

Year In Review: Top news and entertainment headlines


DI Sports reviews 2018

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2018: A YEAR IN REVIEW

• COMPILED BY JESSICA WESTON AND LAUREN JENNINGS •

casinos, coyotes and lawsuits, oh my – 2018 was an eventful year in Ridgecrest. From the end of the casino controversy (or perhaps not) to allegations over the appropriate residences of both Wallace Martin and the pack of unwelcome coyotes roaming the town, it was a year to remember.

Casino: game over?

You know what they say it's not over until Mike Seal plays James Brown into the mic during a city council meeting. Or is it? It is not entirely clear, but it looks like the Timbisha Shoshone casino project is either dead in the water or supremely stalled, depending upon your point of view.

A long year of casino controversy came to an abrupt end in December when the Ridgcrest City Council voted unanimously to terminate the land sale agreement between the city's redevelopment agency and Global Investment Enterprise Ridgcrest, LLC for the piece of property intended to be used as a casino. The vote was arguably a technicality. The agreement essentially timed out when the buyer failed to provide the funds for the purchase by the deadline and the property fell out of escrow. Still, council could have chosen to extend the escrow agreement but did not do so.

The death of the land sale was the latest and possibly final skirmish in the long-lasting casino war. For an item that was supposedly not under current consideration, the casino topic managed to make up a lot of council time.

Earlier in the year, former NAWCWD commander Mark Storch made news by stating that he was concerned a casino by the front gate of the base could be problematic in the event of an upcoming BRAC process. Comments on the tribe's environmental process, however, indicated that



JESSICA WESTON/DAILY INDEPENDENT

Ridgecrest City Councilman Mike Mower, Mayor Peggy Breedon, and Councilman Loren Scott Hayman are sworn into the council on Dec. 5.

the base apparently considered issues caused by the casino as being able to be mitigated.

Allegations of racism again entered the fray, when an email obtained by the DI distributed among casino opponents contained racist references to “injuns” and other offensive characterizations.

Casino opponents, meanwhile, continued to line up at council meetings during public comment to express their objections to the project.

The casino played a role in November's election too (see the next story), with mystery mailers slamming Scott Hayman (a casino opponent) inaccurately and praising supposedly pro-casino candidates who disavowed any connection with the Honesty PAC which sent the mailers out.

In the end, it all came down to land. The municipal services agreement between the city of Ridgecrest and the tribe remains in effect, but without the piece of property it was attached to its power is unclear.

Election fallout

It was an ugly election. By the time the city was ready to welcome newly elected council member Loren Scott Hayman along with re-elected incumbents Mayor Peggy Breeden and Councilman Michael Mower, we had all been through weeks of allegations of Bakersfield influence in Ridgecrest politics, accusations of overspending by Hayman and dishonest mailers alleging bizarre claims against Hayman – and against the Daily Independent.

Campaign finance paperwork showed Hayman did outspend the other candidates by a large margin, but he kept within the legal limits. Hayman also came under fire for having his paperwork incomplete, but he immediately brought it up to date.

Adding to the ugliness was a series of mystery mailers from an organization known as Honesty PAC. These slammed Hayman as a puppet of Martin (complete with ludicrous illustration), and misquoted the DI for good measure. Other mailings

from the same group supported council candidates Michael Mower and Reese Hogg III. The only problem is that Mower and Hogg disavow any connection with the Honesty PAC and say they did not ask for the support.

And in another election-related issue, Scott Leahy has a potential lawsuit against Martin working its way through the courts – alleging that Martin does not live within city limits and asking he be removed from office as a remedy. Martin denies the allegations. It's too soon to say who the courts will side with, but this is another example of the long-term effects of a previous election.

In the end, the fallout from the November election calmed down. Departing Councilman Eddie Thomas was given an emotional send-off. Breeden, Mower and Hayman were sworn in. The city got back to business with committee appointments and routine matters at council meetings. It is too soon to say just when and how the dust will all settle, but you can be sure the

Daily Independent will be there to report on all of their antics (good, bad and otherwise) in the upcoming year.

'Where's the splash pad?'

During the 1980s there was a catch phrase that was repeated endlessly: “Where’s the beef?” It was originally part of a Wendy’s commercial, but soon came to represent any situation in which the full truth or substance had yet to be revealed.

