

Parkland College

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Prospectus 2016

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Prospectus, December 7, 2016

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Campus |
Cobra BasketballMen's and women's
teams fighting hard
this season

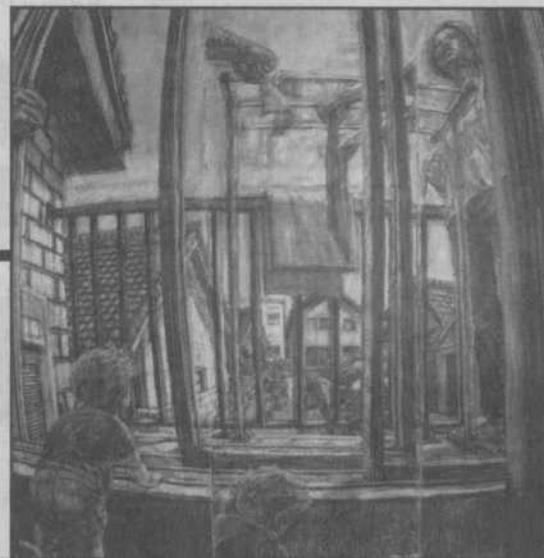
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Eight Parkland faculty face non-renewal of contracts



Photo provided by Matt Moss | The Prospectus

On Nov. 19, humanities instructor Rochelle Harden (left) and Vice President of Academic Services Pam Lau (right) speak with Tracy Dace (center) after hearing the Parkland Board of Trustees decide not to renew his and seven other non-tenured faculty members' contracts for the next academic year.

Matt Moss
Staff Writer

Just a few hours short of midnight on Nov. 16, the Parkland Board of Trustees made the decision to not renew the contracts of eight full-time, non-tenured faculty members in the hope of helping to relieve the strain placed on Parkland's funding by the state budget crisis.

The meeting where the decision was reached was open to the public, aside from

a half-hour closed-door session when the discussion on whether or not to enact the non-renewal-of-contracts was held; the board said bylaws prevent them from discussing the sort of faculty matters that were addressed then in public.

Some of the speakers at the trustees' meeting argued to postpone the decision until February, an idea that Board Chairman Dana Trimble said they would "take into consideration."

Nonetheless, the decision was made later that night.

A 6-1 vote saw the non-renewals approved by the board. Former Congressman Tim Johnson was the only 'nay' vote, and Crystal Bates, the board's student trustee, was required to sit out of the closed-door meeting and abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest, in that she worked for one of the faculty members whose future at Parkland would be decided by the

vote. Trustee Donna Giertz, who voted 'yea,' said that she did so "with deep regret." Earlier in the meeting, she expressed dissatisfaction with that the crux of the matter is Illinois' inability to pass a budget resolution and get an ample flow of money back to state colleges and universities.

"So, we have to make the tough decisions because of Springfield's failures?" Giertz said.

The names and positions of said faculty

members are as follows: Yelda Aydin-Mullen, mathematics instructor; Emily Buhrenkempe, mathematics instructor; Tracy Dace, developmental reading faculty fellow; Kristina Engberg, music instructor; Jason Keist, sociology and social work instructor; Vance Martin, instructional designer; Daniel Ryan, instructor of first-year experience; and Nathan Stewart, communications faculty fellow.

SEE CONTRACTS PAGE 3

Giertz Gallery exhibition highlights the art in drawing

Emma Gray
Staff Writer

The 2016 State of the Art: Drawing Invitational, put together as a challenge to conventional ideas that drawings cannot be good enough to be final drafts, is and of themselves, is being held in Parkland's Giertz Gallery through Feb. 4.

It contains works from 11 different artists. Most of the

drawings are done in charcoal on paper or canvas and include discerning attention to detail.

The exhibition is based off a 2014 show titled "Shades: Contending Drawings" held at the University of South Dakota, which was curated by USD art instructor Phillip Michael Hook—whom his work featured at the Drawing Invitational.

"I consider this exhibition to be

something of a dedication to and underlying themes I started thinking about at that time, inspired by Hook's vision," said the Parkland exhibition curator Shelby Shadwell, associate professor of art at the University of Michigan.

The first piece when you walk into the gallery is Susan D'Amato's "Aevum." It is what appears to be a super zoomed in image of the

palm of someone's hand, with every subtle crease outlined. It is made with charcoal and pastel on a digital print.

Further into the gallery, viewers can find "Reclamation" by Christopher Ganz, a charcoal drawing of an old cathedral. It exhibits high arches and large windows, with light streaming in. Moon phases are drawn over the ceiling of the building. It captures a certain elegance

not often expected in charcoal drawings.

Another aspect of the pieces chosen that Shadwell admires is their ability to turn small, ordinary things into breathtaking displays.

"The artists take something as lowly and common as dirt and transcend the materials to communicate a sense of our shared humanity," he explains.

"Pollen" by John

SEE GIERTZ PAGE 2

**HUMANS
OF PARKLAND**
Destiny NorrisPhoto by Scott Wells |
The Prospectus**Scott Wells**
Staff Writer

Sophomore Destiny Norris knew from a young age that her heart was in the arts. She often found herself questioning her artistic abilities, however, all the way up to the minute she first registered for classes.

"I knew that I had to pursue a degree in art," she said. "But, I never felt like I had the skill set that I needed."

Norris, the youngest of four siblings, grew up in Champaign, though she was born in Texas. Her mother hails from California and her father from Missouri.

"We're a bit of a mixed bag," she said.

Norris graduated from Centennial High School, where she was a part of both the theater department and the soccer team, before coming to Parkland.

She remembers the time she first sat down with her counselor as though it was yesterday.

"It was one of the scariest and last-minute decisions I've probably ever made; I was so afraid that I would be inadequate, so much so that I didn't make the decision of what I would major in until I was sitting in a counselor's office," she said. "I think I said something like, 'I guess I'll do art and design. That sounds pretty good.'" While Norris has an eye on entering the world of fashion, she also finds her creative inspiration everywhere.

"I love-love-love color," she said. "I love beautiful things. I love texture and simplified images. There's so much out there."

Her creative influences traverse from the classical to the modern day artists.

"I absolutely love Caravaggio and

SEE HUMANS PAGE 2

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CAMPUS

Cobra basketball teams fighting hard in 2016-17 season

Peter Floess
Staff Writer

Parkland men's and women's basketball teams feel like they have potential for a great season this winter, with both teams working to correct any defensive shortcomings and capitalize on their potential.

"We have a ton of potential," says women's team shooting guard and sophomore Taylor Jordan. She says the team has not played at its full strength yet, "but we are definitely on our way there."

Women's basketball Assistant Coach Bill Dobrik feels the same way about the season as Jordan does.

"We have a unique collection of players this year that gives us great potential to achieve at a high level," Dobrik said. He says he is "curious and looking forward to seeing how they grow throughout this season and if they have the desire and hunger to reach that potential and be a

team that can get back to the national tournament."

His analysis places this season's team as being effective on the offense, while perhaps needing some more TLC regarding its defensive abilities.

This year's team is "probably more dynamic offensively, in the fact that everybody who steps on the floor is capable of being a legitimate scoring weapon, which certainly makes it tougher for opponents to defend," he said. "However, on the flip side, we don't yet have quite the same attention to detail and a desire to be great on the defensive end that we had last year that allowed us to come out of close games with a victory."

Director of Parkland's athletics, Rod Lovett, says the women's team could build up a winning streak, even before the winter break begins. He says they tend "to get better as the season progresses and I anticipate the same with

this team once everyone gets comfortable with their roles and responsibilities."

The Parkland men's team is waging their own campaign toward victory this season.

"Our season is going well right now," says point guard and sophomore player Terrion Howard.

At the same time, he says the team must work to improve its defense if it intends to fight its way to season victory.

"I believe the sky is the limit for us and I think we could go far if we correct those little [defensive] mistakes."

