San Diego St. 75, Bradley 52
Seattle 84, E. Washington 65
UCLA 106, Detroit 75
Washington 86, Nebraska-Omaha 73

MIDWEST
Fort Wayne 86, SIU-Edwardsville 71
Maryland 92, Illinois 91, OT
Michigan St. 88, Nebraska 57
Minnesota 89, Rutgers 67
Notre Dame 71, St. Francis Brooklyn 53
Purdue 74, Northwestern 69

EAST
George Washington 71, Temple 67
Georgetown 76, Coppin St. 60
NJIT 78, Mass.-Lowell 65
Navy 66, Morgan St. 59

Top 25 Fared

Sunday

1. Duke (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Francis (Pa.), Tuesday.
2. Kansas (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Wednesday.
3. Michigan State (7-1) beat Nebraska 88-57. Next: at Rutgers, Tuesday.
4. Villanova (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Gonzaga, Tuesday.
5. Notre Dame (7-1) beat St. Francis (NY) 71-53. Next: vs. Ball State, Tuesday.
6. Florida (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Florida State, Monday.
7. Kentucky (7-1) did not play. Next: Monmouth (N.J.), Saturday.
8. Wichita State (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. South Dakota State, Tuesday.
9. Texas A&M (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona, Tuesday.
10. Miami (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Boston University, Tuesday.
11. Cincinnati (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 5 Florida, Saturday.
12. Minnesota (8-1) beat Rutgers 89-67. Next: at Nebraska, Tuesday.
13. North Carolina (6-1) beat Tulane 97-73. Next: vs. Western Carolina, Wednesday.
14. Southern Cal (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Friday.
15. Gonzaga (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Villanova, Tuesday.
16. Baylor (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Sam Houston State, Monday.
17. Louisville (4-2) lost to Seton Hall 79-77. Next: vs. Siena, Wednesday.
18. Virginia (8-0) did not play. Next: at No. 19 West Virginia, Tuesday.
19. West Virginia (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 18 Virginia, Tuesday.
20. Arizona State (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Friday.
21. Xavier (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Kent State, Wednesday.
22. Texas Tech (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Nevada, Tuesday.
23. TCU (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. SMU, Tuesday.
24. Alabama (6-2) lost to UCF 65-62. Next: vs. Rhode Island, Wednesday.
25. Creighton (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Dakota, Tuesday.

Women

SOUTHWEST
Baylor 81, Stanford 57
Florida 80, Oklahoma 61
Florida Gulf Coast 94, Abilene Christian 55
Houston 79, Texas Tech 75
SMU 41, CS Bakersfield 29

SOUTH
Bethune-Cookman 69, Grand Canyon 60
Charlotte 78, Coppin St. 49
Cincinnati 54, Old Dominion 33
ETSU 74, Winthrop 63
FAU 85, North Florida 75
Florida St. 79, James Madison 63
Furman 80, SC-Upstate 59
Georgia St. 101, Allen 56
Georgia Tech 48, Middle Tennessee 45
Illinois 83, Memphis 47
Jacksonville 60, South Alabama 58
Kentucky 82, Tennessee Tech 54
Mercer 69, Davidson 54
Mississippi St. 79, Oklahoma St. 76
NC State 79, Tulane 55
North Carolina 56, Appalachian St. 43
Northwestern St. 70, Louisiana-Monroe 48
Quinnipiac 64, Hampton 58
South Carolina 72, Duke 52
St. John's 74, Miami 64
Tennessee 104, Alabama St. 51
Texas 81, Georgia 53
UAB 77, High Point 61
UNC-Wilmington 89, NC Central 63
Valparaiso 81, Longwood 68
Virginia Tech 68, Radford 42

FAR WEST
Arizona St. 73, UC Riverside 48
Boise St. 61, E. Washington 57
Denver 80, N. Arizona 73
N. Colorado 80, Pacific 55
Oregon St. 94, Utah St. 55
San Diego St. 78, Arizona 67
UCLA 74, UC Santa Barbara 44
Washington 93, Portland 67
Wyoming 61, Idaho St. 53

MIDWEST
Auburn 65, Indiana 53
Butler 56, Illinois St. 45
Cent. Michigan 103, Oakland 81
Creighton 108, Drake 100
Iowa 80, Samford 59
Kansas 71, Arkansas 60
Louisville 68, S. Dakota St. 64
Miami (Ohio) 72, Canisius 47
Michigan St. 65, W. Michigan 62
Milwaukee 66, Northwestern 57
Minnesota 80, E. Michigan 58
Nebraska-Omaha 81, College of Saint Mary (NE) 59
Ohio St. 83, Maine 70
Stetson 65, SIU-Edwardsville 61
Wright St. 84, Chicago St. 59

EAST
Albany (NY) 65, Holy Cross 56
Boston U. 57, Vermont 41
Brown 72, Bryant 60
Bucknell 60, Iona 53
Buffalo 80, UNLV 53
Columbia 60, UMBC 44
Drexel 73, Delaware St. 52
Fairfield 69, Boston College 54
Fordham 58, Pittsburgh 55
Hartford 83, Niagara 65
Navy 86, Emory & Henry 57
Penn St. 78, Manhattan 46
Providence 65, Rhode Island 41
Robert Morris 96, Monmouth (NJ) 58
Sacred Heart 65, Lehigh 55
Syracuse 81, Stony Brook 76
UConn 80, Notre Dame 71
Villanova 79, Saint Joseph's 44

Top 25 Fared

Sunday

1. UConn (7-0) beat No. 3 Notre Dame 80-71. Next: at DePaul, Friday.
2. Texas (7-0) beat Georgia 81-53. Next: at No. 12 Tennessee, Sunday.
3. Notre Dame (7-1) lost to No. 1 UConn 80-71. Next: vs. Michigan State, Wednesday.
4. Louisville (8-0) beat South Dakota State 68-64. Next: vs. UT Martin, Tuesday.
5. South Carolina (8-1) beat No. 14 Duke 72-52. Next: vs. College of Charleston, Tuesday.
6. Mississippi State (8-0) beat Oklahoma State 79-76. Next: vs. UALR, Sunday.
7. UCLA (7-1) beat UC Santa Barbara 74-44. Next: at Oklahoma State, Friday.
8. Ohio State (8-2) beat Maine 83-70. Next: at Florida, Wednesday.
9. Baylor (7-1) beat No. 16 Stanford 81-57. Next: vs. North Dakota, Tuesday.
10. Oregon (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Utah, Saturday.
11. West Virginia (7-0) beat No. 18 Texas A&M 70-56. Next: vs. Pittsburgh, Thursday.
12. Tennessee (8-0) beat Alabama State 104-51. Next: vs. Troy, Wednesday.
13. Florida State (8-0) beat James Madison 79-66. Next: vs. Stetson, Thursday.
14. Duke (6-2) lost to No. 5 South Carolina 72-52. Next: vs. UNC Greensboro, Thursday.
15. Maryland (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Mount St. Mary's, Wednesday.
16. Stanford (5-4) lost to No. 9 Baylor 81-57. Next: vs. UNLV, Saturday, Dec. 16.
17. South Florida (7-1) did not play. Next: at Oklahoma, Saturday.
18. Texas A&M (6-2) lost to No. 11 West Virginia 70-56. Next: vs. TCU, Wednesday.
19. Missouri (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Louis, Friday.
20. Kentucky (7-1) beat Tennessee Tech 82-54. Next: vs. Evansville, Tuesday.
21. Oregon State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. San Jose State, Sunday.
22. Michigan (5-2) did not play. Next: at Detroit, Monday.
23. Marquette (3-3) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Monday.
24. California (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego, Thursday.
25. Villanova (7-0) beat Saint Joseph's 79-44. Next: at Fairfield, Wednesday.

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12/09 12-10 Hang 'Em High Art Co. Tattoo Fundraiser, Odessa
12/31 Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Party at DoubleTree
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NFL ROUNDUP



Scott Clause/The Daily Advertiser via AP

New Orleans Saints' Michael Thomas makes a catch against the Carolina Panthers during an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, in New Orleans.

SEAHAWKS 24
EAGLES 10

SEATTLE — Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, the last a 15-yard strike to J.D. McKissic with 7:29 left, and the Seattle Seahawks stayed in the NFC playoff hunt with a 24-10 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

Seattle (8-4) snapped Philadelphia's nine-game winning streak thanks largely to another masterful performance by its quarterback. Wilson was 20 of 31 for 227 and threw touchdowns of 11 yards to Jimmy Graham, 1-yard to Tyler Lockett and the TD to McKissic after the Eagles had trimmed the lead to seven.

Philadelphia (10-2) was the highest-scoring team in the NFL averaging 31.9 points per game. But the Eagles got just 10 points out of seven drives that at some point reached Seattle territory.

Carson Wentz was 29 of 45 for 348 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Wentz had a costly fumble at the Seattle 1 on the opening drive of the second half that could have pulled the Eagles even.

Wentz was inches shy of breaking the plane when Sheldon Richardson ripped the ball free. The loose ball bounced around the end zone and eventually over the end line for a touchback and Seattle's ball. It was a major turning point as Seattle went 80 yards in 11 plays, capped by Wilson's 1-yard pass to Lockett and a 17-3 Seattle lead. The touchdown was setup by a 47-yard pass to Doug Baldwin on third-and-10 beating a Philadelphia blitz.

VIKINGS 14
FALCONS 9

ATLANTA — Case Keenum threw a pair of touchdown passes, and Minnesota extended its winning streak to eight straight games, keeping Atlanta out of the end zone.

Keenum, who was 25 of 30 for 227 yards, hooked up with Jerick McKinnon on a 2-yard scoring play in the second quarter, and went to Kyle Rudolph for a 6-yard TD on the first play of the fourth quarter, capping an 89-yard drive that consumed more than eight minutes.

Minnesota (10-2) turned in a stellar defensive effort against a Falcons team that led the league in scoring a year ago and seemed to be finding its stride during a three-game winning streak, averaging nearly 32 points. While Minnesota remained far ahead in the NFC North, the Falcons' fell further behind in the NFC South and could be damaged in the wild-card race.

The Falcons (7-5) were held without a touchdown for the first time since Dec. 13, 2015, when they were blanked 38-0 by Carolina. Matt Ryan's streak of 30 straight games with a touchdown pass also ended, going down as the eighth longest in NFL history.

PATRIOTS 23,
BILLS 3

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Rex Burkhead scored twice and the Patriots won their eighth straight in an AFC East showdown overshadowed by injuries and cheap shots.

Bills starting quarterback Tyrod Taylor had a towel draped over his head while being carted off the sideline with a left knee injury early in the fourth quarter.

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski, meanwhile, was accused of making a dirty hit after pile-driving shoulder-first into the back of the head of Bills cornerback Tre'Davious White, who was laying on the field after making an interception with 4:50 remaining.

White was dazed as he got up and was immediately escorted to the locker room to be evaluated for a concussion. The hit sparked a shoving match between Hyde and Patriots receiver Danny Amendola. Bills defensive end Jerry Hughes was so upset he was flagged for making contact with an official.

SAINTS 31
PANTHERS 21

NEW ORLEANS — Rookie sensation Alvin Kamara scored two tackle-shedding touchdowns, and New Orleans took advantage of a pair of Carolina special teams gaffes asthe Saints reclaimed sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

Mark Ingram rushed for 85 yards and a touchdown for the Saints (9-3), who own the head-to-head tiebreaker over Carolina (8-4) with four games to go.