Ridgecrest in 2018 coined its own similar phrase: “Where’s the splash pad?” This has come to represent all the city plans and projects that while much touted, have yet to come to fruition.

Let's start with the splash pad itself. Originally promoted by then Councilwoman Lindsey Stephens, the splash pad was supposedly going to help fill the gap left by the unpopular closure of the community's beloved Pinney Pool.

The only problem is that deadlines have slipped by and the Splash

Pad is not yet open. Rumors fly as to why and the council has offered only partial explanations for the delays.

Then there is the fact that fall road repairs were delayed because of a decision by council, who voted 4-1 against awarding a million dollar sole source contract for fiber seal maintenance work in September, causing the cancellation of an extensive list of heavy maintenance street projects scheduled to begin in October. Mower was the lone yes vote saying he would like to see the work get started.

Stephens (who earlier successfully convinced council to add a slurry seal machine to the city budget), spoke out with concerns on the idea.

"It seems like we are overpaying, like by a lot for this project," she said. Stephens, Breeden, Martin and Thomas also voted against awarding the contract.

Council voted fair and square, but the delay of the streets projects may frustrate some residents.

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DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO

Coyotes have been roaming around Ridgecrest as of late, which became a topic talked about frequently in 2018.



DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO

Ghulam Din, left, makes a presentation on the porch of the Rand Communities Water District building on Sept. 28.

TUESDAY MORNING

Another New Year's Day

*"Be at war with your
vices, at peace with your
neighbors, and let every
year find you a better
man."*
- Benjamin Franklin

*"Nothing changes on
New Year's Day."*
- U2

As you are reading this, 2018 will be behind us. It will be a new date on the calendar, but the same world otherwise.

The necessity of marking a new year with a new number, while necessary, seems a little arbitrary. Even stranger is the idea

that by incrementing the number on the calendar, checkbook, datebook, or social media, we are changing something fundamental about ourselves. Obviously we don't. We haul our prior selves' baggage with us right into the new year.

I usually don't make resolutions, for the obvious reason: there is less to feel bad about when I inevitably break them. One time I happened to join a well-known weight loss program around the end of a calendar year and it was embarrassing because all the new members were obviously moti-



JESSICA WESTON

vated by a year-end desire to improve themselves. I like to be original and not another cliché.

Of course, New Year's celebrations are another matter. This is a question of marking a special event with a sort of ritual, which makes all kinds of sense to me. According to

CountryLiving.com, previous generations took the new year more seriously than we do - or at least they celebrated with more style. Country Living's photographic research indicates that families of the past dressed up more for all the holidays - especially ringing in the New Year.

Other traditions, of course, include counting down the clock, honking horns at midnight, a champagne toast and the traditional midnight kiss - although that one may be in short supply this year as people ponder issues of consent.

Black-eyed peas, ham, collard greens and corn bread are considered a good luck meal for the new year. Country Living goes into this menu as well, but I already knew

this. My mom makes pretty much this exact meal every Jan. 1.

This brings me to a personal gripe, a pet peeve if you will. It always bothers me when the television coverage of New Year's celebrations is not live for the West Coast. Yes, I get it. If you are watching the big ball drop in Times Square that happens at midnight eastern time, which is of course 9 p.m. here. But I have noticed that frequently even L.A. events are filmed and timed to coincide with Eastern rather than Pacific time. I know it seems trivial but it makes me grumpy. I am superstitious enough to think the magic is in watching the countdown live.

Overall, though, the New Year is an appropriate time for good wishes

and gratitude. I would like to wish the best to all everyone in Ridgecrest and beyond in the upcoming year. Thank you for reading my column, thanks for your comments and your good wishes.

And good luck with your resolutions. I hope you keep them if that is what you want to do. Just don't look for me to be starting a new diet until at least February.

- Jessica Weston is an award-winning columnist and the city editor for The Daily Independent. She can be reached at jweston@ridgecrestca.com

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The views expressed are those of the columnist and do not necessarily represent the official stance of the Daily Independent.

REVIEW

Continued from A1

And then there are those pesky coyotes. Packs of them are reportedly roaming city streets. The city's lack of ability to do much about them has people confused and lining up to ask for solutions. Even the California Department of Fish and Game offers only suggestions not to feed the animals and to secure household pets. Coyotes are not a protected species, so hunting them is legal as long as the gun is not discharged within city limits.