Forward shooting guard and sophomore Cornelius McIntosh agrees with Howard.

McIntosh believes the team has a lot of room to improve.

"As a team we are nowhere near our full potential," McIntosh said. "Although it is still early on in the season, we still have adjustments to make if we want to maximize our potential and go far this

season."

While forward guard and sophomore Grant Gibson feels the same as McIntosh in that his team is always capable of getting better and better, he says he and fellow players make for an already-solid team. He is convinced as long as the team shares the ball and plays better defense, they will have a successful season.

Coach Anthony Figueroa says Cobra men's basketball is a veteran team with many "leading" players.

"This year our team is mainly sophomores," Figueroa said. "This year we have a lot of depth and multiple guys capable of leading us each game."

He is anxious to gauge how the team's seven returning sophomore players "handle the success we had last year finishing sixth at the national tournament and how they can build on it to be better this year."

All the games on the

schedule are going to be hard-fought, Figueroa predicts.

"As always our region is really good, so all of our conference and region games are so important," he said.

He urges the Parkland community to grant what he feels much-deserved support to the college's basketball program.

Lovett, like he believes of the women's team, anticipates a strong season for the men's team. As of now, both teams boast positive records for 2016-17.

The rosters, schedules, and season records for both teams can be found online at parkland.edu/athletics under their respective pages on the site. Links to the team's pages—as well as the pages of Parkland's other sports teams—are on the left-hand side of the page in a box titled "Cobra Teams."

FROM PAGE 1

GIERTZ

Sabraw certainly does this. It is a very large charcoal-on-canvas image of a pollen spore.

It, along with another image, "Stem Cell" also by John Sabraw, takes the viewer into the world of microbiology and what it would be like to be the size of a single cell. Each piece shows a mastery of detail and depth, with both showing the uneven surfaces of their chosen specimens.

Shadwell states art can be measured by the experience it brings to the viewer.

"I started with an assumption that, to the extent it can be observed, quality in visual art, including drawing, consists of the creation of objects that inspire a sense of awe and wonder through their expressed form and content," he said.

Christopher Troutman's works provoke this sense of wonder as they transport the viewer to another place and time—a place where men sit on a stairwell before work in his piece "Business Trip," or one where kids look

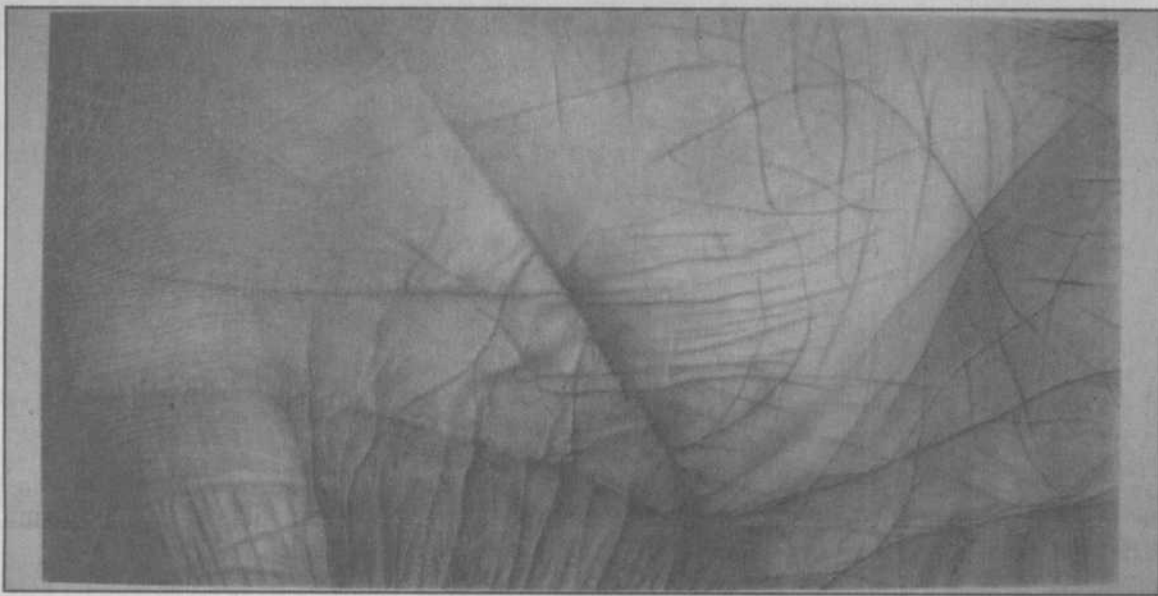
out from a balcony onto an industrial age world in the piece "Tarobul View." Both of these pieces were made with dark, thick lines of charcoal on paper.

Another notable image is a small drawing of a plastic take-out bag floating in the ether. It was done by Jeremy Plunkett in 2016 and is titled "Thank You."

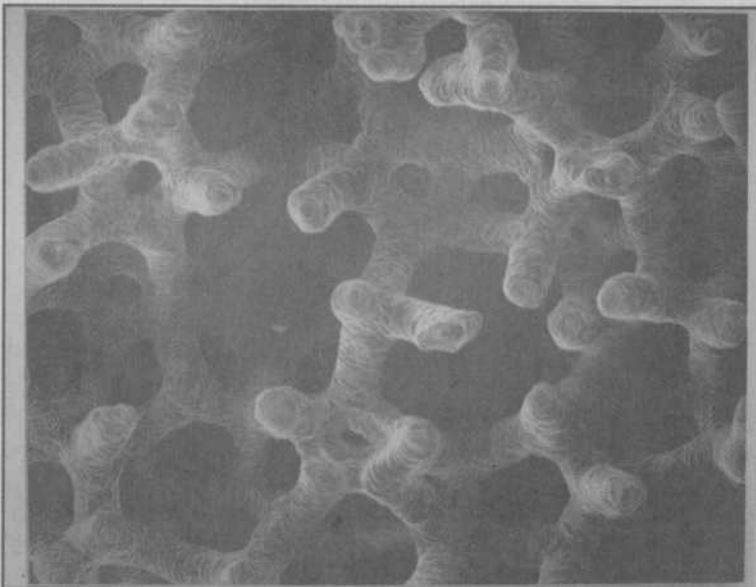
The full list of artists with pieces in the exhibit, in alphabetical order, is as follows: Tamie Beldue, Susan D'Amato, Alison Denyer, Erin Fostel, Christopher Ganz, Michael Hook, Seth Marosok, Jeremy Plunkett, John Sabraw, Christopher Troutman, and Hong Chun Zhang.

The gallery is open 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday–Thursday and 12–2 p.m. Saturday. It will be closed Dec. 12 until Jan. 16 in accordance with the winter break.

More information on the Giertz Gallery, the 2016 State of the Art: Drawing Invitational, and other past and future exhibitions can be found on the gallery's website, artgallery.parkland.edu.

