MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Many on federal painkillers panel have ties to drug companies.

Page 5A



UNDER THE SEA

Midland Community Theater will open its first show of the new season this Friday with "Disney's The Little Mermaid." The show is also its 500th production. Read about it in Weekender.

Inside

Eagle Ford counties top Permian in production

Midland County third in number of barrels produced in November

By Jennifer Hiller
San Antonio Express-News

Despite falling prices, Texas oil production continues to rise, and counties in the Eagle Ford Shale continue to top the state's list of the biggest producers.

The state in November produced an average of 2.37 million barrels daily, up from 2.25 million daily barrels in November 2014, according to preliminary data released by the Texas Railroad Commission.

Karnes County is still pumping more crude oil than any other county, with 6 million barrels produced in November.

It was followed by La Salle County, also in the Eagle Ford, and Midland County in the Permian Basin.

All of the top 10 counties for oil production were in the Eagle Ford or Permian Basin.

Webb County led the state for natural-gas production, with 54 million mcf of gas. Webb County is part of the Eagle Ford Shale, mostly targeted for oil, and has long been one of the top natural gas producers.

Six of the top 10 counties for production of the light oil condensate were also in the Eagle Ford. Dimmit County produced about 2.1 million barrels of condensate in November, the most in the state.

Texas oil production is expected to have already peaked at a level near the 1972 all-time high, and will fall in 2016.

By the numbers

Here are the state's top crude producers for November, in barrels and by field:

- Karnes (Eagle Ford): 6,052,467
- La Salle (Eagle Ford): 4,517,919
- Midland (Permian Basin): 3,586,823
- DeWitt (Eagle Ford): 3,522,371
- Upton (Permian Basin): 3,251,364
- Martin (Permian Basin): 3,035,032
- Andrews (Permian Basin): 2,858,650
- Gonzales (Eagle Ford): 2,773,677
- McMullen (Eagle Ford): 2,730,844
- Reeves (Permian Basin): 2,725,942

The top Texas condensate producers, in barrels and by field:

- Dimmit (Eagle Ford): 2,075,906
- Webb (Eagle Ford): 1,312,117
- Karnes (Eagle Ford): 1,133,619
- DeWitt (Eagle Ford): 1,045,196
- Culberson (Permian Basin): 654,830
- Live Oak (Eagle Ford): 543,083
- Reeves (Permian Basin): 353,963
- La Salle (Eagle Ford): 263,223
- Wheeler (Granite Wash): 220,397
- Loving (Permian Basin): 192,005

Source: San Antonio Express-News

SET TO SLOW DOWN



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

A stretch of Interstate 20 is photographed from the Midkiff Road overpass looking toward Loop 250 on Wednesday. The speed limit on Interstate 20 will be reduced to 65 mph.

Officials will reduce speed limit along I-20

By Brandon Mulder
bmulder@mrt.com

To the chagrin of some people, and to the delight of others, local authorities will reduce the speed limit along the stretch of Interstate 20 that passes through the Midland-Odessa metropolitan area. Citing significantly higher crash rates than the state average along this 38 miles of interstate, officials are reducing the speed limit from 75 to 65 miles per hour starting Monday.

Wrecks along this stretch of road have more than doubled between 2011 and 2014, according to Texas Department of Transportation data. As of 2013, the crash rate was more than 230 percent above the state average for rural interstate highways.

"Any time we see a facility with a higher crash rate, we're looking for any type of changes that can help reduce accidents," said TxDOT District Engineer Mike McAnally. "I don't know if this will reduce that many accidents, but it will, hopefully, (reduce) the severity and cause fewer fatalities and incapacitating injuries."

New signage will be erected on Monday, and law enforcement is expected to allow a grace period when officers will give speeding drivers a warning before issuing citations, said Gene Powell, spokesman for TxDOT's Odessa district. The length of the grace period has not been determined, he said.

The reduced speed limit comes after more than a year of traffic studies and required approval from the Texas Transportation Commission. The limit will be more on par with other interstates as they run through metropolitan areas, Powell said.

Studies showed that 48 percent of I-20's traffic was trucks, which causes

Please see **LIMIT**/3A

Oil prices defy World Bank's warning on growth

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

Crude prices have risen this week, unmoved by the World Bank's warning that the once-surging growth in developing nations is cooling faster than anticipated and will likely play a part in keeping energy prices low this year.

The World Bank, a lender to developing nations, said it believes the world's emerging economies will expand slower than recent historical averages, and that could have "significant repercussions" for the price of oil.

"Downside risks still dominate this fragile global environment," the World Bank said in a quarterly outlook on commodity prices. "Many of the factors underpinning the slowdown in recent years — including low commodity prices, weak global trade and slow productivity growth — are expected to persist."

The World Bank cut its annual forecast for 80 percent of the commodities it tracks, including oil, which it believes will average $37 a barrel in 2016 after an oil market rout that sent prices down as much as 28 percent this month. Its new oil price forecast is 27 percent lower than its previous projection in October.

U.S. crude rose 85 cents to $32.30 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange on Wednesday. Global benchmark Brent rose $1.30 to $33.10 a barrel on the ICE Futures Europe. Oil continues to trade at levels that are perilous for the nation's shale drillers and the oilfield service companies that support them and employ thousands in Houston.

"For the North American upstream, it's bad. There's no other way around it," Steve Richardson, an analyst at

Please see **OIL**/4A

Weather
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63/34
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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$32.30 ▲	$0.85
WTI Posted	$28.75 ▲	$0.75
WTS Posted	$25.10 ▲	$0.75
Natural Gas	$2.189 ▲	$0.009
Gasoline	$1.629 ▼	$0.002

The big number
The U.S. pays about
$30 million
for each Russian rocket engine it purchases. Page 6A

Today in Sports
Don't miss the boys basketball report. Page 1C

Coming Friday
Chocolate Decadence mixes philanthropy with fun.

Vol. 87, No. 323
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Obituaries



Don R. Ormand

Donald Ray Ormand, 80, passed away on January 26, 2016 in Midland, Texas.

Don is survived by his wife Marcia Ormand of Midland and his children, Beth and Larry Mathis of Oklahoma City, Suzanne and Scott Tatum of Midland, Melissa and Donn James of Midland, and Robin Watson of Fort Worth, Texas; his grandchildren, Amy and James Klein of Dallas, Texas, Julie and Josh Tatum of Midland, Annabelle Grace Watson and Sophia Elizabeth Watson of Fort Worth, Michael Ledbetter, Autumn Carrasco, and Amber Carrasco of Odessa, Hayden Welch, Brynna Welch, and Lynden Welch of Midland; his step-children, Mark Kelley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Loretta and Brad Welch of Midland, and Jessica and Justin Carrasco of Odessa; and by his brother, Lewis Wayne Ormand of Odessa.

He was born on July 30, 1935 in Longview, Texas to parents Ray and Elizabeth Ormand. He graduated from Texas Tech University with degrees in petroleum engineering and geology.

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Don enjoyed an interesting and successful career as an independent oil and gas producer and operator. He developed many lifelong friendships through his business life in West Texas.

Don's favorite past times were golf, fishing, watching baseball, Texas Tech football, laughing, telling stories, and spending time with his family and friends. Don loved his family and made every effort to see that his four daughters were healthy and happy in all endeavors they pursued. Don was a lifelong supporter of the Red Raider athletic department who enjoyed interacting with the athletic directors and football coaches.

Don is preceded in death by his late wife, Ann James Ormand of Midland; and by his parents, Elizabeth and Ray Freeman Ormand of Odessa, Texas.

A memorial service is scheduled for Friday, January 29, 2016 in the Ellis Funeral home in Midland, Texas at 3:00 p.m.

Online condolences may be offered at *www.ellisfunerals.com* .

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-3555



Gay Fields

Gay Marie Vaught Fields, 57, of Odessa, TX, passed to life eternal after a long illness on January 25, 2016 in Odessa, attended by her loving family. Gay was born February 20, 1958 to Robert L. and Barbara (Hutchins) Vaught in Odessa as one of four daughters. She lived in the Odessa/Midland area all of her life. During her high school career, Gay excelled in academics and enjoyed serving as a Permian Panther cheerleader. After graduation in 1976, Gay went to work for NBO Bank and thus began a distinguished banking career that would span 34 years and see her advance to the position of Senior Vice President at Prosperity Bank.

On May 9, 1992, Gay married Wesley Dean Fields. They blended their families to include her daughters Alaina and Haley and his daughter Jessica, and together they eventually became known as Gammie and Pawpaw to eight precious grandchildren.

Gay worked tirelessly for the community and contributed significantly to several civic organizations, including serving as Director of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, on the Council of the Permian Basin Girl Scouts, as President of the Odessa Rotary Club, holding many offices and winning several awards while in Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Alpha Mu Kappa Chapter, and for the first year and many years afterward as an organizer of the 9/11 American Tribute event. The culmination of her public service career was in 2007 when she was awarded the prestigious Athena Leadership Award. This award honors women for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

Gay was a long-time member of Temple Baptist/Crossroads Fellowship Church. She was a devout Christian who loved her Lord. She found joy most in the family God gave her. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, a precious daughter, and a dear friend to her sisters. Gay was also blessed with many faithful friends who were there for her during her illness, including Kandy Fields, Karen McCord, Barbara Norris, Yolanda Ferralez, Mary Collins, and The Courtyards and their staff.

Gay is preceded in death by her grandparents, Robert and Alma Vaught and George and Viola Hutchins.

Survivors include husband Dean Fields, parents Robert L. and Barbara Vaught of Odessa; sisters and brothers-in-law Terri and Ted Krueger of Smithville; Lynn and Jerry Hix of Odessa; Lisa and Jim Campbell of College Station; daughters and sons-in-law Alaina and Derek Watters of Midland; Haley and Daniel Hunt of Dripping Springs; Jessica and Clint Bizzell of Odessa; grandchildren Kolten, Kambri and Kasen Watters of Midland; Kalyn, Averi and Addison Hunt of Dripping Springs; Cameron and Kinley Bizzell of Odessa, many aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, and loving friends.

Visitation will be Friday, January 29, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 1:00 pm, Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Crossroads Fellowship Church with Reverend Griffin Jones officiating. Interment will follow immediately after at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers are Tyler Campbell, Eric Krueger, Justin Krueger, Ryan Krueger, Tim Rapp, Gavin Sheaffer and Kyle Trojacek.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home. To sign our guestbook, please go to www.sunsetodessa.com. For memorial contributions, the family has designated the Alzheimer's Association.

SUNSET MEMORIAL
GARDENS & FUNERAL HOME



Kenneth Ray Lynch

Kenneth Ray Lynch went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus on Sunday, January 24, 2016. Kenneth was born on Tuesday, August 12, 1930 in Hopkins County, Texas to Roy Darrell and Appie Ruth Lynch.

Kenneth graduated from Panhandle, Texas High School where he excelled in academics, track, and football.

In 1951, the Army required Kenneth's service during the Korean War, where he served in the Corps of Engineers working to rebuild the military bases on Okinawa destroyed by a typhoon.

After the Korean War, Kenneth returned to Amarillo, Texas where he married Joyce Anderson and started his family and a long successful career in the insurance business, managing offices in Amarillo, Borger, Andrews, and Midland, Texas.

In the 1970s, Kenneth joined his son Ronnie in the home building and construction business.

Kenneth used his talents and skills as a carpenter to always be available to help out family and friends to build cabinets, replace doors, add additions, or make repairs.

Kenneth was an avid horseman and turned his hobby into a successful career. He was a self-taught horse trainer and riding instructor. The horse business took him all over the United States and Canada where he won many championships, including the World Appaloosa Championship twice in the 1990s. Kenneth spent several years breeding paint horses.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, and by his brother, Durward Lynch.

Kenneth is survived by his sister, Ruth King of Sierra Vista, Arizona; son, Ronnie Lynch and wife Denise, of Midland; daughter, Regena Lynch of Norman, Oklahoma; daughter, Renae Noe and husband Wes of Midland; daughter, Raychel Schmidt and husband Vergil of San Antonio, Texas; grandsons, Reagan and Reese Lynch, and Brandon and Andrew Noe; granddaughter, Charis Schmidt; three great-grandsons; two great-granddaughters; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family would like to thank the staff and caregivers at Lamun-Lusk Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Memory Support Unit, for the excellent care and compassion in their caring of Kenneth.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. at West Texas Memorial Park Cemetery (American Heritage Cemetery) 4100 N. FM 1788, Midland, TX, under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made in Kenneth's name to the Lamun-Lusk Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Attn: Administrator, 1809 N. US Highway 87, Big Spring, TX 79720

Online condolences may be offered at *www.ellisfunerals.com* .

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-3555



Latisha Wyvette Williams

Latisha Wyvette Williams, 41, of Midland, passed away on January 26, 2016.

Viewing will be on Friday, January 29, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Fairmont Park Church of Christ with Brother Rodney Taylor giving the eulogy.

Latisha was born on February 3, 1974 in Midland to Lorenzo Williams, Sr. and Cathy Merritt Williams. She graduated with honors from Midland High School in 1992 and attended Texas A&M University where she received a Bachelor degree in Finance in 1996. She was affiliated with the Texas A&M family, Midland College family, and her sorority Sigma Gamma Rho. She was also the Co-Founder of Making an Impact. Latisha was very sweet and was known by many as the most kind person you will ever meet.

She was always involved in community events and affairs; she was a longtime member of Juneteenth Midland and Midland African American Roots Historical/Cultural Arts Council, Inc. She was a true Aggie.

Latisha was a faithful member of Northside Church of Christ where she served as Bible teacher and Administrative assistant.

Latisha always encouraged her brothers to push for higher goals and to never settle for anything less than their best. She was called "Tasha" by her parents. She would never complain about anything and would rather go broke before putting a burden on anyone. She helped countless numbers of people pursue and obtain college degrees. She was the best daughter any parent could ever hope for. She was our best friend, and she was Daddy's hero.