No one seems to think this is a good solution, however.

Rand Water District's highs and lows

Rand Communities Water District has had a handful of ups and downs - mostly downs - in 2018.

However, things are looking up for RCWD in 2019 as the board moves closer and closer to com-

pleting its Grand Jury recommendations.

It all started when the Grand Jury report highlighted all of the wrongdoings and poor business practices happening within the water district. Citizens from Randsburg, Red Mountain and Johannesburg filed a citizens complaint to the Kern County Grand Jury that led to an investigation of the complaints.

The Grand Jury found that RCWD had violated the Brown Act, not informing the public of a "porch meeting", and also trying to elect a new secretary all in one night.

The report detailed the operations of the RCWD, including the lack of paperwork showing income and expenditures, documents from 2016-2018 were removed, and a number of missing checks. The report also showed that the district was relying on grants to stay solvent.

The previous board members were unaware of a \$3.2 million grant

that was available, and one board member boasted to the Grand Jury that he had never paid for his water because he used his neighbors'.

All of that seems to be behind RCWD. The board had elected three new members, and amongst those three members, one is now the president and another the vice president. They have managed to mark off a number of items on the Grand Jury recommendations, including most recently the posting of a General Manager position.

Though there are still some disagreements, the majority of the board is trying to get the list completed. It has almost been one month since the report was published, leaving RCWD with around 90 days to complete the list.

RCWD has gone through a lot and it will have to continue to work together in order to complete the rest of the recommendations.

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From tragedy, resolve

Florida school shooting, resulting activism voted top news story in AP survey

By David Crary
The Associated Press

The mass shooting at a Parkland, Florida, high school — which killed 17 students and staff, and sparked nationwide student-led marches for gun control — was the top news story of 2018, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

The No. 2 story was the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into whether Donald Trump's election campaign coordinated with Russia. It was one of several major stories — in a year jam-packed with dramatic developments — in which the U.S. president played a role.

A year ago, the surge of #MeToo sexual misconduct allegations that toppled many powerful men was voted the top news story of 2017. The continuing momentum of #MeToo in 2018 was this year's No. 3 story.

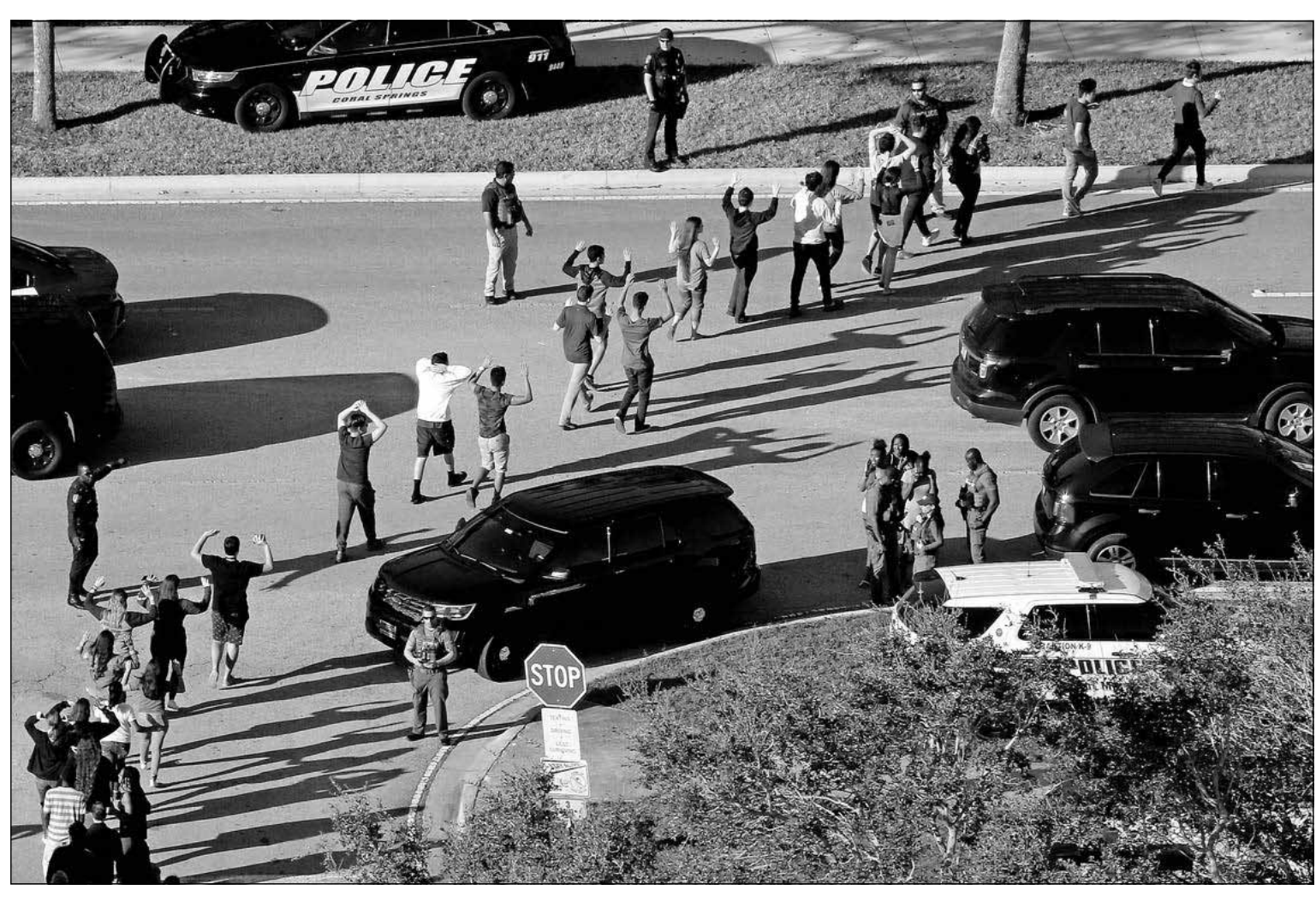
The first AP top-stories poll was conducted in 1936, when editors chose the abdication of Britain's King Edward VIII.