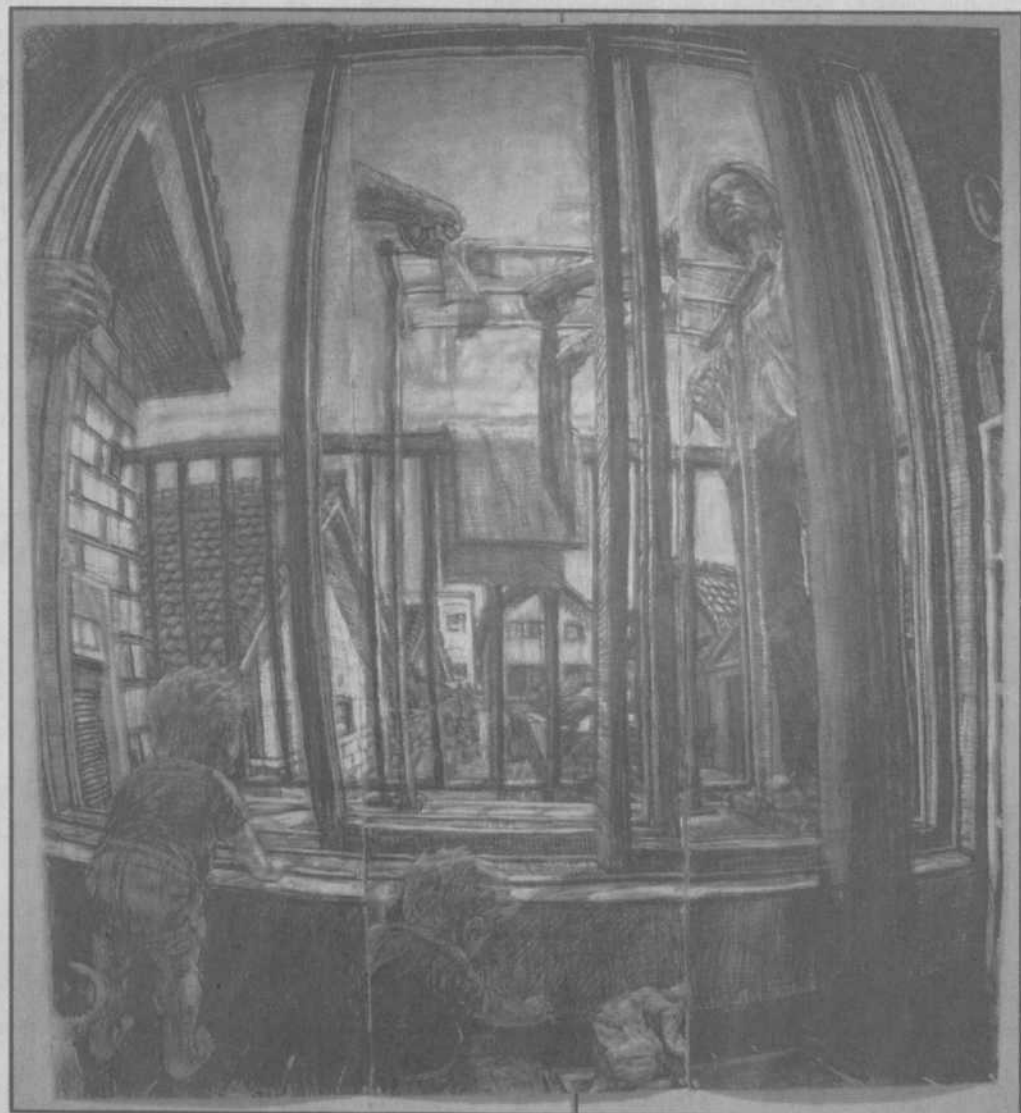


"Aevum" by Susan D'Amato



"Stem Cell" by John Sabraw

Photos by Matt Moss



"Tarobou View" by Christopher Troutman

FROM PAGE 1

HUMANS

Rembrandt; their colors and lighting and detail are just breathtaking," she said. "There's so much personality in Rembrandt's work. I also really love artists like Helen Frankenthaler, who says so much and evokes such emotion just with color. And Peter Max, who makes such trippy, surreal stuff. I love it all."

Norris enjoys pushing her creative boundaries and bringing traditionally-separated mediums together.

"I recently began painting with acrylics over photographs I've taken," she said. "It's way too much fun."

Norris will complete her on-site Parkland studies in the coming Spring semester, after which she plans to move to England where she will ultimately complete her degree online.

"One of the biggest things I've loved most about Parkland is all the wonderful things I've learned here," Norris said.

"My favorite classes have been the art history courses I've taken with Denise Seif. She's such an excellent teacher, and all the fun facts she knows about the artists and their work makes the courses so much fun," she said. "I also have really loved the black and white photography course with Peggy Shaw. She's a wonderful person and teacher, and all my classmates were so unique and so different, and we all had so much fun together."

Ultimately, Norris aspires to start her own company.

"I would absolutely love to own my own business someday," she said. "I love shoes and I love people, and I'd love to own a company that produces ethically and empowers people to embrace their creative capacity."

In a way, Norris credits her older sister for giving her the push she needed to pursue her dream.

"After I finished high school, my sister gave me a sketchbook," she said. "She told me that if I wanted to do anything in fashion, I was going to have to learn how to draw."

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 1

CONTRACTS

Come May 19, 2017, seven out of these eight contracts for the current academic year will expire and will not be renewed. Martin's will expire on Aug. 11, 2017, according to an informational handout provided at the meeting.

Joseph Walwik is the chair of social sciences and human services at Parkland. He expressed disappointment that efforts to offset the ever-decreasing flow of money from Springfield to Parkland in years prior were not enough to prevent the situation.

"It's hard because we went through this whole process last year and were able to avoid making any personnel cuts, and we had to do a lot of things to make that happen, including some incentive programs for early retirement," said Walwik. "We cut a lot of things out of the budget."

Last year's incentivized retirement program saw 18 faculty members depart via the program. In total, counting voluntary separations, retirements, and the like, 47 positions were left vacant going into the new academic year. Walwik says this saved the institution from having to go about contract terminations last year.

Walwik says, as a department head, he is not part of the decision-making process that saw this non-renewal-of-contracts. He says department heads are faculty positions, not administration, but as the chair of his department was able to offer his voice to the conversation last year, when the circumstances were similar.

He acknowledges the timing of the non-renewals as being crucial to making sure the procedure remains as streamlined as it can be for both Parkland and the faculty members involved.

"Not everything can be cut in the same way at the same time," he said. "The timing of this was essential because these faculty are coming up for tenure; once they are tenured, it is much more difficult. [...] There is a longer and much more difficult process involved there. This is the only time the college could have acted in this way."

In his view, the timing was also helpful for the terminated faculty members, as now is the time when educational institutions are publicizing job openings. If they would have held off on making the non-renewal decision until February—a decision which Walwik thought was "absolutely expected" regardless—the number of open job postings would likely be significantly reduced.

Vice President of Academic Pam Lau, in addressing the board during the public meeting, said a primary criterion for deciding who to cut was about whether or not their departure would result in the termination of any academic programs. Walwik, who attended the meeting, reiterated that it is not an issue of job performance

but simply an administrative decision driven by fiscal necessities.

"It was not about performance, it was not about whether they are good people or not," he said. "They're all good people—we just hired them; we like them."

Walwik's department lost one instructor: Jason Keist, a sociology instructor, and the social sciences and human services' only non-tenured, full-time faculty member.

"Ever since I first heard what was going on, I knew they'd vote in favor of it," Keist said, addressing the board's decision. "It was a bygone conclusion."

Keist has felt the direct effects of the state's budget three times now, first working with the local Boys and Girls Club, which he says suffered from serious money problems that eventually resulted in his departure. He then moved on to Parkland's adult education program, which he says was "severely gutted" around the time he left the program. Now, with his sociology instructor contract not being renewed, this marks the third time.

"It's so frustrating to me on a personal and professional level," he said. "I'm 36-years-old and I'm still finding my niche."

He says he is looking for instructor positions outside of Illinois, given its financial state. He has sent his applications in for three such positions in America's southwest-most states.

"I've just been pushing forward and looking for jobs," he said. "Actively, I've applied to three...teaching positions for sociology. My plan is to get [my family] the hell out of Dodge. We've got to get out of this state."

Keist says members of Parkland's administration have been helpful to him in writing recommendation letters and keeping their ears open for and sharing with him job opportunities that he may not have heard about.

Nathan Stewart is an instructor of communications at Parkland and appears to be in the same frame of mind as Walwik and Keist: he saw the board's decision coming.

"I'm going to say my piece, but I'm not optimistic," Stewart said regarding his feelings when he arrived at the meeting. "I had a realistic expectation going in."

Stewart says the news of the potential non-renewal of his contract was a sudden one, and while he felt "no different" the day after the vote, his feelings were very different from how he felt about a month ago.