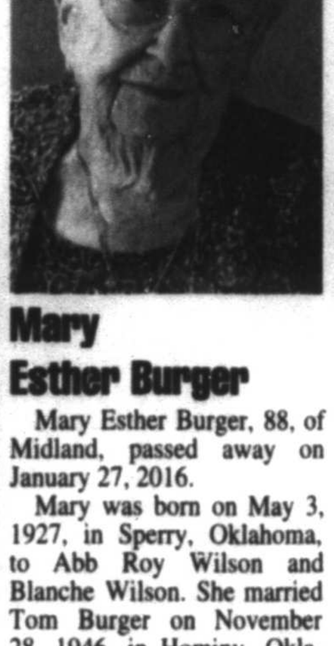
She is survived by her parents, Cathy and Lorenzo Williams, Sr.; brothers, Lorenzo, Jr. (Ellena) and Kelvin (Shauntell); nieces, Zamoria, Savanna, Zanobia, and Sophia; and by her nephew, Kayden.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Mary Anderson (Charlie); her maternal grandparents, James and Shirley Mosley; and Ulysee Jones (Jean).

The family would like to express their gratitude toward Sister 2 Sister, Midland College, and University Lands.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Making an Impact, Inc., P.O. Box 7035 Midland, TX. 79708

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



Mary Esther Burger

Mary Esther Burger, 88, of Midland, passed away on January 27, 2016.

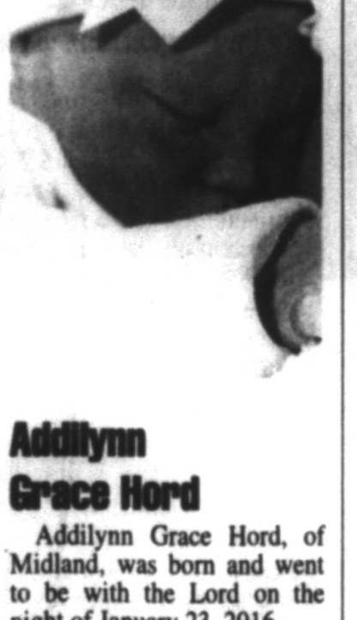
Mary was born on May 3, 1927, in Sperry, Oklahoma, to Abb Roy Wilson and Blanche Wilson. She married Tom Burger on November 28, 1946, in Hominy, Oklahoma.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; son, Donald Burger and Maria Trevino of Houston; daughter, Donna Merrill and husband Al Rechnagel of Fort Collins; son, Doug and wife Lu Burger of Roswell; brother, Charles Roy Wilson and wife Doris Wilson; niece, Reina Chaperon and her children, Tess and Sydney; niece, Diane Dorsey; sister-in-law, Cherry Burger; and numerous four legged companions.

A graveside will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 29, 2016 at Resthaven Memorial Park.

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



Addilynn Grace Hord

Addilynn Grace Hord, of Midland, was born and went to be with the Lord on the night of January 23, 2016.

A visitation was held 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

A funeral service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at Bellview Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Resthaven North Cemetary.

She is survived by her mother and father, John and Kayla Hord, and her sister, Kloe, of Midland; grandparents, Chris and Debra Rushing and James and Laura Hord, all of Midland; and by her great-grandparents, Peter and Donna Rushing of Midland, Edwin and Donna Jackson of Snyder, Texas, Joe Marvin and Debra Cheyne of Waco, Texas, and Susan Sims of Honeapath, South Carolina.

She is preceded in death by her great-grandparents, Melvin Sims of Honeapath of South Carolina and John and Mary Hord of Wingate, Texas.

Flowers can be sent to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

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

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



Iker Dariel Hinojos

Iker Dariel Hinojos, five months old, was born on July 31, 2015 in Odessa, Texas to Jose Marquez Hinojos and Cinthia Villa Hinojos, of Midland, Texas. He passed away on January 24, 2016 in Midland, Texas.

Iker was a chunky, happy baby, always smiling. A beautiful, brown eyed, sleepy boy. He was a strong boy, a fighter.

He is survived by his parents; one brother, Jose Octavio Hinojos of Midland; one sister, Mileidy Yuzleth Hinojos of Midland; paternal grandparents, Gustavo Hinojos of Midland and Ellia Hinojos of Midland; maternal grandparents, Maria Huerta of Midland and Juan Villa of Midland; paternal uncles, Gustavo Hinojos, Jr. and his wife Marina of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Alejandro Hinojos and his wife Jesica of Pascagoula, Mississippi; maternal aunt, Cindy Hernandez and her husband Manuel Hernandez of Midland; maternal uncle, Oliverio Villa and his wife Gabriella Villa of Midland, who are also Iker's godparents.

A viewing will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at American Heritage Cemetery & Funeral Home, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas, 79707.

He will be taken to Manuel Benavides for a final viewing on Friday afternoon, January 29, 2016.

An all-day viewing in Manuel Benavides will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016. A burial will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery & Funeral Home.

American Heritage
CEMETERY & FUNERAL HOME
The Healing Starts Here.

Death Notices

Lonnie Ray Musick

Lonnie Ray Musick, 77, of Odessa, Texas, went to be with the Lord on January 24, 2016.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., January 28, 2016 at Sunset Funeral Home in Odessa.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m., January 29, 2016 at Sunset Funeral Home Chapel, with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

To Submit Obituaries:

Contact

Direct: 432-682-6222

Fax: 432-682-6999

Email: obits@mrt.com

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

Legendary NASCAR broadcaster Barney Hall dies at 83

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Barney Hall, whose folksy delivery brought NASCAR racing to life for radio listeners across the country for more than five decades, died late Tuesday. He was 83.

NASCAR officials confirmed Hall's death early Wednesday, with chairman and CEO Brian France saying, "The entire NASCAR family extends its condolences to the family, friends and fans of Barney Hall, a NASCAR broadcasting giant for more than 50 years."

Hall called his first Daytona 500 in 1960 and missed "The Great American Race" just four times in 57 years.

A native of Elkin, North Carolina, Hall was one of the original members of the Motor Racing Network staff and widely known as the "Voice of MRN." He was inducted into the National Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2007.

In 2012, he joined former MRN colleague Ken Squier as the initial recipients and namesakes of the Squier-Hall Award for NASCAR Media Excellence.

"Barney's impeccable delivery and incredible storytelling skills left an indelible mark on the sport that he so clearly loved," France said. "His legacy remains through an honor that rightly carries his name — the Squier-Hall Award for NASCAR Media Excellence. It will remain a constant reminder of the skill and passion that Barney brought to his work."

Hall began his career in the 1950s working at local radio stations in North Carolina. He served as Bristol Motor Speedway's first public address announcer before calling his first Daytona 500. Hall joined MRN first as a turn announcer and then moved to the booth in the late 1970s, where he had been a fixture until 2014.

Hall called a number of the sport's milestone moments including the landmark 1979 Daytona 500 that featured a post-race scuffle, Richard Petty's 200th career victory in 1984 and Dale Earnhardt's 1998 win in the Daytona 500.

"Barney was more than just an announcer," said Performance Racing Network President Doug Rice, whose company was considered MRN's rival. "To many, he was NASCAR. His was the voice that brought them to the race on countless Sundays. His casual style and delivery was a perfect match for the sport and its audience. In many ways, Barney Hall was not only 'the voice' for 'the voice of NASCAR' and the Motor Racing Network, but a familiar friend to generations of NASCAR fans."

Hall is survived by longtime companion Karen Carrier.

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MAIN SWITCHBOARD
432-682-5311

PUBLISHER
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jshabram@mrt.com

NEWSROOM
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■ GENERAL ASSIGNMENTS
Erin Stone 687-8870
estone@mrt.com

■ GENERAL ASSIGNMENTS
Brandon Mulder 687-8872
bmulder@mrt.com

■ FEATURES WRITER
Trent Johnson 687-8817
tsjohnson@mrt.com

■ SPORTS WRITER
Will Korn 687-8866
wkorn@mrt.com

■ SPORTS WRITER
Chris Hadorn 687-8846
chardorn@mrt.com

■ PHOTOGRAPHER
James Durbin 687-8833
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AP file photo

This photo taken April 18, 2013, shows mangled debris of a fertilizer plant after an explosion leveled the plant in West. Dozens of Texas plants similar to a fertilizer facility that exploded in the town of West in 2013, one of Texas' worst industrial accidents, are still operating near schools, hospitals and residential neighborhoods, federal regulators said.

Dozens of dangerous plants in Texas operate near public centers

Associated Press

DALLAS — Dozens of Texas plants similar to a fertilizer facility that exploded in the town of West in 2013, one of Texas' worst industrial accidents, are still operating near schools, hospitals and residential neighborhoods, federal regulators say.

In a report released ahead of a public meeting Thursday, the Chemical Safety Board says there are 80 plants in Texas that store more than 5 tons of ammonium nitrate, a chemical used in fertilizer. About half of them are fertilizer plants similar to the West Fertilizer Co., north of Waco, where a fire led to a devastating explosion that registered as an earthquake of magnitude 2.1. It killed 15, injured hundreds and leveled part of the town.

"The risk to the public from a catastrophic incident exists throughout the state of Texas," the report said.

Nineteen plants storing fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate operate within a half-mile of a school, hospital or nursing home, according to the report. More than 30 of them are within a quarter-mile of a home or apartment building.

The West plant "was about 550 feet from the closest school, which sustained catastrophic damage as a result of the explosion, which could have resulted in additional loss of life had the school been in session at the time," the report noted. That explosion caused about $100 million in property damage, according to the Texas Department of Insurance, and insurance-related losses were approximately $230 million.

Federal regulators say that the way the fertilizer was stored, with combustible materials nearby, and the lack of ventilation were contributing factors to the detonation. But they also cited a failure to conduct safety inspections of the plant, shortcomings in emergency response such as with hazmat training, and poor land planning that allowed development to sprout around the plant over the years.

West Mayor Tommy Muska said Wednesday he was aware of the report but declined to comment due to ongoing litigation. He referred questions to attorney Stephen Harrison, who did not return a call.

Among those killed in the April 2013 explosion were 12 emergency personnel, primarily ones with the West Volunteer Fire Department who responded to the initial blaze. The report says the response to the fire was flawed for various reasons, including for not establishing an incident command center and lack of understanding about the possibility of a detonation. It's not certain how the fire started, but inspectors have three possible scenarios: faulty electrical wiring, a short circuit in a golf cart stored at the plant, or arson.

West Fire Chief George Nors Sr. on Wednesday declined to address the report's findings. A call to the plant owner was not returned but officials have denied allegations that the plant was negligent in how it handled and stored ammonium nitrate.

Another error cited by regulators was a lack of communication between plant and municipal officials. Just two months before the explosion, the West Intermediate School was evacuated after the principal called 911 about a fire at the plant. Neither the 911 dispatcher nor any other emergency official had informed the school that the plant was conducting a controlled burn of pallets and brush, the report says.

The Chemical Safety Board issued its preliminary findings in April 2014, including that several levels of federal, state and local government missed opportunities to prevent the tragedy.

Crime Stoppers

Midland Crime Stoppers and the Midland Police Department need help finding a man wanted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Jarray Mims forced entry into a residence in the 400 block of South Madison Street on Jan. 21 in an attempt to commit a felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon against a woman at the residence. When he entered the residence, Mims pulled out a gun and began shooting at one man and then shot a second man.



Mims is considered armed and dangerous and has continued to make threats to kill the woman and has also made statements that MPD will have to kill him.

Anyone who knows where Mims is should call Crime Stoppers at 694-TIPS (8477).

How to submit a secure tip

■ **Hotline:** 694-TIPS or 1-800-7-LOCKUP
■ **Online:** www.midlandcrimestoppers.com
■ **Text:** Text TIP247 plus your message to 274637
■ **Mobile app on iPhone or Android phones:** Download free app TIP SUBMIT
■ **Facebook:** Click 'Submit A Tip' on left side of our Facebook page

Man allegedly robs woman at gunpoint after break-in

From staff reports



Saenz

A Midland man was arrested Tuesday for his alleged role in an armed robbery, according to court documents.

John Eric Saenz, 25, was being held Wednesday for a third-degree felony charge of unlicensed possession of a firearm by a felon and a first-degree felony charge of aggravated robbery. He was being held on a $10,000 bond for the gun possession charge. Bond had not been set for the robbery as of Wednesday evening.

Police officers responded on Dec. 19 to a call from an apartment complex in the 5200 block of West Loop 250. Two men had kicked in the door of a woman's apartment and robbed her at gunpoint, according to the arrest affidavit.

The woman met with investigators on Jan. 5 and told them that on the night of the incident, she thought she heard someone outside her apartment and then the door was smashed in, according to the affidavit. One man put a gun to her head and walked her to the kitchen, while the other man, whom she recognized as "J" and who later was identified as Saenz, searched the apartment, according to the affidavit.

Saenz found the woman's purse and then both men left, according to the affidavit.

The men confronted an apartment complex employee and the second man pointed the gun at the employee, according to the affidavit.

The employee saw what kind of vehicle the men were driving, and Saenz was arrested on Tuesday, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the third- and first-degree felonies, Saenz could face up to 10 ten years and 99 years in prison, respectively.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BROWNSVILLE

Militia member gets prison in weapons case

A South Texas militia member who in 2014 pointed a gun at a Border Patrol agent must serve 2 1/2 years in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

John Frederick Foerster of Brownsville was sentenced Wednesday by a federal judge in Brownsville.

The 46-year-old Foerster has a 2001 burglary conviction. He pleaded guilty to having a pistol during the August 2014 incident in which prosecutors say he pointed a gun at a Border Patrol agent near Brownsville.

The agent then opened fire, believing Foerster was a smuggler. Nobody was injured.

Authorities said Foerster was part of a group of armed patrols attempting to catch immigrants allegedly trying to cross into the U.S. illegally.

SAN ANTONIO

Ex-bank president gets prison for wire fraud

A federal judge in San Antonio has sentenced the ex-president of a South Texas bank to two years in prison for lying about how much the financial institution was worth before it was sold.