Drew Brees passed for 269 yards, including a 10-yard TD to Michael Thomas a few plays after a botched Panthers punt gave New Orleans the ball on the Carolina 31. In the fourth quarter, a fumble by Panthers punt returner Kaelin Clay near midfield set up Wil Lutz's 31-yard field goal to give New Orleans a 31-14 lead.

Cam Newton passed for 183 yards and touchdowns of 21 yards to Christian McCaffrey and 24 to Devin Funchess. Newton also ran for 51 yards. Jonathan Stewart added a short TD run for Carolina, which had its four-game winning streak ended.

The Panthers were unable to convert a crucial fourth-and-6 play deep in Saints territory in the fourth quarter. Newton connected with Funchess, who was stopped a yard short by cornerback Ken Crawley.

Kamara finished with 122 yards from scrimmage.

RAIDERS 24
GIANTS 17

OAKLAND, Calif. — Oakland's Marshawn Lynch had a 51-yard touchdown run and got his first 100-yard rushing game since coming out of retirement, in New York's first game without Eli Manning starting in 13 years.

Oakland (6-6) overcame the absences of starting receivers Michael Crabtree (suspension) and Amari Cooper (injury) to win consecutive games for the first time since the opening two games of the season. The Raiders moved into a three-way tie for first place in the AFC West with Kansas City and the Chargers.

Geno Smith lost two fumbles before throwing a touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to Evan Engram for the Giants (2-10), while Manning spent the day on the sideline watching.

New York benched Manning earlier in the week, ending his streak of 210 straight regular-season starts, and he spent his first game as a spectator since Nov. 14, 2004, walking around the sideline with no helmet and listening to the play calls with an ear piece.

Smith finished 21 for 34 for 212 yards.

RAMS 32
CARDINALS 16

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Jared Goff passed for two touchdowns, Los Angeles took advantage of two early interceptions thrown by Blaine Gabbert, and the Rams solidified their grip on first place in the NFC West.

The Rams (9-3) won for the sixth time in seven games to clinch their first winning season since 2003 when they were in St. Louis. They took the season series with the Cardinals for only the second time in the last 14 years and first since 2012.

The Rams had routed the Cardinals in London 33-0 on Oct. 22 and were in the lead almost from the start of this one. Gabbert's interceptions helped Los Angeles score 16 early points, including Alec Ogletree's 41-yard interception return for a touchdown, and the Rams led the rest of the way.

The Cardinals (5-7) cut the lead to 16-13 in the second quarter and were down 19-13 at the break.

JETS 38
CHIEFS 31

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Josh McCown scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak with 2:15 left, and the Jets bounced back from a brutal start for a wild and wacky win over the spiraling Chiefs.

Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 21-yard field goal to put the Jets (5-7) ahead with 3:55 left. But Kansas City's Bennie Logan was called for a personal foul for hitting long snapper Thomas Hennessy on the play. That gave the Jets the ball at the 1 with a new set of downs.

After two running plays, McCown threw incomplete — but Steven Nelson was penalized for defensive holding, making it first-and-goal from the 2. Three plays later, McCown kept the ball and shoved his way into the end zone.

McCown's pass on the 2-point conversion was incomplete, but Nelson was called for holding. An enraged Marcus Peters picked up the penalty flag and tossed it away, drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. Elijah McGuire ran it in moments later to convert the 2-point play and make it 38-31.

McCown finished with 331 yards passing and a touchdown to Matt Forte, and ran for two scores — including the winner. Jermaine Kearse had nine catches for 157 yards and Robby Anderson caught eight passes for 107 yards as the Jets dominated in time of possession, but still had to hold their breath in the end.

After Tyreek Hill's 40-yard catch put the ball at the Jets 23, Smith completed a 4-yard pass to Travis Kelce, who had two early touchdowns. But Smith was then incomplete on three straight passes.

NFL GLANCE

CHARGERS 19, BROWNS 10

Cleveland	0	7	0	3—10
L.A. Chargers	0	9	10	0—19

Second Quarter
LAC—FG Coons 21, 9:03
LAC—FG Coons 40, 3:45
Cle—Njoku 28 pass from Kizer (Gonzalez kick), 1:55
LAC—FG Coons 22, :00
Third Quarter
LAC—Allen 7 pass from Rivers (Coons kick), 10:35
LAC—FG Coons 27, 7:02
Fourth Quarter
Cle—FG Gonzalez 35, 12:03

	Cle	LAC
First downs	17	23
Total Net Yards	291	429
Rushes-yards	22-89	25-94
Passing	202	335
Punt Returns	1-12	1-9
Kickoff Returns	2-51	3-62
Interceptions Ret	0-0	1-9
Comp-Att-Int	15-32-1	31-43-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-13	1-9
Punts	3-39.0	2-36.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties-Yards	4-24	5-62
Time of Possession	25:03	34:57

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Cleveland, Kizer 5-46, Crowell 10-41, Johnson 7-2, Los Angeles, M.Gordon 19-77, Ekeler 4-19, Rivers 2-(minus 2).
PASSING—Cleveland, Kizer 15-32-1-215, Los Angeles, Rivers 31-43-0-344.
RECEIVING—Cleveland, J.Gordon 4-85, Njoku 4-74, DeValve 2-33, Britt 2-10, Johnson 2-10, Crowell 1-3, Los Angeles, Allen 10-105, Henry 7-81, Benjamin 4-68, M.Gordon 4-29, Gates 3-32, Ekeler 2-21, Ty.Williams 1-8.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Los Angeles, Coons 38.

VIKINGS 14, FALCONS 9

Minnesota	0	7	0	7—14
Atlanta	3	3	3	0—9

First Quarter
Atl—FG Bryant 38, 5:24
Second Quarter
Min—McKinnon 2 pass from Keenum (Forbath kick), 10:01
Atl—FG Bryant 36, 5:47
Third Quarter
Atl—FG Bryant 47, 11:57
Fourth Quarter
Min—Rudolph 6 pass from Keenum (Forbath kick), 14:56

	Min	Atl
First downs	22	15
Total Net Yards	312	275
Rushes-yards	31-105	22-102
Passing	207	173
Punt Returns	1-10	2-8
Kickoff Returns	2-51	2-45
Interceptions Ret	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-30-0	16-29-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-26	0-0
Punts	5-45.0	4-49.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-51	7-55
Time of Possession	34:02	25:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Minnesota, Murray 16-76, McKinnon 9-24, Diggs 1-5, Horn 1-1, Keenum 4-(minus 1), Atlanta, Freeman 12-74, T.Coleman 8-22, Gabriel 1-6, Ryan 1-1.
PASSING—Minnesota, Keenum 25-30-0-227, Atlanta, Ryan 16-29-0-173.
RECEIVING—Minnesota, McKinnon 5-28, Thielen 4-51, Rudolph 4-36, Murray 3-21, Wright 3-18, Diggs 2-32, Floyd 2-20, Horn 1-12, Treadwell 1-9, Atlanta, Sanu 3-43, T.Coleman 3-27, Hooper 3-21, Tolbio 2-25, J.Jones 2-24, Hall 1-20, Freeman 1-7, Gabriel 1-6.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Atlanta, Bryant 45.

PATRIOTS 23, BILLS 3

New England	3	6	14	0—23
Buffalo	0	3	0	0—3

First Quarter
NE—FG Gostkowski 50, 1:30
Second Quarter
NE—FG Gostkowski 31, 6:26
Buf—FG Hauschka 49, 3:05
NE—FG Gostkowski 39, :15
Third Quarter
NE—Burkhead 1 run (Gostkowski kick), 9:02
NE—Burkhead 14 run (Gostkowski kick), 1:08

	NE	Buf
First downs	23	16
Total Net Yards	435	256
Rushes-yards	35-191	26-183
Passing	244	85
Punt Returns	2-11	0-0
Kickoff Returns	1-17	3-68
Interceptions Ret	1-8	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-30-1	15-34-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-14	4-30
Punts	3-35.0	4-48.8
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-66	3-34
Time of Possession	34:01	25:59

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New England, Lewis 15-82, Burkhead 12-76, J.White 5-18, Cosita 1-5, Hoyer 2-(minus 2), Buffalo, McCoy 15-93, Taylor 3-52, Webb 3-27, Cattet 4-22, Peterman 1-9.
PASSING—New England, Brady 21-30-1-258, Buffalo, Taylor 9-18-1-85, Webb 0-1-0-0, Peterman 6-15-0-30.
RECEIVING—New England, Gronkowski 9-147, J.White 4-32, Burkhead 3-25, Amendola 2-34, Cosita 2-17, D.Allen 1-3, Buffalo, Clay 3-20, Cattet 3-19, Z.Jones 2-22, Thompson 2-21, L.Thomas 2-10, McCoy 2-9, Matthews 1-14.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

49ERS 15, BEARS 14

San Francisco	3	6	3	3—15
Chicago	7	7	0	0—14

First Quarter
SF—FG Gould 33, 8:12
Chi—Inman 8 pass from Trubisky (Santos kick), :10
Second Quarter
SF—FG Gould 28, 11:57
Chi—Cohen 61 punt return (Santos kick), 5:49
SF—FG Gould 35, :24
Third Quarter
SF—FG Gould 34, 1:57
Fourth Quarter
SF—FG Gould 24, :04

	SF	Chi
First downs	23	9
Total Net Yards	388	147
Rushes-yards	34-110	19-62
Passing	278	85
Punt Returns	3-21	2-68
Kickoff Returns	1-30	1-0
Interceptions Ret	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	26-37-1	12-15-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-15	2-17
Punts	2-36.0	5-39.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	8-53	4-29
Time of Possession	38:47	21:13

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—San Francisco, Hyde 17-54, Breida 12-45, Garoppolo 4-8, Juszczyk 1-3, Chicago, Howard 13-38, Trubisky 4-19, Cohen 2-5.
PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-37-1-293, Chicago, Trubisky 12-15-0-102.
RECEIVING—San Francisco, Goodwin 8-99, Taylor 6-92, Juszczyk 3-20, Hyde 3-12, Celek 2-30, Kittle 2-20, Murphy 1-16, Breida 1-4, Chicago, Cohen 4-39, Wright 2-25, Inman 2-21, D.Brown 1-13, Sims 1-5, Bellamy 1-4, Howard 1-(minus 5).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

PACKERS 26, BUCCANEERS 20

Tampa Bay	7	3	0	10	0—20
Green Bay	3	13	0	3	6—26

First Quarter
TB—Brate 28 pass from Winston (Murray kick), 9:52
GB—FG Crosby 37, 2:30
Second Quarter
GB—Williams 1 run (Crosby kick), 7:12
GB—Lowry 62 fumble return (Crosby kick), 4:17
TB—FG Murray 36, :13
Fourth Quarter
TB—FG Murray 30, 14:37
TB—Brate 11 pass from Winston (Murray kick), 6:02
GB—FG Crosby 22, 2:01
Overtime
GB—A.Jones 20 run, 5:59

	TB	GB
First downs	25	16
Total Net Yards	395	276
Rushes-yards	35-165	29-199
Passing	230	77
Punt Returns	3-12	2-2
Kickoff Returns	1-20	4-121
Interceptions Ret	1-15	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-32-0	13-22-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	7-40	3-7
Punts	5-35.2	4-45.3
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-74	7-47
Time of Possession	37:17	26:44