Here are 2018's top 10 stories, in order:

1. Parkland school shooting: It happened on Valentine's Day — an act of senseless hate by a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle who killed 15 students and two staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Previous mass shootings had prompted passionate calls for tighter gun-control laws, but this time was different. A group of student survivors at the school, soon joined by allies nationwide, launched the March for Our Lives movement that organized massive walkouts and peaceful protests at schools across the country. The movement remains active, and has helped energize the broader campaign for tougher gun laws.

2. Trump-Russia probe: Throughout 2018, Mueller's team investigated whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia ahead of the 2016 election and whether the president obstructed the investigation. The evidence so far shows a broad range of Trump associates had Russia-related contacts during the campaign and transition period; some former Trump aides have been indicted for lying. In a separate case in New York, prosecutors say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to make illegal hush money payments to two women in a bid to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign.

3. MeToo: The #MeToo movement, which surfaced late in 2017, maintained its momentum throughout 2018 as many more powerful men were forced to account for past instances of sexual assault and misconduct. Once-revered comedian Bill Cosby was sentenced to prison; so was Larry Nassar, the former Michigan State and USA Gymnastics sports doctor convicted of molesting hundreds of young women. Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein was charged with rape. And Les Moonves was ousted as top executive at CBS after a dozen women accused him of sexual misconduct.



Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., hold their hands in the air as they are evacuated by police after a shooter opened fire on the campus on Feb. 14. The mass shooting, which killed 17 students and staff and sparked nationwide student-led marches for gun control, was the top news story of 2018, according to The Associated Press' annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors. [MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL VIA AP]



Protesters gather at the Grand Park on Jan. 20 in Los Angeles for a Women's March against sexual violence and the policies of the Trump administration. The #MeToo movement, which surfaced late in 2017, maintained its momentum throughout 2018 as many more powerful men were forced to account for past instances of sexual assault and misconduct. [JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

4. Mass shootings: When a Marine combat veteran shot dead 12 people at a country music bar in California in November, it was a grim "Not again" moment for many Americans — the fifth mass shooting of the year in the U.S. that produced nationwide shock and sorrow. In May, two months after the Parkland shooting, eight students and two teachers were killed at a high school in Santa Fe, Texas. In June, a gunman shot dead five employees at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland. And in October, 11 people were killed at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh during Shabbat morning services.

5. U.S. midterm elections: With Donald Trump on the minds of many voters, Democrats managed to flip about 40 seats in the House of Representatives to seize control of that chamber from Republicans. Democrats also flipped several governorships around the country. But the GOP boosted its slim majority in the Senate and will have a 53-47 edge in the next session

of Congress.