Former D'Hanis State Bank president Laurie Mayfield, also known as Laurie H. Scott, could have received up to 30 years in federal prison Wednesday for her guilty plea to wire fraud.

The 55-year-old Fredericksburg woman must turn herself in to federal authorities by April 1 to begin serving her sentence. U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez also ordered her to pay almost $818,000 in restitution.

Evidence showed Mayfield filed fraudulent reports to regulators and overestimated the bank's assets by about $830,000 in documents submitted from 2012 through September 2014.

LIMIT

From 1A

vehicle and speed diversity confined within a two-lane roadway.

"An 18-wheeler coming off an entrance ramp, top speed is probably going to be between 15 and 20 miles per hour; he's trying to merge into 75 miles per hour traffic," McAnally said. "So, having 75, 80 miles per hour traffic mixing with those trucks coming on and off is a very significant (speed differential)."

Traveling the full 38 miles at 65 mph versus 75 mph will take about 4 1/2 minutes longer, McAnally said. The lower speed limit will be in effect between Farm-to-Market Road 1208 east of Midland and Moss Road west of Odessa. Work zones with reduced speeds at 55 miles per hour will not be affected.

"We realize that some people are going to challenge this, saying it's too low a speed limit. But, at the same time, we have a more vocal crowd telling us to do something about the crash rate," Powell said. "We'll get pushback, but we feel strongly that this is the right thing to do for safety."

Texas executes man for fatally shooting game warden in 2007

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — A Texas man was executed Wednesday evening for fatally shooting a game warden nine years ago during a shootout after a 90-minute chase that began when he was suspected of poaching.

James Freeman, 35, was asked by the warden if he had a final statement. "No, I do not," he replied.

He was pronounced dead at 6:30 p.m., 16 minutes after Texas prison officials began a lethal dose of pentobarbital. As the pentobarbital began taking effect, he snored about five times and coughed slightly once.

The lethal injection was the second in as many weeks in Texas, which carries out capital punishment more than any other state. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review his case earlier this month, and no new appeals were filed in the courts to try to block the punishment.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles on Monday declined a clemency petition from Freeman.

Freeman was suspected of illegally hunting at night in Southeast Texas' Wharton County when a game warden spotted him. Freeman sped away, leading authorities on a chase that reached 130 mph. It ended near a cemetery near his home in Lissie with Freeman stepping out of his pickup truck and shooting at officers.

He emptied his 11-shot .357-caliber handgun, then switched to an AK-47 assault rifle with a 30-round clip.

When the March 17, 2007, shootout was over, Freeman had been shot four times and Justin Hurst, a Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden who had joined in the pursuit, was fatally wounded. It was Hurst's 34th birthday. About 100 law enforcement officers, many of them Texas game wardens, stood outside the Huntsville prison, during the execution.

Also outside were several motorcyclists who support law enforcement, the loud revving of their bikes clearly audible as the punishment was being carried out.

The brother of the Texas slain game warden thanked the law enforcement officers for coming to Huntsville.



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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Family Science Night: Oceans. Families are invited to participate in science experiments and creative projects, 6-8 p.m., The Petroleum Museum, 1500 W Interstate 20 West. Free. petroleummuseum.org.

■ Brian Piper Trio at the West Texas Jazz Society, 7:30 p.m., Rea-Greathouse Hall in the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $30. wtjs.org.

■ Zane Williams, 8 p.m., Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. $10. rockinrodeomidland.com.

For more information on the weekend's entertainment scene, check out The Weekender in today's Reporter-Telegram.

Meeting schedule

Hospital District
11:45 a.m.
Administation boardroom

Club meetings, support groups today

(Meeting times, days and locations are subject to change)

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

■ Permian Basin Chess Club, 6 p.m., University of Texas of the Permian Basin student union; Steve Dudley, 556-1920; Brian Farrell, 288-7741, pbcc.50gigs.net; odessachess@cableone.net.

■ Bingo, 7-10 p.m., American Legion Post 19, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane, 682-5511.

■ Midland Gem and Mineral Society, 7 p.m., Sibley Nature Center, 687-6467.

■ Sun Country Gentlemen, 7 p.m., Rea Greathouse Room at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 553-1952 or 425-5662.

MISD GT applications being accepted

Parents of Midland ISD students are invited to complete applications for GT (Gifted & Talented) Student Services.

The deadline to apply for GT Services for the 2016-2017 school year is 4 p.m. Friday.

Applications are available for students who will enter grades 1 through 12. www.midlandisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=20759.

Information about the nomination process is available on the Advanced Academics web page: www.midlandisd.net/Page/27483.

Source: Midland ISD

Petroleum Academy parent meetings

The final Petroleum Academy Parent Meeting isscheduled for 6 p.m. today in the Advanced Technology Center Lecture Hall, 3200 W. Cuthbert Ave.

Implemented this school year, the MISD Petroleum Academy gives high school students a starting point for work involving the oil and gas industry. Courses are aimed toward career-ready, technical and engineering fields.

Source: Midland ISD

Happy birthday

Reporter-Telegram Editor Stewart Doreen turns 44 today.

List your birthday here
If you would like to submit a birthday or anniversary for publication, please send the information to news@mrt.com

Meetings schedule

City Hall
300 N. Loraine St.
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Customer Service line: 685-7320

Municipal Courthouse
406 E. Illinois Ave.
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday
8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday
A deposit box for payments is open 24 hours a day
685-7314

Midland Health & Senior Services
3303 West Illinois, Space 22
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
681-7613

Animal Services
1200 N. Fairgrounds Road
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday
685-7420

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 8-7-6
Pick 3 day: 8-5-5
Pick 3 evening: 5-4-9
Pick 3 night: 2-5-5
Daily 4 morning: 4-9-7-2
Daily 4 day: 2-1-9-4
Daily 4 evening: 5-0-9-8
Daily 4 night: 0-0-4-9
Cash Five: 05-10-18-24-35
Lotto Texas: 03-10-11-34-36-51
Powerball: 03-12-40-52-67, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 2
All or Nothing morning: 03-06-08-09-10-12-13-17-19-21-22-23
All or Nothing day: 01-03-04-06-08-11-14-18-20-21-22-23
All or Nothing evening: 01-02-04-05-06-07-09-15-18-19-23-24
All or Nothing night: 01-02-03-05-06-08-09-12-13-14-15-24

Today in history

In 1813, the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War.



Associated Press

Kim Rollins, 64, of Burns, stands outside the Harney County Community Center in Burns, Ore., before the start of a news conference by officials Wednesday. Authorities on Tuesday arrested the leaders of an armed group who had been occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters to protest federal land policies.

Ammon Bundy urges last refuge occupiers to go home

Associated Press

BURNS, Ore. — A day after eight members of an armed anti-government group were arrested, their jailed leader on Wednesday urged a handful of remaining militants to abandon the Oregon wildlife refuge they have occupied for more than three weeks and where they are now surrounded by federal agents.

After militant leader Ammon Bundy made his first court appearance in Portland on Wednesday, his attorney, Mike Arnold, read this statement from his client: "Please stand down. Go home and hug your families. This fight is now in the courts."

It was unclear whether the remnant of Bundy's followers still holed up at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge south of Burns was ready to heed his advice.

Meanwhile, details began to emerge about the confrontation Tuesday on a remote highway that resulted in the arrest of Bundy and other leading figures in the group of occupiers, and in the death of militant Robert Finicum.

Bundy followers gave conflicting accounts of how Finicum died. One said Finicum charged at FBI agents, who then shot him. A member of the Bundy family said Finicum did nothing to provoke the agents.

An Oregon man who said he witnessed the shootout said he heard about a half-dozen shots but didn't see anyone get hit, and that the shooting happened quickly — over maybe 12 or 15 seconds. Raymond Doherty told KOIN-TV that he was about 100 feet back and couldn't see who specifically was shooting. But, he added, "I saw them shooting at each other."

Oil

From 1A

consultancy Evercore ISI, said during a conference call Tuesday with clients. "The oil market has priced out much of North America and there's little visibility on how long that will last."

In 2015, Texas lost at least 60,000 upstream oil and gas jobs, about 19 percent of the jobs at the oil producers and oilfield service companies in the state, said Karr Ingham, a Texas petroleum economist, in his semiannual presentation of the Texas Petro Index.

Based on that upstream-jobs figure, Ingham estimates that 250,000 or so Texas jobs have been lost across the oil industry's supply chain, which encompasses everything from parts manufacturing to restaurants. More are expected in 2016.

"If prices were to not recover quickly and not rise much higher than they are now for some period of time, then the outlook in terms of overall activity levels and employment, in particular, is fairly dire," Ingham said. "That's not an industry that needs as many jobs on the payroll as it has right now."

But despite cutting deep into the state's oil industry last year, Texas oil drillers probably broke the state's 43-year-old record for crude oil production, the economist said.

U.S. oil producer Hess Corp. on Tuesday became one of the first in 2016 to confirm analyst projections that oil company capital expenditures will head much lower this year amid projections of $30 crude.

New York-based Hess said it is planning to cut its spending 40 percent to $2.4 billion, about 20 percent lower than an initial estimate it disclosed in October.

The budget reduction is in line with projections by Evercore ISI and others that oil companies could cut 40 percent to 50 percent from their spending plans this year, as they struggle to generate cash from wells that have become unprofitable under $30 a barrel.

Houston-based Noble Energy cut its quarterly dividend, becoming the latest energy company to pare back its regular cash payments to shareholders as part of an effort to ride out the oil bust. The U.S. driller lowered its quarterly payment 40 percent to 10 cents a share. It also cut its capital budget in half to $1.5 billion, though it said it can adjust its spending plan if prices rise significantly. That appears unlikely at the moment.

"The bottom is not yet in," Credit Suisse said in a client note Tuesday.

Credit Suisse said that if oil demand growth comes in lower and crude stockpiles keep rising, the domestic oil price could average $30 a barrel in the first quarter and $38 a barrel for the whole year. That's 33 percent lower than its original assumption.

The World Bank said slowing demand in developing nations, the imminent return of Iranian oil exports and more efficient U.S. shale drilling could prolong the downturn and keep an oil-price recovery small compared to past oil routs in 2008, 1998 and 1986.

The Washington, D.C.-based lender expects developing nations this year will grow 4 percent, "significantly below historical averages," and somewhat lower than the lender's previous 4.6 percent forecast.

Fast-growing developing economies like China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa have bolstered price of oil and other commodities for more than a decade and a half but have recently declined. But of those India was the only one that didn't slow sharply in 2015.

"Low prices for oil and commodities are likely to be with us for some time," said John Baffes, senior economist at the World Bank.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

DALLAS

Dad who took away daughter's phone not guilty of theft

A Texas father who was accused of theft after he confiscated his 12-year-old daughter's cellphone over an inappropriate text has been acquitted of the misdemeanor charge.

A judge in Dallas found Ronald Jackson not guilty Tuesday, citing insufficient evidence.

Grand Prairie police arrested Jackson a few hours after he commandeered his daughter's cellphone and refused to return it. The 36-year-old father said a text he found on the phone was rude.

The girl's mother said she owns the cellphone and reported the confiscation as theft.

Jackson posted $1,500 bail to get out of jail, but later received a mailed citation for theft. He refused to pay.

The father went to court and successfully fought the citation involving his now-15-year-old daughter.

Jackson also kept the cellphone.

AUSTIN

Officials mull security options for judge who was shot

Travis County officials concerned about the safety of a judge who was shot in November are considering spending up to $80,000 a month for ongoing security for her protection.

Documents obtained by KVUE-TV and the Austin American-Statesman show the Travis County Sheriff's Office has spent nearly $70,000 in the past five weeks to protect Judge Julie Kocurek and her family, with long-term financial requirements still being reviewed. Kocurek was severely injured after being shot in the driveway of her Austin home Nov. 6.

A person of interest in Kocurek's shooting has been identified, but police haven't charged anyone. The judge plans to keep her job.

County Judge Sarah Eckhardt said that officials are still trying to determine what type of security to provide for Kocurek and for how long. Eckhardt wants to hire an expert to advise the county on how to proceed. She said that she thinks that the county has a responsibility to keep the Kocurek family safe for as long as possible.

"I think until we know what is appropriate, we need to err on the side of security," Eckhardt said. "This was a terrifying experience for them and would be for anybody. As Travis County employees, we are family, and certainly it didn't affect us as much as her actual family, but it affected us pretty deeply. We want to make sure our family is safe."

Funding for the judge's security is coming from the sheriff's budget, but Eckhardt said the county could consider adding more money for ongoing security costs once there is a better estimate on how long the security should continue.

Additional funding would have to be approved by the Commissioners Court.

GEORGETOWN

Woman allegedly waited 12 minutes to seek help in baby death

An arrest affidavit says a Texas day care operator waited 12 minutes to call for help after finding an unresponsive baby who allegedly choked on a glove and was later declared dead.

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday released details in the Holly Harrison case. She's charged with injury to a child and tampering with physical evidence in the Jan. 13 death of 5-month-old Brody Havins.

Emergency personnel responded to Harrison's day care near Georgetown after she called 911. The affidavit says Harrison said she did CPR but couldn't revive the boy and discovered he swallowed an infant glove.

A medical examiner determined the baby's throat was too small to swallow the glove.

State regulators say Harrison, who's free on bond, won't take care of children amid the investigation.

CORSICANA

Traffic stop leads to $2.5M of marijuana

Police say a North Texas traffic stop has led to the seizure of about 185 pounds of marijuana with a street value of $2.5 million.

Corsicana police arrested two men in the investigation that began with a stop on a highway near the city limits.

Police Chief Randy Bratton said nearly 100 pounds of marijuana was found in a vehicle during Monday's stop and the driver was arrested. That led to a search warrant executed at a Corsicana home, where 87 pounds of marijuana was confiscated and another man arrested.

Bratton said both suspects were on parole for drug offenses. They now face more smuggling-related counts.

Bratton said the case involves high-grade marijuana that likely was being smuggled from Mexico.

TEMPLE

Sprint to close call center; 350 jobs lost

Sprint plans to close a Central Texas call center next week with more than 350 employees losing their jobs.