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tampa Bay, Barber 23-102, J.Rodgers 3-25, Winston 5-18, Sims 3-16, Wilson 1-4, Green Bay, Williams 21-113, Hundley 7-86, A.Jones 1-(minus 1).
PASSING—Tampa Bay, Winston 21-32-0-279, Green Bay, Hundley 13-22-1-84.
RECEIVING—Tampa Bay, Barber 4-41, Humphries 4-33, Brate 2-39, Sims 2-30, M.Evans 2-33, Jackson 2-24, Godwin 2-24, Howard 1-17, Cross 1-13, Auclair 1-11, Green Bay, Nelson 5-17, D.Adams 4-42, Williams 2-10, Kendricks 1-11, R.Rodgers 1-4.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

DOLPHINS 35, BRONCOS 9

Denver	0	3	6	0— 9
Miami	7	14	10	9— 35

First Quarter
Mia—safety, 3:07
Second Quarter
Den—FG McManus 31, 13:28
Mia—J.Thomas 9 pass from Cutler (Parkey kick), 9:39
Mia—Howard 30 interception return (Parkey kick), 9:32
Third Quarter
Mia—FG Parkey 37, 10:52
Den—Simmons 65 interception return, 4:56
Mia—Drake 42 run (Parkey kick), 2:54
Fourth Quarter
Mia—Stills 23 pass from Cutler (Parkey kick), 10:21
Mia—safety, 8:49

	Den	Mia
First downs	14	15
Total Net Yards	270	387
Rushes-yards	23-103	30-145
Passing	167	222
Punt Returns	1-(minus 1)	5-56
Kickoff Returns	1-15	3-57
Interceptions Ret	2-78	3-49
Comp-Att-Int	19-41-3	18-32-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-33	2-13
Punts	8-42.5	5-42.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	9-57	7-65
Time of Possession	25:38	34:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Denver, C.Anderson 15-67, Sieman 3-16, Charles 3-12, Booker 2-8, Miami, Drake 23-120, Perry 5-22, Gaynt 1-2, Cutler 1-1.
PASSING—Denver, Sieman 19-41-3-200, Miami, Cutler 18-31-2-235, Fales 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—Denver, Charles 5-39, C.Anderson 4-43, D.Thomas 2-27, Taylor 2-16, Sanders 2-11, Green 1-36, Fowler 1-23, Latimer 1-5, Booker 1-0, Miami, Stills 5-98, Landry 5-62, Drake 3-21, J.Thomas 3-20, Fasano 1-29, Parker 1-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

JETS 38, CHIEFS 31

Kansas City	14	3	7	7	—31
New York	14	7	6	11	—38

First Quarter
KC—Kelce 22 pass from A.Smith (Bullock kick), 12:22
KC—Kelce 36 pass from A.Smith (Bullock kick), 10:36
NYJ—Powell 1 run (Catanzaro kick), 6:10
NYJ—McCown 1 run (Catanzaro kick), :46
Second Quarter
KC—FG Bullock 36, 2:49
NYJ—Forte 11 pass from McCown (Catanzaro kick), :23
Third Quarter
NYJ—FG Catanzaro 27, 5:29
KC—Hill 79 pass from A.Smith (Bullock kick), 5:13
NYJ—FG Catanzaro 47, 3:27
Fourth Quarter
NYJ—FG Catanzaro 36, 11:23
KC—Hill 40 pass from A.Smith (Bullock kick), 9:13
NYJ—McCown 1 run (McGuire run), 2:15

	KC	NYJ
First downs	17	30
Total Net Yards	474	488
Rushes-yards	11-112	40-157
Passing	362	331
Punt Returns	1-24	0-0
Kickoff Returns	5-101	2-42
Interceptions Ret	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	19-33-0	26-36-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-4	0-0
Punts	2-49.0	2-36.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-36	5-40
Time of Possession	17:11	42:49

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Kansas City, A.Smith 1-70, K.Hunt 9-40, A.Hunt 1-2, New York, Forte 15-58, Powell 18-48, McGuire 5-20, McCown 7-19, Anderson 1-7, Stewart 3-5.
PASSING—Kansas City, A.Smith 19-33-0-366, New York, McCown 26-36-0-331.
RECEIVING—Kansas City, Hill 6-185, Kelce 4-84, A.Wilson 3-27, K.Hunt 3-23, D.Robinson 2-17, A.Hunt 1-20, New York, Kearse 9-157, Anderson 8-107, Forte 3-53, Hansen 2-25, Seferian-Jenkins 2-7, Powell 2-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Kansas City, Butler 38.

JAGUARS 30, COLTS 10

Indianapolis	0	3	7	0	—10
Jacksonville	7	9	11	3	—30

First Quarter
Jac—Lee 4 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), 6:18
Second Quarter
Jac—FG Lambo 30, 12:43
Ind—FG Vinatieri 27, 7:02
Jac—Cole 8 pass from Bortles (pass failed), 1:55
Third Quarter
Jac—Fournette 5 run (Lewis pass from Bortles), 10:34
Ind—Hilton 40 pass from Brissett (Vinatieri kick), 6:40
Jac—FG Lambo 23, :34
Fourth Quarter
Jac—FG Lambo 39, 2:53

	Ind	Jac
First downs	17	22
Total Net Yards	299	429
Rushes-yards	26-141	27-96
Passing	149	333
Punt Returns	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns	3-52	2-45
Interceptions Ret	0-0	2-25
Comp-Att-Int	21-35-2	27-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-25	1-8
Punts	4-48.0	2-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	4-31	6-55
Time of Possession	28:19	33:47

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Indianapolis, Gore 13-61, Mack 6-46, Brissett 5-30, Rogers 1-(minus 2), Jacksonville, Fournette 20-57, Bortles 3-27, Ivory 4-12.
PASSING—Indianapolis, Brissett 21-35-2-174, Jacksonville, Bortles 26-35-0-309, Nortman 1-1-0-25.
RECEIVING—Indianapolis, Moncrief 5-57, Rogers 4-35, Hilton 3-51, Doyle 3-16, Ferguson 3-16, Williams 2-11, Mack 1-8, Jacksonville, Lee 7-66, Westbrook 6-78, Lewis 4-46, Cole 3-45, Fournette 3-22, Walton 2-25, O'Shaughnessy 1-23, Ivory 1-3.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

RAVENS 44, LIONS 20

Detroit	0	0	13	7	—20
Baltimore	3	17	0	24	—44

First Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 38, 5:57
Second Quarter
Bal—Watson 1 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 11:52
Bal—Ricard 3 pass from Flacco (Tucker kick), 6:54
Bal—FG Tucker 46, :00
Third Quarter
Det—Riddick 4 run (Prater kick), 12:11
Det—Green 6 run (kick failed), 2:15
Fourth Quarter
Bal—Collins 7 run (Tucker kick), 12:39
Det—Ballove 1 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 10:20
Bal—FG Tucker 51, 6:54
Bal—Collins 6 run (Tucker kick), 4:00
Bal—Waddle 45 interception return (Tucker kick), 2:26

	Det	Bal
First downs	18	24
Total Net Yards	372	370
Rushes-yards	24-78	27-101
Passing	294	269
Punt Returns	2-14	3-28
Kickoff Returns	2-42	3-60
Interceptions Ret	0-0	2-63
Comp-Att-Int	27-34-2	23-36-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-22	0-0
Punts	6-45.8	5-41.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-45	2-25
Time of Possession	30:09	29:51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Detroit, Green 11-51, Riddick 9-21, Zenner 1-4, Stafford 3-2, Baltimore, Collins 15-75, Allen 7-22, Woodhead 3-9, Flacco 1-(minus 1), Moore 1-(minus 4).
PASSING—Detroit, Stafford 24-29-1-292, Rudock 3-5-1-24, Baltimore, Flacco 23-36-0-269.
RECEIVING—Detroit, Tate 8-69, Riddick 5-41, M.Jones 4-90, Ebron 4-38, Golladay 2-44, Fells 2-10, Roberts 1-23, Ballove 1-1, Baltimore, Wallace 5-116, Martin 4-41, Moore 3-32, Watson 3-24, Collins 2-23, Woodhead 2-14, Boyle 1-11, Allen 1-4, Ricard 1-3, M.Williams 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Detroit, Prater 43.

RAIDERS 24, JETS 17

New York	7	0	0	10	—17
Oakland	7	3	0	14	—24

First Quarter
Oak—Lynch 31 run (Tavecchio kick), 12:26
NYG—Cartega 1 run (Rosas kick), :06
Second Quarter
Oak—FG Tavecchio 39, 3:37
Fourth Quarter
Oak—Washington 9 run (Tavecchio kick), 10:16
NYG—Engram 10 pass from G.Smith (Rosas kick), 5:16
Oak—Holton 9 pass from Carr (Tavecchio kick), 3:23
NYG—FG Rosas 52, 1:38

	NYG	Oak
First downs	15	18
Total Net Yards	265	401
Rushes-yards	24-65	29-119
Passing	200	282
Punt Returns	2-10	4-23
Kickoff Returns	2-32	3-46
Interceptions Ret	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-34-0	22-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-12	1-5
Punts	7-48.4	4-50.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	4-1
Penalties-Yards	1-5	6-42
Time of Possession	28:41	31:19

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New York, Darkwa 14-32, G.Smith 3-13, Perkins 5-12, Gallman 3-11, Vereen 1-(minus 3), Oakland, Lynch 17-101, Washington 6-16, Olawale 1-9, Richard 1-4, Patterson 2-1, Carr 1-(minus 1), M.King 1-(minus 11).
PASSING—New York, G.Smith 21-34-0-212, Oakland, Carr 22-35-0-287.
RECEIVING—New York, Engram 7-69, T.King 4-23, Shepard 3-58, Vereen 3-13, Lewis 1-9, Gallman 1-6, Ellison 1-5, Darkwa 1-(minus 1), Oakland, Roberts 5-46, Patterson 4-97, Walford 4-57, Holton 3-59, Lynch 3-30, Olawale 2-14, J.Cook 1-9, Richard 1-5.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

SAINTS 31, PANTHERS 21

Carolina	7	7	0	7	—21
New Orleans	7	14	7	3	—31

First Quarter
NO—Kamara 2 run (Lutz kick), 10:15.
Car—Stewart 2 run (Gano kick), 5:08
Second Quarter
NO—Ingram 3 run (Lutz kick), 11:32.
NO—Thomas 10 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 7:21.
Car—McCaffrey 21 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 1:58.
Third Quarter
NO—Kamara 20 run (Lutz kick), 8:10.
Fourth Quarter
NO—FG Lutz 31, 6:05.
Car—Funchess 24 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 3:57.

	Car	NO
First downs	16	19
Total Net Yards	279	400
Rushes-yards	23-112	35-148
Passing	167	252
Punt Returns	3-20	2-5
Kickoff Returns	2-42	0-0
Interceptions Ret	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	17-28-0	25-34-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-16	2-17
Punts	5-43.0	4-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	1-1
Penalties-Yards	6-54	7-68
Time of Possession	26:39	33:21

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Carolina, Newton 6-51, Stewart 11-45, McCaffrey 6-16, New Orleans, Ingram 14-85, Kamara 9-60, Ginn 1-6, Brees 4-(minus 3).
PASSING—Carolina, Newton 17-27-0-183, Peterly 0-1-0-0, New Orleans, Brees 25-34-0-269.
RECEIVING—Carolina, McCaffrey 5-33, Funchess 4-60, Shepard 3-29, Dickson 2-18, Benin 1-18, Clay 1-13, D.Byrd 1-12, New Orleans, Ingram 6-37, Thomas 5-70, Kamara 5-66, Sneed 2-31, B.Coleman 2-28, Ginn 2-27, J.Hill 1-8, Lewis 1-2, Hoomanawanui 1-0.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—New Orleans, Lutz 38.

