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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Construction on New Hope slows drivers down

The manhole covers appear to be elevated along the portion of New Hope Drive under construction, but the City of Cedar Park says the final layer of asphalt hasn't been laid yet and will resolve the issue.



KAYLA BOUCHARD

By KAYLA BOUCHARD
kayla.bouchard@hillcountrynews.com

Some drivers say problems with construction on an extension of New Hope Drive doesn't appear to be helping traffic, despite the project's overall goal of increasing capacity for traffic traveling east and west through the city.

Construction on the roadway in question — an extension of New Hope Drive from Cottonwood Creek Trail to Ronald Reagan Blvd. in Cedar Park — began a year and a half ago and isn't scheduled to be completed until April 19. The City of Cedar Park says the issues raised by drivers are just a normal part of the construction process.

"I began using the completed lanes around a week ago and was very surprised to see that the manholes appear to have been installed incorrectly," said Leander

resident Paul Cleek, who travels the route regularly. "This new section there has at least 20 manholes all situated in a position so you almost have to drive over them to avoid weaving down the road. Each cover appears to have been installed incorrectly as they seem to be 2 to 3 inches above the surrounding road's surface. I've been driving for 50 years and I have never seen manholes installed in such a crazy way."

City of Cedar Park spokesperson Jennie Huerta said construction crews haven't laid the final layer of asphalt yet, and that's the cause of the apparent 'raised' manhole covers.

"Leaving the last lift of asphalt off of a roadway under construction is standard operating procedure, not only for us but surrounding communities as well as TxDOT," said Huerta. "Due to all of the traffic

See CONSTRUCTION page A13

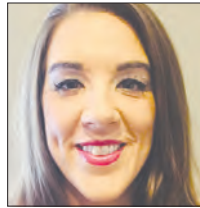
LEANDER ISD

LISD names principal for new elementary school

By KAYLA BOUCHARD
kayla.bouchard@hillcountrynews.com

Leander ISD's nearly-completed 27th elementary school, located in the Larkspur development, has its principal.

Leander ISD Superintendent Dan Troxell announced late last month that Tracie Montanio, current principal of the district's Westside Elementary, will become the principal at the still-unnamed school.



TRACIE MONTANIO

"I am proud to welcome Tracie as the inaugural leader of LISD's new elementary school," Troxell said. "Tracie has demonstrated an ability to create a campus learning culture that sets

high expectations and promotes learning for all students, teachers and staff. I am confident she will cultivate a positive learning environment that will establish a strong foundation for this campus."

Elementary School 27 is scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. Neighborhood codes 110, 1005 and 1110 previously zoned for Plain Elementary School will attend Elementary School 27.

A district release stated that Montanio has worked her entire educational career in Leander ISD, beginning as a teacher at Giddens Elementary in 2004 and later serving as an instructional coach at the same campus. In 2012, she joined River Place Elementary School as an assistant principal. Montanio has been the principal of Westside Elementary School since 2014.

"I am beyond excited for this opportunity to partner with the community to open a wonderful new school," Montanio said. "I look forward to building traditions, a positive school culture and high expectations for students. I have no doubt that together we can create another amazing school in Leander ISD!"

Montanio earned a bachelor's degree in education — and later dual master's degrees in elementary education and educational leadership — from Texas State University.

The district release also stated, "LISD is committed to ensuring that Westside is in good hands and will begin working to find Westside's next leader."

Montanio will remain at Westside during the transition and will begin her new role as the principal of Elementary School 27 on Jan. 7.

SCHOOL NEWS

LISD bands win big

By KAYLA BOUCHARD
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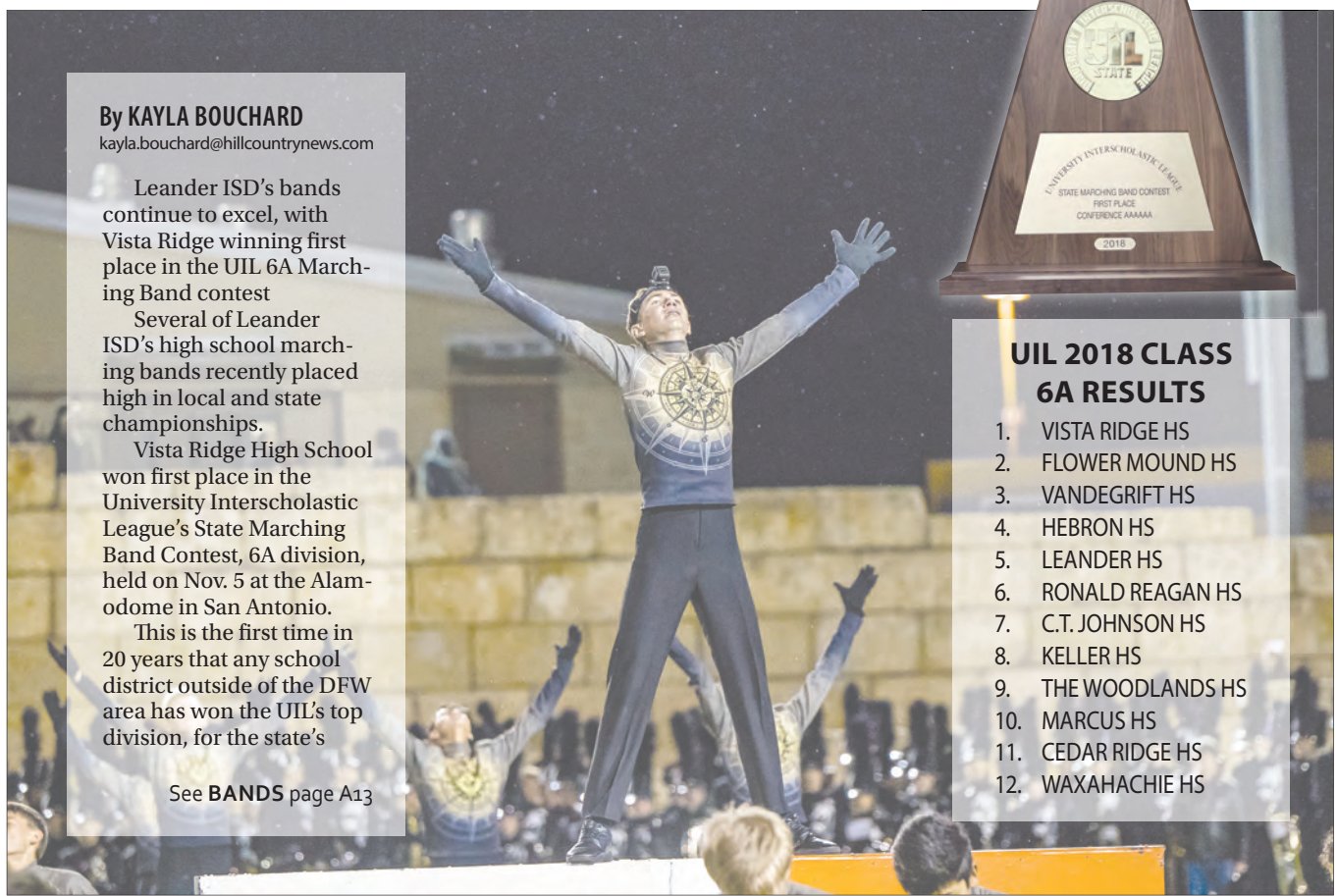
Leander ISD's bands continue to excel, with Vista Ridge winning first place in the UIL 6A Marching Band contest

Several of Leander ISD's high school marching bands recently placed high in local and state championships.

Vista Ridge High School won first place in the University Interscholastic League's State Marching Band Contest, 6A division, held on Nov. 5 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

This is the first time in 20 years that any school district outside of the DFW area has won the UIL's top division, for the state's

See BANDS page A13



PAUL KNIGHT

The Vista Ridge High School Band won its first state title at the 6A level at the UIL State Marching Band Championships last week.

UIL 2018 CLASS 6A RESULTS

1. VISTA RIDGE HS
2. FLOWER MOUND HS
3. VANDEGRIFT HS
4. HEBRON HS
5. LEANDER HS
6. RONALD REAGAN HS
7. C.T. JOHNSON HS
8. KELLER HS
9. THE WOODLANDS HS
10. MARCUS HS
11. CEDAR RIDGE HS
12. WAXAHACHIE HS

LEANDER CITY COUNCIL

Leander mulling changes to roadway access regulations

By KAYLA BOUCHARD
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The Leander City Council is considering making changes to the city's regulations on access management with the goal of freeing up traffic near developing lots next to thruways or other high-volume roadways.

Leander's current access management policy, adopted last year, states that lots next to arterial roads — or high-capacity urban roads like US 183 or Crystal Falls Parkway — are not permitted to have driveways onto arterial roads. Developers have to find a way to lead traffic through via a lower class street or backage road.

Based on input from developers, the council took steps at its Sept. 6 meeting to issue requests for a consultant group to con-

MINIMUM CONNECTION SPACING

The minimum connection spacing along other state highways:

Posted Speed (mph), Distance (feet)	
<30	200
35	250
40	305
45	360
>50	425

duct an Access Management Study for arterial roadways and propose amendments to the ordinance. A mandatory pre-bid for requests for a traffic engineer will be held on Nov. 6 at Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, the bid will remain open until Dec. 13. The city has budgeted \$107,000 for the study.

Meanwhile, the council directed city staff to propose changes to the access management portion of the ordinance in order to provide more flexibility with the standards.

The ordinance, discussed at the council's Nov. 1 meeting, stands as a temporary solution until the consultant's work is complete.

The city's planning manager Robin Griffin said that TxDOT's standards work with the city's plan.

"We did some research and decided that the TxDOT standards would be appropriate for our arterials in Leander," she said. "The driver spacing would be based on the speed of the roadway, so we would evaluate the different roads based on their

See COUNCIL page A13

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ROUND ROCK POLICE

Round Rock Police Dept. offering holiday package service

By KAYLA BOUCHARD
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The Round Rock Police Department aims to help preserve holiday cheer with Operation Front Porch, which can prevent package theft during the holiday season.

This is the second straight year the RRPD has offered Operation Front Porch, which allows residents the option to have packages delivered to police headquarters for safe keeping until the recipient can return home for retrieval.

Package theft is a nationwide problem that has affected 31 percent of online shoppers, according to a 2017 Shorr Packaging survey. With the popularity of online holiday shopping continuing to rise, a larger number of people are expected to experience package theft this holiday season than any previous one.

OPERATION FRONT PORCH IN ROUND ROCK

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"Every package sent to the police department is one less opportunity for theft, allowing police officers to focus on higher priority issues," the RRPD explained in a press release.

The free service runs Nov. 1 through Dec. 22. Packages should be shipped to the resident's name and the RRPD address, 2701 North Mays Street, Round Rock, TX 78665.

Operation Front Porch began in 2017, when some 30 packages were shipped to the police department over 22 days.

"If you purchase gifts on Craigslist or other exchange websites, you can (also) make the transaction in the Safety Exchange Zones in our lobby and public parking lot," the release noted. "This service is available year-round."



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Packed and sealed boxes move toward the trucks as employees fill orders at Amazon Fulfillment Center in Haslet, Texas

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SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Trustees discuss LISD's legislative priorities

It is important that those representing our community in state government understand the challenges and opportunities of public school. With that in mind, a trio of LISD trustees (Vice President Grace Barber-Jordan, M.Ed., Secretary Trish Bode and Pamela Waggoner) led the Board's Legislative Committee in creating the 2019 Leander ISD Legislative Priorities, which outlines the key legislative agenda for the district in the upcoming 86th Texas Legislative Session.

Leander ISD seeks a partnership with our Texas legislators to focus on supporting all students, to advocate against unfunded mandates and to empower communities and taxpayers through local control.

"It is well documented that local taxpayers are shouldering a greater and greater share of our school funding, and that's wrong," Barber-Jordan said. "We support a recalibration of the state funding mechanism and keeping all public education dollars, including recaptured funds, allocated for public school students."

The Board adopted the legislative priorities at its Nov. 8 meeting, and now the administration will begin creating a communication plan to share the items for our legislative delegation to consider. The district will also identify additional resources, including impact statements for LISD, and draft legislative language for specific priorities.

In other news, with a particular nod to IB programs, LISD administration recommended that the Board approve new courses in Latin, mathematics and parenting courses for school-age parents.

If approved by the Board at its Nov. 29 meeting, these courses will be included as options in the LISD Course Catalog for the next school year. Student interest will determine if the course is included in the campus master schedules.

We look forward to working with our legislators and our community in continuing to create meaningful educational experiences that help unlock the potential in each and every child.

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Buck to Basics pledges itself to fitness and wellness

By KAYLA BOUCHARD
kayla.bouchard@hillcountrynews.com

A new area yoga studio is setting out to become a community hub for physical, mental and emotional wellness and fitness. Enter Buck to Basics Yoga Studio, a cozy space at 2501 S. Bagdad Road in Leander.

Owners Anna Silvas and Justin Gustovich, along with marketing and event coordinator Brooks Roach, invite even the most weary minds, bodies and spirits to unwind and rejuvenate.

Silvas has worked in the Alternative Medicine field for more than five years and has recently completed her 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training. She also spent over a year working alongside certified family nurse practitioner and owner of MSW Lounge Jonathan Mendoza, who she says inspired her to co-create Buck to Basics.