The wireless company announced the customer care center in Temple will shut down Feb. 5.

Workers were notified last Friday.

A look at the 'affluenza' teen case and what to expect

By Emily Schmall
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — A Texas teenager who used an "affluenza" defense in a fatal drunken-driving accident has dropped an appeal against deportation from Mexico and will return to Texas to face new charges in the coming days. Attorney Fernando Benitez said Tuesday that Ethan Couch formally ratified his decision to drop the appeal on Monday. Couch is scheduled to appear at a hearing in Texas on Feb. 19 over whether his case will be transferred to the adult system.

Here's a look at what has happened so far and what could happen in coming days or weeks:

Flight to Mexico

Couch, 18, had been fighting deportation since he and his mother, Tonya Couch, were found in late December in the Pacific Coast resort city of Puerto Vallarta. Texas officials say the pair fled to Mexico after a video surfaced that appeared to show Ethan Couch at a party where people were drinking. He was banned from drinking under the terms of his probation for a drunken-driving wreck that killed four. A defense witness had argued at that time that Couch had been coddled by his wealthy parents, a condition the expert called "affluenza."

A detention warrant was issued for Ethan Couch in December after he missed a meeting with his probation officer. A spokeswoman for the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office said it will be up to a judge whether Couch faces any charges related to the detention warrant.

When Couch and his mother were arrested, he appeared to have tried to disguise himself by dying his blond hair black and his beard brown, according to investigators. Tonya Couch was quickly deported to Los Angeles, and, days later, sent back to Texas, where she is charged with hindering an apprehension, a third-degree felony that carries a sentence of two to 10 years in prison.

Return to the U.S.

Mexican immigration officials, the U.S. Marshals Service, or both will transfer Ethan Couch to Texas from the immigration detention center in Mexico City where he has been held since late December. Though his flight route is unclear, U.S. Marshals Service spokesman Trent Touchstone said Couch will likely fly direct into Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Because Couch dropped his deportation fight, transferring him to the U.S. "will be a lot easier and a lot quicker," Touchstone said.

The sheriff's office will take custody upon his return to Texas.

Couch will be held in a juvenile detention center run by the Texas Youth Commission until a juvenile judge holds a hearing to decide whether to continue to hold him there, book him in an adult jail or let him go, said Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson.

A separate hearing will be held next month to decide whether to transfer his case to adult court.

Punishment

Couch was driving drunk and speeding near Fort Worth in June 2013 when he crashed into a disabled SUV, killing four people and injuring several others, including passengers in his pickup truck. He was 16 at the time. He pleaded guilty in juvenile court to four counts of intoxication manslaughter and two counts of intoxication assault causing serious bodily injury. He was sentenced to 10 years' probation.

During the sentencing phase of his trial, a defense expert argued that he had been coddled into a sense of irresponsibility. "Affluenza" is not recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association, and its invocation drew ridicule.

Rather than seeking a revocation of Couch's probation, Tarrant County District Attorney Sharen Wilson has asked a judge to transfer his case to adult court.

If that takes place, Couch could face up to 120 days in an adult jail, followed by 10 years' probation. If he violates probation again, he could face up to 10 years in prison per death, Wilson said.

If the judge declines to transfer Couch to adult court, he could be held in a juvenile facility until his sentence expires when he turns 19 in April.

"We are not seeking to request violation of his juvenile parole, as the maximum it could offer at this point would be to hold him in a juvenile facility until his nineteenth birthday," said Tarrant County district attorney spokeswoman Samantha Jordan.

Federal pain panel rife with links to pharma companies

By Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal panel that has recently criticized efforts to cut back on painkiller prescriptions is studded with members who have financial ties to drug companies.

Nearly a third of members on the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee have financial connections to makers of opioid drugs like OxyContin.

The government advisory panel consists of federal scientists, outside academics and patient representatives. Of the 18 committee members at a recent meeting to discuss the government's handling of pain issues, at least five had drug-industry connections.

One, a pain specialist from Duke University, has received thousands of dollars in payments from drugmakers, including OxyContin-maker Purdue Pharma and Teva Pharmaceuticals, which sells generic painkillers. Another, a patient advocate, holds a nonprofit position created by a $1.5 million donation by Purdue.

The revelation comes after the committee last month bashed a federal plan to recommend doctors scale back on prescribing painkillers for chronic pain. The guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are intended to curb deadly overdoses tied to powerful but highly addictive opioid drugs, including Percocet and Vicodin.

At the time, various committee members called the proposal "ridiculous," "horrible," and "shortsighted." A week later, the CDC said it would seek more public input on its guidelines — which were largely written behind closed doors.

The apparent conflicts of interest on the panel underscore the pervasive reach of pharmaceutical-industry dollars, even among federal advisers who are supposed to be carefully vetted for such connections before serving. Financial payments from drugmakers have been shown to shape doctors' medical decisions and researchers' conclusions. Concerns about that influence led the federal government to begin posting drug-industry payments to doctors in 2014.

Industry critics say the panelists should have disclosed their financial ties publicly at the meeting on Dec. 3 and, in some cases, recused themselves from the discussion.



AP file photo

This photo taken Feb. 19, 2013, shows OxyContin pills arranged for a photo at a pharmacy in Montpelier, Vt.

Dr. Michael Carome of Public Citizen, a consumer watchdog group that is not connected to the panel, said the conflicts "reflect failings of the federal staff" who vetted the panelists. "It corrupted the process, or gives the perception of corrupting the process," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement that all current members of the panel "have met the criteria for membership, including disclosure requirements."

The National Institutes of Health, where the panel convenes, said it cannot release the financial disclosure forms completed by the panelists, even under the Freedom of Information Act.

"This is exactly the type of information that should be made available to the public," said Dr. Andrew Kolodny, co-founder of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, which advocates reducing painkiller use. The group is backed by Phoenix House, a network of rehabilitation clinics.

One committee member who led the criticism of the CDC guidelines was Dr. Richard Payne of Duke University. At the Dec. 3 meeting, Payne questioned whether the experts who had helped draft the CDC guidelines may have been disproportionately biased against drug therapy.

"Were there any conflicts of interest — beyond just financial — but conflicts of interests in terms of biases, intellectual conflicts that needed to be disclosed?" Payne asked.

But Payne himself has financial links to multiple drug companies. Between 2013 and 2014, he received more than $8,660 in speaking fees, meals, travel accommodations and other payments from pain drugmakers, according to federal records. More than half of that amount came from Purdue Pharma, whose long-acting painkiller OxyContin had sales over $2.5 billion in 2014.

Payne said in an interview with The Associated Press that as a professor, he does not regularly treat patients or prescribe medications.

"I've disclosed the educational activities I've done and who paid for them," he said.

Payne also holds a chair at the Center for Practical Bioethics, a Kansas City nonprofit with longstanding ties to Purdue, Teva, Endo Pharmaceuticals and other drugmakers. In total, the Center for Practical Bioethics says drug and device companies have contributed about 4 to 5 percent of its funding in the last four years, though the center does not publish specific donation amounts.

The center also employs another panelist, Myra Christopher, who took the lead in outlining how the committee should respond to the CDC guidelines, saying "we have sufficient concerns about the work that's been done and the negative impact it will have on our charge and mission; we would ask them to delay their timeline."

Christopher holds the center's Kathleen M. Foley Chair for Pain and Palliative Care, named for a prominent pain physician. The chair was created through a $1.5 million initial gift from Purdue Pharma in 2009. At that time, Christopher was CEO of the center. Christopher, whose term on the panel expired at the end of 2015, according to the government, said in an interview she received "very comprehensive" vetting to serve on the panel.

It's not clear financial ties like those between Christopher and Purdue would appear on government disclosure forms, which focus on individual's finances and payments, not employers.

At least three other panelists at the December meeting also work for nonprofits that receive pharmaceutical-company funding: The U.S. Pain Foundation, the American Chronic Pain Association and the Chronic Pain Research Alliance. Purdue Pharma gives money to all three groups.

For now, the CDC continues to review its prescribing guidelines. Today, the agency will hear recommendations from a group of outside advisers on how to proceed.

As for the federal pain panel, at the conclusion of last month's meeting, members agreed to send CDC a "formal critique" of the guidelines. That document is still being written, according to panelists.

Lawyer: 'Runaway grand jury' indicted abortion foes

By Juan A. Lozano
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Two anti-abortion activists facing charges after making undercover videos about Planned Parenthood did use fake driver's licenses to get into a Texas clinic, their attorneys acknowledged Wednesday, but their actions weren't meant to defraud or harm the abortion provider.

Attorney Terry Yates said at a news conference that the case against anti-abortion activists David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt won't stand up in court.

Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson's office initially launched the grand jury investigation to look into Planned Parenthood after undercover videos surfaced claiming the nation's largest abortion provider illegally sold fetal tissue to make a profit.

However, the Houston grand jury cleared Planned Parenthood of misusing fetal tissue and instead on Monday indicted Daleiden and Merritt, who made the videos, on felony charges of tampering with a governmental record for using fake driver's licenses. Daleiden also faces a misdemeanor related to purchasing human organs.

"How many of us have used a fictitious driver's license to buy beer?" Yates said. "Can you imagine every kid that did that being charged with a second-degree felony? This grand jury has overreached. Obviously, a runaway grand jury would do that."

Jared Woodfill, another attorney for the activists, said the methods that Daleiden and Merritt used to make the undercover videos are not different "than the tactics used by investigative reporters all around this country for decades."

Kentucky Senate votes to ban fetal tissue sales

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky Senate voted Wednesday to ban the sale of fetal body parts, the latest reaction to undercover Planned Parenthood videos in Texas that led to a grand jury indictment of two anti-abortion activists.

Republican state Sen. Max Wise, who wrote Kentucky's bill, criticized the grand jury's decision and said the bill would protect the state from the "cold-hearted trading of body parts for money." The bill makes it a felony to sell all or part of a fetus that was part of an induced abortion.

Two senators, both Democrats, voted against it. Sen. Perry Clark of Louisville noted the sale of fetal body parts is already prohibited by federal law and there is no evidence of it ever occurring anywhere.

"To do this is redundancy on top of redundancy. I'm going to vote 'no' on the measure even though I love all of the babies as much as anybody in this body," Clark said.

Other states have since introduced similar bills, and nearly two dozen states have laws that ban the sale of fetal tissue, according to Mary Balch, director of the department of state legislation for the National Right to Life.

Associated Press

Most professional news organizations discourage or explicitly forbid reporters from posing as someone else or otherwise misrepresenting themselves.

And Houston criminal defense attorney Grant Scheiner, who's not affiliated with the case, called the charges "pretty straight forward," adding that the activists "used fake IDs, which is not something that a legitimate or reputable journalist would do."

NATIONBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MISSOURI

Radioactive traces found near landfill

BRIDGETON — A Missouri agency has found more off-site radiation contamination near a St. Louis-area landfill where nuclear waste was illegally dumped four decades ago.

KMOX-AM reported that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources said gamma radiation was found in the lower range in most samples. But some areas near the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton showed "comparatively higher levels." More testing is planned.

Richard Callow, a spokesman for landfill owner Republic Services, said in a statement that the screening levels do not "identify any areas of health and safety concern."

A September report found that radioactive waste dumped in the landfill in Bridgeton had contaminated trees and groundwater outside the perimeter of the landfill. Adding to the concern is an underground fire burning in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

NORTH CAROLINA

Sorority activities at Duke suspended after hospitalization

DURHAM — Sorority activities at Duke University have been halted after a new member's alcohol-related hospitalization.

Larry Moneta is Duke's vice president for student affairs. He released a statement Wednesday saying all sorority activity was suspended after the student's hospitalization and other concerns about the recruitment process, known as "rush."

Moneta said the student is expected to recover fully.

A university website says most of Duke's 18 sororities hold their formal recruitment process in January, when prospective members visit chapters and then receive bids to join. The website listed last Sunday, Jan. 24, as "Bid Day."

WTVD reported that an email to sororities signed by a school official says the new sorority member was hospitalized in critical condition overnight Tuesday into Wednesday.

Duke didn't say which sorority the student joined.

ILLINOIS

Wife of Illinois officer who staged suicide indicted

FOX LAKE — The widow of a disgraced Illinois police officer who staged his suicide to appear he was gunned down in the line of duty, sparking an intensive manhunt, was indicted Wednesday on charges of assisting her husband in siphoning money from a youth program.

Melodie Gliniewicz, 51, turned herself in at the Lake County Sheriff's Office when she learned of the grand jury indictment, said Detective Christopher Covelli, a sheriff's office spokesman. She was taken to the county jail Wednesday afternoon. Her bond was set at $50,000.

Her husband, Fox Lake Police Lt. Charles Joseph Gliniewicz, died Sept. 1. Authorities said he shot himself because he feared discovery of embezzlement from the Fox Lake Police Explorer Post.

The officer's death touched off a manhunt involving hundreds of officers and raised fears that several killers were on the loose in northern Illinois. Joe Gliniewicz was initially hailed as a community hero and praised for his work with the youth program. At the time, Melodie Gliniewicz's tearfully told hundreds of people gathered at a candlelight vigil that Gliniewicz had been her "hero' and her "rock."

Two months after Gliniewicz' death, authorities announced that he had killed himself after embezzling from the village's Police Explorer program for seven years, prompting tough questions about why it had taken so long to reach that conclusion.

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Does racial diversity at the Oscars matter?

■ At least it's fun to see Hollywood liberals squirm when confronted with their own lack of racial diversity

#OscarsSoWhite. #TrueButSoWhat?

RUBEN NAVARRETTE

Washington Post Writers Group



Now that our society has dealt with the trivial matters — Latino kids being shortchanged by public schools, and African-American families being poisoned by drinking water in Michigan, and people of color having to contend with police violence, unemployment, mass incarceration, decaying infrastructure and neglect by political parties — it's time to turn our attention to more important issues.

Like whether there is sufficient racial diversity among the 2016 Oscar nominations.

I'll spare you the suspense. The answer is "no." Check the math. For the second year in a row, all 20 nominations in the acting categories went to white people.