RAMS 32, CARDINALS 16

L.A. Rams	10	3	7	6	—32
Arizona	0	13	0	3	—16

First Quarter
La—FG Zuerlein 56, 11:41
La—Everett 1 pass from Goff (kick failed), 7:51
La—Ogletree 41 interception return (Zuerlein kick), 2:45
Second Quarter
Ari—Penny 1 run (Dawson kick), 7:38
Ari—Fitzgerald 15 pass from Gabbert (kick blocked), 3:25
La—FG Zuerlein 20, :00
Third Quarter
La—Watkins 11 pass from Goff (Zuerlein kick), 5:07
Fourth Quarter
Ari—FG Dawson 54, 14:55
La—FG Zuerlein 24, 6:18
La—FG Zuerlein 41, 1:55
A—43,986.

	La	Ari
First downs	18	19
Total Net Yards	303	312
Rushes-yards	24-90	24-118
Passing	213	194
Punt Returns	4-60	3-12
Kickoff Returns	4-49	2-33
Interceptions Ret	2-67	1-7
Comp-Att-Int	21-31-1	18-32-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-7	6-27
Punts	4-51.8	5-50.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-36	4-25
Time of Possession	28:58	31:02

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Los Angeles, Gurley 19-74, Austin 3-8, Cooper 1-6, Goff 1-2, Arizona, K.Williams 16-97, Gabbert 4-12, Foster 2-5, Penny 2-4.
PASSING—Los Angeles, Goff 21-31-1-220, Arizona, Gabbert 18-32-2-221.
RECEIVING—Los Angeles, Gurley 6-84, Kupp 5-68, Watkins 3-38, Everett 2-7, Reynolds 2-6, Carrier 1-14, Higbee 1-6, Cooper 1-(minus 5), Arizona, Fitzgerald 10-98, Seals-Jones 2-44, Nelson 2-42, Foster 2-26, Gresham 2-17.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

SEAHAWKS 24, EAGLES 10

Philadelphia	0	3	0	7	—10
Seattle	10	0	7	7	—24

First Quarter
Sea—FG Walsh 46, 9:47
Sea—J.Graham 11 pass from Wilson (Walsh kick), :19
Second Quarter
Phi—FG Elliott 26, 7:51.
Third Quarter
Sea—Lockett 1 pass from Wilson (Walsh kick), 5:42.
Fourth Quarter
Phi—Agholor 27 pass from Wentz (Elliott kick), 12:08.
Sea—McKissic 15 pass from Wilson (Walsh kick), 7:29.
A—69,075.

	Phi	Sea
First downs	25	20
Total Net Yards	425	310
Rushes-yards	35-99	25-101
Passing	327	209
Punt Returns	1-0	1-2
Kickoff Returns	3-53	2-47
Interceptions Ret	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	29-45-1	20-31-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-21	2-18
Punts	3-41.0	5-39.8
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-64	5-46
Time of Possession	31:54	28:06

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Philadelphia, Agholor 9-39, Wentz 6-30, Blount 8-26, Clement 3-7, Seattle, M.Davis 16-64, Wilson 6-31, Rawls 1-4, Lacy 1-0, McKissic 1-(minus 1).
PASSING—Philadelphia, Wentz 29-45-1-349, Seattle, Wilson 20-31-0-227.
RECEIVING—Philadelphia, Agholor 7-141, T.Smith 5-29, Jeffery 4-61, Burton 4-42, Clement 3-30, Ajayi 3-11, Sriz 2-24, Hollins 1-10, Seattle, Baldwin 5-84, M.Davis 4-57, Vannett 3-40, J.Graham 3-26, Lockett 2-17, Pitchenbon 2-8, McKissic 1-15.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

TEXANS

From 1C

in the first half, and the Titans responded with a field goal to tie it up at 10 at halftime.

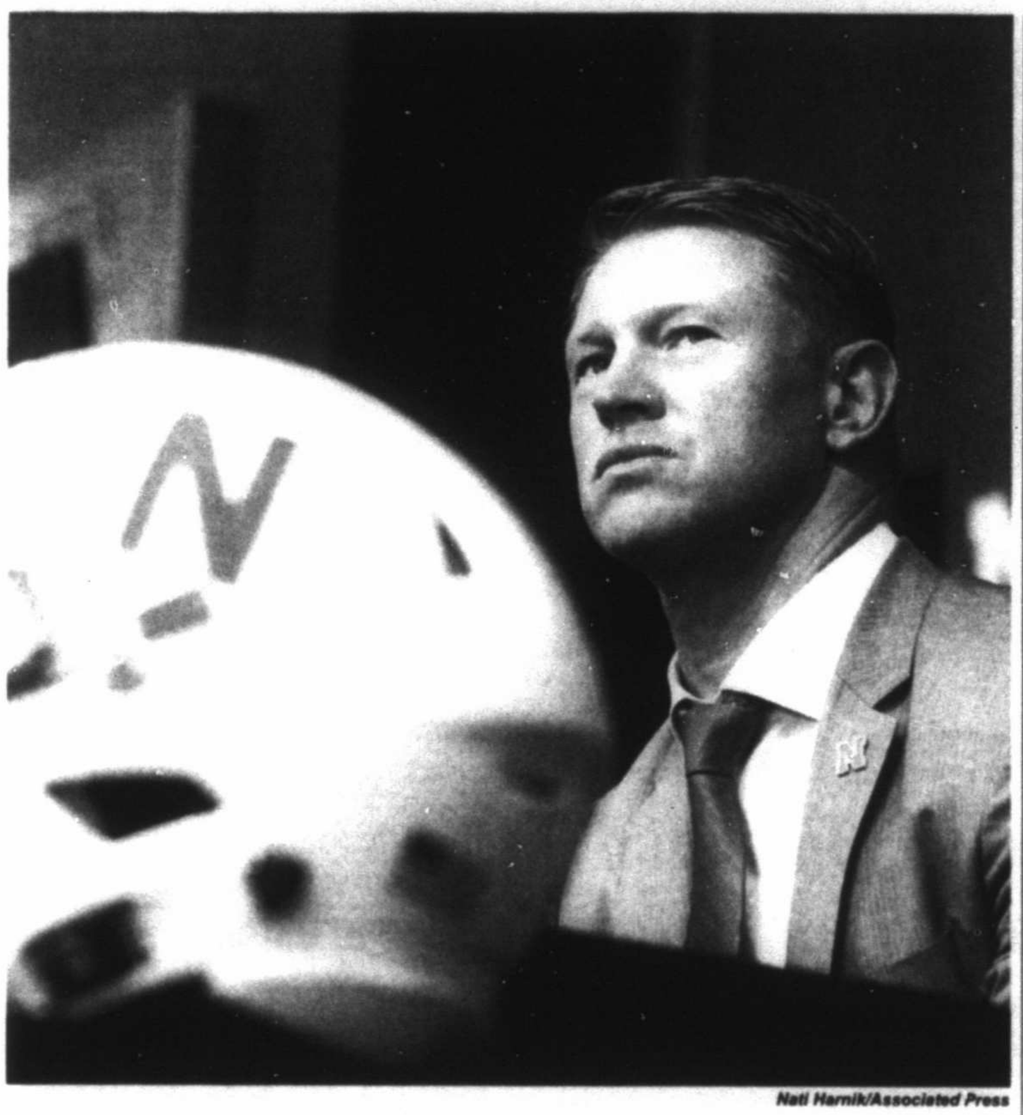
The second-year kicker, who spent his rookie season on injured reserve, yanked a 23-yarder late in the third quarter so wide to the left that he missed the net behind the goal posts. Fairbairn had missed only twice all season on 16 attempts.

He connected from 42 yards with 4:37 left to pull Houston within 17-13.

Injuries

Houston's lengthy injury report only grew longer. Tight end C.J. Fiedorowicz went out in the second quarter and didn't return after being evaluated for a concussion. Receiver Braxton Miller and running back Alfred Blue also suffered concussions. Cornerback Johnathan Joseph was ruled out just after halftime with an injured shoulder. Receiver Bruce Ellington also couldn't finish with an injured hamstring.

Defensive end DaQuan Jones, who had 1 1/2 sacks for Tennessee, had a biceps injury in the third quarter, and cornerback Logan



Nati Harnik/Associated Press

New Nebraska head football coach Scott Frost participates in a news conference on Sunday in Lincoln, Neb. Frost is returning to Nebraska after orchestrating a stunning two-year turnaround at Central Florida. The native son quarterbacked the Cornhuskers to a share of the national championship 20 years ago. His hiring has been long anticipated by fans clamoring for the program to return to the so-called Nebraska Way. That culture yielded unprecedented success from the 1960s to 1990s under Hall of Fame coaches Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne.

Scott Frost says he's ready and able to turn around Huskers

By Eric Olson
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — New Nebraska coach Scott Frost was given a rousing welcome home at his introductory news conference Sunday from boosters, current players and his old teammates, and he promised to make them proud with the product he will put on the field.

Frost takes over a program that has lost its stature among college football's elite in the 20 years since he quarterbacked the Cornhuskers to a share of the 1997 national championship.

"There was a formula that worked here for a long time," Frost said. "Times have changed a little but some of those same things are going to make this work again. And that's a lot of good people who care about this place working really hard. It's toughness, it's dedication, it's work ethic. That's what Nebraska is, that's what the people in Nebraska are, and that's what this place is going to stand for while I'm here."

The 42-year-old Frost agreed to a seven-year, $35 million contract. This year he became the hottest coach on the market for leading the dramatic turnaround at Central Florida. He inherited a team that went 0-12 in 2015, and this year he coached the Knights to a 12-0 record. He was introduced less than 24 hours after UCF defeated Memphis 62-55 in two overtimes in the American Athletic Conference championship game.

Athletic director Bill Moos said he's certain Frost was the first choice for several of the other top coaching vacancies in the Power Five.

"I got the pick of the litter," Moos said, drawing applause from some 400 people who crowded into a lounge area at Memorial Stadium.

Frost will coach UCF in the Peach Bowl against Auburn on Jan. 1, then step into a situation that would have seemed unimaginable during his playing days. The Huskers were 4-8 this season and allowed more than 50 points for four times. It was the Huskers' most losses since 1957 and their fewest wins since 1961.

Tom Osborne, who won his third national title in four years with Frost as his quarterback, has been conspicuously absent around the program since he retired as athletic director in 2012. Sunday, he was in the front row at the news conference.

"I think this is a good day," Osborne said. "Probably the most important thing a coach does is establish a culture. Sometimes it's hard to explain a culture if you haven't lived it or experienced it. Scott's done that. Now he'll bring a lot of his own ideas — this isn't going to be a return to 1997 in terms of offense, defense, those kinds of things — but he understands the things that need to be done here and he knows some of the basics that sustained it over a 42-year period."

Frost built an impressive resume as an assistant coach at Oregon and was seen by fans as a viable candidate after Nebraska fired Bo Pelini following the 2014 season. But then-athletic director Shawn Eichorst made a surprise hire, bringing in Riley from Oregon State. The Huskers went 19-19 over his three seasons.

University President Hank Bounds and chancellor Ronnie Green fired Eichorst and then brought in Moos.

"I wasn't considered for this job the last time it came open, and I 'm glad I wasn't," Frost said. "I didn't get a phone call, and I'm glad I didn't. The pieces are in place now. I believe a lot in Bill. I believe in Hank and Ronnie. This state is ready to see this place return to what it was."

The Huskers won five national titles between 1970 and '97 and rank fifth all-time with 893 victories. They also have won an NCAA-record 46 conference championships, but none since 1999.