Gustovich, a resident of the Cedar Park-Leander area for more than 30 years, acts as the "Vitamin Bartender" of Buck to Basics. He helped create the studio's Veteran "Big Tex" Vitamin Shot, which donates 10 percent of the profits to the non-profit organization O.P. Veteran, which provides a growing support system for all veterans transitioning into civilian life.

Roach acts as the team's photographer, event planner and saleswoman.

Buck to Basics is a branch of MSW Lounge, a local provider of vitamin shots, IVs & FDA approved pharmaceutical-grade supplements. The health, wellness and yoga studio provides yoga, vitamin intravenous treatments, injections and wellness plans customized based on an individual's blood work.

"We sell everything from supplements to classes to deficiency tests for seeing what vitamins you are lacking," said Roach.

"We wanted to create a space that provides services for both wellness and fitness," added Silvas. "There's nothing like this in Leander. We're really trying to change health care. That's the name of the game here. It's providing an alternative to taking medications that are going to end up causing more issues in the future."

Gustovich said he is still actively learning about alternative medicine, calling the experience eye-opening.

"I definitely had a different perception of everything before I learned about this business," he said. "There's definitely science to vitamins and what it can do for people who are experiencing chronic pain or an issue they are having trouble with."



Owners Justin Gustovich and Anna Silvas and marketing and event coordinator Brooks Roach (L-R) stand in their Buck to Basics yoga studio space in Leander.

The company's staff say they cater to clients all across the board, depending on what their needs are.

"I can honestly say that's the coolest thing about this is that you get a wide scope of people," said Silvas. "You're never going to face the same challenges where you see the same people. The scope is so broad because it's healthcare related that you see someone who's got

diabetes and wants to get off their insulin medication. You see another person that's in their 20s that wants to detox and get into a healthier lifestyle."

Buck to Basics has ongoing Vinyasa and Hatha yoga classes until December.

For more information, email info@bucktobasics.com, call 512-796-8338 or visit <https://www.facebook.com/BucktoBasics/>.

NEWS BRIEFS

Vatican orders U.S. bishops to stop stop reform plans

BALTIMORE - The first gathering of the nation's Catholic bishops since this summer's wave of anger and recrimination at the hierarchy's handling of clergy sex abuse opened Monday with a stunning announcement:

The prelates would not take a promised vote on a series of new accountability measures — and it was the Vatican that ordered them to hold off.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he was "disappointed" by the Vatican's eleventh-hour request, which he received in a letter marked "confidential" on Sunday night, hours before the three-day meeting in Baltimore was to begin.

"I remain hopeful that this additional consultation will ultimately improve our response to the crisis we face," said DiNardo, who leads the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese.

Still, the news seemingly pulled the rug out from what had been slated as a reckoning for America's prelates after what some called their "summer of shame."

The announcement was followed by a speech from the Vatican's top U.S. diplomat, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, which appeared to highlight the distance between the Roman hierarchy's plans and the proposals up for debate in the United States, including calls for more involvement by the laity in policing problem prelates.

Before Monday's announcement, the bishops' meeting appeared as if it could be as defining a moment for the U.S. church as their 2002 conference in Dallas, where they adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward dealing with abusive priests.

Report: Trump wants to halt Puerto Rico relief funds

President Donald Trump reportedly plans to stop financial aid to millions of Americans in Puerto Rico still dealing with the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria.

The president believes, without citing evidence, that the Puerto Rican government is using the disaster relief funds to pay off debt rather than help its citizens rebuild, according to Axios.

The island nation is still rebuilding after Maria's destruction more than a year ago; most of the country waited almost 11 months for power to be restored and thousands of people are still displaced after their homes were destroyed.

Trump was initially reluctant to send money to Puerto Rico and has continually complained about having to do so since.

"The people of Puerto Rico are wonderful but the inept politicians are trying to use the massive and ridiculously high amounts of hurricane/disaster funding to pay off other obligations," he tweeted in late October. "The U.S. will NOT bail out long outstanding & unpaid obligations with hurricane relief money!"

Trump has routinely refused to believe the official death toll, which the Puerto Rican government placed at 2,975 people. The president claims that Democrats are trying to "make me look as bad as possible."

With divided Congress, health care action shifts to the states

WASHINGTON — Newly elected leaders in the states will be in a stronger position than those in Washington to steer significant shifts in health care policy over the next couple of years as a divided Congress struggles with gridlock.

State Medicaid work requirements, prescription drug prices, insurance exchanges and short-term health plans are among the areas with the potential for substantial change. Some states with new Democratic leaders may also withdraw from a multistate lawsuit aimed at killing the 2010 health care law or look for ways to curb Trump administration policies.

But last week's biggest health care winner is undeniably Medicaid expansion, with upwards of half a million low-income Americans poised to gain insurance coverage following successful expansion ballot initiatives and Democratic victories in key governors' races.

Voters in three deep-red states — Nebraska, Idaho and Utah — bucked their Republican lawmakers by approving ballot initiatives to extend Medicaid coverage to more than 300,000 people.

Meanwhile, Democratic gubernatorial wins in Kansas and Wisconsin boosted the chances of expansion in those states. And Maine's new governor-elect is expected to act quickly to grow the government insurance program when she takes office in January.

The election outcomes could bring the biggest increase in enrollment since an initial burst of more than two dozen states expanded Medicaid under the 2010 health care law in the early years of the landmark law's rollout.

"This election proves that politicians who fought to repeal the Affordable Care Act got it wrong," said Jonathan Schleifer, head of The Fairness Project, an advocacy group that supported the initiatives, referring to the 2010 health care law. "Americans want to live in a country where everyone can go to the doctor without going bankrupt."

INTERNATIONAL LINEMAN'S RODEO

PEC lineworkers collect international awards

STAFF REPORTS

Lineworkers from Pedernales Electric Cooperative won eight awards at the International Lineman's Rodeo on Oct. 13 in Bonner Springs, Kan. Every single competitor from PEC earned an award during the competition.

The lineworkers represented PEC in a wide range of events based on the skills they have to master in their daily work, such as hurt-man rescue, pole climb, 600-amp switch change and more. Each event was judged on safety, technique and speed. Apprentices similarly competed in physical competitions and were also required to take a written skills test.

At the event, PEC competed against 220 journeyman teams and 290 apprentices from across the U.S. and Canada.

"By participating in these events, PEC lineworkers are able to demonstrate their skills at the highest level and in a competitive environment," the co-op said in a release. "They also demonstrate the importance of proper training and safety protocols, as well as provide the public a glimpse into the life of utility work."

PEC Lineworker Apprentice Nick Morris repeated last year's first-place win in the Apprentice Cooperative division and fifth-place win on the written test. In 2016 — his first year competing — Morris took home third place in the Apprentice Cooperative division. This was Morris' last year competing as an apprentice as he completes his

COOPERATIVE APPRENTICE

First place –	Nick Morris
Nick Morris	Cooperative Overall Journeyman,
Second place –	Darren Donhauser
Darren Donhauser	third place -
Fourth place –	Randy Williams
Caleb Brodock	Chris Gerchman
Fifth place –	Neil Thomas Logan
Dodson	Cooperative Overall Journeyman,
Apprentice Overall, second place -	Nick Morris
Apprentice Written	Michael Thyberg
Test, fifth place -	Andy Mann
	Clayton Riedel

progression to journeyman.

Three other PEC apprentices were also named to the cooperative top five: Darren Donhauser, Caleb Brodock and Neil Dodson.

"Our lineworkers work hard every day to ensure PEC delivers safe and reliable power to approximately 1 million Texans," said PEC Vice President of Operations Wayne McKee. "The primary purpose of the rodeo is to sharpen skills while concentrating on safe work practices. The team's performance this year validates PEC's commitment to these values. I am extremely proud of the rodeo team and grateful for the support of our board and employees."



PEC Lineworker Apprentice Nick Morris repeated last year's first-place win in the Apprentice Cooperative division at the 2018 International Lineman's Rodeo last month.

In addition, two PEC journeyworker teams from the Canyon Lake took both third and fourth place in the Cooperative Overall Journeyman division.

LOCAL NEWS

Holland leaving Cedar Park Regional Medical Center

STAFF REPORTS

Brad Holland, CEO of Cedar Park Regional Medical Center has announced that he will leave Cedar Park Regional Medical Center in December, 2018 to pursue a new professional opportunity.

The hospital says the search for a new CEO will begin immediately, and that members of the hospital's board, as well as medical staff and administration, will be involved in the process.

"It has been a privilege to build services and strengthen the operations at Cedar Park Regional Medical Center over the past six years," said Holland in a release.



BRAD HOLLAND

"During this time, we have created a medical hub on our campus to meet the health care needs of our region."

During Holland's tenure, Cedar Park

Regional Medical Center attained numerous accreditations and certifications, most notably in stroke, trauma and neonatal intensive care. He oversaw the expansion of numerous services, including the development of Interventional Cardiology, the Joint and Spine Center, a freestanding Emergency Center, and Family Imaging Center.

"We will continue our mission to provide western Williamson County with the highest quality health care, and we are grateful to Brad for the many contributions he has made in advancing patient care in the region," said Tom Gallagher, chairman of the board of Cedar Park Regional Medical Center.

OUR VIEW

Texas Republicans: You have the power; use it wisely

The trouble with power is always what you do with it once you get it. Hold on to it too long, and you risk losing sight of how you got it in the first place.

It's something the Texas GOP might do well to remember after Election Day. Over and over, voters have given the party control of state government in exchange for the assurance that Texas will remain a place where business thrives and government by and large keeps its nose out of people's business.

Now that voters have once again trusted Republicans to run our state, that's what Gov. Greg Abbott and the host of Republicans returned to state government need to focus on in the coming session. What we don't need is a replay of the 2017 legislative session, where Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick led us into the bathroom while meaningful property tax reform and repairs to the broken school finance system went unaddressed.

Texas doesn't have the luxury for lawmakers to fiddle around with politically expedient but otherwise ineffective gestures.

Patrick campaigned on a plan to pursue local property tax caps as substitute for actually addressing the real needs of municipalities and school districts. While we recognize the struggle with rising property tax bills, capping rates would just handcuff growing cities and counties that must pay for services, with many of those services mandated by the state itself.

Leadership is needed on the school finance front, too. Lawmakers are likely to toss a few more state dollars toward local school district budgets, just enough to say they did something, but not enough to make a difference or dramatically alter the flawed financing formula. This is a major problem. The state's share of education funding is now below 40 percent, forcing local districts to raise the money they need from local property taxpayers. The result is that local property taxpayers are enduring an unsustainable burden.



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, speaking at the 2018 White House Business Session with the nation's governors on Monday, February 26, 2018.

A session without tangible progress on school funding and property tax relief would be a step backward. In 2014, a state judge ruled that state lawmakers failed to live up to their obligations under the Texas Constitution to properly fund public education. The Texas Supreme Court ruled the system did not violate the Constitution, but insisted that lawmakers, not the courts, should repair the broken funding system. Without a solid fix, employers, many of whom already complain that they can't find enough skilled workers, could rethink investments in Texas.

If not for the leadership of outgoing House Speaker Joe Straus and a few House members, lawmakers last session would have saddled Texas with business stifling legislation. Straus courageously kept the discriminatory, anti-business bathroom

bill from coming to the floor and ensured that the restrictions couldn't be amended to other legislation. His leadership against private-school vouchers, property tax caps and Austin's efforts to override local government control beat back bad policies that would have hurt Texas' competitiveness.

We would hope that blocking tactics would not be necessary in the 2019 session. Patrick, Gov. Greg Abbott and the next speaker have it within their power to set the state in the right direction. But first, they must display political courage, sidestep distracting culture wars and focus on policies and investments that will allow our economy to boom now and in the future.

— Reprinted with permission.

MY VIEW

We may miss Jeff Sessions



ERWIN CHEMERINSKY

GUEST COLUMNIST

Donald Trump did something that seems impossible: He made Jeff Sessions into a sympathetic figure.

The firing of Sessions as attorney general on the day after the election made me realize how much Sessions has been integral to upholding the rule of law in the first two years of the Trump presidency. The core of the rule of law is that no one, not even the president, is above the law, and it is Sessions who, despite all of Trump's personal attacks and insults, insured that special counsel Robert S. Mueller III could continue his investigation.

I have found much of Sessions' conduct as attorney general to be loathsome. He initiated and defended the illegal and morally bankrupt policy of separating children from their parents at the border. He has threatened cities with loss of federal funds if they don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities, a policy that several federal courts have declared unconstitutional.

Sessions has mandated that those arrested for federal crimes, including drug offenses, be charged to the maximum. He made clear that the Justice Department would no longer bring actions against police departments for having a pattern and practice of violating civil rights.

Despite all of this, Sessions has been crucial in protecting the special counsel's work. Although Trump repeatedly has called it a "witch hunt" and a "hoax," it is an essential investigation into crimes that go to the very heart of the integrity of our election system.

Any assertion that the investigation is a witch hunt is belied by its success. So far, it has resulted in 32 indictments or guilty pleas, including guilty pleas from former top-level Trump advisors such as Michael Flynn, Rick Gates and Michael Cohen. Paul Manafort, who managed the president's 2016 campaign, was convicted by a jury of charges that could keep him in prison for decades.

Mueller's team, quite appropriately, has not revealed what it has learned or exactly what the lines of the investigation are. But there remains the possibility that it may lead to evidence against Trump's family or the president himself. It is essential that Mueller not be impeded.