"I feel no different today than I did yesterday, but it's a big difference in how I felt from two weeks ago before this complete one-eighty hit us," he said. "All indications from many people that we talked to and from the administration seemed that this was not going to be the direction that was needed to go."

He says he knew the idea had not been "completely taken off the table," but that choices of wording from the administration about the matter were intentionally



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prospectus

Nathan Stewart (forward, center-right) converses with his partner (forward, right) after speaking to the Parkland Board of Trustees, in the hope of convincing them to postpone their decision to not renew his and seven other non-tenured faculty members' contracts to February of next year.



Photo by Matt Moss | The Prospectus

Community members are packed into D244 to attend the Parkland Board of Trustees on Nov. 19.

kept "vague." When he began to inquire about the possibly of his contract not being renewed, he said those he spoke to regarded it as unlikely after the incentivized retirement program last year.

"I don't know where the miscommunication occurred," he said. "Nobody ever lied to me, but a lot of people indicated that things were going to be okay and a lot of other people legitimately got the same interpretation that I got."

Stewart spoke to this effect on Nov. 16.

"About three months ago, we sat and listened to Dr. Ramage tell us that...it was the decision for the college was to move it towards being free of state funding," he said, addressing the board and guests to the meeting; Thomas Ramage, who was also present at the meeting, is Parkland's president. "The [notion] that a lot of people got was we were going to be able to do that without forcibly removing people from our ranks, and now the opposite is happening and it is happening so quickly."

Stewart said he would like to see the decision postponed until February so that involved parties can have more time to brainstorm possible alternatives to the non-renewal-of-contracts.

His family owns and runs a farm that's been under their name for eight generations. With his grandmother aging and him likely having to move out of state and being

unable to regularly help out on the farm, he worries for its future.

"I have no idea what's going to happen now," he said. "A lot of uncertainty, and definitely some—well, say what it is—fear."

This uncertainty is somewhat shared by Tracy Dace, an instructor of developmental reading. While he is working out his plans for the future, he says the board's vote has not yet completely sunk in to his psyche.

"I'm still settling in to the decision, at this point more so just thinking about staying committed to my work and to my students, and not allowing the decision to influence how I interact with them," Dace said.

Dace says he is hoping to complete his doctorate work while remaining in the Champaign-Urbana area. He says he enjoys the dynamic of the student-instructor relationship at Parkland and hopes to find a similar type of dynamic "working with the community."

He harbors "no hard feelings" towards the board of trustees or the Parkland administration for the non-renewal of his contract.

"I understand the reason why the decision was made, and I hope the administration will work with faculty to address the needs of all students at Parkland," Dace said.

Vance Martin, an instructional designer who

works with instructors to help formulate their courses and incorporate technology into their teaching, says that he also has a clear understanding of the rationale behind the decision, but that his understanding does not make for much solace.

"It doesn't feel very good. In my case...I've gone to school for 27 years and got my PhD, and the last ten years of what I've studied has been to do what I do," Martin said. "It's kind of difficult coming into work knowing that...there is no future for me [here]."

His wife teaches in the Champaign-Urbana community, so he says moving out-of-area is not an option on the table for his family. A father of two, he hopes to find a job locally in academia or his industry. He says he may be looking at the University of Illinois for the future.

Like Dace, Martin hopes the administration and board keeps the focus of what they do on the college's students and furthering the Parkland mission.

However, he says he is worried for the future of Parkland, and as it works to reduce its reliance on Springfield he hopes that its educational environment will not be damaged by these or future faculty size reductions.

Parkland Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public—save for situations when legislation prevents it.

The last scheduled board meeting for 2016 is set at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14 in room U325.

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NEWS

Trump taps former campaign rival Carson as housing secretary

Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press
Julie Pace
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump, moving closer to filling his Cabinet, chose former campaign rival Ben Carson on Monday to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Trump's decision, announced by his transition office, comes as the real estate mogul continues a series of conferences with aides and others — including unlikely figures such as former Vice President Al Gore — aimed at forming his administration and its policies. He announced several Cabinet selections last week.

In a statement, Trump said he was “thrilled to nominate” Carson, describing the retired neurosurgeon as having “a brilliant mind” and being “passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities.”

Carson had been coy about joining the new administration, saying shortly after Trump's election victory that he wasn't certain he'd fit into a Cabinet-style role. The discussion at that time centered on speculation that he might be selected to head the sprawling Department of Health and Human Services.

“Ben shares my optimism about the future of our country,” Trump said, “and is part of ensuring that this is a presidency representing all Americans.”

Carson would oversee a budget of nearly \$50 billion that provides rental assistance for more than 5 million households. Demand for that assistance is high due to housing costs rising faster than incomes. HUD also promotes home ownership with the Federal Housing



Photo by Gerald Herbert | AP Photo

In this Aug. 25, 2016 photo, former Republican presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson during Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's roundtable meeting with the Republican Leadership Initiative in his offices at Trump Tower in New York. Trump has chosen former Campaign 2016 rival Ben Carson to become secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Administration underwriting about 1 in 6 mortgages issued in the U.S. The agency is also charged with enforcing federal fair housing laws.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said Carson has no credentials for the job and was a “disconcerting and disturbingly unqualified choice.” She said the country deserves someone with “relevant experience to protect the rights of homeowners and renters.”

Carson was among the 16 Republican candidates who challenged Trump for the Republican nomination. He was a favorite of religious conservatives and a strong fundraiser, but his team burned through money quickly and he failed to win any of the early primary contests.

Trump treated Carson harshly during the primary, saying he had a “pathological temper.” Still, Carson quickly dropped out of the contest.

As a Trump supporter,

Carson was both loyal and critical. He conceded that Trump had “major defects” and said at one point that he would have preferred a scenario other than Trump winning the Republican primary.

On Monday, Trump continued to receive visitors to the New York skyscraper that bears his name. His most surprising guest was Gore, the former vice president who endorsed Trump's Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, in the campaign's stretch run. Transition officials said early Monday that Gore would meet with Trump's daughter, Ivanka, about climate change, which is the former vice president's signature issue.

But Gore said he also met with Trump directly and the two had a “very productive conversation.”

“It was a sincere search for areas of common ground,” said Gore, who did not detail what the men discussed. The president-elect has called

manmade climate change a hoax and has pledged to undo a number of regulations designed to protect the environment.

Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, a Republican who declined to support Trump during the campaign, also visited the tower, telling reporters in the lobby he was there to discuss policy with senior aides and not meet with Trump.

Outside the building, Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein vowed to forge forward with her push for a recount in three states — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — that helped Trump win.

“Let every vote count,” Stein said. “That's what makes America great.”

But her news conference was repeatedly interrupted by shouts of protest. Several Trump supporters heckled the proceedings, and a disagreement broke out between attendees who were ostensibly on the same side. When one Green Party

speaker who preceded Stein took repeated swipes at Clinton, several Democrats in the crowd tried to shout him down before they themselves were heckled by other Stein supporters.

Additionally, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that he's asking the federal government for \$35 million to cover costs related to securing Trump, who has indicated he will largely work out of Trump Tower as he builds his government ahead of his inauguration.

Trump has now expanded his pool of candidates for secretary of state, raising a question about whether former CIA Director David Petraeus' guilty plea for leaking classified information disqualifies him.

Trump's aides had confirmed that the president-elect had settled on four finalists for the post. But over the weekend, two people close to the transition told The Associated Press that Trump is moving away from two of the four: former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee.

That would leave Petraeus as a top contender, along with Tennessee Republican Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Both people close to the transition said Trump's prolonged decision-making process has left the door open to other options. Among other possibilities, one official says, is Jon Huntsman, a former Republican Utah governor who also served as the ambassador to China and speaks Mandarin.

The people close to the transition spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private process publicly.

Teens, young artists among California warehouse fire victims

Janie Har
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Teenagers, the son of a sheriff's deputy and young artists were among the dozens of people killed when a fire tore through a converted Oakland warehouse during a dance party.