6. U.S. immigration: Events along the U.S.-Mexico border produced yearlong drama and controversy. At the height of the midterm election campaign, President Trump deployed thousands of Army troops to the border, warning of threats from a caravan of migrants who'd journeyed from Central America. Earlier, a zero-tolerance order from Trump resulted in more than 2,500 migrant children being separated from their families. The practice sparked global outrage from politicians, humanitarians and religious groups; images of weeping children and anguished parents were splashed across newspapers and television.

7. Kavanaugh hearings: Trump nominee Brett Kavanaugh was narrowly confirmed to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court after explosive Senate hearings on allegations of sexual harassment and assault stemming from his high school and college years. While millions of Americans watched on TV,

senators heard testimony from Kavanaugh, who denied any wrongdoing, and accuser Christine Blasey Ford, who said he attempted to rape her during a party when they were in high school. Kavanaugh's presence on the high court gives its conservative bloc a 5-4 majority.

8. California wildfires: The most populous state endured an epic year for wildfires, culminating with devastating November fires occurring simultaneously 450 miles apart. The Camp Fire in Northern California swept through the city of Paradise, killing at least 86 people — the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century. Nearly 14,000 homes and hundreds of businesses were destroyed. In Southern California, three people died and 1,500 structures were destroyed by the Woolsey Fire. The two fires and a third smaller blaze produced \$9 billion in initial insurance claims; debris cleanup is pegged at \$3 billion.

9. Climate change: Worsening natural disasters around the



U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, shake hands at the beginning of a meeting July 16 at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland. [PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



Roger Bloxberg, right, and his wife, Anne, embrace each other as they watch a wildfire on a hill top near their home Nov. 9 in West Hills, Calif. [MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

world intensified the focus on climate change; delegates at a global summit in Poland negotiated an agreement on the next steps to minimize harm. In the U.S., a government report warned of devastating impact, prompting pushback by President Trump.

10. Khashoggi killing: For weeks, Saudi authorities issued a variety of denials. But eventually it became clear that Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi was killed on Oct. 2 inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Khashoggi, a native of Saudi Arabia, was fiercely critical of its royal regime and the Saudi role in the catastrophic war in Yemen. The murder has had major diplomatic repercussions, in part because of widespread belief that Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, was involved. The U.S. Senate passed a measure blaming the crown prince for the death, a move opposed by President Trump as he tries to preserve close U.S.-Saudi ties.

DI Year in Review

QUESTIONS? Contact Managing Editor Christopher Livingston at 375-4481 x111 or at clivingston@ridgecrestca.com

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AP'S TOP 10 TV SHOWS OF 2018 By Alicia Rancilio, The Associated Press

- 1. "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," on Amazon Prime:** From its costumes to the dialogue to the music to the quirky characters, this show is a delight. Watch it to feel good.
- 2. "This Is Us," on NBC:** Some suggest the third season has lagged but this show is still solid, and we can't discount how invested the public was in just how Milo Ventimiglia's character, Jack, died. The lead-up and reveal earlier this year launched so many theories, memes, hashtags and jokes about crock-pots. Also, those occasional flash-forwards to show characters in the future keeps us guessing and trying to fill in the blanks between now and then.
- 3. "Killing Eve," on BBC America:** This cat-and-mouse chase between Sandra Oh as an MI5 investigator and Jodie Comer's assassin is great fun to watch. Oh has received many accolades for her work on the show, which are deserved, but Comer is also a standout and should be recognized. She mastered various accents and has a smile that can light up a room, before she pounces to kill you, of course.

Rachel Brosnahan in "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." [AMAZON PRIME]