Despite withering attacks by Trump, Sessions never caved to the pressure. Trump repeatedly referred to Sessions as "missing in action" and called him "Mr. Magoo," referring to a bumbling cartoon character from decades ago. I can think of virtually no instance where a president so viciously criticized a member of his Cabinet.

Trump was most outraged at Sessions for recusing himself from overseeing Mueller's investigation. But Sessions did exactly the right thing in removing himself.

Mueller's brief includes looking at whether federal laws were broken in connection with Russia's involvement in the 2016 campaign. During Sessions' Senate confirmation process, Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, a Democratic member of the Judiciary Committee, asked the attorney general designate in a questionnaire if he had "been in contact with anyone connected to any part of the Russian government about the 2016 election, either before or after election day." Sessions' answer was "no."

During the hearings, Sen. Al Franken asked Sessions what he would do if he learned of evidence that someone affiliated with the Trump campaign had communicated with the Russian government in the course of the campaign. Sessions replied, "I'm not aware of any of those activities. I have been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign, and I did not have communications with the Russians."

It was later revealed that Sessions had at least two conversations with the Russian ambassador to the United States in July and September 2016. Sessions knew he was a potential target for the investigation, and therefore he was required by ethics rules to recuse himself.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Rod Rosenstein replaced Sessions as the official to whom Mueller reported. Trump attacked Rosenstein for not limiting the investigation. He attacked Sessions for not controlling Rosenstein and Mueller. But Sessions never flinched, and he never backed down from his recusal. He deserves our admiration for standing up for the rule of law.

With Sessions gone, Mueller's future is uncertain. The newly appointed Acting Atty. Gen. Matthew Whitaker has been hostile to the investigation and critical of Mueller. When Democrats take control the House of Representatives in January, they are sure to launch oversight hearings related to the musical chairs at Justice, Russian collusion and more. But members of Congress cannot bring criminal indictments, and it is easier for a president to refuse to cooperate with Congress than to resist court orders.

I never imagined I would say this, but we might come to find we miss Jeff Sessions as attorney general.

Scott W. Coleman | Editor & Publisher

Kayla Bouchard | Community Reporter

Zach Smith | Sports Editor

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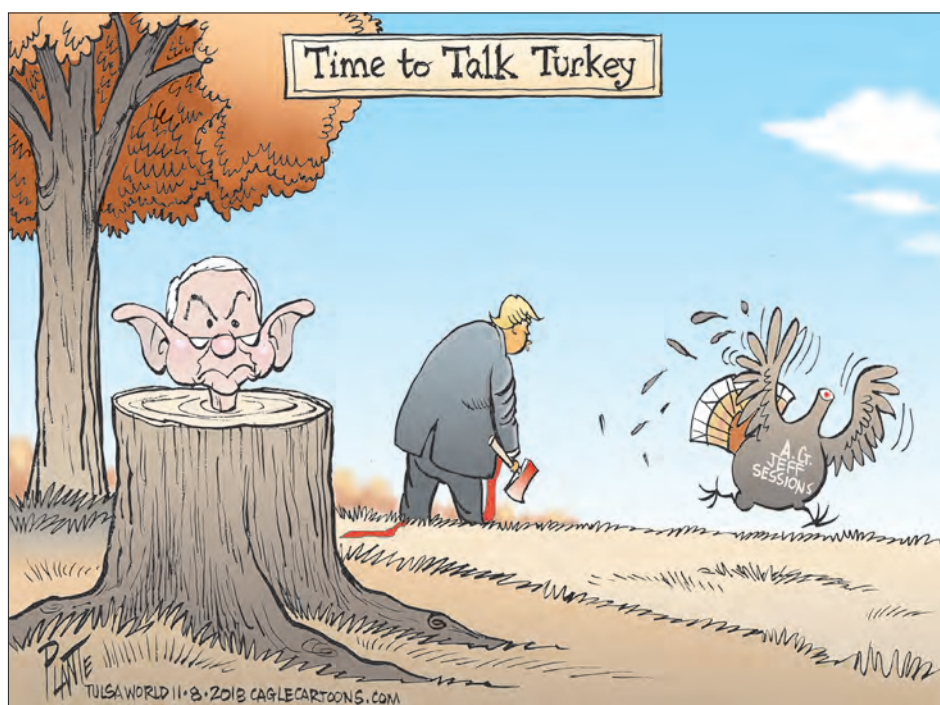
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



MY VIEW

Jeff Sessions deserved better

An immigration attorney coming to the defense of Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, who lost his job as U.S. attorney general on Wednesday, is akin to a Christian coming to the defense of the lions of ancient Rome: It's surprising and just plain weird.

But that is what this immigration attorney is going to do, and I understand that it won't elicit enthusiasm from the extremes on the left or the right, particularly after the midterms.

At the outset, I have to note that I abhor the immigration policies put into place under Sessions, who embraced with obvious enthusiasm his role as Deporter-in-Chief. After he took office, the following groups of people were on his hit list: refugees, mothers with children, victims of domestic abuse, victims of gang violence, and anyone who uses the word caravan. He reinterpreted longstanding administrative policy to narrow the options for asylum seekers, tried to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), severely limited the ability of immigration judges to exercise discretion, and implied that people like me



CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS

GUEST COLUMNIST

are coaching our clients to lie about the persecution they suffered.

He did all of this under the guise of making America safer, which seems ironic, since the only large-scale terror attacks while Sessions was in office were conducted by U.S. citizens already in the country, including the recent shooting in Thousand Oaks, Calif., that left 12 dead; the 2017 assault on GOP congressmen in which Sen. Steve Scalise was shot; and the assassination of 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

The perpetrators of those crimes? Not a Middle Easterner, Latino gang-banger, or anchor baby in the bunch. So I am not a huge fan of Sessions' approach to keeping America safe on the backs of people who are themselves desperate to find safety. His version of immigration reform is cruel and draconian.

Nevertheless, I'm disgusted by President Trump's treatment of a man who was loyal to him, but who no longer served his purposes.

I believe that Trump demanded Sessions' resignation because he knows that come January, he will be heading into choppy waters as the opposition party takes control of the House. With images of subpoenas dancing in his head, it seems that he wanted to put a firewall between himself and some crusading Democrats. Plus, he has always seemingly resented Sessions for recusing himself from the Russian investigation.

But with that recusal, Sessions showed loyalty and integrity, two qualities that I admire and treasure. He deserves our respect for showing allegiance to the country over his boss.

I'm outraged about Trump's firing of his most loyal minion. If the president actually looked at his Justice Department, he would see that Sessions had single-handedly advanced the Trump agenda on drugs, criminal justice, and, as I noted ruefully above, immigration. Trump gets up on his high horse at those ridiculous rallies and screams about caravans and the invasion at the southern border, but Sessions was the one who actually did something about it.

Take the word of an immigration lawyer: He made my life and my clients' lives hell.

I'm also nauseated by the mean-spirited, petty way that Trump dispatched Sessions. According to reports, he sent John Kelly to do his dirty work and didn't even have the guts to meet personally with the very first senator to endorse him at the start of his then-quixotic campaign.

The immigration lawyer in me is glad to see Sessions go. But the part of me that respects courage, independence, and integrity is disgusted with the shameful treatment he received.

— Christine Flowers is a Philadelphia-based attorney and nationally-syndicated conservative columnist.



CURTIS COMPTON/TNS

Longtime Trump supporter and one of the longest-serving cabinet members, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, resigned last week at the request of the President.

— Erwin Chemerinsky is a syndicated columnist and professor of law.

FAITH COMMENTARY

Stop dating your past and marry your future

For every person who has forged forward through life's difficulties, traumas, and dilemmas. If you have ever felt short changed, held onto broken pieces of the past or felt as though it was impossible to move on, yet, day after day, it seems you just existed as life passed you by; today is your day to turn the page. Stop dating your past and marry your future!

I know the pain of your experience was real. It hurt and it's hard to understand why it happened. I want you know that your experiences will not be wasted. God will use the amalgamation of your life experiences to produce a masterpiece. You were born for greatness. You were created and destined to be and do more than what you are doing today. Your next level of destiny and purpose are yet to collide.

All of the no's you've heard in life, do not outweigh the yes's preordained for your future. God has scheduled success lined up for your destiny. I call forth restoration in your future. I speak life over every dead and desolate area that has held you back. I release peace, hope, and faith into the atmosphere where you are even now.



MARK BROWN
FAITH COLUMNIST

Life brings you a multitude of variables to work through and sometimes we can feel out of place. I want you to consider, God is moving you out of your feelings and into what has been ordained for you. Looking to the past, allowing gravity to pull you backwards instead of forward is counter-productive to reaching God's promises over your life.

Philippians 3:13 is Paul writing "this one thing I have — forgetting what lies behind, I press toward the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus." Paul was saying, to advance you need to stop dating the past. Hebrews 12:1 teaches us to "lay aside every weight that would so easily beset us and run the race that is set before us." The opposition never outweighs the promise.

God will not let you down. Forgetting what lies behind and laying aside every

weight that besets us is reflective of trusting God. Is it easy? Not always. Is it necessary? Absolutely.

God's love for you is unconditional. God's acceptance of you is unconditional. However, letting go of the past and what is not meant to be, is critical to your progress.

Growing up, my father would take us to the naval base to watch the annual "Air Show." We watched F-18 fighter jets perform special maneuvers. I was always in amazement of the Blue Angels and their performance. I remember one year, seeing one F-18 that went tremendously slow. While it was going an abnormally low speed, you could see the plane begin to vibrate. The crowd sighed with worry because historically, some F-18's had exploded due to the aircraft not possessing the capabilities to navigate at slow speeds. F-18's are fighter jets, designed for battle, to carry bombs, missiles, cannons and going slow was not part of the plan. Looking back to date your past and always reverting to former behaviors or means of settling, is not part of God's plan for your life.

You were designed for a specific purpose and that is to fight and win. Today is a new day. Whatever calamity you have faced, the sun will rise again. You do not have to stay where others think you belong, assign or categorize you. You go after the dream God has placed on your heart. You can in state and reinstate patterns of redemption and restoration by speaking the Word of God.

Decide today, you will not date your past but marry your future. Your future is full of hope, your future is bright, your future has success lined out for you. God will never leave you nor forsake you. You do not walk through life alone, He is right by your side.

The bible tells us the glory of the latter house will be greater than the former. What that means is the greatest time of your life is not behind but ahead. No matter what you are facing today, God says your greatest days are still ahead! You are loved, appreciated, respected, full of His wisdom, overcoming, victorious and reaching your full potential.

— Mark Brown is senior pastor of Faith City Church (www.gofaithcity.org).

FAITH COMMENTARY

Anger danger

"We all know things are bad — worse than bad — they're crazy," began the fictional Howard Beale in the film entitled, "Network." An emotionally disturbed news anchor whose life had begun to unravel, Beale revitalizes his career by "articulating popular rage."

He advises his audience, "I don't want you to protest. I don't want you to riot. I don't want you to write to your Congressman, because I wouldn't know what to tell you to write. I don't know what to do about the depression and the inflation and the Russians and the crime in the street. All I know is that first, you've got to get mad."

And then, delivering one of the more classic lines in the history of all cinema, Beale (played by Oscar winner Peter Finch) says, "I want you to get up right now and go to the window, open it, and stick your head out and yell, 'I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!'"

Eerily prescient, screenwriter Paddy Chayefsky delivered a masterpiece with "Network," foretelling the future of cable news when broadcast stations would make their money on being aggrieved, selling



RONNIE MCBRYER
FAITH COLUMNIST

rage to a susceptible audience. For all the credible truth-seeking voices out there (and there are many), this truth remains: Media, politics, and society are filled with the Beale-like "mad prophets of the airwaves."

They offer no light, only heat. They can produce no solutions, they can only scorch the earth. They offer neither truth nor thoughtful commentary, only divisiveness. "The acts of the flesh are obvious," Paul said, and among them are "hatred, discord, and fits of rage." The Proverbs warn that such people, those who deal in the currency of fermenting anger, "Plant seeds of strife...separate the best of friends; and lead their companions down a harmful path."

We fail to heed the dangers of such paths, drawn as we are into the game of "winning." If our side can come out on top (whichever side that is at the time), then all

means to that victorious end are justified. This "winner take all approach" more times than not leaves nothing for the loser, and very little for the winner; for all that remains is wreckage.

A Southern proverb comes to mind, one I heard often growing up. I would be told, "A dog can kill any hog in the pen, son, but he'll have to get down in the mud to do it. And the hog likes the mud." More times than we wish to admit, that's where uncontrolled, unbridled anger takes us. We might be the winner in the end, but are so soiled by the victory, it can hardly be counted worth it.

Returning to the furious Howard Beale, how does his story conclude? He winds up lifeless on the floor, struck down by the violence that his own madness produced, with everything he had built on bluster, crashing down with him. Unfettered, weaponized anger, rarely has any other result.

— Ronnie McBryer is a nationally-syndicated columnist and the author of several books.

FAITH CALENDAR

November 15

Ladies, connect with other women of the parish at the Cookie Exchange and Fellowship, Thursday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 10205 FM 620 N., Austin. Come for wine, appetizers and fellowship. If you want to share in the cookie exchange, bring two to four dozen cookies to swap. Visit stmaustin.org for details and to RSVP.

November is National Adoption Month. For information about adopting and adoption resources, visit childwelfare.gov or dips.state.tx.us.

November 16

In partnership with Hill Country Community Ministries, Live Oak UU distributes free fresh food to anyone in need. Come to the Live Oak parking lot on the third Friday of each month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 3315 El Salido Parkway, Cedar Park. Visit liveoakuu.org for more information.