That's a massive blind spot by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. But what, if anything, should its members do to improve their vision?

Does it matter? Latino undocumented immigrants worry about being deported by an administration that pretends it has stopped deportations. African-Americans did not see their lives improved significantly despite the election of an African-American president. Does anyone really think that either of these groups cares even a little bit that filmmaker Spike Lee and actors Will and Jada Pinkett Smith have vowed to sit out the Oscar ceremony on Feb. 28?

Clearly the academy missed the big picture. Still, this is an argument among elites. If you work in Hollywood, you might care about it. But few others do.

It is also a drama shot in black and white. Critics don't seem to care that, apart from the acting categories, the directors nominated for Oscars this year include Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu. The Mexican filmmaker, who is nominated for "The Revenant," took home a statue last year. Even so, Latinos have been overlooked far more than African-Americans over the 88-year history of the Oscar ceremony, and no one complained much about it — including African-Americans.

This is not to say that Hollywood studios shouldn't write and produce, on a regular basis, more films and television shows that reflect the life experiences of African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans and other groups that are often ignored.

To be authentic and relevant, art must be at least somewhat rooted in the real world.

Nor is it to say that the entertainment industry couldn't afford some introspection, and that it shouldn't take steps to get with the times. The academy recently announced that it was making changes, including instituting new rules aimed at doubling the number of women and minorities in its ranks by 2020. As a result, some members who have been inactive in the film industry for 10 years could lose their voting privileges.

That sounds like common sense, and it is long overdue.

And speaking of introspection, you may have noticed that this is not a strong suit for journalists. My tribe prefers to look outward, not inward.

One exception is Jose Antonio Vargas, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and undocumented immigrant who recently chided his colleagues for being so quick to criticize the Oscars for not honoring minorities when our own profession could use a splash of color. Vargas tweeted: "American newsrooms are less diverse now than when I started in journalism in 1999. A disgrace. And irresponsible. '#JournalismSoWhite.'"

Lastly, the whole "#OscarsSoWhite" ruckus perpetuates a culture of powerlessness. Here you have all these activists in the world of entertainment who are essentially begging for acknowledgment and validation from an industry that refuses to give it. There is no mystery as to who has the upper hand in that relationship. Folks, have some self-respect.

The silver lining in all this is that it's fun to see Hollywood liberals squirm as they confront the idea that — when it comes to racial diversity in their own industry — they aren't nearly as liberal as they pretend to be. Just because they may think corporations ought to practice affirmative action to bring more minorities into the executive suites doesn't mean they're ready for the concept of using racial quotas to dole out Oscar nominations.

That's not the answer. But then what is?

Even the academy's recent efforts to attract more people of color are based on the assumption that Latinos are more likely to vote for Latinos and African-Americans are more likely to vote for African-Americans. And yet, for some reason, we don't find that concept as odious as what brought us here in the first place — the assumption that, in the current voting process, whites are only voting for whites.

It's enough to make you change the channel, and skip the whole spectacle.

OUR VIEW

There's a bigger issue to Trump skipping the Republican debate

Donald Trump says he will not participate in tonight's Republican candidate debate.

We have heard all the talk about the Trump feud with Fox News Channel commentator Megyn Kelly and what his skipping the debate might mean to the Iowa caucuses. Most people are missing the real point. There is a reason not being talked about that should scare the electorate.

First, Trump has changed the game with unpredictable behavior and off-the-wall — and often offensive — comments about groups of people and specific individuals. And he's still on top of the polls. Who's to say that if he decides to sit this one out it will matter one bit.

Trump rightfully has a beef with Fox News. While his disdain for Fox News commentator and debate moderator Megyn Kelly is childish, he should — and the Republican Party should — be hot over how the cable channel's spokespeople handled the debate issue with snarky press releases that really were meant to mock the candidate.

Here's one response: "We learned from a secret back channel that the Ayatollah and Putin both intend to treat Donald Trump unfairly when they meet with him if he becomes president. A nefarious source tells us that Trump has his own secret plan to replace the Cabinet with his Twitter followers to see if he should even go to those meetings."

Yes, Trump should have thicker skin, but we should expect our news organizations to be bigger than what we have seen from Fox News. One of the problems we have with cable news is that it is not about the news any more. Straight news is no more, and we are talking about all channels. Our culture's appetite to hear the news coming from a point of view that we agree with has created news organizations with built-in personalities. Some organizations preach a liberal gospel. Fox News offers a more conservative tone. That's reality, but those organizations shouldn't become the news themselves.

Which brings us to the real reason people should be upset at the developments leading up to tonight's debate.

The Trump back-and-forth with Fox News goes beyond ideology. The channel is hosting a debate among presidential candidates, and days before the debate it launches into a personal attack against a candidate. Why should that candidate believe he's on a level playing field if the organization itself is behaving in such a manner? He shouldn't.

Will it all matter when it comes to the ballot box? Here's the tricky part and the part we will be watching anxiously. It will be a worst-case scenario if Trump skips the debate before the Iowa caucuses and then wins Iowa. Politicians may start to believe that they don't have to participate in the process like they did before. We have seen that happen with candidates deciding to skip editorial board interviews and candidates doing other things to limit media and public access. If Trump wins Iowa, what stops him from saying "I don't need the debates." And what stops the next front-runner from following his lead in the future?

This spat between Trump and Fox News is stupid, silly and is beneath the process that we use to elect our next president. But the reality is, the ramifications of Trump missing the debate go way beyond how an inconsequential state feels about who should be the next Republican candidate for president.

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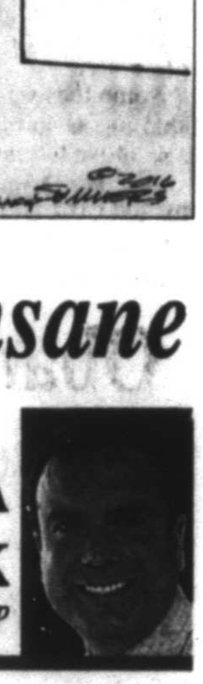


Nominating Sanders is insane

■ Democrats, hold your nose and vote for the uninspiring front-runner

DANA MILBANK

Washington Post Writers Group



I adore Bernie Sanders. I agree with his message of fairness and I share his outrage over inequality and corporate abuses. I think his righteous populism has captured the moment perfectly. I respect the uplifting campaign he has run. I admire his authenticity.

And I am convinced Democrats would be insane to nominate him.

Hillary Clinton, by contrast, is a dreary candidate. She has, again, failed to connect with voters. Her policy positions are cautious and uninspiring. Her reflexive secrecy causes a whiff of scandal to follow her everywhere. She seems calculating and phony.

And yet if Democrats hope to hold the presidency in November, they'll need to hold their noses and nominate Clinton.

Ultimately, I expect that's what Democrats will do — because as much as they love Sanders, they loathe Donald Trump more. It seems more evident each day that Republicans have lost their collective reason and are beginning to accept the notion that Trump will be their nominee. And I doubt Democrats will make an anti-immigrant bigot the president by nominating a socialist to run against him.

Sanders and his supporters boast of polls showing him, on average, matching up slightly better against Trump than Clinton does. But those matchups are misleading: Opponents have been attacking and defining Clinton for a quarter- century, but nobody has really gone to work yet on demonizing Sanders.

Watching Sanders at Monday night's Democratic presidential forum in Des Moines, I imagined how Trump — or another Republican nominee — would disembowel the relatively unknown Vermonter.

The first questioner from the audience asked Sanders to explain why he embraces the "socialist" label and requested that Sanders define it "so that it doesn't concern the rest of us citizens."

Sanders, explaining that much of what he proposes is happening in Scandinavia and Germany (a concept that itself alarms Americans who don't want to be like socialized Europe), answered vaguely: "Creating a government that works for all of us, not just a handful of people on the top — that's my definition of democratic socialism."

But that's not how Republicans will define socialism — and they'll have the dictionary on their side. They'll portray Sanders as one who wants the government to own and control major industries and the means of production and distribution of goods. They'll say he wants to take away private property. That wouldn't be fair, but it would be easy. Socialists don't win national elections in the United States.

Sanders on Monday night also admitted he would seek massive tax increases — "one of the biggest tax hikes in history," as moderator Chris Cuomo put it — to expand Medicare to all. Sanders, this time making a comparison with Britain and France, allowed that "hypothetically, you're going to pay $5,000 more in taxes," and declared, "We will raise taxes, yes we will." He said this would be offset by lower health-insurance premiums and protested that "it's demagogic to say, oh, you're paying more in taxes."

Well, yes — and Trump is a demagogue.

When Cuomo said Sanders seemed to be saying he would grow government "bigger than ever," Sanders didn't quarrel, saying, "People want to criticize me, OK," and "Fine, if that's the criticism, I accept it."

Sanders accepts it, but are Democrats ready to accept ownership of socialism, massive tax increases and a dramatic expansion of government? If so, they will lose.

Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire and former New York mayor who floated a trial balloon over the weekend about an independent run, knows this. As The New York Times reported. "If Republicans were to nominate Mr. Trump or Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, a hard-line conservative, and Democrats chose Mr. Sanders, Mr. Bloomberg ... has told allies he would be likely to run."

President Obama seems to know this, too — which would explain why he tiptoed beyond his official neutrality to praise Clinton in an interview with Politico's Glenn Thrush. "I think that what Hillary presents is a recognition that translating values into governance and delivering the goods is ultimately the job of politics," he said. He portrayed Sanders as "the bright, shiny object that people haven't seen before."

It doesn't speak well of Clinton that, next to her, a 74-year-old guy who has been in politics for four decades is a bright and shiny object. The phenomenon has at least as much to do with Clinton as with Sanders: Democrats are eager for an alternative to her inauthentic politics and cautious policies.

I share their frustration with Clinton. But that doesn't make Sanders a rational choice.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Debate feud injects fresh chaos into GOP primary

By Jill Colvin
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — An explosive feud between Donald Trump and Fox News Channel is overshadowing the final sprint to Iowa's presidential caucuses, injecting a new sense of chaos into the 2016 Republican contest.

On the eve of the final debate before Iowa voters weigh in, Trump refused to back off his decision to boycott today's prime-time faceoff. His campaign insisted that debate host Fox News crossed a line with a sarcastic statement mocking him and continued to criticize moderator Megyn Kelly. In turn, Fox accused Trump's camp of trying to terrorize its employees.

"They think they can toy with Mr. Trump," campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Wednesday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." "Mr. Trump doesn't play games."

As the public clash intensified, Trump's Republican competitors hunkered down for a day of private debate preparations filled with uncertainty. Skeptical that he would follow through on his boycott, the other campaigns held practice sessions with and without someone playing Trump.

Some thought the absence of Trump could make another leading Iowa contender, Sen. Ted Cruz, a prime target for campaigns eager to spark a last-minute shakeup. Cruz challenged Trump to a separate one-on-one debate, a proposal that was dismissed by his opponent.

"Even though I beat him in the first six debates, especially the last one, Ted Cruz wants to debate me again. Can we do it in Canada?" Trump tweeted, referencing Cruz's birthplace.

Some foes saw the shakeup as an opening to rise above the ruckus.

"These kinds of theatrics by Ted Cruz and Donald Trump are an entertaining sideshow, but they have nothing to do with defeating Hillary Clinton," Florida Sen. Marco Rubio said. "We don't have time for these kinds of distractions."

Despite the attention, there was little sense that Trump's move would significantly change the trajectory of the Republican contest in Iowa. While the former reality television star holds a big lead in most national polls, he and Cruz are locked in a tight race here.

"My sense is those Iowa Republicans who weren't fans of Donald Trump before yesterday, this has only validated their opinion of him, and those Iowans who have been drawn to his passionate attack on the media and political elites in our country are even more emboldened by their guy today," said former Iowa GOP chairman Matt Strawn.

Trump has substituted mass rallies for normal meet-and-greet events, made inflammatory statements that would have sunk other candidates, and spent much of his time giving his views on television news shows and Twitter.

Instead of debating tonight, Trump will host what his campaign is calling a "special event to benefit veterans' organizations." The campaign on Wednesday evening formally announced details for the event, scheduled to begin at the same time as the debate — and just two miles away.

"I think it's typical Trump. He's betting on him making a bigger splash," said Don Kass, chairman of Iowa's Plymouth County GOP, who predicted the decision to skip the debate would benefit the real estate mogul.

"Frankly, you know, in the past, anytime somebody thought he did something that cost him, it didn't cost him," Kass said.

Trump is not the first Republican to skip a pre-caucus debate.

Front-runner Ronald Reagan skipped a debate held ahead of the 1980 Iowa caucuses and wound up losing the state to George H.W. Bush. But Reagan went on to win the nomination.

In December, Trump threatened to skip a CNN debate unless the network paid him $5 million, which he said he'd donate to charity. The network did not pay up, and he showed up nonetheless. And in October, he and rival Ben Carson's campaign threatened not to show unless their demands for a shorter run time and other conditions were met. The network adjusted, and they appeared.

"He'll show up. I've got a $20 bet on it," former Florida governor and GOP presidential contender Jeb Bush told reporters as he left a Des Moines campaign stop.

Trump's Fox feud dates back to the first primary debate, when Kelly took him to task over derogatory statements he'd made about women.

The mocking Fox statement on Tuesday was the final straw.

It said the leaders of Iran and Russia "both intend to treat Donald Trump unfairly when they meet with him if he becomes president" and said "Trump has his own secret plan to replace the Cabinet with his Twitter followers to see if he should even go to those meetings."

Taunting and juvenile, Trump and his campaign manager said.



Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event at the University of Iowa Field House on Tuesday in Iowa City, Iowa.

Behind the latest Fox-Trump tiff

Is Fox News Channel overplaying its hand or skillfully playing to its brand in dealing with Donald Trump?

The GOP presidential front-runner has dropped out of tonight's Republican debate following an escalating public relations battle triggered in part by his call for Fox to dump Megyn Kelly as one of the moderators.

Is there a winner in this dispute? A loser?