The death toll from Friday night's fire climbed to 36 on Monday with more bodies still feared buried in the rubble.

The victims included 17-year-olds and people from Europe and Asia, Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said. Here's a closer look at who they were:

A GREAT FRIEND

A tearful Tammy Tasoff, 29, called Peter Wadsworth a best friend who was like an older brother to her.

The dental student said Wadsworth always looked out for her, doing little things that made her life easier. He would organize her messy files, give her advice and fix her computer if she needed help, Tasoff said.

He bought video games because he knew she loved them, and he would often watch her play, she said.

“Usually he'd say, ‘Let's play video games,’ and then he'd say, ‘No, I just want to



Photo by Marcio Jose Sanchez | AP Photo

A man places additions to a makeshift memorial for victims of a warehouse fire near the site, Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, in Oakland, Calif. The death toll in the Oakland warehouse fire climbed Monday with more bodies still feared buried in the blackened ruins, and families anxiously awaited word of their missing loved ones.

watch you play,” she said, sobbing. “He'd make me food. He took really good care of me. He was like my big brother.”

OTHER VICTIMS

The city of Oakland identified some of the other people killed as Cash Askew,

22, David Clines, 35, Travis Hough, 35, and Donna Kellogg, 32, all of Oakland; Nick Gomez-Hall, 25, of Coronado; Sara Hoda, 30, of Walnut Creek; and Brandon Chase Wittenauer, 32, of Hayward.

Officials said they have

identified an eighth victim but are withholding the name because the person was 17 years old.

One of the people killed was the son of a local deputy, Kelly said at a news conference Sunday. He did not release the name.

UNACCOUNTED FOR

Many friends and family members were still anxiously awaiting word of their missing loved ones. The search for remains was suspended overnight because of an unstable wall but was expected to resume.

Andy Kershaw, a DJ, said his wife and several friends were among those unaccounted for. He called his wife, photographer Amanda Allen, vibrant, awesome and magnetic.

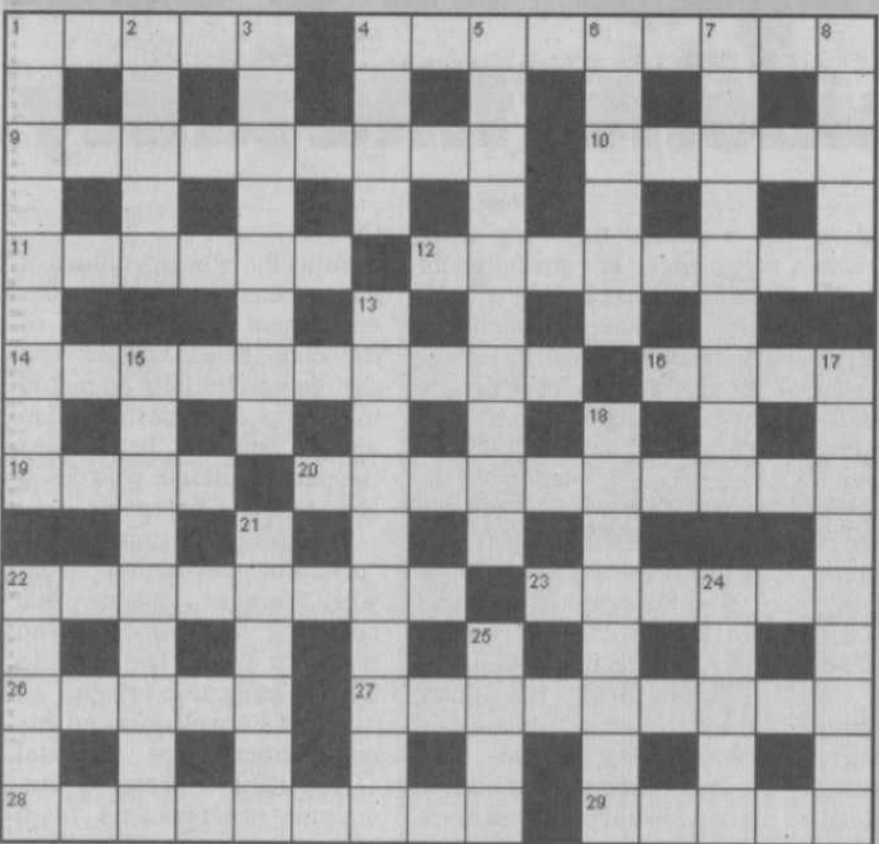
Kershaw said his friend and fellow DJ Johnny Igaz also was missing.

Igaz reportedly was playing a set when the fire broke out. He was listed on Facebook as a record buyer at Green Apple Books and Music in San Francisco. His Facebook page was littered with tearful posts from friends who called him a beautiful soul and a true friend.

Yuri Kundin of San Francisco said he was waiting for word on his friends Alex Ghassan and Hanna Henriikka Ruax. He hasn't heard from the couple in the past few days and has plastered notes looking for them on social media. Henriikka Ruax is from Finland.

CROSSWORD & COMICS

Crossword (solve for the answers below)



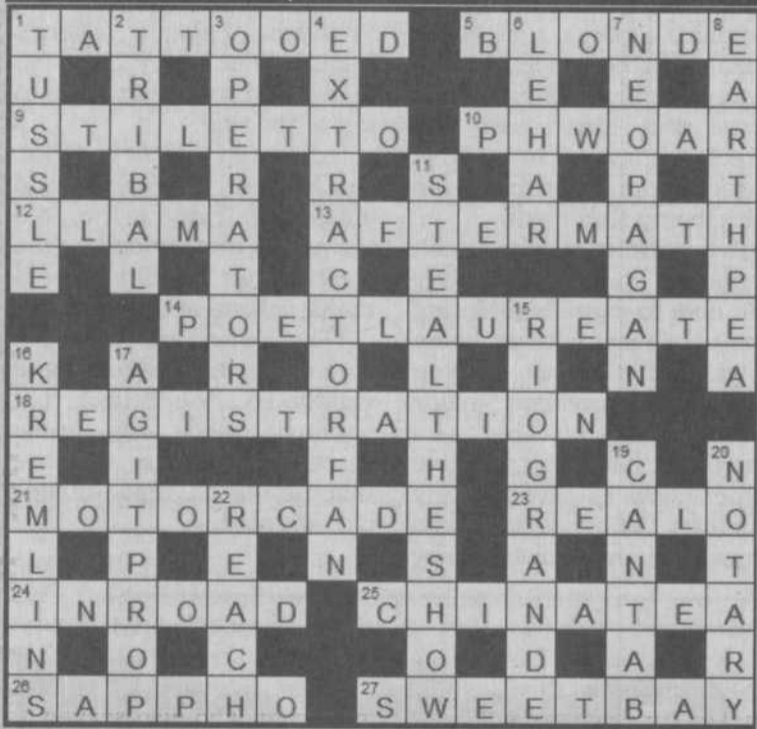
ACROSS

- 1 Primarily, sherry here is dry (5)
- 4 Cheap paper wrongly prioritising what informative daily should do? (9)
- 9 Newlywed's healthy in prison (9)
- 10 Tent peg initially pronounced suitable for tent (5)
- 11 Salesman is obliged in speech to give information (6)
- 12 It helps one get into Oxford perhaps (8)
- 14 Miranda's father goes to America to get rich (10)
- 16 See good chap run out (4)
- 19 Recognised tennis player's told to give up (4)
- 20 Make one's way to unknown building to find place for the kids to play (5,5)
- 22 It's given to election campaign perhaps when party goes to the country (8)
- 23 Ancient language old Pict possibly used after a century (6)
- 26 Cat found in Oz (5)
- 27 Class of plants producing silver-cyanide compound maybe (9)
- 28 Judge taken in by a revolutionary showed partiality (9)
- 29 Fine vessel (5)