November 17

Journey Bible Fellowship's Kids Outdoor Zone hosts a monthly event featuring a variety of outdoor activities for boys ages 8 to 18 years, every third Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3429 Journey Parkway, Leander. Visit journeybf.com for details.



Praise & Worship

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

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

ANSWER:

STAN LEE, 1922-2018



LIONEL HAHN/ABACA PRESS/TNS

Stan Lee, the iconic co-creator of Marvel Comics, passed away at age 95 on Monday, Nov. 12.

The wisdom and wisecracks of Stan Lee over the years

By **NARDINE SAAD**
Los Angeles Times

Marvel maestro Stan Lee spent his decades-long career creating some of the most iconic comic book heroes of all time, from the Avengers to the X-Men to current box-office heavyweight Black Panther.

In the process, he helped transform Marvel Comics from a 1960s upstart to a worldwide media juggernaut that reshaped the worlds of television and cinema.

"I've been saying this for years: People love fantasy," he told the Los Angeles Times in 1989.

Lee was generous with his time with fans as he rose from cult status among comic book buffs and catapulted into the mainstream. He became a regular on the convention circuit, readily sharing tales of his youth until his death on Monday at age 95.

Lee got his start working as a comics writer in the 1940s and shepherded the rise of Marvel Comics into a powerhouse in the '60s alongside artists Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko.

The affable writer had tremendous influence on the genre, adapting to the times while breathing life into relatable characters lauded for their flaws and weaknesses along with their superhuman abilities.

"When I started, I worked for a publisher (who) used to say: 'Don't use words of more than two syllables. Don't worry about characterization or dialogue. Just give me pages with a lot of action.' And I did that for years, and then I got really sick of it," he told The Times in 2012.

"So I started using a college-level vocabulary. I felt the reader would look it up in a dictionary, which wouldn't be the worst thing in the world, or get it by osmosis," he added. "The publisher really hated that, but it didn't hurt the sales of the books."

That tenacity helped him launch numerous ventures that saw him team up with the Beatles' Ringo Starr, Playboy's Hugh Hefner and rapper RZA. In the meantime, he found his second calling as a cameo star, appearing in more than three dozen Marvel movies.

Here are a few of his memorable musings:

Why comic books should be taken seriously: "There's really nothing wrong with the comic book format. If Michelangelo and Shakespeare were alive today and decided to do a comic strip together, who's to say that it wouldn't be the most worthwhile, valid, viable form of literature that you could find."

On the importance of flawed, real heroes: "I thought, suppose there was a guy, Peter Parker, who's also Spider-Man. And he can stick to walls, and spin a web, and has the strength of 12 men. We said just because he can do that doesn't mean everything would be perfect in his life. We created the first superheroes who weren't perfect, who worried about paying rent. It was satire — fantasy in a realistic setting."

What he got out of the convention circuit: "The people in the audience may feel they learn something from me, at least I hope they do, but I learn so much more from them," he said. "It gives you a chance to be out there and actually talk to the people you're trying to reach."

On going from page to screen: "When I was in comics, I was doing all this work that excited me, but all of that time I was thinking, 'Wouldn't it be great if I could get involved in movies and animation?' So now I'm here, and that's what I'm doing. I'm one of the most fortunate people I know."

On his target demographic: "I aimed the books at an older audience, and the kids could buy them too. I thought comics could be literature. I get my characters to talk like people really talk, and to react to things, to have their own speech patterns."

On the difference between action and violence: "I don't like too much violence. To me there's a great difference between an action-packed story and a violent story, and I don't like to do things that I don't feel I could say to any parent, honestly, 'Your child could read that.'"

On the common thread of his stories: "Tastes change, but certain things remain basic. People like stories with characters that they can identify with. Even if they're fantasy characters from another planet or dimension. People like stories that have surprises, so they don't feel they've seen this 100 times before. But the surprises have to make sense. They can't just be thrown in to fool the reader."

On all those film cameos: "Anybody can be an actor, but it takes a certain talent to do cameos. Say, if you write this down as if I'm saying these things seriously, I'll shoot you!"

MOVIES

What you need to know before seeing 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald'



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Johnny Depp as Grindelwald and Poppy Corby-Tuech as Rosier in "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald."

By **PETER SBLENDORIO**
New York Daily News

The magic is almost back on the big screen.

The second installment to J.K. Rowling's "Fantastic Beasts" film franchise hits theaters on Friday and moves forward the stories of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston) and the villainous Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp).

It's been two years since the first movie in the Harry Potter spinoff series came out, so here's everything you need to know going into "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald."

Where did the last "Fantastic Beasts" leave off?

The first movie in the series, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," introduces Redmayne's character as a well-intentioned but mistake-prone "magizoologist" who travels around the world making notes about magical creatures for a book he's writing.

The first film centers on Newt, who is equipped with a briefcase filled with unusual animals, in New York City, where tensions are high in the magic world due to fears about the presence of Gellert

Grindelwald, a powerful evil wizard who poses a threat to life as they know it.

More danger ensues when a young orphan named Credence with suppressed magical abilities becomes an Obscurus — a parasite that manifests in those who don't use their magic — after Percival Graves, a high-ranking member of the wizarding congress, fails to make good on his promise to teach Credence how to use his powers.

Credence takes the form of a dark, shadowy figure and wreaks havoc in New York before he is ultimately defeated, and his fate is left uncertain. The film concludes with Newt using a spell to reveal Grindelwald has used magic to disguise himself as Graves the whole time. Grindelwald is then arrested.

Who exactly is Grindelwald?

Long before Lord Voldemort's reign of terror, chronicled in the "Harry Potter" books, the ominous Grindelwald was the most evil figure in the wizarding world.

The white-haired character played by Depp made it his mission for wizards to achieve superiority in a world where those with magical powers and those without them lived in harmony.

"The moment has come to take our rightful place in the world where we

wizards are free," Grindelwald says in the trailer. "Join me, or die."

The trailer also teases a past connection between Grindelwald and Albus Dumbledore, the beloved professor at Hogwarts.

Where does Dumbledore fit into all this?

Jude Law portrays a much younger version of the wise wizard in "The Crimes of Grindelwald" than the one fans came to adore in the Potter franchise. Despite his young age in the movie, Dumbledore is still a prominent figure in the magic world, and the trailer shows him saying Newt must be the one to defeat Grindelwald because he personally cannot.

The trailer also briefly shows Dumbledore peering into the Mirror of Erised, which shows someone their heart's desire, and seeing Grindelwald.

Where does "Fantastic Beasts" fit in the Harry Potter timeline?

The new film takes place shortly after the first "Fantastic Beasts," which is set in the mid-1920s.

That means the event of this new movie occurred roughly 75 years before Harry Potter and his friends attended Hogwarts and battled with Voldemort.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Girl in the Spider's Web' well-spun tale

By **RICK BENTLEY**
TNS

There's no arguing that Lisbeth Salander — the central figure in the Millennium book series created by Stieg Larsson — is one of the most intriguing and complicated characters to grace the big screen. She's driven to avenge wrongdoings with the kind of passion traditionally reserved for men and accomplishes her missions with a brutal and unrelenting honesty that would never be shown by any male character.

Some of the qualities that have made Lisbeth so fascinating and compelling in books and the 2011 feature film release, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," have been slightly watered down for "The Girl in the Spider's Web" because the film's based on the writings of David Lagercrantz, who took over the series after Larsson's death. As so often happens when a new writer takes over a book series, the tendency to put an original spin on the work often ends up shifting tone and texture.

Even a slightly lighter version of the character is compelling to watch, particularly because of the standout performance by Claire Foy in the title role (played in "Dragon Tattoo" by Rooney Mara). Director Fede Alvarez ("Don't Breathe") amplifies Foy's performance with a beautifully stylized look to the production that embraces the dark and gloomy with great ferocity.

"The Girl in the Spider's Web" starts with a reminder of what has been the dark heart of the series. Lisbeth has again used her impressive skills as a hacker to help a brutalized woman escape from the man who has caused her so much pain and agony. Fans of the book will understand the vigilante work is fed by Lisbeth's own brutal past, an element that has been toned down for this tale.

The storyline is still very personal. Lisbeth finds herself in a showdown with her sister, Camilla (Sylvia Hoeks), who has taken over the family's crime lord business. What now serves as Lisbeth's backstory is one where both sisters are being pulled into the dark sexual world of their father where Lisbeth escapes and never looks back. The difference from previous information is unsettling but not enough to hurt the entire movie.

There's not much time for reflection, as Lisbeth is hired by Frans Balder (Stephen Merchant), an American programmer who fears for his life because of the software he created that can hack any nuclear arsenal on the planet. The job becomes personally vital as the programmer's son (Christopher Convery) becomes an important part of the efforts to keep the software out of the wrong hands.



REINER BAIJO/SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

Lisbeth Salander (Claire Foy) is the third actress to appear as Stieg Larsson's hacker heroine Lisbeth Salander, appearing in "The Girl in the Spider's Web."

The addition of Edwin Needham (Lakeith Stanfield), a hacker who has become an NSA security techie, brings the Americans into the story. That element isn't necessary because Foy's performance is enough to make this story compute.

Part of Foy's ability to dominate the movie comes from the new job skills Lisbeth brings to the table. She now seems to have an almost omnipotent ability to hack the world while also gaining the kind of fighting and driving skills of a 007 agent. A scene where she escapes from near death by driving a motorcycle across a frozen watery expanse makes for beautiful cinema but chips away from the dark credibility established in previous works.

What keeps the changes from short-circuiting the production is Foy. She shows remarkable range, going from her recent work as the grounded Janet Armstrong in "First Man" to the nearly mythological Lisbeth. Coy goes so deeply into the dark and emotional tangled world you can almost feel her sweating out pain through every pore in her body. This is a great example of an actor not just playing a role, but going so far into the performance that there is a transformation.

Overall, "The Girl in the Spider's Web" loses a few beats because of the different approach Lagercrantz uses from when Larsson was writing the character. The changes aren't bad but will feel disconcerting when compared to the original books and the previous film adaptations. The counterbalance is Foy, whose command of the screen deflects a lot of the problems. Her performance works because she comes across as if she were the dark and twisted sister of James Bond no one talks about.

"THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB"

★ ★ ★

Cast: Claire Foy, Stephen Merchant, Sverrir Gudnason, Sylvia Hoeks, Lakeith Stanfield.

Director: Fede Alvarez.

Rated: NR but includes violence, nudity, language, sexuality.

Running time: 117 minutes.

hillcountrynews.com

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS



MEDINA VALLEY AT GLENN

Bible Stadium, Leander
Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Glenn looking to rebound in playoff game

By ZACH SMITH

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Glenn head coach Rob Schoenfeld and the Grizzlies are getting a little weary about everything being a first for the school. It's been an applicable storyline just about every week this season.

As they prepare for another first when they host Medina Valley in the bi-district round of the playoffs Friday night at 7:30 p.m. at Bible Stadium, the mindset has graduated past the youthful narrative.

"I don't think we have to go out and oversell that it's a playoff game and it's the first this or that," Schoenfeld said. "We're approaching it like this is a very important football game at the end of the week. That's how we've approached every game. Because of what football means to the community and culture, it's all big."

Glenn finished as the No. 1 seed in District 13-5A-DIII this season with the Grizzlies, Brenham and East View all ending the regular season with identical 5-2 records in district play. Bastrop beat Glenn in the regular-season finale to clinch the No. 4 seed.

The Grizzlies scored the first two touchdowns of the game last Friday, but the Bears scored five unanswered touchdowns to take a three-score lead. Bastrop negated a pair of second-half touchdowns by Glenn with a score late in the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Drew McGuire finished with 185 yards and a touchdown passing and used for 29 yards and a score. Running back Julian Morris had 50 yards and a touchdown, Shamir Nichols had 63 rushing yards and 60 receiving yards and Rondrick Stubblefield caught two passes for 29 yards and a score.

The last time Glenn lost, a 20-7 defeat against Marble Falls during district play, it responded with a hard-fought win at Bible Stadium against Brenham to clinch the top seed and at least a share of the title.

Schoenfeld hopes the trend repeats itself.

"It's certainly not something you want to make a habit of," he said. "At this point, you rebound or you put all your equipment away. It's totally dependent on our mindset when we come out. We've got to start fast and sustain it. It's about maintaining that throughout the game and not letting one mistake turn into multiple mistakes."

Medina Valley has made the playoffs in four of the last five seasons but hasn't advanced past the first round in that span.

See GRIZZLIES page A14



Glenn High School running back Lamont Slade (10) breaks up the middle for a touchdown against Brenham High School at Bible Stadium, Leander, Texas on November 2, 2018.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Rouse volleyball season ends in regional semifinals

By ZACH SMITH

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The Rouse volleyball season came to an end in the regional semifinals Saturday night at Delmar Fieldhouse in Houston.

The Lady Raiders advanced to that stage of the playoffs for the third year in a row, and despite a furious rally in the two middle sets, fell to Friendswood in five sets (25-18, 25-16, 15-25, 19-25, 15-7).

Rouse, co-district champions and the No. 1 seed from District 17-5A, swept Bastrop 3-0 in the bi-district round, beat Waller 3-1 in the area round and swept Hutto in the regional quarterfinals before handing Friendswood its first two set losses of the playoffs in the loss on Saturday.