"Donald Trump and (Fox Chairman) Roger Ailes are birds of a feather — they're both geniuses at garnering publicity by fomenting conflict," said Mark Feldstein, a veteran broadcast journalist and now a professor at the University of Maryland.

Trump believes he's largely responsible for the campaign debates' record ratings — 24 million people for Fox's Aug. 6 faceoff, for example. Today might undermine that theory. Or people might turn out for the sheer theater involved, wondering if Trump might make a surprise appearance.

His discontent with Kelly dates to her question about his attitude toward women at the Aug. 6 debate. Fox responded to Trump's tweeted request to dump Kelly by pointing out that a candidate doesn't get to choose his questioners, and Ailes personally backed Kelly with a strong statement of support.

Then Fox added a sharply worded mocking statement with no name attached: "We learned from a secret back channel that the Ayatollah and Putin both intend to treat Donald Trump unfairly when they meet him if he becomes president." Fox also said Trump planned to replace the Cabinet with his Twitter followers.

The Putin statement was a tipping point and "clearly designed to incite," Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, told radio host Laura Ingraham on Wednesday.

Neither Trump nor Ailes are known for backing down from fights, and Fox's pugnacious attitude was a key in its rise to becoming one of the top-rated networks on cable TV.

The wagons circled on Wednesday: Fox's Brit Hume tweeted a photo with Trump's face superimposed on a baby's, with the statement: "Megyn Kelly was mean to me! I want my binkey!"

Fox's public response contrasts with CNN's, after Trump said he wouldn't show up for that network's first debate last fall unless its profits from televising the exchange were donated to charity. Before CNN's second debate, Trump suggested a specific donation to veterans' groups. In both cases, CNN issued no statements in response (and made no donations), and Trump showed up.

While Fox was correct in defending its right to decide which journalists should question a candidate, Lee Kamlet, dean of the Quinnipiac University School of Communications in Connecticut, said the network's "snarky" press statements were a big mistake.

"I'm old school," Kamlet said. "I happen to think presidential campaigns are important. For a news outlet to belittle any candidate as Fox News did, in my view diminishes the process."

The Fox response also plays into Trump's hand, since his supporters love when he takes on institutions, Kamet said.

There's a certain irony in these two sides fighting. The liberal watchdog group Media Matters for America said that its researchers have found that Fox has covered Trump for two and a half times as long as any other candidate.

While Fox may suffer "a short-term loss in terms of the ratings for this particular debate, it's a long-term gain for Fox in terms of their respectability and credibility," Feldstein said.

One hint at another cause of the latest dispute came in a Fox statement issued late Tuesday, in which the network accused Lewandowski of a "terrorization" of Kelly. Fox said that in a conversation with one of its executives over the weekend, the Trump campaign manager noted that Kelly had a rough couple of days following the first debate and that he would hate to see that happen again.

Lewandowski, on MSNBC, called the characterization dishonest and said he hoped Fox would keep his discussions with one of its executives private.

Associated Press

Obama, Sanders at the White House: Nice chat, but that's all

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and his aides have said a lot of nice things about Bernie Sanders, but not this one: He's ready to be president.

The key omission was particularly noticeable Wednesday as Obama and Sanders met for their first one-on-one since Sanders jolted the Democratic campaign and locked Hillary Clinton in an unexpectedly tight race.

The long-discussed meeting between Obama and his sometime critic was a moment for the president to display his public neutrality in the heated primary race to replace him — rebutting suggestions that he's in the tank for Clinton. For Sanders, it was a chance to show he's got some sway with a president who's still popular among Democrats.

"By and large, over the last seven years on major issue after major issue, I have stood by his side where he has taken on unprecedented Republican obstructionism and has tried to do the right thing for the American people," Sanders said after the meeting.

But neither the White House nor Sanders is suggesting the men are kindred spirits, or even close political allies. White House officials say the men lack much of a personal relationship and have markedly different approaches to politics. The president this week declared bluntly he doesn't see Sanders' upstart campaign as a reboot of his own battle against Clinton in 2008. Obama allies bristle at comparisons between Sanders and the president.

It's a reminder that even as Obama watches the nomination battle from a distance, he is personally tied to the outcome. He remains focused on ensuring a Democrat wins the White House and on protecting his legacy. Increasingly, it appears, he sees Clinton as his best hope.

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Pentagon defends use of Russian engines to launch satellites

By Richard Lardner
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senior Pentagon officials on Wednesday sought to defend the use of Russian-made rocket engines to send U.S. military satellites into space, telling exasperated lawmakers they are moving quickly to end the practice and rely on American-made rockets for the launches.

But Air Force Secretary Deborah James and Pentagon acquisition chief Frank Kendall failed to stem sharp criticism from several members of the Senate Armed Services Committee who view Russia as the chief geopolitical threat to the United States.

Led by the committee chairman, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., they said using the Russian engines enriches President Vladimir Putin's inner circle and puts U.S. national security in jeopardy.

McCain, his voice rising at times, asked James and Kendall if they knew the names Sergey Chemezov and Dmitry Rogozin. Both are Russians targeted by U.S. sanctions, he said, yet their positions in Russia's space and defense industry allows them to personally profit from the sales of the Russian RD-180 engines. Each engine costs about $30 million.

"So we now have senior Russian politicians, friends of Vladimir Putin, that are making tens of millions dollars in the pass-through money that is paid for the Russian rocket engines," McCain said. He asked James whether she found that disturbing.

"Yes," James responded, although she said she couldn't be certain whether any Russian officials were directly benefiting from the sales.

Disengaging from use of the Russian engines is a priority but also far more complicated than it appears, James said. She recommended a stockpile of 18 of the RD-180s until an equally capable American-made space launch vehicle can be tested and fielded.

James also said she asked senior Pentagon officials on Wednesday to work with other federal agencies to ensure that purchase of the engines does not conflict with U.S. sanctions.

The Pentagon has actively tried to undermine the committee's direction to limit that risk and end the use of the Russian RD-180 engines by the end of this decade, McCain said. He also blamed the U.S. contractor that acquires the engines, United Launch Alliance, and two senators who support the company, Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., for thwarting the committee's instructions.

"Everybody's a crook to John McCain," Durbin said. "You can disagree with him on policy and automatically you're a crook."

Federal Reserve voices concern about global economic pressures, keeps rate unchanged

By Martin Crustinger
Associated Press



Associated Press

Specialist Anthony Matesic works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday. The Federal Reserve is keeping a key interest rate unchanged while pledging to closely monitor developments in the global economy and financial markets.

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve sounded a note of concern Wednesday about how global pressures could affect a slowing U.S. economy, while keeping a key interest rate unchanged.

Six weeks after it raised rates from record lows, the Fed took stock of a more perilous international picture that could alter its plans for further raising rates. Fed officials issued a statement after their latest policy meeting that suggested they might reduce the pace of future rate hikes if market losses and global weakness persist.

But stock investors were disappointed that the Fed did not commit outright to delaying its pace of rate increases. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down about 223 points, or 1.4 percent. The Dow had been up slightly before the Fed issued its statement.

Sam Stovall, U.S. equity strategist at S&P Capital IQ, said investors had been hoping for a "clear signal" that the Fed would raise rates more gradually for the rest of 2016 and felt discouraged when they didn't get it.

Many point to the Fed's December rate hike as a key factor in the stock market's tumble in recent weeks. The move amounted to only a small rise in the Fed's still-extremely low target rate for overnight bank lending. But it signaled that a seven-year period of near-zero rates was ending and that while borrowing costs wouldn't be rising fast, they would be headed up.

The Fed's new statement said it's studying "global economic and financial developments and is assessing their implications for the labor market and inflation."

"This is intended to lull us into lower expectations as to when the next move is going to come," said Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at the consulting firm CohnReznick.

Since the Fed raised rates Dec. 16, stocks have plunged, oil prices have skidded and China's leaders have struggled to manage a slowdown in the world's second-biggest economy. The Fed's statement Wednesday noted that U.S. economic growth has also slowed.

Some economists say they now expect just two modest Fed rate increases during 2016, rather than the three or four they had foreseen when the year began. But no one is sure.

In a key change to the statement, the Fed dropped language it had used in December that it was "reasonably confident" that inflation would reach the Fed's 2 percent target over the next few years.

By dropping this language, the Fed appeared to signal concern that inflation has fallen further as a result of a further drop in oil prices and a stronger dollar. Chair Janet Yellen and other Fed officials have stressed the importance of higher inflation. A key inflation gauge has run below the 2 percent target for more than three years.

The Fed's policymakers left their benchmark rate unchanged in a range of 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent. For seven years until December, they had kept that rate at record lows near zero.

"It was very noncommittal," Asha Bangalore, economist at Northern Trust, said of the Fed's statement.

Still, the changes the Fed made in describing economic conditions signaled that it might be prepared to slow its credit tightening until it sees more evidence that the markets and the economy are stabilizing.

The December statement had said the economy was expanding at a "moderate pace." The new statement notes that "growth slowed late last year."

The previous statement also described risks to the outlook as "balanced." That description was dropped Wednesday. In its place, the Fed inserted its concern about global economic and financial developments.

The Fed's statement was approved by a vote of 10-0.

In the first three trading weeks, the Dow shed more than 7 percent of its value. China has unnerved investors because of an economic slowdown that Beijing seems incapable of steering properly. That country's decelerating growth has shrunk global commodity prices and the emerging market countries that have supplied them to China.

The tumbling markets so far haven't shaken consumer confidence. One measurement of confidence climbed for a second month, the Conference Board said this week. Much of the optimism stems from solid job growth: U.S. employers added an average of 284,000 jobs a month in the final quarter of last year. And the unemployment rate remains a low 5 percent. Home and auto sales have also been solid.

But American manufacturing has remained weak. Export sales have slowed in part because a higher-valued dollar has made goods more expensive overseas. The strong dollar has also made imports cheaper and helped hold down inflation.

Full text of the Federal Reserve's statement Wednesday

Information received since the Federal Open Market Committee met in December suggests that labor market conditions improved further even as economic growth slowed late last year. Household spending and business fixed investment have been increasing at moderate rates in recent months, and the housing sector has improved further; however, net exports have been soft and inventory investment slowed.

A range of recent labor market indicators, including strong job gains, points to some additional decline in underutilization of labor resources. Inflation has continued to run below the Committee's 2 percent longer-run objective, partly reflecting declines in energy prices and in prices of non-energy imports. Market-based measures of inflation compensation declined further; survey-based measures of longer-term inflation expectations are little changed, on balance, in recent months.

Consistent with its statutory mandate, the Committee seeks to foster maximum employment and price stability. The Committee currently expects that, with gradual adjustments in the stance of monetary policy, economic activity will expand at a moderate pace and labor market indicators will continue to strengthen.

Inflation is expected to remain low in the near term, in part because of the further declines in energy prices, but to rise to 2 percent over the medium term as the transitory effects of declines in energy and import prices dissipate and the labor market strengthens further. The Committee is closely monitoring global economic and financial developments and is assessing their implications for the labor market and inflation, and for the balance of risks to the outlook.

Given the economic outlook, the Committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 1/4 to 1/2 percent. The stance of monetary policy remains accommodative, thereby supporting further improvement in labor market conditions and a return to 2 percent inflation.

In determining the timing and size of future adjustments to the target range for the federal funds rate, the Committee will assess realized and expected economic conditions relative to its objectives of maximum employment and 2 percent inflation. This assessment will take into account a wide range of information, including measures of labor market conditions, indicators of inflation pressures and inflation expectations, and readings on financial and international developments.

In light of the current shortfall of inflation from 2 percent, the Committee will carefully monitor actual and expected progress toward its inflation goal. The Committee expects that economic conditions will evolve in a manner that will warrant only gradual increases in the federal funds rate; the federal funds rate is likely to remain, for some time, below levels that are expected to prevail in the longer run. However, the actual path of the federal funds rate will depend on the economic outlook as informed by incoming data.

The Committee is maintaining its existing policy of reinvesting principal payments from its holdings of agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities in agency mortgage-backed securities and of rolling over maturing Treasury securities at auction, and it anticipates doing so until normalization of the level of the federal funds rate is well underway. This policy, by keeping the Committee's holdings of longer-term securities at sizable levels, should help maintain accommodative financial conditions.

Voting for the FOMC monetary policy action were: Janet L. Yellen, Chair; William C. Dudley, Vice Chairman; Lael Brainard; James Bullard; Stanley Fischer; Esther L. George; Loretta J. Mester; Jerome H. Powell; Eric Rosengren; and Daniel K. Tarullo.

Lawyer criticizes US for nixing charges as part of Iran swap

By Denise Lavoie
Associated Press

BOSTON — A lawyer for a Chinese national who supplied Iran with U.S.-made devices that can be used to convert uranium for nuclear weapons is criticizing the U.S. government for dropping charges against his Iranian co-defendant as part of a breakthrough U.S.-Iran deal.

The criticism was leveled Wednesday during a sentencing hearing for Sihai Cheng, who pleaded guilty in December to supplying pressure transducers to an Iranian company.

Cheng's lawyer, Stephen Weymouth, objected to the 15-year sentence recommended by prosecutors, calling it unfair because his Iranian co-defendant, Seyed Abolfazl Shahab Jamili, won't face prison time.

Weymouth called Jamili the "main actor" in the case and said he would have sought the dismissal of charges against Cheng if he had known prosecutors would drop charges against Jamili. Weymouth asked U.S. District Judge Patti Saris to force prosecutors to drop the charges or allow Cheng to withdraw his guilty plea.

"In this case, it has been outrageously unfair as far as Mr. Cheng is concerned," Weymouth said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Siegmann said the fact that prosecutors dismissed the indictment against Jamili — "someone we couldn't extradite anyway" — does not mean Cheng should be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea.

Siegmann said Cheng admitted he knew he was supplying parts to an Iranian company the U.S. had designated as a proliferator of weapons of mass destruction.

"It's clear that he's not innocent," she said.

The judge rejected the defense request but said she may consider fairness among co-conspirators in sentencing Cheng.