Frost's father, Larry, played wingback for Devaney from 1967-69. His mother, Carol, was the first Nebraska female athlete to compete for the U.S. Olympic team, competing in the discus in 1968, and she later was the Huskers' coach in women's track.

Scott grew up about 100 miles west of Lincoln in Wood River, where his dad was head football coach and his mom was receivers coach. He started his career at Stanford under Bill Walsh. Things didn't work out, and he returned to Nebraska and quarterbacked the Huskers in 1996 and '97.

Eric Crouch, the Huskers' Heisman Trophy winner in 2001, said Frost is the right man at the right time for Nebraska.

"It's just nice to have someone here who understands what it takes to win and be in that position," Crouch said. "He's a special person, and I think it's just a perfect fit."

Frost didn't disclose which members of his UCF staff would join him at Nebraska, but he does promise to bring his dynamic "UCF-Fast" offense that averages a nation-best 49.4 points.

Asked how he would modify his system for the Big Ten, he drew roars and applause when he said, "I'm hoping the Big Ten has to modify their system for us."

Osborne said for all the "overwhelming euphoria" that comes with Frost's returns, the fans will need to be patient.

"There are going to be tough days," he said. "You aren't going to win every game, and it's going to take some time to build the culture the way it has to be built. I think the administration has made a long-term commitment to Scott, and Scott has made commitment here. And I just hope the fans will back it up."

COLLEGE BOWL GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 16
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
NC A&T (11-0) vs. Grambling State (11-1), 11 a.m. (ABC)
New Orleans Bowl
North Texas (9-4) vs. Troy (10-2), noon. (ESPN)
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Georgia State (6-5) vs. Western Kentucky (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (CBSSN)
Las Vegas Bowl
Boise State (10-3) vs. Oregon (7-5), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
Colorado State (7-5) vs. Marshall (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-3) vs. Middle Tennessee (6-6), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 19
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Akron (7-6) vs. FAU (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Frisco (Texas) Bowl
Louisiana Tech (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 21
Gasparilla Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Temple (6-6) vs. FIU (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 22
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Central Michigan (7-5) vs. Wyoming (7-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 23
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
South Florida (8-5) vs. Texas Tech (6-6), 11:00 a.m. (ESPN)
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (8-3), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Appalachian State (8-4) vs. Toledo (11-2), 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Sunday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Fresno State (9-4) vs. Houston (7-4), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 26
Heart of Dallas Bowl
West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Northern Illinois (8-4) vs. Duke (6-6), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Cactus Bowl
Phoenix
Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 7:30 p.m. (FOX)

Texas Bowl
Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 28
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (8-5), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (9-3), 4:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 8 p.m. (FOX)
Friday, Dec. 29
Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Wake Forest (7-6) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), noon (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
NC State (8-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5), 2 p.m. (CBS)
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Northwestern (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
New Mexico State (5-6) vs. Utah State (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (CBSSN)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
Southern Cal (11-2) vs. Ohio State (11-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 30
TaxSlayer Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
Louisville (8-4) vs. Mississippi State (8-4), 11:00 a.m. (ESPN)
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Iowa State (7-5) vs. Memphis (10-2), 11:30 a.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
Washington (10-2) vs. Penn State (10-2), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Wisconsin (12-1) vs. Miami (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Michigan (8-4) vs. South Carolina (8-4), 11:00 a.m. (ESPN2)
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
UCF (12-0) vs. Auburn (10-3), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Notre Dame (9-3) vs. LSU (9-3), noon (ABC)
Rose Bowl (CFP Semifinal)
Pasadena, Calif.
Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Georgia (12-1), 4:10 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl (CFP Semifinal)
New Orleans
Clemson (12-1) vs. Alabama (11-1), 7:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Jan. 8
College Football Championship
Atlanta
Rose Bowl winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 7 p.m. (ESPN)

HS FOOTBALL PAIRINGS

CLASS 6A DIVISION I
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Euless Trinity (11-2) vs. Allen (13-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Denton's Apogee Stadium
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Round Rock Cedar Ridge (12-1) vs. Pflugerville Hendrickson (10-3), 5 p.m. Saturday, Pflugerville's Pfield
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Katy (10-0) vs. Galena Park North Shore (10-3), 2 p.m. Saturday, Houston's NRG Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Lake Travis (11-2) vs. SA Northside O'Connor (13-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, San Antonio's Alamodome

CLASS 6A DIVISION II
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Southlake Carroll (10-3) vs. Waco Midway (13-0), 6 p.m. Saturday, Waco's McLane Stadium
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Longview (12-1) vs. Lufkin (11-0), 1 p.m. Saturday, Nacogdoches' Bryce Stadium
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Cypress Fairbanks (12-0) vs. Houston Langham Creek (11-1), 1 p.m. Saturday, Cypress' FCU Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Austin Westlake (13-0) vs. Cibolo Steele (9-4), 8 p.m. Saturday, Alamodome

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Denton Ryan (13-0) vs. Lubbock Coronado (13-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Abilene's Wildcat Stadium (ACU)
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Dallas Highland Park (12-1) vs. Mansfield Lake Ridge (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Manvel (12-0) vs. Temple (10-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Prairie View A&M
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Angleton (12-0) vs. Richmond Foster (9-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Houston's NRG Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
Region I
State Quarterfinals
N. Richland Hills (11-2) vs. Aledo (13-0), 2 p.m. Saturday, Frisco's Ford Center
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Frisco Lone Star (13-1) vs. Mansfield Legacy (11-2), 2 p.m. Saturday, Dallas' Ford Stadium
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Fort Bend Marshall (10-2) vs. College Station (11-2), 1 p.m. Saturday, Waller
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Austin McCallum (13-0) vs. CC Calallen (13-0), noon Saturday, San Antonio's Alamodome

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
Region I
State Quarterfinals
WF Hirschi (11-2) vs. Stephenville (11-2), 7 p.m. Friday, Fort Worth's Rangers Stadium
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Kennedale (12-1) vs. Kaufman (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Frisco's Ford Center
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Carthage (13-0) vs. Henderson (11-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nacogdoches' Bryce Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Waco La Vega (13-0) vs. Liberty Hill (10-2), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Killeen's Buckley Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Bushland (11-2) vs. Graham (13-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Lubbock's Lowrey Field
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Melissa (12-1) vs. Texarkana Pleasant Grove (13-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Paris' Wildcat Stadium
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Salado (12-1) vs. West Orange-Stark (11-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Katy's Legacy Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Wimberley (12-1) vs. Cuero (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bastrop Memorial Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Brock (11-2) vs. Comanche (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Abilene's Shotwell Stadium
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Grandview (12-1) vs. Kemp (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Midlothian ISD Stadium
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Teague (11-2) vs. Rockdale (10-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Waco ISD Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Yoakum (12-1) vs. Goliad (11-1), 6 p.m. Saturday, Austin's Royal Memorial Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Canadian (13-0) vs. Childress (12-1), 7 p.m. Friday, Amarillo's Bivins Stadium
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Gunter (13-0) vs. New Diana (10-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Royse City
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Newton (12-0) vs. Wiskinon (9-4), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Lufkin's Martin Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Lexington (13-0) vs. Boling (8-3), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Brenham

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Stratford (12-1) vs. Panhandle (9-4), 7 p.m. Friday, Dumas
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Crawford (11-2) vs. Mart (12-1), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Waco ISD Stadium
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Centerville (10-3) vs. San Augustine (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Palestine's Wildcat Stadium
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Mason (13-0) vs. Refugio (11-1), 7:30 p.m. Friday, San Antonio's Alamodome

CLASS 2A DIVISION II
Region I
State Quarterfinals
Wellington (12-1) vs. Clarendon (12-1), 7 p.m. Friday, Childress
Region II
State Quarterfinals
Albany (13-0) vs. Muenster (13-0), 7 p.m. Friday, Iowa Park
Region III
State Quarterfinals
Timpson (11-2) vs. Tenaha (13-0), 7 p.m. Thursday, Carthage
Region IV
State Quarterfinals
Burton (12-1) vs. Falls City (11-2), 7 p.m. Friday, San Marcos' Bobcat Stadium

CLASS 1A SIX-MAN DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Happy (13-0) vs. Borden County (13-0), 4 p.m. Saturday, Levelland
Jonesboro (12-1) vs. Trigg (11-1), 5 p.m. Saturday, Springtown

CLASS 1A SIX-MAN DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Turkey Valley (12-1) vs. Balmorhea (12-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sterling City
Strawn (13-0) vs. Mildred (13-0), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Springtown

PLAYOFF

From 1C

their resume it was impressive but it wasn't enough for the selection committee to place them in above Alabama."

The committee protocol states conference championships are to be considered if the teams are close, like a tiebreaker.

"In this case the margins weren't close enough to look at those other matters," Hocutt said.

Alabama (11-1) made it 4-for-4 in the playoff, the only team that has made them all. Coach Nick Saban told ESPN he trusted the committee would come to the right conclusion.

"I really do believe based on the total body of work that our team really deserved to be in," Saban said.

And for the third straight season, college football gets an Alabama-Clemson matchup in the playoff, though this time in the semifinals.

The Tide beat the Tigers in a classic national championship game in Glendale, Arizona, two seasons ago. The teams played another thriller last season and Clemson took the title in Tampa, Florida.

"Alabama's been the standard for a long time," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said he was not surprised that the Iowa loss cost the Buckeyes.

"I was kind of hoping we had those good wins. Three against the top 16 teams in America," Meyer told ESPN. "But I get it."

He added: "The bottom line is we had a tough road loss." Clemson (12-1) is making its third straight playoff appearance, but first without star quarterback Deshaun Watson. The Tigers won another Atlantic Coast Conference championship with Kelly Bryant as the quarterback.

Georgia (12-1) and Oklahoma (12-1) have never played. The Bulldogs have surged in their second season under coach Kirby Smart. After winning eight games last season, Georgia won the SEC for the first time since 2005.

Oklahoma is in the playoff for the second time and will likely bring the Heisman Trophy winner. Quarterback Baker Mayfield is the favorite to win the award next weekend. If so, Mayfield will be the third player to go from winning the Heisman on to the playoff, joining Oregon's Marcus Mariota in 2014 and Alabama's Derrick Henry in 2015.

The Alabama-Ohio State debate was the trickiest of the playoff era. Most talented or most accomplished? Neither team neatly matched precedent. Ohio State made it to the playoff without even playing in its conference title game last season, but those Buckeyes had a more convincing resume, with three victories against top-10 teams. Alabama could not match that.

Not only had no team ever made the playoff with two losses, but none had as ugly a stain on its resume as Ohio State's 31-point loss at Iowa. Tide coach Nick Saban mentioned it Saturday night on ESPN as the selection committee went to work for the last time this season.

That the most controversial playoff pick yet came down to these two teams made it an even juicer plotline. Alabama has dominated college football for a decade since Saban took over. Ohio State is one of the few teams to interrupt the Tide's championship machine during the Saban era, beating the Tide in the semifinals in 2014 on the way to a national title.

They are two of college football's flagship programs, rich in both tradition. Also, they are the teams the rest of college football loves to hate, the teams that always seem to get the benefit of the doubt in the rankings.

In the Top 25 released earlier Sunday, Alabama was fourth by a mere seven points over No. 5 Ohio State, but the committee's process is not the same as the traditional polls. The panel of 13 includes former and current athletic administrators, including the athletic director from Ohio State, and former coaches.

In 2014, fans of TCU and Baylor were upset when Ohio State jumped the Texas schools on championship weekend. Last year, Ohio State was involved in a bit of a controversy again when it didn't win its conference but got in. The final spot came down to Penn State and Washington and the Huskies won out.