The Lady Raiders had 13 service errors in the loss to the Lady Mustangs, just the second time they've had that many since mid-August.

Rouse fell behind early in the fifth set on Saturday but rallied to tie the set a 3-3. Friendswood



Grayson Schirpik and Rouse advanced to the regional semifinals for the third year in a row, where it lost to Friendswood Saturday in Houston.

outside hitters Ashlyn Svoboda (11 kills) and Makensy Manbeck (seven kills) took over as the set wore on to help the Lady Mustangs pull out the win.

Junior outside hitter Grayson Schirpik had a team-high 21 kills

and 21 digs while Seton Hall-bound senior MacKenzie Huntley finished with 12 kills, four aces and three blocks for the Lady Raiders. Kara Erfurth had 41 assists and three blocks and Reilly Heinrich had a team-high 28 digs for Rouse.

Schirpik, who has committed to play volleyball at TCU, paced the Lady Raiders with 450 kills and 60 aces this season while Huntley finished her senior year with 426 kills and a team-best 94 blocks.

Heinrich, a Texas pledge, finished this season with 916 digs and Erfurth led Rouse with 1,136 assists.

Just one year removed from the state final, the Lady Raiders have become playoff stalwarts, qualifying for the postseason the last three seasons. Rouse has lost just 13 of the 143 sets it has played during district play in that span.

Huntley is one of six seniors that will leave via graduation this year, joining Darin Vest, Madeline Rose, Taylor Russell, Kaitlen Dunn and Bailey Franks.



Junior Reilly Heinrich, a Texas pledge, finished this season with 916 digs for Rouse, which lost to Friendswood Saturday in the regional semifinals.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Timberwolves benefiting from difficult district lessons

By ZACH SMITH

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The final exam for Cedar Park is about to begin.

For the last six weeks, the Timberwolves have been battling in one of the toughest districts in the state. After finishing as the No. 2 team, they begin the postseason Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Gupton Stadium against Austin LBJ.

"It's kind of like going to school because the whole point is for one year to build on the other," Cedar Park head coach Carl Abseck said. "It's the same thing in a football season. We've been prepared by the teams that we've played," Abseck said. "You've had to learn to play to your strengths and learn from the different schemes that teams have had to run at you."

Cedar Park started the season with back-to-back losses to Vandegrift and Cedar Ridge, the two top teams from District 13-6A before rattling

See TIMBERWOLVES page A8



AUSTIN LBJ AT CEDAR PARK

Gupton Stadium, Cedar Park
Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Cedar Park High School running back Jonathon Stockwell (16) runs along the outside against Rouse High School at Gupton Stadium on September 28, 2019.

GREGG CESTARO

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Winning breeds winning for Vandegrift



TOMBALL AT VANDEGRIFT

Monroe Stadium, Austin
Friday, 7 p.m.

By ZACH SMITH

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There's an old coaching saying that winning breeds winning.

Vandegrift is taking that to heart.

The Vipers closed out the first undefeated season in school history last week and locked up the District 13-6A title. They begin the postseason Friday night at 7 p.m. at Monroe Stadium against Tomball Memorial.

"You start making plays and good things happen and you expect those things to happen," head coach Drew Sanders said. "Even when the game's not going exactly the way you think, you feel like you'll get it going. Eventually, you start expecting good things to happen, and I think that's where we're headed."

Since moving up to Class 6A two seasons ago, the Vipers have won their first-round game but failed to get past the area round.



Vandegrift Vipers running back Isaiah Smallwood (15) and quarterback Dru Dawson (4) during a high school football game between Vandegrift and Cedar Ridge on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018 in Austin, Texas.

SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Vandegrift showed it could win in just about every way during district play this season. It opened up the schedule with an overtime win against defending district champion Cedar Ridge, ground out a win against Hendrickson and rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Round Rock.

The Vipers had the best defense in the district, allowing less than 14 points per game.

That defense will be put to the test against the run-heavy offense of the

See VIPERS page A11

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF CAPSULES



LANGHAM CREEK VS. CEDAR RIDGE
Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex, Round Rock
Friday, 7 p.m.

Cedar Ridge reverted back to last season's form after dropping its first game of the district season to Vandegrift in overtime, winning its last seven games of the season to finish second in District 13-6A, averaging more than 50 points a game over that span. The Raiders finished the season with more than 2,200 rushing yards, led by Deuce Vaughn with 1,383 yards and 13 touchdowns. Standout receiver Jaylen Ellis finished his senior year with 789 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns. Langham Creek finished this season in a three-way tie for second place in District 14-6A. The Lobos averaged 34.1 points per game and allowed 17.3, good for third in the conference. Dual-threat quarterback Chris Herron is Lanham Creek's top offensive weapon as he threw for 1,193 yards and five touchdowns and led the team with 856 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. The three-star recruit is committed to play at Kansas State next season. This will be the first meeting between the two schools.



ROUND ROCK VS. CYPRESS WOODS
Cy-Fair FCU Stadium, Cypress
Saturday, 3 p.m.

As expected, the Round Rock was as potent as expected this season, averaging a whopping 49.8 points per game, far and away the best in District 13-6A. That high-powered offense is set to go up against the No. 6 defense in Cypress Woods. The Wildcats and their heavy run-first offense were more likely to outscore opponents then hold them as they finished in a three-way tied or second place in District 14-6A and made the playoffs for the first time since 2014. Senior quarterback Carson Danner is the standout offensive player for Cypress Woods, as he's thrown for more than 1,000 yards and 14 touchdowns and rushed for a team-best 1,099 yards and 19 scores this season. This is the second year the Wildcats have run the triple-option offense, a scheme the Dragons are no strangers to having come up against the like of Leander during district play. This will be the first meeting between the two schools. Round Rock returns to the postseason after a one-year absence.



GEORGETOWN VS. SEGUIN
Matador Stadium, Seguin
Thursday, 7 p.m.

The Eagles are in the playoffs for the fourth year in a row after finishing as the No. 3 seed in District 11-5A-DI. The Eagles had the second-best defense in the district, giving up just 20.8 points a game. They're set to go up against a Seguin team that has been good on both side of the ball, scoring 53.3 points per game and allowing just 14 each time out. The Matadors won seven of their last eight games, falling to Austin LBJ 35-28 in overtime in the regular-season finale. Seguin gains more than 450 yards per game, with senior quarterback Anthony Gonzalez having thrown for 1,793 yards and 22 touchdowns while senior running back Jacob Berkely rushing for 783 yards and nine touchdowns on the ground. The Matadors and Eagles have met twice before in 2008 and 2009. Georgetown won the first meeting 42-21 and Seguin waked away with a 41-20 win the next year.

SCOREBOARD



NFL FOOTBALL

Cowboys 27
Eagles 20

NCAA FOOTBALL

Texas 41
Texas Tech 34

Mississippi 24
Texas A&M 38

TCU 10
West Virginia 47

Baylor 14
Iowa State 28

Temple 59
Houston 49

SMU 62
Connecticut 50

Appalachian State 38
Texas State 7

Middle Tennessee 48
UTEP 32

Rice 13
Louisiana Tech 28

FIU 45
UTSA 7

North Texas 31
Old Dominion 34

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Cedar Park shuts down Vandegrift for sixth straight win

By ZACH SMITH
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It took Cedar Park about one quarter to get going. But once the Lady Timberwolves hit their stride, they were a force to be reckoned with.

Junior guard Hannah Wheeler hit five 3-pointers and scored a team-high 15 points, the defense held Vandegrift to single-digits in the final three quarters and Cedar Park downed the Lady Vipers 54-28 at home on Tuesday night

"We're finding different ways to win," Cedar Park head coach Donny Ott said. "Early in the season, we were beating people up inside. These last two games, we've been shooting the ball really well outside and firing on all cylinders."

In addition to Wheeler's hot shooting performance, Pujita Shukla had eight points and Callie Copeland added six points for Cedar Park. The bench scored 23 points and is averaging about 15 points a game so far this season.

For Vandegrift, freshman Skye O'Rourke had 14 points and senior Jen Moore added six.

"They executed great," Vandegrift head coach Jonathan Jones said. "There were a couple possessions where we didn't execute like we wanted to and left some people open. They made some adjustments that made it little harder to score."

Vandegrift started strong and took a 14-12 lead after the first quarter, but the Cedar Park defense eventually hit another gear and held the Lady Vipers to just 14 points over the next three quarters.

The Lady Timberwolves had their highest scoring quarter coming out of the locker room, scoring 19 points in the third quarter



SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Cedar Park Timberwolves guard Callie Copeland (33) moves the ball during a high school girls basketball game between Cedar Park and Vandegrift at Cedar Park High School on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 in Cedar Park, TX.

helped by five 3-pointers. They hit nine shots from behind the arc in the game.

Both teams head out of town for tournament play this weekend, as the Lady Timberwolves compete in San Marcos this weekend and the Lady Vipers head to Marble Falls to continue non-district play.

Last year, Cedar Park had a historic run,

finishing a perfect 16-0 in district play and advancing to the regional semifinals, the longest run in school history.

Ott said his first year in charge, the learning curve was big and the team built on the momentum and success they had as the year went on. This group is already has a much firmer grasp on the system.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Leander holds off late Cedar Park charge for first win

By ZACH SMITH
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Leander withstood a late charge from Cedar Park to win its first game of the brand new season Tuesday night.

The Lions beat the Timberwolves 54-40 in their second game of the season. Leander jumped out an early lead, but Cedar Park cut the lead to one possession late in the fourth quarter.

"We did a good job early on at both ends of the floor," Leander head coach Clint Bradley said. "They got two clean looks at 3-pointers and that got them going. Every time we come to this gym, we're going to battle. We've got a chance to be a pretty good group this year."

Sophomore Noah Robledo and senior Hunter Stevens scored 20 points apiece to lead Leander and Landon Sisson added four points.

Cedar Park was led by Karson Cater with 13 points. Jacob Hester scored 11 points, Josh Baker added seven points and Mathew Minor finished with six points for the Timberwolves.

Leander started strong, opening up a double-digit lead in the first quarter. The game tightened up in the second as the Timberwolves got back in it and got within five points at halftime.

Cedar Park scored on a floater in the fourth quarter and Leander was called for a blocking foul. The Lions would go on to since two free throws, but Baker nailed a

3-pointer in with under two minutes left to cut the lead to three points.

The Lions hit two of four free throws down the stretch to hold on.

It was the first game of the season for Cedar Park, which made the playoffs a season ago and is just four years removed from the state semifinals.

Leander also made the playoffs a season ago, where it lost in the first round to San Antonio Madison. But six players return for the Lions from last year's team.

"We've got great leadership with those six returners and the newcomer Noah has a chance to be really special," Bradley said. "We've got a very unselfish group and that's how you have success if just be for team Leander."

TIMBERWOLVES from page A7

off five straight wins. After a lopsided loss at state-ranked Hutto, the Timberwolves beat Pflugerville and Manor to close out the regular season.

The Timberwolves had the second-best offense in the district, averaging 33.7 points per game, and the No. 3 defense, allowing just over 22 points each time out.

Largely considered to be one of the best districts in the state, now is the time for the lessons the Timberwolves learned during the season to pay off.

"In our district, they're going to get tested every week because of the offensive talent that's there," Abseck said. "We've gotten better as the year has progressed and we've adjusted to the personnel that we have and understand what they do well and fixing the thing we need to."

Sophomore quarterback Ryder Hernandez has thrown for 2,292 yards and touchdowns with four interceptions. Senior receiver Carson Neel has 1,100 yards and 11 touchdowns receiving and the rushing corps has a combined 1,175 yards and 11 scores.

But it's the vaunted 'Black Rain' defense that will be pressured on Friday night against the Panthers.

LBJ enters the playoffs averaging more than 54 points per game, tops in District 12-5A-DI, and it has won four games in a row. The Jaguars have scored 60 points in three of their last four games.

Their only defeat of the season was a 52-35 loss at Dripping Springs in which the Jaguars were snakebitten by turnovers.

"They score a lot of points this year and they haven't given up many either," Abseck said. "They're talented on offense and defensively with some really good athletes. They have some guys that play on both sides so they get can get stretched. But they're talented, no doubt."

Cedar Park has been synonymous with the playoffs, having made the postseason every year for the last decade. In each of the last two seasons, the Timberwolves have advanced to the third round.

This is the time of year when the Timberwolves can really hit their stride.

"This is why we do all the things you do from January to this point," Abseck said. "I



GREGG CESTARO

Cedar Park High School quarterback Ryder Hernandez (4) looks down field for receivers against Rouse High School at Gupton Stadium on September 28, 2019.

think the kids are all excited about starting the playoffs and getting an opportunity to go to the playoffs. Half the teams in Texas

would change places with you and for us, it's about having that laser-like focus. You don't get a chance for a bad day."

NASCAR THIS WEEK

The Daytona Beach News-Journal's Godwin Kelly & Ken Willis have covered NASCAR for nearly 60 years combined. godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

SPEED FREAKS

A few questions we had to ask ourselves

What's the best thing that could happen at Homestead?

GODSPEAK: Since this started in 2014, the champion has won the Homestead race. I'd like to see all four drivers have trouble, then one limp across the finish line trailing smoke.

KEN'S CALL: Easy. Someone attempts payback on Logano in the closing laps, Joey Logano escapes, but Kyle Busch gets caught up in it instead while leading. The fireworks would be better than the Fourth of July.

Among the non-contenders remaining, who should be most disappointed?