DOWN

- 1 Having hot climate, but crop is failing (9)
- 2 Caught Pakistan's opener around edge of crease (5)
- 3 Old bigwig embraces sin, taking Ecstasy to get high (8)
- 4 Born and died in poverty (4)
- 5 Dogs, and what they may do if ravenous cannibals? (10)
- 6 One at the wheel's to dawdle along (6)
- 7 I'm on cue, but intrinsically unrehearsed (9)
- 8 Wooden articles obtained from box number? (5)
- 13 Stevedore working for nothing? But he's a sponger! (10)
- 15 Regulation of guns restraining one (9)
- 17 In such a state one prays for guidance? (9)
- 18 Pressed editor to follow Royal in skimpy clothing (8)
- 21 How to spell one Scottish goddess? (6)
- 22 Decline daughter's inferior turnover (5)
- 24 Some musicians go over the joint (5)
- 25 Hit with a missile (4)

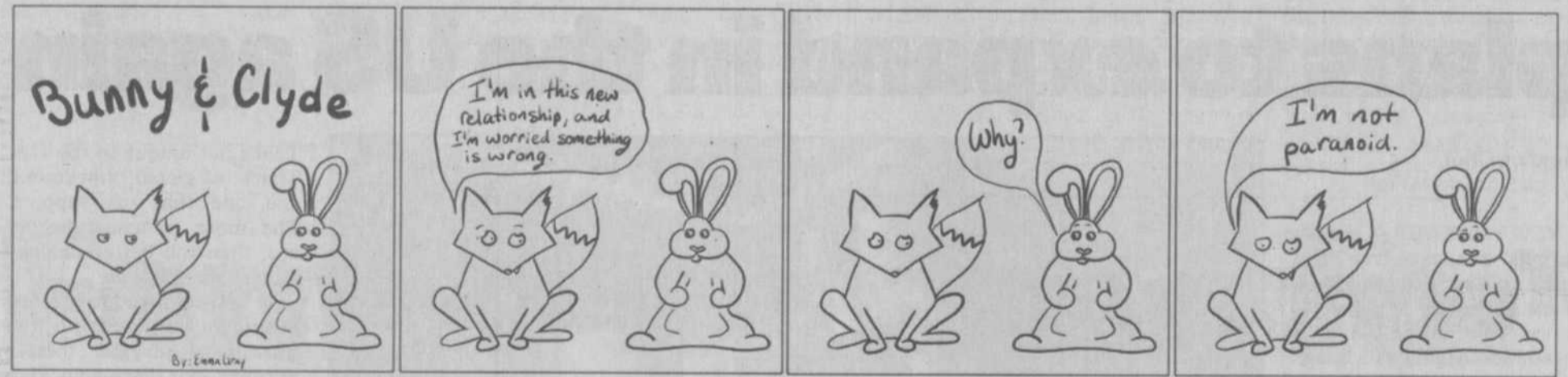
Answers from last week



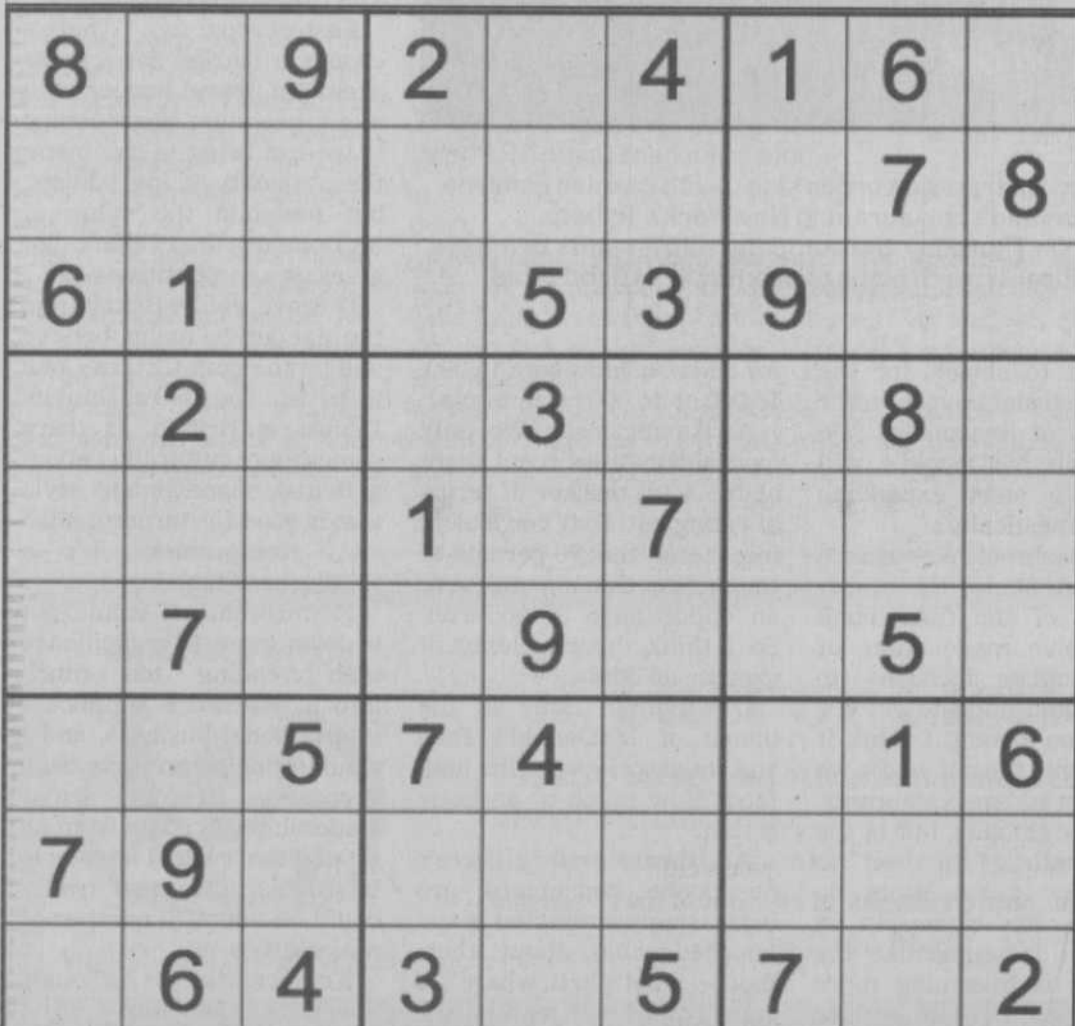
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Gerald knew what had to be done. It was time to thin the herd.



SUDOKU



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Answers from last week



FEATURES

After Trump rift at Liberty University, students find unity

Sarah Rankin
Associated Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — As Liberty University grew from a tiny Baptist college to a touchstone institution for evangelicals, it also became a hub of conservative politics, a revolving door of politicians and their surrogates courting young voters. But this year, the campus was in the spotlight for another reason: a rift caused by Donald Trump's candidacy that raised questions about the college president's influence, open discourse, and practicality versus principles in choosing a candidate.

Now, students, faculty and others say they're coming back together and are optimistic, like evangelicals elsewhere, that a Trump administration will mean progress on some of the religious right's most important issues after years of culture wars losses.

"It's a family fight," said Johnnie Moore, a Liberty alumna who worked there for 13 years and now runs a consulting company and serves on Trump's evangelical advisory board. "We disagree on lots of things, but, in the end, most evangelicals in this county are very concerned about religious liberty, and they're very pro-life. And that's just what it comes down

to." Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains in central Virginia, Liberty was founded in 1971 by evangelist and Moral Majority leader the Rev. Jerry Falwell with just 154 students. It now has a residential enrollment of more than 15,000 students and a massive online education presence, with 94,000 students.

It's become a popular campaign stop. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz launched his presidential bid here. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ben Carson, Gary Johnson and President-elect Donald Trump visited, too.