PRO GOLF SCORES

Hero World Challenge Scores
Sunday
At Albany Golf Club
Nassau, Bahamas
Purse: $3.5 million
Yardage: 7,300; Par: 72
Final

Rickie Fowler, $1,000,000	67-70-72-61—270
Charley Hoffman, $400,000	69-63-70-72—274
Tommy Fleetwood, $212,500	66-69-74-67—276
Jordan Spieth, $212,500	68-67-72-69—276
Hideki Matsuyama, $144,000	71-66-72-68—277
Patrick Reed, $145,000	72-66-71-68—277
Justin Rose, $145,000	68-68-71-70—277
Francesco Molinari, $135,000	69-68-71-70—278
Matt Kuchar, $132,500	67-70-72-71—280
Tiger Woods, $122,500	69-68-75-68—280
Justin Thomas, $115,000	69-70-74-68—281
Kevin Kisner, $109,500	70-72-75-70—287
Alex Noren, $109,500	73-69-74-71—287
Daniel Berger, $107,000	75-73-70-70—288
Kevin Chappell, $107,000	68-70-74-76—288
Dustin Johnson, $107,000	68-72-76-72—288
Henrik Stenson, $105,000	70-71-77-71—289
Brooks Koepka, $100,000	71-78-72-70—291

AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open Leading Scores
Sunday
At Heritage Golf Club
Bel Ombre, Mauritius
Purse: $1.19 million
Yardage: 6,987; Par: 71
Final
x-first playoff hole

x-Dylan Frittelli, South Africa	67-66-68-67—268
Arjun Atwal, India	62-70-68-68—268
Romain Langasque, France	67-69-67-67—270
Louis de Jager, South Africa	66-67-67-71—271
Matthieu Pavon, France	69-68-69-66—272
Miguel Tabuena, Philippines	66-68-67-71—272
Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa	67-68-71-67—273
Jose-Filipe Lima, Portugal	68-66-69-70—273
Odine Strydom, South Africa	66-68-73-67—274
George Coetzee, South Africa	67-71-68-68—274
JP Strydom, South Africa	71-69-66-68—274
Oliver Bekker, South Africa	67-67-71-69—274
Joel Stalter, France	67-68-70-69—274
Jeff Winther, Denmark	71-68-72-64—275
Justin Walters, South Africa	68-66-69-72—275
Also	
Paul Peterson, United States	70-69-70-69—278
Casey O'Toole, United States	68-72-68-72—280
Jason Knutzon, United States	67-73-72-69—281
J Veerman, United States	69-72-75-67—283
Jann Tivet, United States	68-69-76-70—283

Australian PGA Scores
Sunday
At RACV Royal Pines Resort
Gold Coast, Australia
Purse: $1.14 million
Yardage: 7,384; Par: 72
Final
(x-won on second hole playoff)

x-Cameron Smith, Australia	68-67-67-68—270
Jordan Zunic, Australia	66-69-64-71—270
Adam Bland, Australia	66-66-71-68—271
Marc Leishman, Australia	67-65-74-68—274
David Branadon, Australia	69-71-66-68—274
Harold Varner III, United States	71-66-73-66—276
Sean Crocker, United States	69-71-70-67—277
Lucas Herbert, Australia	68-73-68-68—277
Nathan Kimsey, England	73-67-73-64—278
Wade Ormsby, Australia	71-67-72-68—278
Curtis Luck, Australia	73-66-71-69—279
Rod Pampling, Australia	70-72-68-69—279
Jake McLeod, Australia	72-71-67-69—279
Greg Chalmers, Australia	68-66-73-72—279
Jason Scrivener, Australia	72-70-71-67—280
Mike Weir, Canada	73-69-71-67—280
Andrew Dodt, Australia	71-70-70-69—280
Joachim B. Hansen, Denmark	69-69-72-70—280
Marcus Armitage, England	74-68-68-70—280
Mark Brown, New Zealand	69-73-72-67—281
Travis Smyth, Australia	69-73-71-68—281
Daniel Nisbet, Australia	67-72-73-69—281
Jack Wilson, Australia	71-70-68-72—281
Kramer Hickok, United States	70-69-74-69—282
Michael Hendry, New Zealand	70-72-73-67—282
Rhein Gibson, Australia	68-67-77-70—282
Jack Munro, Australia	75-67-70-70—282
Oliver Farr, Wales	71-70-70-71—282
Sergio Garcia, Spain	67-71-70-74—282
James Nitties, Australia	68-69-77-69—283
Jamie Arnold, Australia	72-71-72-68—283
Matt Jones, Australia	71-69-75-68—283
Jarryd Felton, Australia	74-69-73-67—283
Ryan Haller, Australia	70-72-71-70—283
Brett Rankin, Australia	68-69-75-71—283
Dale Brandt-Richards, Australia	69-74-75-65—283
Nathan Holman, Australia	72-67-75-70—284
Stephen Dartnall, Australia	68-74-73-69—284
Samuel Brazel, Australia	72-70-73-69—284
Peter Senior, Australia	67-71-74-72—284
Rory Bourke, Australia	69-72-74-70—285
Alexander Knappe, Germany	72-71-73-69—285
Ben Eccles, Australia	71-71-76-67—285
Richard Green, Australia	72-67-71-75—285
Juneseok Lee, Australia	72-70-73-71—286
Adri Arnaus, Spain	71-70-72-73—286
Stuart Manley, Wales	71-72-73-70—286
Jason Norris, Australia	70-71-76-69—286
Thomas Detry, Belgium	71-68-73-74—286
Chase Koepka, United States	73-69-74-71—287
Josh Younger, Australia	69-72-75-71—287
Ryan Evans, England	70-71-75-71—287
Andrew Martin, Australia	69-73-76-69—287
Daniel Im, United States	71-71-76-69—287
Ryan Fox, New Zealand	75-67-71-75—288
Adrian Meronk, Poland	70-71-76-71—288
Kim Koivu, Finland	70-72-76-70—288
Jack Singh Brar, England	74-69-74-72—289
James Macheesani, Australia	72-71-75-71—289
Michael Wright, Australia	67-76-76-70—289
Daniel Fox, Australia	76-67-76-70—289
Taylor Macdonald, Australia	71-72-72-76—291
Chris Hanson, England	71-71-75-74—291
Josh Geary, New Zealand	69-71-77-74—291
Damien Jordan, Australia	73-70-75-73—291
Hugo Leon, Chile	72-71-69-79—291
Birgir Hafthorsson, Iceland	74-69-76-72—291
Michael Long, New Zealand	70-73-76-73—292
Lincoln Tighe, Australia	72-70-77-73—292
Michael Sim, Australia	70-73-78-71—292
Christopher Wood, Australia	70-73-75-75—293
Luo Xuewen, China	71-69-78-75—293
Matthew Millar, Australia	73-68-79-73—293
Johan Edfors, Sweden	74-69-78-75—296
Samuel Eaves, Australia	72-71-80-76—299



Mark Humphrey/AP File Photo

lAlexander Zubkov of Russia carries the national flag as he leads the team during the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. When the International Olympic Committee board prepares to vote Tuesday on whether to ban Russia from February's Winter Olympics, its members will decide the fate of numerous medals yet to be won.

What would banning Russia mean for the Winter Olympics?

By James Ellingworth
Associated Press

MOSCOW — When the International Olympic Committee board prepares to vote Tuesday on whether to ban Russia from February's Winter Olympics, its members will decide the fate of numerous medals yet to be won.

If there's a blanket ban on Russia for its doping offenses at the 2014 Olympics — or restrictions that prompt Russia to boycott the 2018 Games — it could mean the end of compelling storylines and a slide into irrelevance for the men's hockey tournament.

Gracenote Sports, which forecasts a "virtual medal table" based on recent results, predicts Russia will win 21 medals, six of them gold, if it competes in Pyeongchang.

That puts Russia eighth on predicted gold medals, or joint fifth on total medals. If Russia is banned, opportunities open up for many other countries.

Here is a look at more possible consequences.

Hockey in jeopardy

The men's hockey tournament at the next Winter Olympics is already the first without the NHL's participation since 1994, but banning Russia could diminish it even further.

The Moscow-based Kontinental Hockey League is widely considered the world's second-strongest league, and it's threatening to withdraw all its players from the Olympics if Russia is banned.

Russia would otherwise be the gold medal favorite thanks to ex-NHL players like Pavel Datsyuk and Ilya Kovalchuk, who now play in the KHL.

The U.S., Canada and other countries also plan to use KHL players, so losing them could deal a heavy blow to the audience figures of a tournament that's already struggling to attract attention.

The International Ice Hockey Federation called Tuesday for "full participation of all clean Russian athletes," saying that punishing Russia too harshly would put "the health of ice hockey at risk."

Backlash

A Russia ban could also cause a backlash against athletes perceived to benefit.

Gabriela Koukalova of the Czech Republic, one of the biggest names in biathlon, called for a ban on Russia on her Facebook page last week, only to be deluged with hundreds of insults in English and Russian.

Alongside sexist putdowns, some suggested Koukalova — who is in line to pick up a relay bronze from 2014 due to a Russian disqualification — wouldn't be safe if she competes in Russia again.

The issue of Russian doping has caused rifts between athletes, too.

During February's world biathlon championships, French athlete Martin Fourcade walked off the podium when the Russian mixed relay team — which included an athlete newly returned from a doping ban — was awarded its medals.

Ahn's Return

One of Pyeongchang's most compelling storylines depends on Russia taking part.

Viktor Ahn was a star speedskater for South Korea under the name Ahn Hyun-soo, winning three Olympic gold medals, but his career seemed finished when he failed to make the team for Vancouver in 2010.

Ahn then stunned skating fans by switching to Russia and winning three more gold medals in Sochi.

His return home to South Korea in a Russian uniform for the Pyeongchang Olympics is hotly anticipated.

Nordic opportunities

With no Russians, the Nordic events would be shaken up.

Cross-country skier Sergei Ustyugov won two gold and three silver medals at February's world championships in a compelling rivalry with Norwegian Martin Johnsrud Sundby.

If he's absent from Pyeongchang, that opens up opportunities for the Norwegians, plus countries like Finland, Italy and Canada.

The United States is hunting its first ever women's cross-country medal, an easier task if Russia isn't there.

The absence of Russia's top biathlete, Anton Shipulin, would help Germany and France's medal chances.

Young stars barred

A blanket ban for offenses from 2014 inevitably hits athletes who weren't part of any doping system.

There's been no suggestion of any wrongdoing by reigning two-time world figure skating champion Evgenia Medvedeva — not least because she was just 14 years old in February 2014.

Medvedeva's teammate Alina Zagitova, also a medal contender for Pyeongchang, was just 11 during Sochi.

Sports like figure skating and curling have seen some accusations of wrongdoing by athletes around the time of the Sochi Olympics, but no cases have resulted in bans.

The only figure skater so far to have faced an IOC disciplinary panel, 2014 gold medalist Adelina Sotnikova, was cleared.

Other options

The IOC has never before imposed a blanket ban for doping and refused to do so for last year's Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Instead, the IOC passed the decision to the various sports federations, resulting in Russia being kicked out of track and field — except for one athlete — and weightlifting, but allowing Russia to field full teams in many sports.

The Winter Olympics are different, not least because the most serious allegations against Russian officials relate to its hosting of the last Winter Games in Sochi in 2014.

The IOC has already banned 25 individual Russians for doping in Sochi. Even if the Russian team competes, those 25 won't be there unless they can overturn those bans on appeal.