GODSPEAK: I'm giving my vote to Aric Almirola. There were people who thought he could not drive, and he took the No. 10 Ford to new heights.

KEN'S CALL: Maybe Kurt Busch, because he was so close, but in reality it has to be Chase Elliott, because he had it in high gear when November rolled around.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

KURT BUSCH VS. DENNY HAMLIN:

On a Lap 269 restart, Erik Jones, Hamlin and Busch bunched up, and Hamlin knocked Busch into the wall in tight racing quarters.

GODWIN KELLY'S TAKE: "I got loose and I chased it up the race track and (Busch) was right there," Hamlin said. "I flat-out got cleaned out," said Busch, who gave Hamlin's car a love tap after the incident.

GODWIN'S PICKS FOR HOMESTEAD

WINNER: Martin Truex Jr.

REST OF TOP 5: Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch, Joey Logano, Chase Elliott

FIRST ONE OUT: William Byron

DARK HORSE: Kyle Larson

DON'T BE SURPRISED IF: Truex closes out the legacy of the No. 78 Toyota by winning the race and the championship.

MOTOR MOUTHS PODCAST

Don't talk to us about a season finale. The podmasters have no offseason.

Tune in online at www.news-journalonline.com/daytonamotormouths



HOMESTEAD

THREE THINGS TO WATCH

1. Chess match

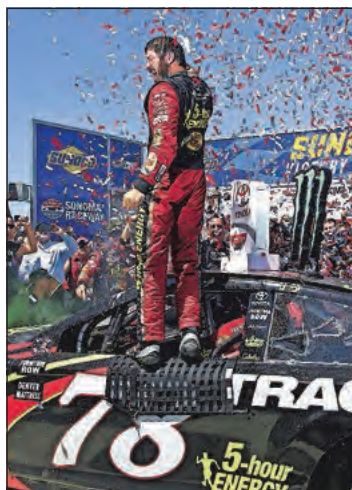
Look at the Championship Round at Homestead-Miami Speedway as more of a chess match than an auto race. The four eligible drivers are Kyle Busch, Martin Truex Jr., Kevin Harvick and Joey Logano. They will race heads-up for the Cup Series title. The highest finishing driver in this group will be crowned champion. Since the knockout playoffs started in 2014, the champion has won the race; likely again Sunday.

2. Three amigos

The "Big 3" made it through to the final dance. Busch, Truex and Harvick scored a combined 20 wins in the 35 races so far this season. Busch and Harvick are tied for most wins with eight each. Truex won four times, left several victories on the table and was taken out on the last lap as the leader twice during the playoffs. This will be the last run for the No. 78 Toyota, which is closing shop after Homestead.

3. No representation

For the second year in a row,



Martin Truex Jr. hopes to take the No. 78 Toyota to one last victory at Homestead. [AP/BEN MARGOT]

Chevrolet does not have a driver in the Championship Round. Chevy's last hope was Chase Elliott, who knocked himself out of contention at Phoenix when he was caught speeding on pit road. The Ford banner will be held by Harvick and Logano, while Toyota has Busch and Truex in the fight. "It's an unbelievable group," Truex said of his team. "One last hoorah."

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

PHOENIX

THREE THINGS WE LEARNED

1. 'Big 3' lives!

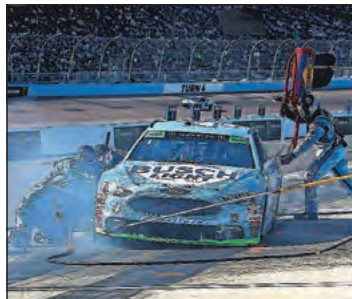
Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. were labeled the "Big 3" near midseason, and they stayed true to their nickname by qualifying for the Championship Round. Busch won at Phoenix, Harvick was fifth and Truex got through thanks to Harvick's 40-point penalty from Texas.

2. Billy the Kid

William Byron, who drives No. 24 Chevy this season, earned Cup Series Rookie of the Year honors. "There's been a lot of things to learn — how I've improved those things or how people have helped me improve those things ... looking forward to next year," he said.

3. Playoff pain

Tony Stewart felt the most



Kevin Harvick, who was penalized 40 points last week, is gassed up and ready for the Championship Round. [AP/RICK SCUTEN]

NASCAR playoff pain when three of his four cars failed to make the Championship Round. Stewart-Haas Racing drivers Kurt Busch, Aric Almirola and Clint Bowyer were all stumped in the Round of 8. "(My luck) just hasn't been very good," Bowyer said.

— Godwin Kelly, godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

QUESTIONS & ATTITUDE

Compelling questions ... and maybe a few actual answers

Will one of the Final Four win at Homestead yet again?

Since going to the current knockout system in 2014, that's what has happened, so you tend to think it's no accident. Chase Elliott is obviously capable, as is Kurt Busch, Ryan Blaney and a few others, including Denny Hamlin, who desperately wants to avoid a winless year. But assuming no one wants to be the guy who makes a mistake and dumps one of the Final Four in the late stages, let's assume the streak continues. The hunch here is Martin Truex Jr., by the way.

Really? Truex can give Furniture Row a going-away championship?

Of course he can, and it would be among the most bittersweet moments in NASCAR history. It would be great to see a guy like team owner Barney Visser rewarded for his devotion, but it'd also remind everyone that a championship team is folding because a championship team can't afford to race anymore due to lack of funding. Very odd stuff for the casual fan to digest.

— Ken Willis, ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

CUP STANDINGS

1. Joey Logano	5000
1. Kyle Busch	5000
1. Martin Truex Jr.	5000
1. Kevin Harvick	5000
5. Chase Elliott	2320
6. Kurt Busch	2318
7. Aric Almirola	2316
8. Brad Keselowski	2309
9. Ryan Blaney	2278
10. Kyle Larson	2256
11. Denny Hamlin	2252
12. Clint Bowyer	2242
13. Austin Dillon	2219
14. Jimmie Johnson	2217
15. Erik Jones	2207
16. Alex Bowman	2196
17. Ryan Newman	747
18. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	680
18. Paul Menard	680
20. Daniel Suarez	667

WHAT'S ON TAP

CUP SERIES: Ford EcoBoost 400

SITE: Homestead-Miami Speedway (1.5-mile oval)

TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (NBC Sports Network, 1 p.m.), qualifying (NBC Sports Network, 6 p.m.). Saturday, practice (NBC Sports Network, 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.). Sunday, race (NBC, coverage begins at 1:30 p.m.; green flag, 3:15 p.m.)

XFINITY: Ford EcoBoost 300

SITE: Homestead-Miami Speedway

TV SCHEDULE: Friday, practice (NBC Sports Network, 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.). Saturday, qualifying (NBC Sports Network, 12:30 p.m.), race (NBC Sports Network, 3:30 p.m.)

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS: Ford EcoBoost 200

SITE: Homestead-Miami Speedway

TV SCHEDULE: Friday, qualifying (Fox Sports 1, 3:30 p.m.), race (Fox Sports 1, 8 p.m.)



KEN WILLIS' TOP 10 NASCAR DRIVER RANKINGS

KYLE BUSCH Not the People's Choice	KEVIN HARVICK Spoiler alert!	MARTIN TRUEX JR. One more for the road?	JOEY LOGANO The "Big Three's" Ringo	ARIC ALMIROLA Career trajectory changed dramatically	CHASE ELLIOTT A different kind of disappointment	BRAD KESELOWSKI Joey's wingman at Homestead	KURT BUSCH Scouring the Want Ads	KYLE LARSON Too little, too late	ERIK JONES Among the 2019 favorites
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2018 SCHEDULE AND WINNERS

Feb. 11: Clash at Daytona (Brad Keselowski)
Feb. 15: Can-Am Duel at Daytona (Ryan Blaney and Chase Elliott)
Feb. 18: Daytona 500 (Austin Dillon)
Feb. 25: Folds of Honor 500 at Atlanta (Kevin Harvick)
March 4: Kobalt 400 at Las Vegas (Kevin Harvick)
March 11: Camping World 500(k) at Phoenix (Kevin Harvick)
March 18: Auto Club 400 at Fontana (Martin Truex Jr.)
March 26: STP 500 at Martinsville (Clint Bowyer)
April 8: O'Reilly Auto Parts 500 at Texas (Kyle Busch)
April 15: Food City 500 at Bristol (Kyle Busch)
April 21: Toyota Owners 400 at Richmond (Kyle Busch)
April 29: Geico 500 at Talladega (Joey Logano)

May 6: AAA 400 at Dover (Kevin Harvick)
May 12: Go Bowling 400 at Kansas (Kevin Harvick)
May 19: All-Star Race at Charlotte (Kevin Harvick)
May 27: Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte (Kyle Busch)
June 3: Pocono 400 (Martin Truex Jr.)
June 10: FireKeepers Casino 400 at Michigan (Clint Bowyer)
June 24: Toyota/Save Mart 350 at Sonoma (Martin Truex Jr.)
July 1: Chicago 400 at Chicagoland (Kyle Busch)
July 7: Coke Zero 400 at Daytona (Erik Jones)
July 14: Quaker State 400 at Kentucky (Martin Truex Jr.)
July 22: New Hampshire 301 (Kevin Harvick)
July 29: Pennsylvania 400 at Pocono (Kyle Busch)
Aug. 5: 355 at the Glen, at Watkins Glen (Chase Elliott)
Aug. 12: Pure Michigan 400 (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 18: Night Race at Bristol (Kurt Busch)
Sept. 2: Southern 500 at Darlington (Brad Keselowski)
Sept. 10: Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis (Brad Keselowski)
Sept. 16: Las Vegas 400 (Brad Keselowski)
Sept. 22: Federated Auto Parts 400 at Richmond (Kyle Busch)
Sept. 30: Bank of America 500(k) at Charlotte road course (Ryan Blaney)
Oct. 7: Delaware 400 at Dover (Chase Elliott)
Oct. 14: Alabama 500 at Talladega (Aric Almirola)
Oct. 21: Hollywood Casino 400 at Kansas (Chase Elliott)
Oct. 28: First Data 500 at Martinsville (Joey Logano)
Nov. 4: Texas 500 (Kevin Harvick)
Nov. 11: Can-Am 500(k) at Phoenix (Kyle Busch)
Nov. 18: Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead

THIS WEEK IN THE



STANDINGS Through Nov. 10

TEAM	CONF	ALL	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY
	W-L	W-L				
Oklahoma	6-1	9-1	490	298	6-0	3-0
West Virginia	6-1	8-1	368	188	5-0	2-1
Texas	5-2	7-3	332	275	4-1	2-1
Iowa State	5-2	6-3	243	184	4-1	2-2
Baylor	3-4	5-5	295	334	4-1	1-4

TEAM	CONF	ALL	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY
	W-L	W-L				
Texas Tech	3-4	5-5	418	317	3-3	2-1
TCU	2-5	4-6	249	260	3-2	1-3
Kansas State	2-5	4-6	211	257	4-2	0-4
Oklahoma State	2-5	5-5	392	317	4-2	1-3
Kansas	1-6	3-7	229	281	2-3	1-4

POWER RANKINGS Breaking down the Big 12



Last week: 1

1. Oklahoma (9-1, 6-1): Lack of a competent defense nearly cost the Sooners a shot at a Big 12 Championship and a shot at the College Football Playoff. Despite an historically good offense in the last two seasons, Lincoln Riley won't have a shot at winning anything of true value until he fixes the issues on the defensive side of the football.



Last week: 2

2. West Virginia (8-1, 6-1): The Mountaineers are on a collision course with Oklahoma and could possibly need to beat the Sooners in consecutive weeks to capture a conference championship. The loss to Iowa State isn't looking as bad with the Cyclones on a tear and wins over Oklahoma State and the Sooners will boost the resumé.



Last week: 3

3. Iowa State (6-3, 5-2): Iowa State rolled past Baylor to set up an important showdown in Austin with the Longhorns. A win for Iowa State keeps Matt Campbell's program in contention for a berth in the Big 12 Championship game, though they'll need to do so without the services of star running back David Montgomery for the first half of the game.



Last week: 4

4. Texas (7-3, 5-2): The Longhorns don't like easy. The win at Texas Tech was the first time the favorite covered in a Texas game all season. Translation: The Longhorns play to their competition. Iowa State presents a stern challenge and defensive coordinator Todd Orlando must figure out a way to stop the run. Quarterback Sam Ehlinger is the most improved player in the whole conference.



Last week: 5

5. Texas Tech (5-5, 3-4): The Red Raiders nearly pulled off a 17-point comeback against Texas with second-string quarterback Jett Duffey at the helm. The offense looked dangerously familiar. Unfortunately, so did the defense. The loss of true freshman quarterback Alan Bowman defined a promising season and now the Red Raiders are focused on bowl eligibility.



Last week: 6

6. Baylor (5-5, 3-4): Quarterback Charlie Brewer threw for 288 yards and rushed for 72 in the loss to Iowa State. Not much else went right for the Bears. Tangible achievement would be reached for Matt Rhule and his program with a win over TCU this week because it would make the Bears bowl eligible a year removed from a disastrous first season.



Last week: 7

7. Oklahoma State (5-5, 2-5): Mike Gundy made the right call when the Cowboys tried a two-point conversion at Oklahoma. It just didn't work. Oklahoma State is better than its conference record suggests and can earn another signature win at home when it hosts West Virginia on Saturday.