As part of the deal announced this month, four Americans detained in Iran were sent home and seven Iranians in U.S. custody won their freedom. The U.S. also dismissed charges against 14 Iranian nationals, including Jamili.

LOG ON TO MRT★COM

STEAK FORTY TWO

SUPER SUNDAY

Sunday, February 7, 2016

Sunday Skool Brunch $24.99
(Serving 10AM-1PM)

Super Bowl Party $15.99
(Serving starts at 5PM)

-ALL YOU CAN EAT-
Both for $34.99

Doors open all day

BAR 42
Happy Hour 3PM-7PM

$2.75 domestics • $3.50 imports
All wine $6 • Martinis $8
Rubes and House Margs $5

WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

WEEKEND TO-DO LIST

TODAY



RELATABLE ART
Artist Nathan Barnes' work in "Strangely Familial" takes a different look at family ties at Midland College's McCormick Gallery. Through Feb. 26.



COUNTRY NIGHT
Singer-songwriter Zane Williams returns to Rockin Rodeo with his newly released "Snapshots" under his belt. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY



WET AND WILD
Midland Community Theatre invites Midland to go Under the Sea for an open house of games, activities and a musical preview of "Disney's The Little Mermaid." 1 p.m.

SATURDAY

HISTORY BOOK
Local authors James Collett and Doug Page will sign copies of their new book "Postcard History Series: Midland." Barnes and Noble at 1 p.m.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "50 Shades of Black," "The Finest Hours," "Jane Got a Gun," "Kung Fu Panda."
Closing: "The Forest," "Sisters."

CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "50 Shades of Black," "The Finest Hours," "Kung Fu Panda."
Closing: "The Forest," "Sisters."

STAYING IN?
Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. Page 4



KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE

Little River Band stays afloat with new music attitude

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Little River Band has evolved over the past 40 years and Wayne Nelson has been manning the helm for much of that time. He's kept the band's legacy alive through continued recordings and tours — although some purists may disagree with that. Either way, the classic rock band continues to create new music while keeping up their devotion to such signature singles as "Reminiscing," "Lonesome Loser" and others.

Over those four decades, the band's original members have long since gone. Nelson joined in 1980 and is now the band member with the longest tenure.

The Little River Band plays the Wagner Noel on Friday. Before the show, Nelson called in from Nashville where the band was working on music before hitting the road.

MRT: The band is primarily based in Nashville. Has that affected the band's sound at all?

Nelson: We've recorded a lot here but there's also this willingness here to do new music. We've recorded six albums here. And the professionalism of other musicians is unparalleled. I don't think it's affected the sound but it's all very respectful and professional and accommodating. That's a healthy feeling.

MRT: LRB's last album "Cuts Like a Diamond" from 2013 is your most recent and the signature sound is there. At this point, is that even a decision unto itself?

Nelson: It is a decision that's very deliberate. We all sing lead and have our harmonies. Then you add in our harmonized guitars. We're known for the big vocals and guitars. But at the same time, we took on big topics in the album like divorce, abuse, mental issues. So our music grows as we do but also has our sound.

MRT: What is your intention these days with new albums? Is it the same as it was, say in the '80s?

Nelson: New music keeps us fresh in our outlook. If we have label involvement, then we do look for those "strong songs." But our perspective is different whether there's a label behind us or not. Radio isn't going to play LRB today, which was how hits were created. And that's not gonna happen for us anymore.

MRT: Was there a particular moment when you realized that?

Nelson: It was 2002 and we had a national label. We used to visit stations and make appearances, but instead a consultant told us it would cost thousands of dollars just to get us on a third-tier station. And that was money we didn't have to spend for that. It's become so corporatized. It was a dark moment.

MRT: But LRB has a strong foundation.

Nelson: Yeah. That's where our strength lies and our fans still stick with us.

MRT: Are you able to mix the new with the old or do fans only want the classics?

Nelson: Well it's human nature for people to yell their favorite songs. But we like that and they've responded well to new music. They've given us ovations for new songs that just left us speechless and emotional.

MRT: You were friends with Glenn Frey and even played with him. You posted about his death. What is that feeling to see one of your contemporaries go?

Nelson: It was very sobering. We hit it off and just had great camaraderie.

MRT: How do you reflect on the history of LRB?

Nelson: I have a slew of great memories. But really, it's when people bring up their memorabilia. We'll always sign after a show and there's a story behind every old ticket stub or program. We cherish that because it's real life to us. I'm looking forward to bringing our show to Midland. It'll be like old friends at a reunion.

WANT TO GO?

The Little River Band, 8 p.m. Friday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $32-$63. Wagner-noel.com.

Playing bad is good for actress in 'Disney's The Little Mermaid'

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Nikki Windham doesn't relate much to her character Ursula. Much of that is because the villainous character in Midland Community Theatre's "Disney's The Little Mermaid" is, well, an octopus. But it's more than just that.

"She's much more evil because there's more back story in the stage version," she said. "So I don't relate to that, either."

And yet Ursula has been a good fit for Windham. She's also become one of her favorites in her tenure as a stage actress. Ursula comes to life Friday when MCT premieres "Mermaid" as its first show of the new season; it's also the theater's 500th production.

"Nothing is out of the realm for her, and I get to be big and bold. I don't know if I'd ever do that with another character," Windham said. "When you see a role that is a great fit, I had to go for it. And I'm so thankful I auditioned."

For those unfamiliar with the story, "Mermaid" centers on Princess Ariel, played by Sara Hone, who finds love in Eric, played by Albert Hall, a human prince.. Ursula, however, has other things in mind, most notably revenge on her brother and Ariel's father, King Triton, played by Bill Dingus. Thus, her plans involve tampering with

Please see 'MERMAID'/Page 3



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Sara Hone, left, as Ariel, and Nikki Windham, right, as Ursula, rehearse for Midland Community Theatre's 500th production, "Disney's The Little Mermaid" on Jan. 21 at MCT.

Heat Index: Plan your weekend with these fun events

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Even with the Little River Band and the opening of "The Little Mermaid," this weekend is looking to be huge. Along with those events, here are some additional best bets for your weekend entertainment. We've even added a bonus track.

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT: OCEANS

These are always a favorite among adults and children alike. Focusing on oceans, the Petroleum Museum will bring out everyone's inner scientist with trying on experimental blubber gloves, creating edible ecosystems and even making sea urchins. Refreshments will be served.

Please see HEAT INDEX/Page 3

ODESSA
UPCOMING GAMES
JANUARY 29
Bud Light Ice Scraper Giveaway
JANUARY 30
Rally Towel Giveaway
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
WestTexasTix.com
Jackalopes Office
Endless Horizons
432-552-7825

CALENDAR

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

ART & DANCE

"Strangely Familial" featuring work by artist Nathan Barnes. Through Feb. 26. McCormick Gallery at Midland College, 3600 N. Garfield St. midland.edu.

"Texas Native Wildflowers Exhibition" at Sibley Nature Center, 1307 E. Wadley Ave. On display through March 26. sibleynaturecenter.org.

The works of James Hieb and Chris Hieb. Fridays throughout January at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

Winter Art Exhibit featuring artists from ArtQuest, ArtiZen, Midland Arts Association and Palette Club of Midland as well as works by clients from Rays of Hope and MARC. The exhibit runs through March 15. The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces, 3500 N. "A" St. midlandss.org.

"Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown" exhibition is organized by the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. The exhibition contains reproduction comic strips, quotes by Schulz, memorabilia from "A Charlie Brown Christmas special" and more. Through Sunday. Durham Children's Museum, 3705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

"Apparat" features works by 13 artists. Through Feb. 14. Ballroom Marfa, 108 E. San Antonio St. ballroommarfa.org.

EVENTS

Midland on Tap craft beer festival features more than 100 samples of craft breweries, live music and food. Friday and Satirday at Commemorative Air Force Museum, 9600 Wright Drive. $20. americaontap.com.

Under the Sea at MCT is an open house event previewing Midland Community Theatre's production of "Disney's the Little Mermaid." The event will feature games, activities, the MCPL Bookmobile and a preview of the show. 1-3 p.m. Saturday at MCT, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. Free. mct-midland.org.

Author Signing. James Collett and Doug Page will sign copies of their new book "Midland," from the Postcard History Series. The book features more than 200 vintage photographs of the city. 1 p.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble, 2617 W. Loop 250 North.

West Texas Talent Awards recognize local contributions in performing arts. This inaugural event will feature musical performances by Justin Langston, Brianna Rios, Egypt and more. 7 p.m. Saturday at MCM Elegante Hotel, 5200 E. University Blvd. westtexastalent.com.

FAMILY FUN

Family Science Night: Oceans. Families are invited to partricipate in science experiments and creative projects. Refreshments provided. 6-8 p.m. today at The Petroleum Museum, 1500 W Interstate 20 West. Free. petroleummuseum.org.

Old Miner's Maze interactive adventure features a maze, rock walls, mechanical bull and more. Winter hours: Fridays 5-8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. 4305 N. County Rd. 1140. oldminersmaze.com.

GAMES & SPORTS

Friday Night Magic at Hastings, 3111 W. Cuthbert Ave. Fridays at 7 p.m. Free.

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Friday at The Detour.

Senior bingo, 10 a.m. Fridays at Cimarron House.

Free skateboarding lessons, noon-1:30 p.m. Saturdays at RTD Skatepark. rtdskatepark.com.

Tabletop players group at Astral Castle, 10 Meta Drive. 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Family Nite roller skating, Sundays from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 A Andrews Highway. kcsnutty roller.com.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Basin Burger House.

Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Torino's. challengeentertainment.com.

MUSIC

Brian Piper Trio will play the season opening show for West Texas Jazz Society. 7:30 p.m. today at Rea-Greathouse Hall in the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $30. wtjs.org.

Zane Williams, 8 p.m. Thursday, at Rockin' Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. $10. rockinrodeomidland.com.

Little River Band, 8 p.m. Jan. 29 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $32-$63. wagnernoel.com.

La Reunion Nortena, 8 p.m., Friday at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $25. haciendamidland.com.

Vanessa Silberman, 7 p.m. Friday at The Garage Coffee, Music and More, 1100 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. thegaragetx.com.

Jack Nelson, 8 p.m. Saturday at Beer Garden at Garden View, 7112 West Highway. midlandbeergarden.com.

Camila, 8 p.m., Saturday at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. $50. haciendamidland.com.

Midnight River Choir, 8 p.m. Saturday at Fire Water Bar and Grill, 3113 W. Industrial Ave. firewaterbarandgrilltx.com.

North by North, 7 p.m. Saturday at The Garage Coffee, Music and More, 1100 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. thegaragetx.com.

Cassatt in the Basin open rehearsal. The public is invited to watch the New York based string quartet during their 10th annual residency. 3-5 p.m. Sunday at Ellen Noel Art Mueum, 4090 E. University Blvd. Free. cassattinthebasin.net.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

"Disney's The Little Mermaid" opens Friday and runs through Feb. 27 at Midland Community Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.

"Annie." 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $49.50-$88. MOSC.org.

Opera 101 is a continuing education class offered by Permian Basin Opera at Midland College. The class will study Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." Classes are on Thursdays 7-9 p.m. Through April 30. midland.edu.

COMING SOON

FEBRUARY

Cassatt in the Basin open rehearsal. The public is invited to watch the New York-based string quartet during their 10th annual residency. 10:30- 11 a.m. Wednesday at Parks Methodist Retirement Village, 3301 Faudree Road. Free. cassattinthebasin.net.

"Strangely Familial" gallery talk and opening reception with artist Nathan Barnes. 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at McCormick Gallery at Midland College, 3600 N. Garfield St. The art will be on display through Feb. 26. midland.edu.

MOSC: Mozart's Magnificent Voyage, 4 p.m. Feb. 6 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $15-$9. wagnernoel.com.

Cody Bryan Band, 8 p.m. Feb. 4 at Fire Water Bar and Grill, 3113 W. Industrial Ave. firewaterbarandgrilltx.com.

Fire and Ice: Exploring Volcanoes on Earth and Beyond by Dr. Rosaly M. C. Lopes. The NASA scientist speaks about the prevalence of volcanoes throughout the solar system and the spectacle of eruptions. This is part of the Museum of the Southwest's Relativity Lecture Series. 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Family Days features dome shows and family-friendly activities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 6 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

First Friday will feature the works of Phyllis Cappadonna Short throughout February. Opening reception at 6 p.m. Feb. 5. 510 S. Big Spring St. facebook.com/kamiposi.

"The Fantasticks" opens Friday and runs through Feb. 13. Shows at 7:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. Feb. 7. Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St. permianplayhouse.com.

Cassatt in the Basin concert. Noon, Feb. 6 at Permian High Auditorium, 1800 E. 42nd St. Free. cassattinthebasin.net.

Tejano Vibes with Little Joe y La Familia, La Fiebre, La Diferenzia and Xelencia. 8 p.m., Feb. 6 at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $25. haciendamidland.com.

Bruce Salmon, 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at The Garage Coffee, Music and More, 1100 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. thegaragetx.com.

My Little Sweetheart Dance. The YMCA invites "couples" to dress their best for their father/daughter, mother/son, guardian/child dance. The event will feature refreshments, photos, games and more. 7-9 p.m. Feb. 6 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. $10 per couple. Additional children $5 each. midlandymca.org.

Hooking Up with the Second City, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $22-$42. wagnernoel.com.

Casey Berry, William Clark Green, 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at Rockin Rodeo, 4400 N. Big Spring St. $10. rockinrodeomidland.com.

Shotguns and Stilettos : Spring Fling Market hosted by the Junior League of Midland. 10 a.m. Feb. 12 and 13. Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Tail. $5. jlmidland.org.

Shotguns and Stilettos: Ladies Luncheon. The event will feature Princess Diana's former chef Darren McGrady. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 12 at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Tail. $100. jlmidland.org.