Besides a blanket ban, the IOC could also force Russians to compete as neutrals, without their flag or anthem.

Neutral status has been used before when a country is under United Nations sanctions — like Yugoslavia in 1992 during the conflict there — or last year when Kuwait was suspended by the IOC due to government interference in sports. The Kuwaitis were officially known as "Independent Olympic Athletes."

A similar approach was used for Russia at this year's world track championships, but it often seemed to draw extra attention to the Russians who competed. As "neutral" high jumper Ilya Ivanyuk said, "everyone knows where we're from."

Russian authorities fiercely oppose neutral status as a symbolic humiliation but have stopped short of saying they would boycott the Olympics if it came to pass. For many of Russia's critics, taking away the flag does nothing to remove questionable Russian competitors.

Jenner scores in OT, Canada beats United States 2-1

By Mike Cook
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Shannon Szabados said the Canadian and United States women's hockey teams could play 100 times and it would not get boring.

That was true in another close game Sunday.

Brianne Jenner scored 37 seconds into overtime, Szabados made 27 saves and Canada beat the United States 2-1 in a pre-Olympic exhibition game.

"It's fun anytime we get to play them and why we play each other so many times is because we have that respect for each other and it helps both teams prepare," Szabados said.

Jenner took a pass from Rebecca Johnston and beat Maddie Rooney with a high shot from the right circle.

This is the fifth of eight meetings between the teams leading up to Olympics. Team USA has won three games, including the championship last month in the Four Nations Cup.

Canada has won four straight Olympic titles, but the U.S. has claimed seven of the last eight world championships, including three straight.

"Every single time we play them we learn something new and it's what we need to keep preparing because it's a good test every time," said United States center Hannah Brandt.

One thing the Americans learned is you must finish strong.

"It's a 1-1 hockey game and we got five shots on goal in the third period. That's not who we are," said coach Robb Stauber. "It's more of a mindset, and we have to remind ourselves that we're a team that has to get pucks to the net. We can score some pretty goals but we had to remind the team we'll take anything too."

Megan Keller scored on the power play early in the second to put the Americans up 1-0. After a pass from Alex Carpenter, her shot from the right circle got caught in the skates of Dani Cameranesi. Keller followed her shot to put the loose puck past Szabados.

Marie-Philip Poulin tied the game late in the second on a rebound after Rooney stopped a shot from Meghan Acosta.

FOWLER

From 1C

Fowler went out in 28 and then added birdies on the 11th and 13th holes to stretch his lead.

Fowler finished at 14-under 274.

Tommy Fleetwood, the Race to Dubai winner from England who is getting married Tuesday in the Bahamas, closed with a 67 and tied for third with Jordan Spieth (69), who has not finished out of the top 10 since the PGA Championship.

A year ago, Woods returned from a 15-month hiatus from back surgeries and showed flashes of his old self, particularly when he shot 65 in the second round and ended the week with 24 birdies. Woods said nothing about his health that week, though his back couldn't withstand the rough at Torrey Pines and the 16-hour flight to Dubai. He withdrew after one round at Dubai with back spasm and had the fusion surgery in April.

This return was different from how far he hit the ball with plenty of speed in his swing (his ball speed approached 180 mph), and he made putts from the 8- to 15-foot range than he has in recent years.

Conditions were far tamer for the final round and Woods got off to a start strong, buoyed by driving the par-4 seventh green and curling in a 25-foot eagle putt. His birdie on No. 9 gave him another 31 on the front — his second such score in two days — and never ending interest from the gallery. On Sunday, that included his two children dressed in red shirts, and tennis great Rafa Nadal.

He just couldn't keep it going. Woods chopped up the 10th hole on his way to double bogey, and while he added three birdies with his power and putting along the back nine, he three-putted the 18th from about 15 feet for his second straight bogey.

"He's obviously a lot more upbeat, a lot more positive, a lot healthier than he was last year at this time," said Justin Thomas, the PGA Tour player of the year who was paired with him in the first and final rounds. "He's got a lot of energy. It's just so weird to say that you're excited for somebody else's year, but it will be a fun year. And I hope we dual it out a lot this upcoming year."

Woods appears to be back, at least to playing.

He has not said where he will start in 2018, though he made it clear he plans on not being a stranger. The best bet is the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, where he has won eight times and considers a hometown event from his roots in California.

"I don't know what my schedule is going to be, but my expectations are we'll be playing next year," he said. "How many? Where? I don't know yet, but we'll figure it out.

Hirscher storms back to win World Cup GS, Ligety takes 7th

By Pat Graham
Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Lounging on the couch with his broken left ankle in a cast, Marcel Hirscher felt something he hadn't in a long time — no pressure.

Now that he's back on the slopes with his ankle mended and returning to his winning ways, that familiar tension has returned.

The six-time overall World Cup champion can't escape the one glaring omission from his impressive resume: an Olympic gold. He insisted he doesn't give it a second thought heading into the Pyeongchang Games. Still, all eyes will be on him constantly between now and February.

Especially after a performance like Sunday's. The Austrian standout stormed back from a first-run deficit to win a World Cup giant slalom race on an afternoon when rival Ted Ligety struggled.

Hirscher finished in a combined time of 2 minutes, 37.30 seconds to show he's getting back up to speed after breaking his ankle in a training accident in August. Henrik Kristoffersen of Norway was second, 0.88 seconds back, and first-run leader Stefan Luitz of Germany took third.

"Today I thought: 'OK, let's go for it. Let's give it a try. Let's see what's possible,'" Hirscher explained. "So unexpected was never a win before."

Sitting next to him, Kristoffersen couldn't help but chime in.

"I'm not surprised," Kristoffersen said.

"Come on, Henrik," Hirscher responded.

It was Hirscher's 23rd World Cup giant slalom win, which ties him for third most among men with Switzerland's Michael von Gruenigen. That leaves him trailing only Ingemar Stenmark (46) and Ligety (24) in the discipline.

"Marcel's a great athlete," Kristoffersen said. "He's making sure that everything is lined up as good as possible for himself. That's one of the reasons he has won six overall globes in a row. Of course, he's mentally strong."

These days, he's getting physically strong, too. He hardly feels any discomfort in that ankle, especially on race day.

"If you're so pumped, with this high adrenaline, it doesn't hurt," said Hirscher, who was 17th during a slalom in Levi, Finland, on Nov. 12. "It is completely free of pain. I didn't think about it. Maybe during training sometimes I think about it or feel a little pain. But it is not worth talking about it."

Hirscher's not the only top GS racer on the mend. Ligety showed signs of returning to form following surgery to fix herniated disks in January. He was second after the first pass through the course, but he made several small mistakes on his final run to slip to seventh.

"I'm happy with how I've been skiing and how my body feels. That's good," Ligety said. "But Beaver Creek has been a really good hill for me. I expected a lot more."

As a whole, the Americans turned in a lackluster performance on their home course. In three races, the top finish was by Ligety. Tommy Ford had a career-best 10th-place World Cup finish Sunday.

"That was much better skiing," Ford said. "It was cool to do some good arcs."

Starting third-to-last in the final run, Hirscher powered his way down the course to knock Kristoffersen from the top spot.

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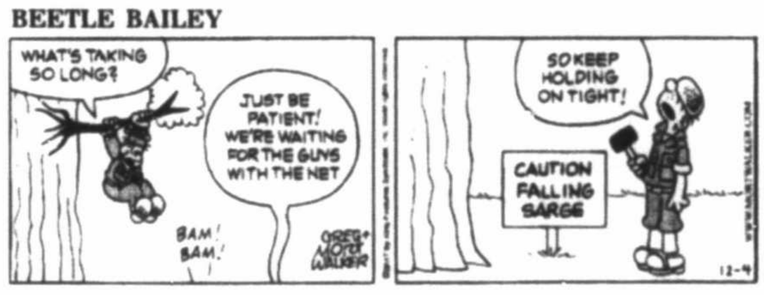
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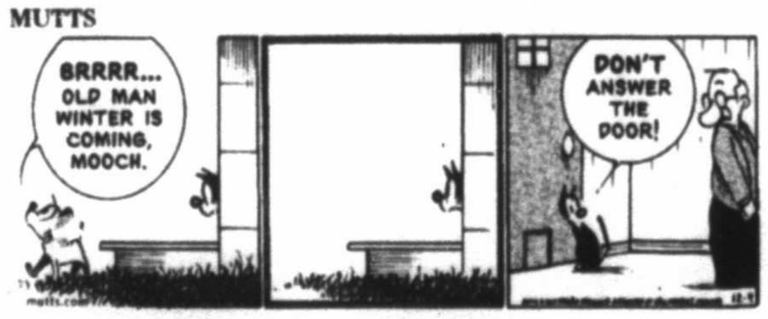
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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

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

12/4/17

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JUMBLE

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

LEEDU

YREDB

BIGRTH

YLITFH

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

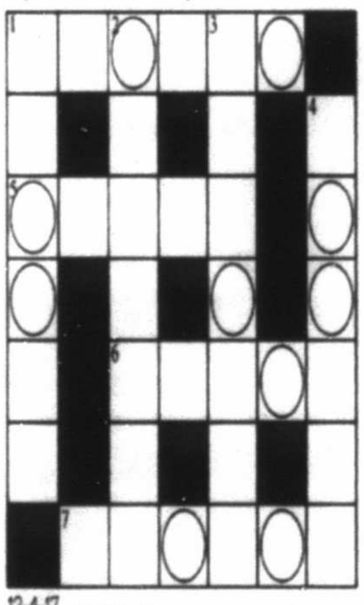
Answer here: " ○○ - ○○○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SHYLY DOUBT HANDLE SLEIGH
Answer: The Scottish Highlands' land formations are as — OLD AS THE HILLS

JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Take off, empty	NDOLAU
5. Not definite or clear	UGAVE
6. ___ practice	HCIRO
7. Articulate, eloquent	EFTULN

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Reveal, uncover	VLIUEN
2. Reasonable	LOALICG
3. Fantastic	SMWAEEO
4. Red wine	LETCAR

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

12-4-17

CLUE: This person said, "I've tried every way I know to smile into a camera, but I can't do it."

BONUS ○○ ○○○○○○○○

©Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com

ANSWERS: 1A-Undoes 5A-Vague 6A-Choir 7A-Flunks 1D-Used 2D-Logical 3D-Accolade 4D-Clunk 5-El Sullivan

Send comments to TCA - 435 N. Michigan Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or DLHoyt@aol.com.