Last week: 8

8. TCU (4-6, 2-5): The Horned Frogs can salvage a disappointing season with wins to close out the season against Baylor and Oklahoma State. The quarterback issue was too much for Gary Patterson and the Horned Frogs to overcome in 2018. The offense should be better with the amount of talent at the TCU skill positions.



Last week: 9

9. Kansas State (4-6, 2-5): It's shocking how sloppy Kansas State is on defense and special teams. Bill Snyder doesn't always possess talent, but he usually demands discipline. Not much is going right in the Little Apple except that the Wildcats aren't Kansas.



Last week: 10

10. Kansas (3-7, 1-6): It is basketball season.

GAME OF THE WEEK NO. 18 IOWA STATE (6-3, 5-2) AT NO. 13 TEXAS (7-3, 5-2)

When: 7 p.m. CDT Saturday **Where:** Royal Memorial Stadium, Austin, Texas **TV:** Longhorn Network



Baylor cornerback Raleigh Texada, left, tackles Iowa State wide receiver Matthew Eaton on Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

[MATTHEW PUTNEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

SEND IN THE 'CLONES

IOWA STATE COMES TO AUSTIN AS ONE OF BIG 12'S HOTTEST TEAMS

KEYS FOR TEXAS

Play four quarters: Texas is improved in year two under head coach Tom Herman. The next step for the Longhorns is to find a killer instinct, whether it be slow starts in Stillwater or close calls against Oklahoma and Texas Tech. Football is a four-quarter football game and it'll take 60 minutes of effort to beat a disciplined, tough Iowa State squad.

Win the turnover battle: Texas' success depends on controlling the football on offense and forcing timely turnovers on defense. That's the margin of error for the Longhorns in their current state. Texas simply isn't good

enough to win without playing mistake-free football.

KEYS FOR IOWA STATE

Weather the storm: Iowa State's chances of beating Texas in Austin were hurt last week when star running back David Montgomery was involved in an on-field fight that resulted in an ejection and a suspension for the first half against the Longhorns. Iowa State can't enter the locker room at halftime down double digits or the return of Montgomery won't matter as much.

Create doubt: Texas is prone to lose confidence when things go bad. Iowa State needs to create doubt against a fragile Longhorns defense

and put the pressure on Ehlinger and the Texas to play another perfect game without interceptions or turnovers.

PREDICTION

Texas 38, Iowa State 35: This could turn into a good ole-fashioned Big 12 night game if the quarterbacks are in rhythm in the first quarter. Montgomery's absence likely forces the Cyclones to rely on quarterback Brock Purdy early and that could prove a blessing in disguise against a wounded Texas defense. The Longhorns play their best against quality opponents and Texas finds a way to win late because of the offense.

BEST OF THE REST

This weekend's other top conference games (all times CST)

NO. 7 WEST VIRGINIA (8-1, 6-1) AT OKLAHOMA STATE (5-5)

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Boone Pickens Stadium, Stillwater (Okla.)
TV: ABC

Notes: Stillwater is a dangerous place to play and Mike Gundy's squad was a two-point conversion away from ruining Oklahoma's chance at a berth in the College Football Playoff. The same stakes are on the line for West Virginia on Saturday afternoon.

TEXAS TECH (5-5) AT KANSAS STATE (4-6)

When: 2:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Bill Snyder Family Stadium, Manhattan (Kan.)
TV: ESPNU

Notes: Texas Tech showed grit in a loss against Texas, nearly completing a 17-point comeback in the fourth quarter. The defense is still an issue for the Red Raiders. The good news for Kliff Kingsbury and his squad is that Kansas State is a weak offensive squad.

TCU (4-6) AT BAYLOR (5-5)

When: 11 a.m. Saturday
Where: McLane Stadium, Waco
TV: FS1

Notes: Remember when this game meant something more than bowl eligibility? Both teams are coming off losses and need wins to salvage poor seasons. At least Baylor is on an upward trajectory and know what the future is at quarterback. That's not true for the Horned Frogs. The Bears should be motivated at home against a rival with a bowl berth on the line.

BY THE NUMBERS

Big 12 individual statistical leaders through Nov. 10



PASSING YARDS
Player Yds.
T. Cornelius, OKST 3,123
Kylar Murray, OKLA 3,038
Will Grier, WVU 2,961
Alan Bowman, TTU 2,638
Sam Ehlinger, TEX 2,483



PASSING TOUCHDOWNS
Player No.
Kylar Murray, OKLA 32
Will Grier, WVU 31
Taylor Cornelius, OKST 23
Sam Ehlinger, TEX 20
Alan Bowman, TTU 17



RUSHING YARDS
Player Yds.
Alex Barnes, KSU 1,035
Justice Hill, OKST 930
Trey Sermon, OKLA 846
Pooka Williams Jr., KU 770
David Montgomery, ISU 765



RECEIVING YARDS
Player Yds.
Antoine Wesley, TTU 1,347
Tylan Wallace, OKST 1,272
Marquise Brown, OKLA 956
L. Humphrey, TEX 947
Jalen Reagor, TCU 884

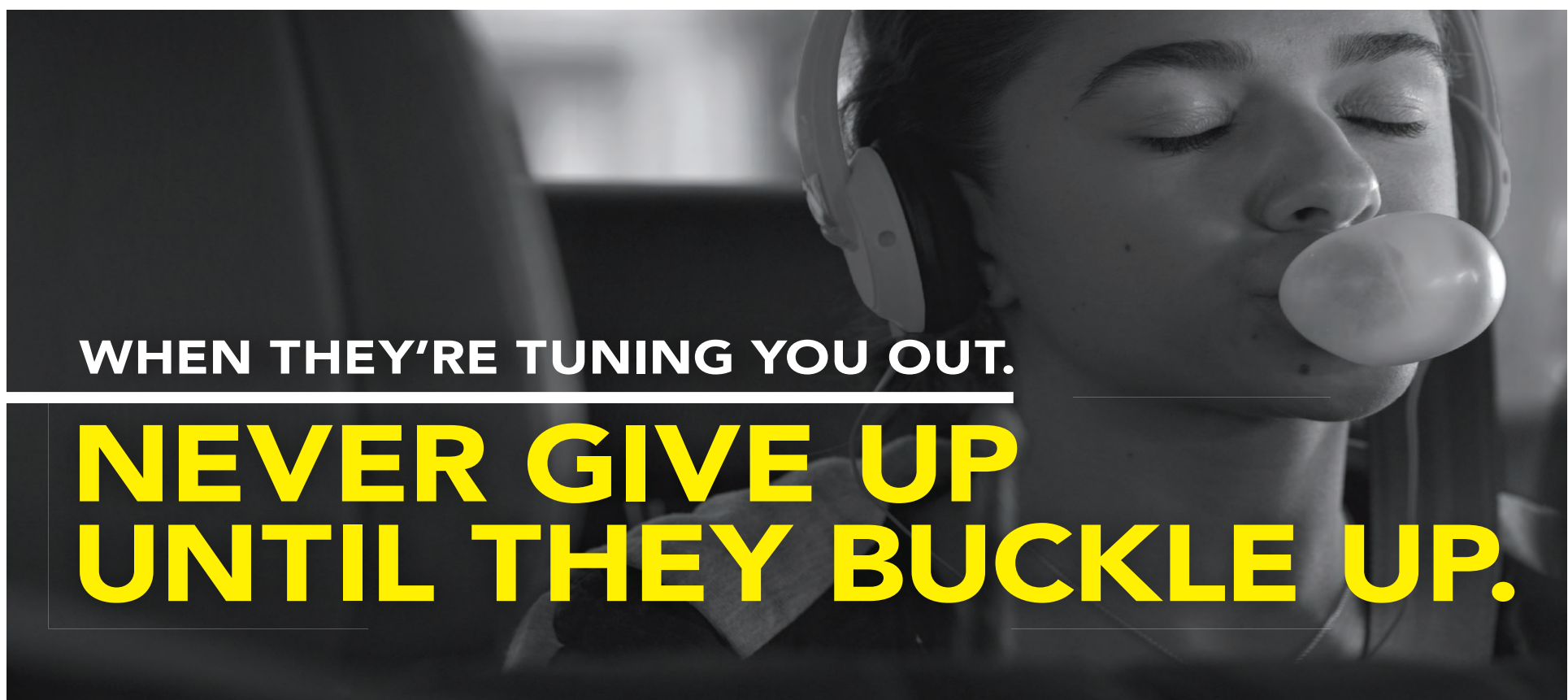


SCORING
Player Pts.
A. Seibert, PK, OKLA 97
C. Hatfield, PK, TTU 94
M. Ammendola, PK, OKST 86
C. Dicker, PK, TEX 82
Evan Staley, PK, WVU 76

ROUNDING IT OUT

This weekend's other games

SATURDAY	Time (CT)	Matchup	TV
6:30 p.m.		Kansas at #6 Oklahoma	FOX



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THIS WEEK IN THE



STANDINGS Through Nov. 10

EAST TEAM	CONF W-L	ALL W-L	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY	WEST TEAM	CONF W-L	ALL W-L	PF	PA	HOME	AWAY
Georgia	7-1	9-1	370	158	5-0	3-1	Alabama	7-0	10-0	486	127	5-0	4-0
Kentucky	5-3	7-3	229	162	5-1	2-2	LSU	5-2	8-2	267	167	5-1	2-1
Florida	5-3	7-3	310	221	4-2	3-0	Texas A&M	4-3	6-4	301	224	4-1	1-3
South Carolina	4-4	5-4	279	258	3-2	2-2	Auburn	3-4	6-4	265	183	4-2	1-2
Missouri	2-4	6-4	355	276	4-2	2-2	Mississippi State	2-4	6-4	262	135	5-1	1-3
Tennessee	2-4	5-5	243	247	4-2	1-2	Ole Miss	1-5	5-5	375	363	3-3	1-2
Vanderbilt	1-5	4-6	258	259	3-2	1-4	Arkansas	0-6	2-8	254	327	2-5	0-2

GAME OF THE WEEK MISSOURI (6-4) AT TENNESSEE (5-5)

When: 3:30 p.m. EST Saturday **Where:** Neyland Stadium, Knoxville, Tenn. **TV:** CBS



CHECKERED FUTURE

VOLUNTEERS HAVE CHANCE TO BUILD MOMENTUM FOR 2019 WITH BOWL BERTH

KEYS FOR MISSOURI

Turn Locke loose: The Tigers have won three of their last four, with a one-point loss to Kentucky as the only blemish. Quarterback Drew Locke has an NFL arm and averages 265 passing yards per game with 21 touchdowns. Missouri needs to attack Tennessee's secondary.

Stop big plays: Tennessee is at its best when it gets yards in big chunks. Missouri's defense has been vulnerable to explosive plays by opposing offenses, giving up 54 plays of 20 yards or

more, second-worst in the SEC. The Tigers need to keep the ball in front of them.

KEYS FOR TENNESSEE

Protect Jarrett Guarantano: Missouri's defense has produced 17 sacks. Tennessee has given up 19. Giving quarterback Guarantano time to look downfield should be a big priority for the Volunteers, as he is far more effective when not pressured.

Win the turnover battle: Tennessee is plus-two in turnover margin. Missouri is minus-three. Playing at home,

the Vols can hold momentum by creating some takeaway opportunities, be it fumble recoveries or interceptions.

PREDICTION

Tennessee 20, Missouri 17: Missouri is already bowl-eligible. Tennessee can get there with a victory here, and is coming off an important win over Kentucky. First-year coach Jeremy Pruitt seems to have things on an upward swing, but both teams are playing better now than earlier in the season.

BEST OF THE REST This weekend's other top conference games (all times EST)

ARKANSAS (2-8, 0-6) AT NO. 25 MISSISSIPPI STATE (6-4, 2-4)
When: Noon Saturday
Where: Starkville, Miss.
TV: ESPN
Notes: By the standards Alabama has set this season, Mississippi State gave the Tide one of their toughest games of the season. Likewise, Arkansas played one of its best games of the seasons in a seven-point loss to LSU. Maybe the Razorbacks can take advantage of Mississippi State still looking a week into the future (Ole Miss).

UAB (9-1, 7-0 C-USA) AT TEXAS A&M (6-4, 4-3)
When: 7 p.m. Saturday
Where: College Station, Texas
TV: ESPN 2
Notes: Of all the "cupcake" games around the SEC this week, this is one that may be misclassified. The Blazers have rolled to the Conference USA West title and actually cracked the Top-25 Coaches Poll this week. The Aggies can't look ahead to LSU, they actually have to come to play.

OLE MISS (5-5, 1-5) AT VANDERBILT (4-6, 1-5)
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Nashville, Tenn.
TV: SEC Network
Notes: This is a game more about bowl eligibility than anything else. The Commodores must win to keep its hopes of reaching a bowl alive while the Rebels would like to go ahead and lock its bowl eligibility in ahead of Thanksgiving night's Egg Bowl.