- 4. "Succession," on HBO:** This show about a powerful family that owns a major media conglomerate is disturbing, funny, and sad all at once. The characters aren't likable and don't even seem to like each other, but to be a voyeur and watch them interact is worth tuning in for.
- 5. "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan," on Amazon Prime:** John Krasinski joins Ben Affleck, Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Chris Pine as actors who've portrayed the CIA analyst created by Clancy. In Krasinski's version, he's got brawn and brains and he quickly proves he's a leading man worthy of the role. It's fast-paced, suspenseful, entertaining and season two can't come soon enough.
- 6. "You," on Lifetime:** This show hasn't gotten enough attention. Penn Badgley is masterful as a psychopathic stalker named Joe who charms his way into the heart of a young woman living in Manhattan.
- 7. "Escape at Dannemora," on Showtime:** The real prison escape that this series portrays was in 2015 and caught the world's attention because of the revelation that the two escapees were helped by a female prison employee. The series, directed by Ben Stiller, is just as interesting. Patricia Arquette, Benicio Del Toro, Paul Dano and Eric Lange dissolve into their characters.
- 8. "The Clinton Affair," on A&E:** This six-part documentary series is an extremely compelling, deep-dive into the events that led up to President Clinton's impeachment. You may remember the news coverage, but there's likely information in this series that will be new.
- 9. "grown-ish," on Freeform:** Zoey, the eldest child on "black-ish" (played by Yara Shahidi) went off to college and it's worth keeping up with this new phase of her life. "grown-ish" doesn't hold back.
- 10. "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," Netflix:** The show doesn't just find men who need a new look, but the five experts go deep into why these guys are stuck in a rut. It's positive and heart-warming and feels like a hug.

AP'S TOP 5 ALBUMS OF 2018 By Mesfin Fekadu, The Associated Press



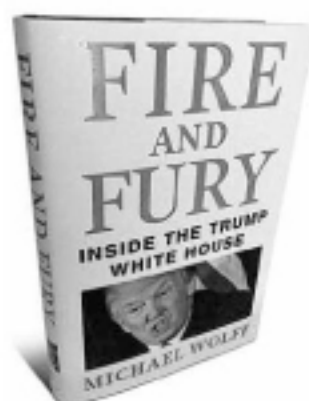
- 1. Janelle Monáe, "Dirty Computer":** When Janelle Monáe released the masterfully brilliant "The ArchAndroid" in 2010, it was hard to imagine how this futuristic, already-seasoned artist could grow, and where that growth would take her. Enter "Dirty Computer," her third full-length album and another work of genius from one of contemporary music's best entertainers. There are so many ways to describe this stunning album: Honest. Fun. Sexual. Political. Thought-provoking. Empowering. Liberating. And simply put — it's just damn good.
- 2. Kacey Musgraves, "Golden Hour":** At its base, Kacey Musgraves' fourth album is a country record. And woven into it are sounds like dance, pop, R&B and other genres. The result is a piercing, soulful album where Musgraves' gliding vocals treat each song like a mini masterpiece.
- 3. J. Cole, "KOD":** At a time when the entertainment world is questioning the relevance of the Grammys, it's hard to take the organization seriously when J. Cole's "KOD" didn't garner a nomination for best rap album.
- 4. Various artists, "Insecure":** This compilation is a breezy effort that plays smoother than most of the albums released this year. Every song is outstanding — no skipping going on here — and the track list will give a chance to discover some artists you may have never heard before.
- 5. Chloe x Halle, "The Kids Are Alright":** The sister duo Chloe x Halle have beautifully mastered harmonization, and they sound like angels throughout "The Kids Are Alright." The album intro, "Hello Friend," brilliantly transitions into the title track and the rest of the next-level songs, from "Fake" to "Everywhere" to "Happy Without Me," prove there's more to come from the talented Beyoncé mentees.

AP'S TOP BOOK MOMENTS OF 2018 By Hillel Italie, The Associated Press

"Fire and Fury": It landed in early January and quickly had the country talking and Trump threatening to sue (a way to boost sales that ranks with an Oprah Winfrey endorsement). Michael Wolff's tale of backbiting and chaos in the Trump administration wasn't so much a revelation, as a confirmation of what millions had suspected.

"A Higher Loyalty": In a spirit of anger, admiration and curiosity, readers wanted to know why James Comey re-opened the FBI investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails less than two weeks before Election Day and what he and Trump had said to each other before Trump fired him in May 2017, just four months into his administration.

"Fear": Bob Woodward, a brand name for inside White House politics, seemed to withdraw during the Obama years. His two works on Obama, "The Price of Politics" and "The Last of the President's Men," made little impact compared to such early blockbusters as the Watergate-era "All the President's Men." And his only book during Obama's second term was a return to the Nixon years: "The Last of the President's Men," about Alexander Butterfield, the White House aide who revealed to the world that Nixon had a taping system in the Oval Office. But Trump is a singular muse for political writers and with "Fear: Inside the Trump White House," Woodward was fully back in the present. "Fear," Woodward's hottest seller in years, read like a more sober version of "Fire and Fury," another tale of an uncontrollable chief executive and a staff that tries both to contain and encourage him.