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

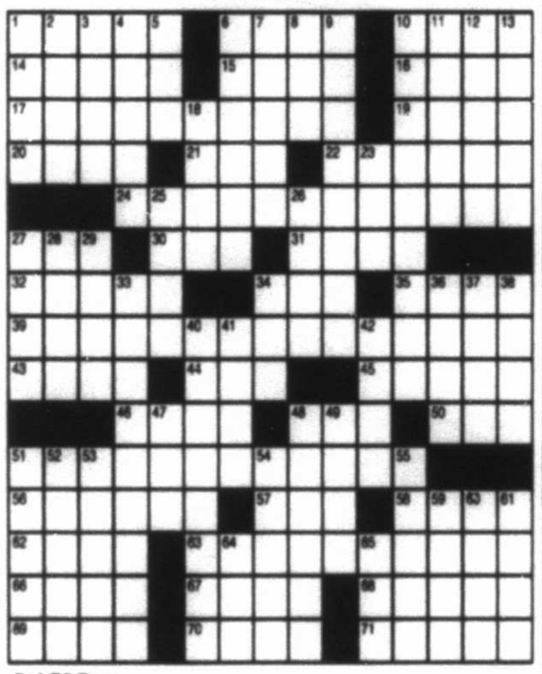
ACROSS
1 Knight's "shining" protection
6 Elegant
10 WWII servicewomen
14 Car body style
15 Mennen shaving lotion
16 Get one's ducks in _
17 Devotee of singer Gloria
19 Heavy book
20 Buck or doe
21 Beluga yield
22 Viewed to be
24 Precise price
27 Mineral springs
30 Believer's suffix
31 Five-time Wimbledon champ Björn
32 Portion out
34 "Westworld" network
35 Bon Ami alternative
39 Mata Hari story, e.g.
43 Simplicity
44 The "I" in TGIF
45 Family car
46 Disney's "__ & Stitch"
48 Above-the-street trains
50 Chapter in history
51 Garden purchase from a Lowe's rival
56 Truck capacity
57 Coffee order: Abbr.
58 Image to click on
62 Gadget's rank: Abbr.
63 According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it's 63 for retirement
66 Slugger Sammy
67 Earth orbiter
68 Wafer brand
69 Jacob or Esau
70 Choice word
71 Not reached, as a goal

DOWN
1 Scored 100 on
2 Went up
3 Sound-off button
4 Wagner work
5 Striped-shirt wearer
6 Happen as expected
7 Buyer's proposal
8 BART stop
9 Hammer or screwdriver
10 Nixon Era scandal
11 Pleasing smell
12 Tailed celestial body
13 31-Across, by birth
18 Rainbow shapes
23 Poetic "always"
25 Credit in a footnote
26 "Dancing Queen" group
27 Place for valuables
28 Not guilty, for one
29 Gift for the poor
33 Skillet for folded egg dishes
34 Growth chart nos.
36 Green stone
37 Banned apple spray
38 TV warrior princess
40 It's often followed by .pdf
41 On the summit of
42 Old U.S. gas brand
47 Swearing-in words
48 Timeless, in verse
49 Women's links gp.
51 Lift up
52 Televised as we speak
53 Soccer great Lionel
54 Black-and-white cookies
55 Marketing gimmick
59 Period "before the storm"
60 Look at lasciviously
61 Without ice, at the bar
64 TV loud-soft control: Abbr.
65 Bearded antelope

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 12/04/17



By Jeff Stillman
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1.

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2.

STA TION

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1. _____ _____

2. _____ _____

Today's Answers:

1. Taking advantage

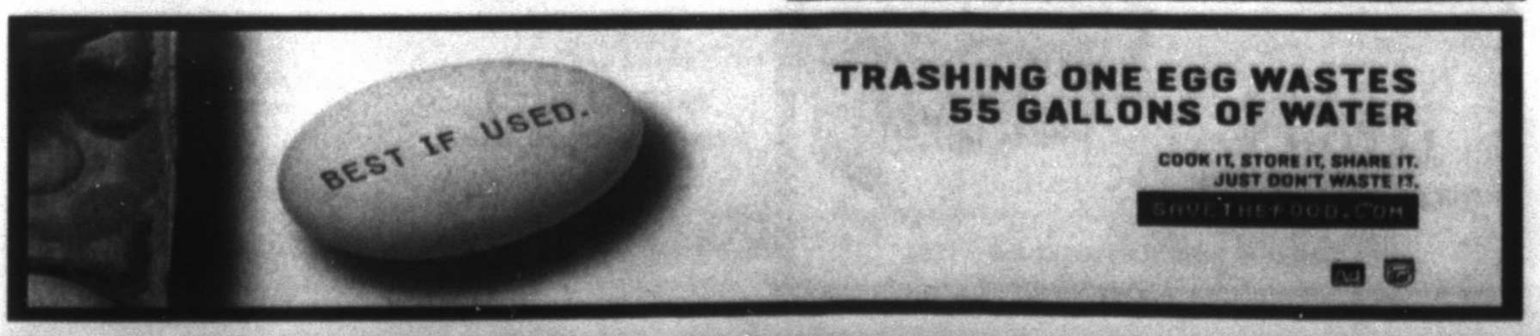
2. Station break

12-4

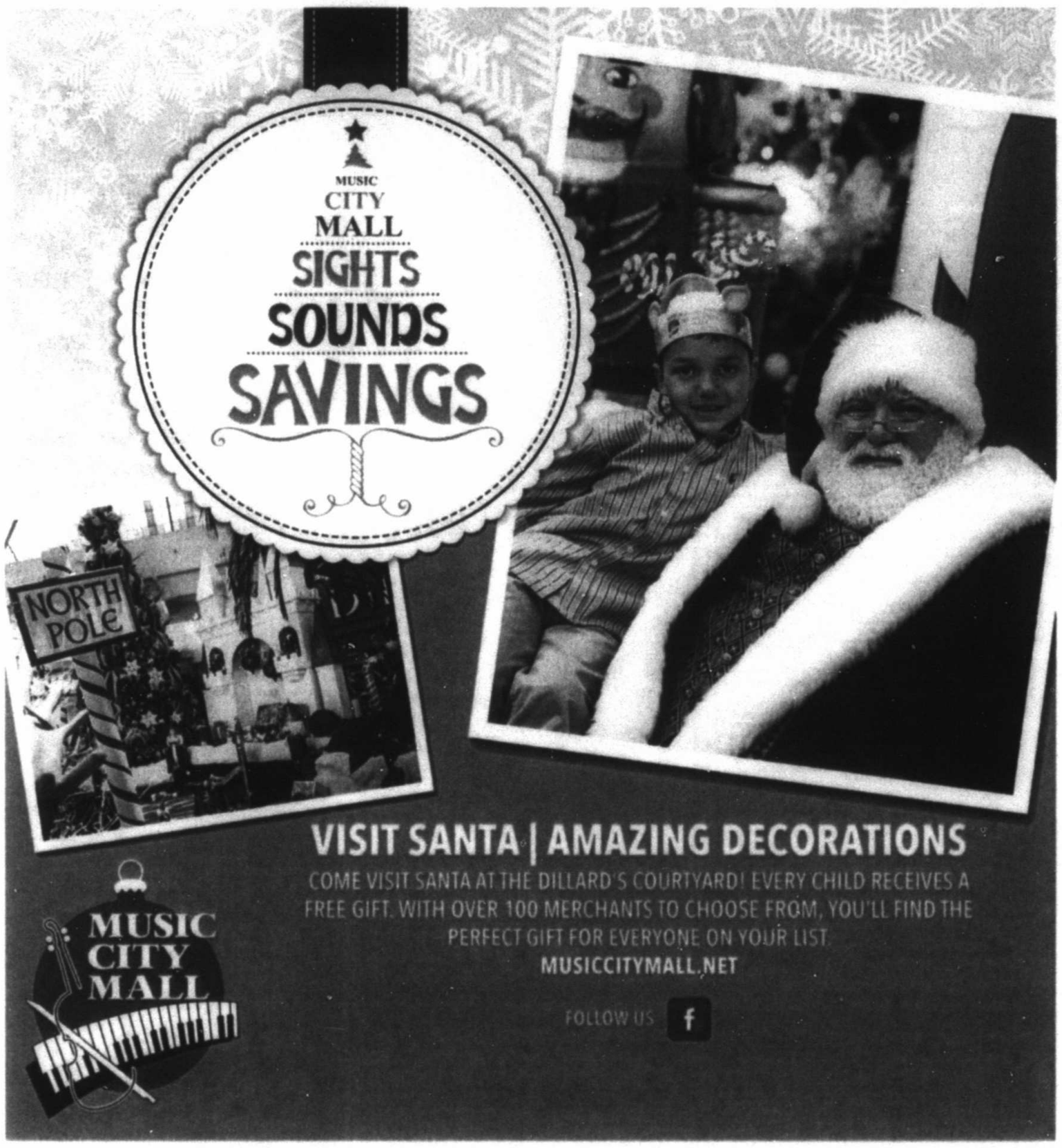
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WUZZLES® Answers 1. Taking advantage 2. Station break 12-4



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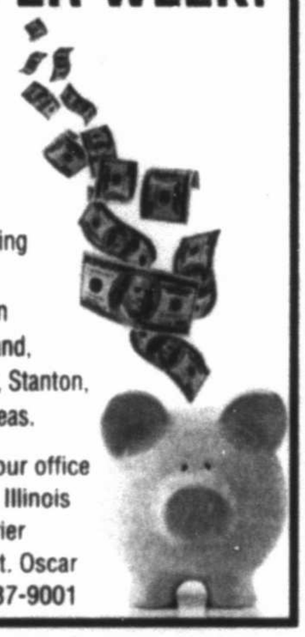
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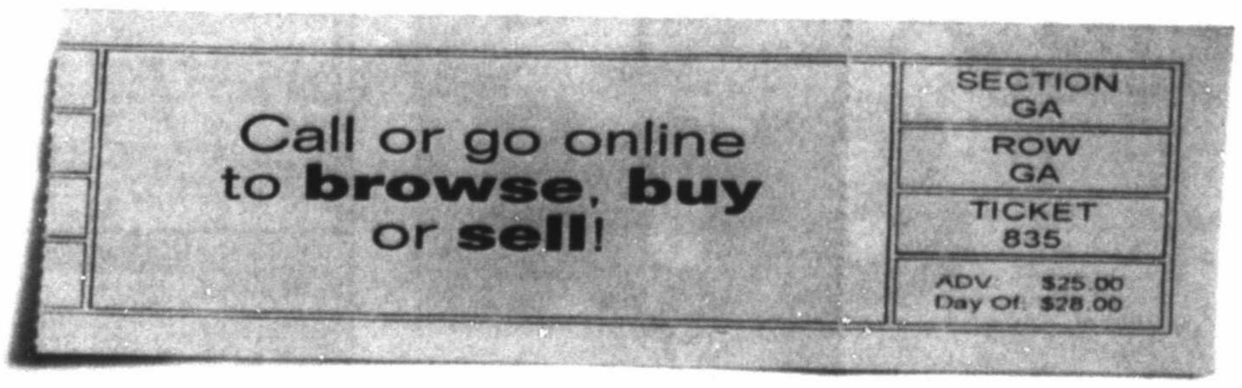
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Events and Notices

31

General Announcement

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

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Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7 I 04 in the I I 8 t h 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 I0:30 a.m.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AJAX RESOURCES, LLC, OPR 000597, HAS FILED WITH THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION THE FOLLOWING

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WITH PRODUCTION FROM AN OIL AND GAS LEASE ON ALL OF SECTION 8, BLOCK HA, J. H. O'BRIEN, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, AND THE N/2 OF SECTION 9, BLOCK HA, S. R. LANIER, ORIGINAL GRANTEE, MARTIN COUNTY TEXAS

ANY AFFECTED MINERAL INTEREST OWNERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED WRITIEN NOTIFICATION ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT ALEX BOLANOS OF AJAX RESOURCES, LLC, AT 713-400-3944 BY JANUARY 15, 2018, 24 GREENWAY PLAZA, STE. 650, HOUSTON, TX 77046.

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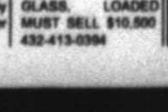
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Garage-Estate-Yard Sale

Yard - Garage Sales

Misc Sales

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Miscellaneous 4 Sale

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Real Estate Rental-Sale

Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

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Lots and Land

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Residential Sales

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Residential Sales

Single Family Homes

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Lots and Land

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Lots and Land

Ranches

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Commercial

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- Nolan County
  - *646 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak.....$3,550/ac
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- Howard County
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