Election results show Trump won about 85 percent of the vote at the precinct comprised of on-campus student housing, a percentage even higher than the 81 percent of white evangelicals that exit polls show voted for Trump nationwide — though some college students vote in their home states.

Those results, however, belie the rift Trump's candidacy caused.

Many Christians at Liberty and elsewhere wondered how they could back a twice-divorced, profane candidate who said he's never sought God's forgiveness for his sins, botched Bible references and mistook a communion plate for a donation plate.

Some evangelical leaders denounced Trump, who came in fourth in the March primary in the precinct, but Liberty President Jerry Falwell Jr. enthusiastically endorsed him in January.

Mark DeMoss, a powerful Board of Trustees member and longtime adviser to the late Falwell Sr., rebuked the endorsement before being asked to leave the committee he chaired and eventually resigning from the board altogether. A group of students said they got 2,000 verified Liberty signatures on an anti-Trump statement criticizing Falwell for supporting the candidate after vulgar comments he made about women came to light.

Meanwhile, a stream of Trump surrogates came to Liberty's mandatory three-times-a-week convocation meetings leading up to the election.

Junior Joel Schmeig wrote an anti-Trump column that Falwell removed from the school newspaper. Schmeig says that although that frustrated him, it didn't change his view of Liberty. A prospective student recently asked whether he should consider attending, and "I'm going to tell him 100 percent yes," Schmeig said.

Many students say they framed their election decision

as a choice: following their conscience or strategically picking the candidate with best chance of making progress on their priorities.

"There were a lot of people who held their nose and voted for Trump," said Sam Hermann, a junior from Dayton, Ohio.

Most emphasized the importance of the balance of the Supreme Court and abortion. Generally, while many younger evangelicals are more likely than their parents to champion environmental causes and are less concerned about gay marriage, they are often more staunchly opposed to abortion than older evangelicals, public opinion polls show.

"Honestly, I really believe if it wasn't for the Supreme Court and (late Justice Antonin) Scalia's seat being open right now, a lot of the evangelicals wouldn't have voted for him," said Liz Skeeles, a senior from New Jersey who supported the anti-Trump statement.

Even students who didn't support Trump said they felt able to express differing points of view without being ostracized. Shannon Moyer, a senior journalism major from the Detroit area, said she didn't have any negative experiences as part of a tiny minority of students who supported Democrat Hillary

Clinton.

Falwell, whose influence has risen along with the enrollment and visibility of the school, said in an interview that he was initially attracted to Trump as a businessman and he believed Trump was the only candidate who could have beaten Clinton.

Trump's election is a "peaceful revolution" that will "forever change our country," said Falwell, who met with Trump last week to discuss education reform.

While Falwell insisted his endorsement was personal — federal law prohibits tax-exempt organizations from campaigning — student Dustin Wahl, who wrote the Liberty United Against Trump petition, said he felt the line was too blurred.

"Liberty University is not President Falwell. There's a difference there. And so that's what we want people to know," he said.

Dr. Karen Swallow Prior, an English professor and outspoken Trump critic, said the nation was divided by the election, but she didn't see a major schism at Liberty.

"There's hurt and confusion among many people and rightly so... We reflect that national mood in some respects, but there is more that unites us than divides us," she said.

McDonald's CEO: Chain still plans to expand in the US again

Candice Choi
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Artisan burger buns, cage-free eggs and table service are some of the changes McDonald's is promising in the U.S. as it scrambles to update its image and win back customers.

The chain, based in a Chicago suburb, has seen customer visits slip, with its flagship U.S. market of particular concern as tastes change and competition intensifies. The rollout of an all-day breakfast menu last fall hasn't yet translated to a bump in customer visits.

McDonald's Corp. CEO Steve Easterbrook, who took over last year, and Chris Kempczinski, who takes over as president of McDonald's USA on Jan. 1, talked with The Associated Press about the recent changes. Their answers were edited for length.

Q: Customer traffic in the U.S. has been down for the past of couple years, and hasn't gone up despite the turnaround efforts. When do you expect the figure to turn positive?

A: Kempczinski: The trends we're seeing over time have been in the right direction. When exactly that tips over to positive, to me the key is not just once, but can it consistently be positive? That's what we're working toward.

Easterbrook: For large periods of this year, we've been taking market share out of our near competition, which is a very important measure for us.

Q: You said you took market share, but traffic isn't up. Is there a broader change



McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook demonstrates an order kiosk, with cashier Esmirna DeLeon, during a presentation at a McDonald's restaurant in New York's Tribeca neighborhood, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016. On Thursday, the company said it wants to make its fast-food outlets feel more like restaurants, with plans to eventually expand table service across its U.S. locations.

happening where people are just going to supermarkets or other places?

A: Kempczinski: I don't think so. I'm very optimistic about the opportunities. A number of retailers earlier in the year talked about a slowing of traffic. And now obviously there are lots of questions about what happens post-election. So we'll have to see the trends. But everything we're hearing from customers is that they still love going out, particularly millennials. They eat out more than any other consumer group we target.

Q: You have more than 14,100 restaurants in the U.S., but the store count is

on track to shrink for the second straight year after decades of expansion. Do you think McDonald's will eventually start expanding again domestically?

A: Easterbrook: We've taken time to right-size the estate. As part of the turnaround plan, we've made some of those tougher decisions (to close restaurants) to get our foundation strong. I think if we look into the out years, we will be net adding restaurants. Certainly globally, but in the U.S. as well.

Q: How much room do you see for expansion in the U.S.? It seems like the industry is becoming more fragmented. Is there a place

for a McDonald's with 14,000, 15,000 or 16,000 restaurants?

A: Kempczinski: We would have about a 10 percent share of the total market in terms of eating out. So if you look at me, there's that 90 percent of the market that we still have an opportunity to go after. So I think there's plenty of growth, no doubt.

Q: Another issue is the image of McDonald's food and its association with junk food. How much of an issue is that?

A: Easterbrook: There's no doubt consumers are increasingly interested in and knowledgeable about their food — what's in it, where's it come from, how's it prepared.

That's not unique to the U.S. That's a global movement, and one that we support. The more informed people are, then the better choices they're making.

Q: You've introduced more premium burgers with the growth of all the "better burgers" out there now. Five years down the road, will people still be ordering Big Macs?

A: Kempczinski: I would predict in 10 years, we would be selling many, many times more Big Macs than any other type of burger on the premium end of the menu. This is an opportunity for us to continue to offer options. The Big Mac is here to stay.

Easterbrook: There's clearly a market for a more premium priced burger with more premium ingredients. If we can bring to our menu the quality ingredients, but maintain the value of McDonald's, then I think that gives us a competitive edge.

Q: Steve, you're British, and the executive many believe will be the next CEO of Coke is British. The CEO of Dunkin' Donuts is British. Is there something culturally about a British management style that is good for turnarounds?

A: Kempczinski: It's a British invasion!

Easterbrook: I would put it down more to coincidence than reading too much into it. We are a significant international business, and I would imagine an increasing proportion of our senior leadership will come from all around the world. I happen to be British. Our next leader could be one of a number of nationalities.

Kempczinski: Although, now he is a Cubs fan.

Photo by Richard Drew/AP Photo

LIFESTYLE

During first look at wildfire rubble, residents in a daze

Adam Beam
Associated Press
Jonathan Mattise
Associated Press

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — Residents and business owners in Gatlinburg got their first look at the wildfire destruction on Friday, and many walked around the once-bustling tourist city in a daze, sobbing.

They hugged each other and promised that they would stay in touch.

"We love it up here so much," said Gary Moore, his voice trembling. "We lost everything. But we're alive, thank goodness. Our neighbors are alive, most of them. And we're just so thankful for that."

A county mayor raised the death toll to 13 and said the number of damaged buildings now approached 1,000.

After days of waiting to see their homes, some of the shock began to give way to anger, and local authorities bristled when asked why they waited so long to order the evacuation.