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2018 Year in Review: Top sports happenings

BY ANDREW SALMI
Sports Editor
asalmi@ridcrestca.com

There were many highs and lows for the Ridgecrest area when it came to sports in the 2018 calendar year, but here are some highlights that should be reflected upon from a very eventful 2018.

CERRO COSO WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL HAS BIG COMEBACK VICTORY VS. TAFT

After the Lady Coyotes volleyball team finished a dismal 1-21 in 2016 and improved to 9-18 in 2017, Cerro Coso really made a leap forward with a very respectable 14-10 record during the 2018 season. There were certainly a fair share of gritty wins for the Lady Coyotes, but one game that really stood out was a home contest versus Taft College.

Despite Cerro Coso falling 16-25 and 21-25 in the first two sets, they dug themselves out of a hole to force a fifth set that they ultimately won 15-13 in a thrilling match.

The Cerro Coso volleyball program has a very

bright future, as head coach Kim Young will look to build on this successful 2018 season.

BURROUGHS BOYS BASKETBALL TAKES CARE OF BUSINESS IN FIRST ROUND OF CIF VS. JURUPA VALLEY

The Burroughs High School boys varsity basketball team picked up a 52-39 victory over Jurupa Valley High School last season on Feb. 14 in the first round of the CIF Southern Section playoffs. This season, the Burros look even better under head coach Scott Hansen and have already won double-digit games heading into 2019.

IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN GIRLS VOLLEYBALL WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT HI-LO LEAGUE TITLE

The Immanuel Christian School Lady Crusaders varsity volleyball team continued its dominance of the Hi-Lo League in 2018 by winning its fifth straight league title, finishing with a 17-17-1 overall record and nearly-perfect 9-1 mark in league play.

LADY BURROS BASKETBALL KNOCKS



Cerro Coso Community College men's basketball freshman forward Jordan Pumphrey (10) throws down a powerful one-handed slam dunk during the second half of the Coyotes' 109-84 beatdown of Bakersfield College on Nov. 10 at Raymond A. McCue Athletic Complex.

OFF HERITAGE IN FIRST ROUND OF CIF

Just one day after the boys team won its playoff game, the Burroughs High School girls varsity basketball team picked up its own CIF Southern Section first round playoff victory when head coach Laura Larson's Lady Burros knocked off Heritage High School 60-47 on Feb. 15.

COYOTES MEN'S BASKETBALL ROUTS

BAKERSFIELD IN DUGAN'S COACHING DEBUT

In Cerro Coso men's basketball season opener at home, the Coyotes opened a lot of eyes when first-year head coach Chris Dugan's squad put a 109-84 smackdown on the Bakersfield College Renegades. This Cerro Coso team is set to make a ton of noise in 2019 when Central Valley Conference play start.

BURROS CROSS COUNTRY SENDS BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS TO CIF FOR FIRST TIME EVER

This was the first time in Burroughs High School cross country history that the girls team qualified for CIF. With so many records broken in 2018 for the boys and girls, the 2019 season is going to be even better.

EMILY ARALAR WINS MOJAVE RIVER

LEAGUE SINGLES TOURNEY FOR LADY BURROS TENNIS

Burroughs High School girls varsity tennis had a very memorable season in 2018 and even made the CIF Southern Section playoffs, but senior standout Emily Aralar capped off an incredible Lady Burros tennis career by winning the Mojave River League Individual Qualifying Tournament and represented the MFL in CIF.

2019 ROSE BOWL

How will Jake Browning be remembered at UW? It's complicated

BY ADAM JUDE
Seattle Times/TNS

LOS ANGELES — The Browning Fatigue Factor has been a reality for Washington's senior quarterback for some time now. Jake Browning has even coined a new name for it: Jake-lash.

"People are ready for the next thing," he said Thursday. "Sucks for them, because I'm still here."

For one more game, he's here. No quarterback in Washington history has played in more games than Browning, who will make his 53rd start on Tuesday in the Rose Bowl against No.

5 Ohio State.

Browning's 39 victories are a Pac-12 Conference record. He's led the Huskies to two Pac-12 championships in three seasons. His 110 total touchdowns and 11,983 passing yards are UW records.