BY THE NUMBERS SEC individual statistical leaders through Nov. 10



PASSING YARDS
Player **Yds.**
 Jordan Ta'amu, MISS 3,374
Drew Lock, MIZ 2,647
 Tua Tagovailoa, ALA 2,525
 Kellen Mond, TA&M 2,488
 Kyle Shurmur, VAN 2,286



PASSING TOUCHDOWNS
Player **No.**
Tua Tagovailoa, ALA 28
 Drew Lock, MIZ 21
 Jake Fromm, UGA 19
 Several tied at ... 17



RUSHING YARDS
Player **Yds.**
 T. Williams, TA&M 1,159
Benny Snell Jr., UK 1,089
 Scottie Phillips, MISS 927
 Ke'Shawn Vaughn, VAN 849
 Nick Fitzgerald, MSST 816



RECEIVING YARDS
Player **Yds.**
 A.J. Brown, MISS 1047
 Jerry Jeudy, ALA 925
 Kalijah Lipscomb, VAN 731
 DaMarkus Lodge, MISS 706
Justin Jefferson, LSU 669



SCORING
Player **Pts.**
 R. Blankenship, PK, UGA 94
 Cole Tracy, PK, LSU 93
 Tucker McCann, PK, MIZ 92
Luke Logan, PK, MISS 91
 S. Phillips, RB, MISS 84

POWER RANKINGS Breaking down the SEC



Last week: 1

1. Alabama (10-0): The Citadel will fight hard but this week isn't the spot for an upset, even if Quinnen Williams plays quarterback for UA.



Last week: 2

2. Georgia (9-1): The Bulldogs seem to have hit their stride, and it's not just that wobbly-but-cute stride that most Bulldogs have.



Last week: 3

3. LSU (8-2): The jokes about Rice playing at LSU ("Put it in the gumbo!") are the best thing about this matchup.



Last week: 5

4. Mississippi State (6-4): MSU learned in Tuscaloosa last Saturday that when it comes to artificial noisemakers, the whistle is mightier than the cowbell.



Last week: 8

5. Missouri (6-4): What? Who? Mizzou? Look at this way: no one from here down is consistent, but the Tigers are at least entertaining.



Last week: 4

6. Auburn (6-4): The Tigers are now third in the SEC Tiger rankings. If Tiger Woods played SEC golf, they'd be even lower.



Last week: 7

7. Texas A&M (6-4): Jimbo couldn't go 0-for-Alabama, could he? To be sure, he better pay attention to UAB.



Last week: 9

8. Florida (7-3): The Gators' current coach beat UF's ex-coach. Gator QB Feleipe Franks shushed his own home crowd. That's a full weekend.



Last week: 6

9. Kentucky (7-3): The fleeting promise of football glory proved illusory. In other words, you lost to Tennessee.



Last week: 10

10. South Carolina (5-4): Why did the chicken cross the road? Because you've got to cross Graymont Avenue to get to the Birmingham Bowl.



Last week: 12

11. Tennessee (5-5): For the second time this season, UT beat a ranked opponent last Saturday. That's more than anyone expected in Pruitt Year 1.



Last week: 11

12. Ole Miss (5-5): There just aren't enough warm bodies for the Rebels to play 60 minutes of defense.



Last week: 13

13. Vanderbilt (4-6): The Commodores let a game slip away at Missouri, and put their .500 season at risk.



Last week: 14

14. Arkansas (2-8): The best thing that happened for Hog fans this week was the firing of Bobby Petrino at Louisville with a far less colorful story than he had in Fayetteville.

PLAYER TO WATCH

Trayveon Williams, RB, TA&M: Had 31 rushes for 228 yards and a touchdown in a 38-24 victory over Ole Miss.



ROUNDING IT OUT This weekend's other games

SATURDAY

Time (ET)	Matchup	TV
Noon	Idaho at #15 Florida	ESPNU
Noon	Middle Tenn. at #20 Kentucky	SEC Network
Noon	The Citadel at #1 Alabama	SEC Network
4 p.m.	Liberty at Auburn	SEC Network
4 p.m.	UMass at #5 Georgia	SEC Network
7:30 PM	Chattanooga at South Carolina	SEC Network
7:30 PM	Rice at #10 LSU	ESPNU





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Employment Opportunity, Leander Police Department, Animal Services Officer I. The annual salary is \$33,654.40 plus benefits. Full details of general duties, minimum qualifications, selection process, personal history statement are available on the web at <https://www.leandertx.gov/police/page/recruiting-employment> or at the police department, 705 Leander Drive, Leander, TX 78641. Applications are now accepted online through [governmentjobs.com](https://www.governmentjobs.com). Application deadline is December 14, 2018 at Noon. EOE.

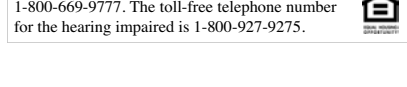
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RFP # 18CRH0002
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The solicitation may be obtained through LISD's online procurement system, BID-EZ, at <https://bid-ez.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>. Proposals are to be submitted electronically in BID-EZ no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 4, 2018. Visit www.leanderisd.org/purchasing for additional information on doing business with LISD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On November 1, 2018 the City Council of the City of Lago Vista, Texas passed and approved the following ordinances:

Ordinance No. 18-11-01-01
 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lago Vista, Texas, amending the Official Zoning Map by rezoning Lot 5 less the eastern twenty feet of Block G, Section 2 of the Lago Vista Estates Subdivision known as 6304 Lohman Ford Road from the C-1c Professional, Business Office, Low Density Retail Zoning District to the C-2 Commercial, Large Scale Zoning District; and providing for related matters

Ordinance No. 18-11-01-02
 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lago Vista, Texas, amending Sections 3.106, 3.107, 3.108 and 3.109 of Chapter 3 of the Lago Vista Code of Ordinances, to update various Standard Building Codes to a recent version; and providing for related matters

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT OF ORDER ADOPTING RULES GOVERNING WATER, WASTEWATER AND DRAINAGE SERVICES AND REGULATING PRIVILEGES ON LAND AND EASEMENTS OWNED BY THE DISTRICT

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF THE BLOCK HOUSE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT AND TO ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Block House Municipal Utility District (the "District") has amended its Order Adopting Rules Governing Water, Wastewater and Drainage Services and Regulating Privileges on Land and Easements Owned by the District (the "Revised Rules") to revise the penalty for meter tampering or unmetered or unauthorized connection to the District's water, wastewater and drainage systems (the "District's Systems"). Any party who tampers with a District meter or takes water from an unmetered or unauthorized connection to the District's Systems will be subject to a penalty in the amount of \$500 for the first violation, \$1,000 for the second violation, and \$1,500 for the third violation and each subsequent violation, in addition to a charge for service at three times the District's standard rate and costs. Each day during which the meter tampering or unauthorized connection continues will constitute a separate violation.

The full text of the Revised Rules is on file in the principal office of the District, where it may be read by any interested persons.

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BANDS from page A1

state's largest schools. Cedar Park High School won last year's 5A contest.

"It's pretty surreal," said Vista Ridge Band Director Bryan Christian after returning from San Antonio. "In this activity, nobody 'beats' anybody else. It's not a head-to-head competition. We're awarded points based on people's opinions of what achieving excellence is. In our activity, bands are very supportive of each other and acknowledge each other's excellence. Even though we're competitors, we're also supporters."

Vandegrift High School placed third while Leander High School came in fifth at the UIL competition.

Vista Ridge, Leander and Vandegrift also earned fourth, sixth and seventh places respectively, at the Bands of America Super Regional Championship on Nov. 3, also held in San Antonio.

"We've always been the ones that were really close," said Christian. "We were bronze medalists in 4A back in 2013 and we were 4th place in 5A in 2014... it was really a surprise. We knew that what we were doing was really

good. We knew that the kids were performing really well, we knew they sounded great, we knew they looked great and that the show was doing well. We didn't realize how well it was being received. It touched hearts in a visceral way and even some of the judges admitted on their tape that they became emotional... to know that the show we designed and put together came to fruition and evolved... the finished product was completely unique."

VRHS seniors Alli Bellows, Alice Palmieri and Gray Beasley shared their favorite moments and memories of the past season.

"It was a lot to take in at first," said Bellows, a french horn player. "I think by far, I loved building relationships within our program. I don't think the most important thing was the place that we got or that we became the champions, it was awesome being able to impact so many people with what we were able to do for them or their lives in the end."

"I think the best part of this season for me was looking out at the crowd after we finished performing because I've found this year that there are very few things you get to do in life



KAYLA BOUCHARD

From left to right: VRHS band director Bryan Christian, drum major Alice Palmieri, trombonist Gray Beasley and french horn player Alli Bellows stand together after coming home from UIL championships. This is the first time in 20 years that VRHS has secured first place.



PAUL KNIGHT

The Vista Ridge High School Band won its first state title at the 6A level at the UIL State Marching Band Championships last week.

where you get a reaction like that," said trombonist Beasley. "Our director tells us we may not be able to save a life but we can change one and to see that change is really special."

"I was really happy with seeing the growth that happened, not only as an ensemble but as individuals," said drum major Palmieri. "I saw so many people change in so many radical ways it was really cool to see how they improved not only musically but in their humanness and their character and personality just got heightened. Everything grew in so many ways."

Rouse High School finished as the Class AA champion, sweeping the Outstanding Music Performance, Outstanding Visual Performance and Outstanding General Effect awards, while Cedar Park High School took third place in Class AAA.

The district's 6A high schools also performed at the UIL State Marching Band Contest on Nov. 5, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, with all three bands making it to the final round.

LISD MARCHING BANDS AT UIL STATE

- 2017**
 — Cedar Park High School, 5A 1st Place
 — Rouse High School, 5A Finalist (9th Place)
- 2016**
 — Vandegrift High School, 6A Finalist (4th Place)
 — Leander High School, 6A Finalist (7th Place)
- 2015**
 — Cedar Park High School, 5A 1st Place
 — Vandegrift High School, 5A 2nd Place
 — Leander High School, 5A 3rd Place
 — Vista Ridge High School, 5A Finalist (4th Place)
- 2013**
 — Vandegrift High School, 4A 1st Place
 — Cedar Park High School, 4A 2nd Place
 — Vista Ridge High School, 4A 3rd Place

CONSTRUCTION from page A1

switches for construction phasing, it is best to not place the final layer of asphalt on the road. Crews would be continuously grinding or blacking out temporary striping in temporary detour areas that would reflect at night or in the rain and cause confusion to drivers. However, we have now opened the outside eastbound lane which should eliminate the manhole issues."

The extension expands New Hope Drive from two to four lanes from Cottonwood Creek Trail, just east of the 183A toll road to CR 180 and from CR 180 to Ronald Reagan Boulevard. The project will construct a

raised median, a 10 foot shared use path along southern side of the roadway, street lighting, a signal at the Ronald Reagan intersection and new water and wastewater lines.

"The road had to be opened to traffic in order to allow for construction of the future westbound lanes between the Arrow Point Drive connection and Cottonwood Creek Trail," added Huerta. "This lane was closed for a week or so to finalize some work on drainage inlets to ensure that this lane would not flood without the last lift of asphalt as well as to finalize a few concrete

pours that needed to be made from the outside lane. These pours were postponed due to the weather also but have since been finalized."

The \$7.8 million was funded by 2015 general obligation bonds. Design and right of way acquisition for the second portion came at a cost of \$5 million, also funded by 2015 general obligation bonds.

"Prior to the project, traffic heading east would take a sharp curve and meander through the Spanish Oaks Estates neighborhood on CR 180 to get to Ronald Reagan Boulevard," Huerta said. "Due to construc-

tion, traffic entering this neighborhood now has to enter further east through Old CR 180 due to some offsite improvements that are planned with the construction of a cul-de-sac in this neighborhood on CR 180 and intersection improvements at CR 180 and Old CR 180. There were a number anticipated rain days built into the project schedule, and the project is slated for completion in early 2019. We understand how frustrating construction projects can be and appreciate everyone's ongoing patience as crews continue moving through this phase of the project."

COUNCIL from page A1

speed limits when we're looking at site development permits."

Driver spacing is defined as a certain amount of distance a driver keeps between themselves and the car in front of them that allows them to easily maneuver in any condition.

City documents state, "The purpose of this section is to protect the public health, safety and welfare through providing the highest level of mobility in order to carry substantial amounts of traffic over relatively long distances. According to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Access Management Manual, more than four decades of research conducted throughout the United States has shown that access management improves roadway safety. Studies cited by the TxDOT manual show that the number of accidents rise by approximately 50 percent when access points are increased from one

per every 528 feet to one per every 200 feet.

The access spacing criteria from the manual that would apply to arterial roadways is as follows. The ordinance amendment also includes provisions that would allow access for smaller, existing tracts of land.

A decision on the ordinance is on the agenda for the Leander City Council's Nov. 15 meeting.



SCOTT W. COLEMAN/HCN FILE

The City of Leander is considering changes to regulations that could free up traffic near high-traffic roadways.

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GRIZZLIES from page A7



Glenn High School running back Rondrick Stubblefield (11) finds an opening against Brenham High School at Bible Stadium, Leander, Texas on November 2, 2018.

The Panthers run the ball twice as much as they pass it, averaging 238.3 rushing yards per game compared to 134.9 yards through the air. They've rushed for 2,383 yards and 33 touchdowns this season.

Medina Valley junior James Gipson has rushed for 1,172 yards and 18 touchdowns and has six games with at least 100 rushing yards on the year. He rushed for 137 yards and two touchdowns in the Panthers' regular-season finale.

Medina Valley enters the playoffs on a two-game losing streak, falling to Alamo Heights and undefeated district champion Tivy — both playoff teams — in the

last two weeks of the regular season.

Schoenfeld coached against the Panthers when he was in the San Antonio district. Even though they have different people and different coaches now, the standards of the community and the expectations of Medina Valley hasn't changed.

He expects the Grizzlies to stay focused.

"The mindset is that we've got to prepare in a great fashion every day to get ready to give us an opportunity to compete," Schoenfeld said. "I know I say it every week and it sounds cliché, but that's how things work in the playoffs."

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