"The city sure could have done a better job of getting us out of here," said Delbert Wallace, who lost his home. "When they got up that morning, when they seen that fire, we should have been on alert right then."

Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters and other officials noted the fire moved such a great distance so quickly it gave officials little time to react. Once they did, it was nearly too late.

Waters said it was not the time for "Monday morning quarterbacking" and promised a full review later.

John Matthews of the Sevier County Emergency



Photo by Adam Beam | AP Phone

Tammy Sherrod and her husband, Scott, examine the remains of their home in the Roaring Fork neighborhood of Gatlinburg, Tenn., Friday, Dec. 2, 2016. Residents on Friday, were getting their first look at what remains of their homes and businesses in Gatlinburg, after a wildfire tore through the resort community on Monday, Nov. 28.

Management Agency said a text alert telling people to evacuate went out around 9 p.m. Monday. But by that time, wildfires were raging in the area.

Matthews said some people did not receive the message due to power outages and loss of cellphone reception.

Local officials, bowing to pressure from frustrated property owners, allowed people back into most parts of the city Friday.

"This is all that's left of our house," said Tammy Sherrod, standing with her husband in front of the rubble. "We had five minutes to get off this mountain. We got off with the clothes on our back. We got off with a few pictures."

She found a coaster in the rubble that her 27-year-

old daughter had made as a child. Half of it had bright colors and the other half was charred black. It still had her name, Brianna, written on the bottom in black marker.

The dead included a Memphis couple who was separated from their three sons during the wildfires. The sons — Jared, Wesley and Branson Summers — learned that their parents, Jon and Janet, had died as they were recovering in the hospital.

At a news conference, Jon Summers' brother Jim talked about the three young men's harrowing escape and their parents' death.

He said the Summers family first received a call from their condo's owner to evacuate. They jumped in Branson's car and drove

down the mountain until a tree blocked their path. They got out and ran and became separated from their parents.

They were found unconscious at the bottom of the mountain. Jim Summers said the sheriff estimated they ran several miles.

"Quite frankly, the way the kids got down the mountain is a movie in and of itself," Jim Summers said. "I mean, it's just beyond belief. They went through walls of fire."

When authorities found the parents' bodies, they couldn't even identify them by photographs, Jim Summers said. They couldn't even weigh them.

"I think probably that impacted me more than anything," he said.

Jared Summers was

released from the hospital, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center plastic surgeon Dr. Blair Summitt said he anticipates the other two young men should be able to leave in about a week. The boys played in a band together and were on their first family vacation together in four years.

Jim Summers shared some comments from his nephew Wesley.

"He wanted everybody to know that, 'My parents, I believe, died happy,'" he said.

Other fatalities included a couple from Canada, 71-year-old Jon Tegler and 70-year-old Janet Tegler, and May Vance, who died of a heart attack after she was exposed to smoke. Officials said at a news conference that she was vacationing in Gatlinburg, but an obituary posted online said she was from the area.

The Associated Press was allowed into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park — the most visited national park in the country — on Thursday. Soot, ash and blackened trees covered the forest floor, and the gorgeous vistas of tree-topped mountain ranges were scarred by large areas of blackened soil and trees. Small plumes of smoke smoldered from hot spots.

Deputy Park Superintendent Jordan Clayton said the initial fire started Nov. 23 near the end of a popular hiking trail. Authorities urged anyone who hiked the trail to give them a call.

"Whether it was purposefully set or whether it was a careless act that was not intended to cause a fire, that we don't know," Clayton said. "The origin of the fire is under investigation."

Family pushes for cyberbullying laws after teen's suicide

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — Family members of a Houston-area high school student who killed herself are rallying for tighter laws against cyberbullying.

Brandy Vela's family says cyberbullying pushed the 18-year-old over the edge, leading her to shoot herself in the chest Tuesday afternoon at the family's Texas City home as family members watched.

Her father, Raul Vela, said she had been receiving abusive text messages for months from bullies using an untraceable smartphone application. Her father said someone made a fake Facebook page of her, creating

another cyberbullying medium.

"I heard someone crying," Brandy's 22-year-old sister, Jacqueline Vela, told KPRC-TV (<http://bit.ly/2gS7QII>) of Houston, "so I ran upstairs and I looked in her room, and she's against the wall and she has a gun pointed at her chest and she's just crying and crying and I'm like, 'Brandy, please don't. Brandy, no.'"

Jacqueline Vela said she went to her parents' room, "and I just heard the shot and my dad just yelled, 'Help me. Help me. Help me.'"

"I was almost certain that I could persuade her to put that gun down. It didn't work. She

pulled the trigger," Raul Vela said.

Her final cellphone text to her family was, "I love you so much just remember that please and I'm so sorry for everything."

Her family said the harassment focused mainly on Brandy's weight.

"They would make dating websites of her, and they would put her number and they would put her picture (on the sites), and lie about her age and say she is giving herself up for sex for free, to call her," said Jacqueline Vela.

The family said they reported the bullying to the Texas City school district

and several law enforcement agencies.

"School was a safe environment for Brandy," said school district spokeswoman Melissa Tortorici. "She had a lot of friends and was thought of warmly by her peers and teachers. She did bring it to the school's attention before Thanksgiving break that she was getting harassing messages to her cellphone outside of school. Our deputy investigated it, and the app that was being used to send the messages was untraceable. We encouraged her to change her phone number."

Brandy Vela changed her number, but bullies always found her, her family said.

"We have lots of incident reports, and they always say the same thing: They can't do anything about it," Jacqueline Vela said.

A Texas City Police Department statement says it continues to investigate the Velas' complaints. Jacqueline Vela told KPRC that she and her siblings have a good idea who may have been behind some of these attacks and have been assisting in the investigation.

The father said that he hopes for stricter laws against cyberbullying and greater awareness of the problem to give some meaning to his daughter's death.

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Fact or Fiction

FACT: "First" and other numbered street names are sometimes renamed to honor famous figures in history, enough to make "Second" the most common name. "Third" comes in second place, and "First" is in third place.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Moments from Parkland's Charlie Brown Christmas



Peter Floess
Staff Writer

A play adaptation of the animated television holiday classic "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is currently being performed at Parkland's theater.

The television special was adapted for the stage by Eric Schaeffer.

The play at Parkland is directed by Latrelle Bright. In August, Bright directed the musical "Dreamgirls" on the behalf of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the Banks Bridgewater Lewis Fine Arts Academy.

The musical starred Parkland theater student, Tafadzwa Diener.

The play features some of the music of the jazz pianist Vince Guaraldi, who composed the music for the original television special of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and most other of the "Peanuts" television specials until his death in February 1976.

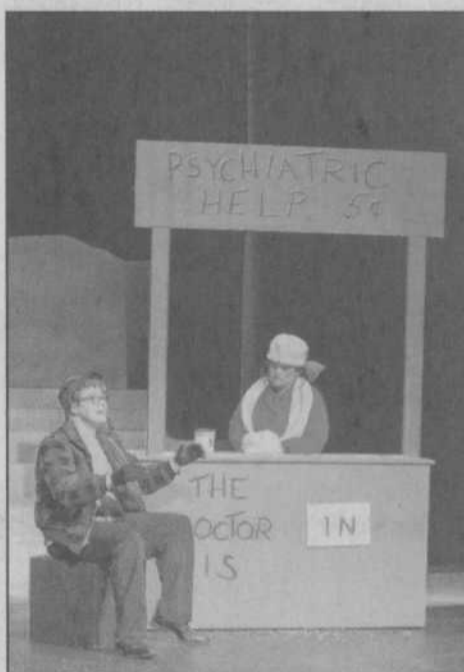
One can see "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:


- Friday, December 9
- Saturday, December 10

One can see "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

- Saturday, December 3
- Saturday, December 10
- Sunday, December 11


Photos by Scott Wells





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