And yet his legacy is a complicated one.

He is, perhaps, a victim of the success he helped create in 2016, when the Huskies won their first conference title in 16 years and earned their first College Football Playoff berth. He hasn't produced at the same level he did during that sophomore season (when he tied the Pac-12 record with 43

touchdown passes), or even come close to it (with 35 TD passes combined the last two seasons).

And then, there are the big-armed, blue-chip quarterbacks waiting behind him, most notably Georgia transfer Jacob Eason.

Browning is well aware of all that — of the strong

opinions some fans have of him — and he has always had a healthy perspective on his role and his place in the program (even if he can be a little sarcastic about it at times).

He says he has no regrets. And why should he?

SEE ROSE BOWL, A10

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ROSE BOWL

Continued from A9

"Definitely some games we wish we could have maybe had a play or two different," he said at a Rose Bowl news conference Thursday morning in downtown Los Angeles. "But I think there's some peace of mind (that) I've

been able to work really hard and put as much effort and energy into this as I can. And so you kind of do that. You kind of look at, we'll see where the chips fall, and that's kind of where we're at."

Others in and around the program have their own strong opinions about the quarterback, and about the fans' backlash — Jake-lash

— surrounding him.

In the moments after UW's loss at Stanford in November 2017, UW athletic director Jen Cohen admitted she "went crazy" on a Husky fan who was screaming expletives at Browning as the Huskies walked off the field.

A little over a year later, Cohen was able to share a happier moment with Browning on the field after the Huskies' 10-3 victory over Utah to claim the Rose Bowl berth. As long-stemmed roses were handed out, Cohen sought out the QB for a hug and a message:

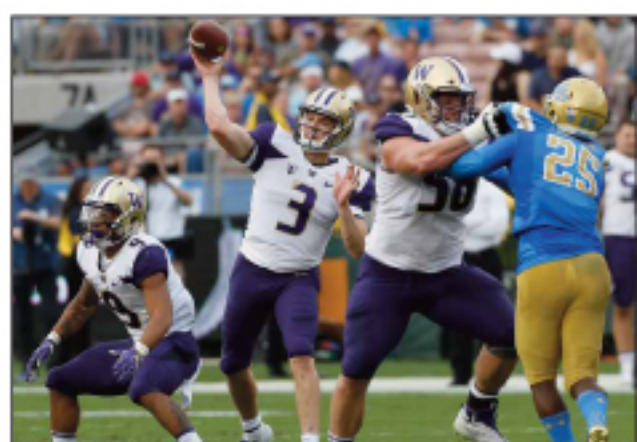
"Good for you," she told him. "There's nobody I would rather see have a rose in his hand than you, because the Rose Bowl is

exactly where the Huskies belong, and you through all these ups and downs — look where you took us."

In this social-media era — when everyone has a forum to share their every thought on any given subject at any moment — Cohen said Browning's handling of criticism is all the more admirable.

"First of all, he's succeeded a lot more than he's failed. And his failures, as public as they've been, he's picked himself up and re-motivated himself," she said.

"That's why I love and admire Jake so much. He embodies everything that we stand for as an athletic department. Not just football, but what we're trying to be as people. ... I think there's something so human and



LUIS SINCO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/THU
Washington quarterback Jake Browning (3) throws down field against UCLA in the first quarter on Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif.

so relatable about Jake, because he plays a position that gets to be evaluated — in every single way on every single play — differently than any of us. Imagine being in a job where every single move we made was evaluated as a positive or a negative. And here's a kid who has the courage to want to be great."

How should Browning be remembered?

"As a great teammate, great quarterback at the University of Washington," senior running back Myles Gaskin said. "A dude that was always ready to work. A dude that took his ups and downs and learned from each one of his downs and came back and got better

from them. And a dude that was just always hungry, that always will be hungry. I can't say enough about him. I've never met a dude like Jake. Just a unique guy."

Browning, out of necessity, has already started the process of moving on to the next phase of his life. He recently subleased his Seattle apartment and moved out all his belongings. Next month, he plans to start training in California ahead of the NFL combine.

"I think, for me, I obviously loved my time here," he said. "I have no complaints about it. But, you know, you kind of get to a certain point and you feel like your time has come, and I've played more football than really anybody."

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