Mardi Gras/Valentine's Day Celebration with carnival games, dog and cat costume parade and Princess Hufflepuff kissing booth. 5-7 p.m. Feb. 12 at Midland Humane Coalition at PetSmart, 4206 W. Loop 250. midlandhumane.org

Star Parties with the West Texas Astronomers at Haley Park behind the planetarium. All parties begin at dusk. Feb. 12. Blakemore Planetarium, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

30th anniversary Valentine's Party, 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at KC's Nutty Roller, 1004 Andrews Highway.

HeART Affair fundraiser benefits the Ellen Noel's collections and acquisitions department. The night features dancing, live music, art activities, food and drink tickets and the exhibition "Billy Schenck: A 45 Year Retrospective." 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa. noelartmuseum.org.

Bret Michaels, Big Casino, 7 p.m., Feb. 12 at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $40. haciendamidland.com.

Midland Downtown Farmers Market Second Saturday will also feature crafters and their items for sale. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W Missouri Ave. midlanddowntownfarmersmarket.com.

Heart and Sole 5K/10K celebrates American Heart Month. 9 a.m. Feb. 13 at Midland YMCA, 800 N. Big Spring St. webscorer.com.

Shotguns and Stilettos: Children's Storybook Social. 10 am.-noon. Feb. 13 at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. $50. jlmidland.org.

Shotguns and Stilettos: Meet Vicki Gunvalson from the "Real Housewives of Orange County." The event includes autograph signing, photo, meet and greet, a Q & A session and two drinks. 3 p.m. Feb. 13 at Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Tail. $30. jlmidland.org.

Pepe Aguilar, 8 p.m., Feb. 13 at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 SH 191. $60-$125. haciendamidland.com.

Mark McKinney, Feb. 13 at The Lone Star Bar, 621 W. Wall St. facebook.com/thelonestarbar.

Sunday Afternoon Jazz. The event will feature players Johnny Varro, Eric Baker, Mark Lowe and Richy Puga. 2 p.m. Feb. 14 at Rea-Greathouse Hall in the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $20. wtjs.org.

Savannah Jack, 7 p.m. Feb. 16 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $11-$35. liveonstage-pb.com.

Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series: Space Expeditions with speaker Kit Sheffield of XCOR. Drinks and dessert provided. 11:30 a.m. Feb. 17 at The Petroleum Museum, 1500 W Interstate 20 West. Free. petroleummuseum.org.

2016 Student Art Exhibition: Storytellers. The annual art show features works by area students representing elementary through high school in a variety of media. On display Feb. 19 through April 10. Public opening and teacher appreciation night at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 18. Durham Children's Museum, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. museumsw.org.

Dancing with the West Texas Stars benefiting the Crisis Center. Feb. 20.

Casey Donahew Band, 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at Graham Central Station, 4240 Preston Smith Road, Odessa. $21 advance, $26 door. grahamcentralstationodessa.com.

Rosewood Thievz, 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at The Garage Coffee, Music and More, 1100 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. thegaragetx.com.

MOSC: From Winter Winds to Shades of Summer, 3 p.m. Feb. 21 at Rea-Greathouse Hall at Wagner Noel, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $15. MOSC.org.

Clifford the Big Red Dog: A Big Family Musical, 4 p.m. Feb. 21 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $19-$50. wagnernoel.com. $19-$50.

Trout Fishing in America, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at The Yucca Theatre, 208 North Colorado St. troutmusic.com.

Ailey II, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $24-$44. wagnernoel.com.

Diana Ross, 8 p.m. Feb. 25 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $78-$112. wagnernoel.com.

Dirty Rotten Imbeciles, Kanye East, Moving Forward. 8 p.m. Feb. 25 at Kamiposi, 510 S. Big Spring St. $12. facebook.com/kamiposi.

Costello Country, 9 p.m. Feb. 25 at Graham Central Station, 4240 Preston Smith Road, Odessa.

Kyle Park, Judson Cole Band, 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at Graham Central Station, 4240 Preston Smith Road, Odessa. $10 advance, $12 door. grahamcentralstationodessa.com.

Eric Sommer, 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at The Garage Coffee, Music and More, 1100 N. Main St., Fort Stockton. thegaragetx.com.

Midland Downtown Farmers Market, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W Missouri Ave. midlanddowntownfarmersmarket.com.

MOSC: Late Beethoven Cycle: Op. 132 by the Permian Basin String Quartet. 2:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave. Free. MOSC.org.

Tao: Seventeen Samurai, 7 p.m. Feb. 28 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $24-$44. wagnernoel.com.

MARCH

"Riverdance - 20th Anniversary World Tour," 7:30 p.m. March 1 and 2 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $45-$88. wagnernoel.com.

Family Science Night: Mad Scientist. Families are invited to partricipate in science experiments and creative projects. Refreshments provided. 6-8 p.m. March 3 at The Petroleum Museum, 1500 W Interstate 20 West. Free. petroleummuseum.org.

The Four Freshmen play the West Texas Jazz Society's fundraiser. Menu provided by Chef Lou Lambert. March 3 at Petroleum Club of Midland, 501 W. Wall St. wtjs.org.

MOSC: Mozart Requiem 7:30 p.m. March 5 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $17-$30. MOSC.org.

Loreena McKennitt, 7:30 p.m. March 7 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $38.50-$68.50. wagnernoel.com.

Sam Riggs and the Night People, 7 p.m. March 10 at Graham Central Station, 4240 Preston Smith Road, Odessa. $9. grahamcentralstationodessa.com.

One Night at Gilley's with Mickey Gilley and Johnny Lee. 7 p.m. March 11 at Hacienda Event Center, 12600 Hwy 191. $43.19. eventbrite.com.

Midland Downtown Farmers Market Second Saturday will also feature crafters and their items for sale. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. March 12 at Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W Missouri Ave. midlanddowntownfarmersmarket.com.

Midland Scottish-Irish Faire and Highland Games is presented by the Celtic Heritage Society of the Permian Basin. The event will feature workshops, celtic music, bagpipe performances, Highland games and more. March 12 and 13 at Midland County Horseshoe Pavilion, 2514 Arena Trail. Ticket prices not yet listed. chspb.org.

Midland District Winter Revival
February 2-5, 2016
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For further information please call 432-682-7602

EVENTS & ON SCREEN



HEAT INDEX

From Page 1

6-8 p.m. Thursday at Petroleum Museum, 1500 I-20 West. Free. Petroleummuseum.org.

THE BRIAN PIPER TRIO

The West Texas Jazz Society kicks off its 50-year anniversary with the Brian Piper Trio. A veteran of previous jazz parties, the trio will headline this intimate show as the society leads into a solid schedule of shows leading up to its 50th Jazz Party. And keep an ear out for "One Note Samba" to hear Piper's magic fingers on the piano.

7:30 p.m. Thursday at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall inside the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $30-$45. Ntjs.org

MIDLAND ON TAP

The craft beer festival returns to Midland. Attendees 21 and older can sample more than 100 beers from craft breweries around the country. And don't worry — live music and food add to the night so the hops don't weigh you down too bad. The event begins with one session on Friday and two on Saturday but tickets sell fast.

6 p.m. Friday, 1 and 5 p.m. Saturday. Commemorative Air Force Museum, 9600 Wright Drive. $20. Americaontap.com.

CAMILA

The Grammy-winning Mexican pop band stops in to Midland this weekend. The band fuses modern pop and alt-rock sensibilities with soulful Latin songwriting. Touring in support of its 2014 album "Elypse," Camila's live shows run the spectrum from energetic to romantic. High-energy beats will have people dancing while their slow jams will have the audience swooning.

8 p.m. Saturday at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. $60. Haciendamidland.com.

BONUS: "ANNIE"

Monday is not the weekend, but that's no reason to miss out on Broadway in the Basin's next show. Theater aficionados will appreciate this touring version was directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin. And there's no doubt any Monday blues will be erased with those Tony-winning signature songs such as "It's the Hard Knock Life" and "Tomorrow."

7:30 p.m. Monday at the Wagner Noel. $49.50 - $88. broadwayinthebasin.com.

'MERMAID'

From Page 1

Ariel's magical singing voice. The stage version is based on the 1989 Disney film, which was based on the Hans Christian Andersen tale.

Despite her criminal intentions, Windham sees a certain fabulousness in Ursula.

"I think you love to hate her. I'm encouraging Team Ursula," Windham said with a laugh. "In accepting how scary and evil she is, that makes her fabulous. She embraces herself wholeheartedly, which allowed me to go out of my comfort zone playing her and create a character I've never done with others. She's pretty awesome."

And misunderstood.

In the stage version, Ursula was clearly the outcast of her siblings in the eyes of their father, Poseidon.

"You can understand how that outcast feeling would manifest over time and a switch got clicked. I play up that insanity part of her a lot through her laugh. At one point, she probably could have been redeemed," Windham said.

But then that would have been a far different character. And probably not the release that Ursula has also come to be for Windham. As a mother of three who also just began her new position as assistant to the fine arts department at Odessa College, days can sometimes be anxious. Come rehearsal time, Windham can let that all go.

"At the end of the day I'm exhausted. I think any mom would totally understand that," Windham said. "But this is my moment of release. My kids have their play time and so this is my time to play — and it's been really great."

IF YOU GO

"Disney's The Little Mermaid" opens Friday and runs through Feb. 27. $28. Mctmidland.org.

Not enough drama, suspense in 'The Finest Hours'

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

REVIEW

The problem with "The Finest Hours" starts with the title. If you know the movie is about a perilous boat rescue and it's called "The Finest Hours," it robs any ounce of suspense that might be achieved during all of the roiling seas and ocean thrashing that follows — those guys are probably going to pull off that rescue. Unfortunately bogged down by its own generic conventions, coupled with a bland script, "The Finest Hours" doesn't achieve the tension that it should for this incredible true story of a 1952 Cape Cod small boat rescue. In fact, your interest might be more piqued when the credits roll, when photographs of the real people are juxtaposed with their Hollywood counterparts, because it's something different and interesting.

And what Hollywood counterparts they are. Chris Pine takes on the aw-shucks role of Coast Guardsman Bernie Webber, who's written as the straightest, most guileless arrow that could be. Representing Boston is Casey Affleck, who plays Ray Sybert, the engine master of the oil tanker battling stormy seas. (The Massachusetts accents are laid on so thick, it's a shock that a Wahlberg doesn't pop up.) There's a lot of hemming and hawing, but we all know that Webber's going to go save Sybert and his men. Everything in the script is telegraphed from miles away, which is another way this movie drains itself of tension.

The cast is stacked with talent — Eric Bana, Ben Foster, and up and comers like Kyle Gallner and John Magaro. Unfortunately, they just aren't given all that much to do, except stretch their vowels and squint into driving rain. The crew aboard the tanker gets a passing characterization — this one sings, that one's mean, this one's old — but mostly they dodge flying boat parts and shout about how many degrees to turn the tanker. It becomes hard to distinguish all the different soaking wet white men from each other. Aside from bungling the characterization, the film continually misplaces its sense of import: a mild fender bender is treated with far higher dramatics than things like the oil tanker splitting in half.

The true breakout star of "The Finest Hours" is Holliday Grainger, a British actress who lights up the screen like a lighthouse (she becomes, quite literally, a port in a storm). She plays feisty Miriam, Webber's fiancee, a girl who doesn't follow any rules, while he follows all of them. Grainger is luminous and lovely, even though she is saddled with a role that's essentially a widow's walk: fretting and worrying on land, waiting for her man to return.

The last 30 minutes of "The Finest Hours," are the best, and the film truly outpaces itself in its third act, which has some genuine affect and emotion, Carter Burwell's score wringing tears out of thin air like so many salty seawater raindrops. But the first two-thirds are entirely predictable and therefore dull. It feels like a parody of a prestige film, like one of the fake Oscar trailers in "Tropic Thunder." "Someone's gotta go save those guys!" Navy man Ervin (Magaro) chirps, as if it's a huge revelation. It's a very standard heroism story, in which a bunch of white guys save another bunch of white guys (OK, there are two minorities). It would be easy to call it old-fashioned, but classical Hollywood flicks were more entertaining than this damp tale.



2 stars out of 4

Cast: Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Holliday Grainger, Eric Bana, Ben Foster, Kyle Gallner, John Magaro

Directed by Craig Gillespie

Running time: 1 hour, 57 minutes

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of peril.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Third time's a charm for witty 'Kung Fu Panda 3'

By Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press

REVIEW

If you're one of those people — and I'm with you — who roll your eyes when handed a pair of 3D glasses at the multiplex, wondering if all this rigmarole is REALLY necessary, then take heart: The lovely, color-popping visuals in "Kung Fu Panda 3" are well worth those darned glasses.

And the evocative DreamWorks Animation visuals are accompanied by just enough heart, witty dialogue and kid-friendly humor — anything about gorging on dumplings, for example — to make this an all-around extremely satisfying third installment in the popular series. Like a well-made dumpling, it's not too heavy but not too light, has the right amount of spice, and leaves one with some appetite for the next time.

Much of the appeal of the "Panda" films is, of course, the starry cast of voices, and it's fun to try to figure out who they are, rather than informing yourself beforehand (but if you do, stop reading here). Of course, you'll already know that Jack Black is back, and in fine shape, as Po, our rotund panda hero and reluctant Dragon Warrior.

Black's goofy persona is perfect for lines like, when he discovers other pandas don't use chopsticks to slow them down: "I always KNEW I wasn't eating up to my full potential!" That was my personal favorite, but the kids in the audience were overwhelmingly partial to this one, hurled mockingly by the overmatched Po at his taunting, evil opponent: "Chitty, chitty, chat, chat. Chat, chat, chat."

The film, directed by Jennifer Yuh Nelson and Alessandro Carloni, begins in the spirit realm, where Oogway, the ancient kung fu master (and tortoise), is suddenly attacked by the villainous bull Kai, a former friend. Kai has been spending the last few centuries collecting all the "chi" power from kung fu masters and storing it in amulets. His goal is to bring his supernatural army to the mortal world and defeat Po, his anointed opponent.

But the important thing to know about Kai — Master of Pain, Beast of Vengeance, Maker of Widows — is that he's voiced by Simmons, the Oscar-winning "Whiplash" actor who terrorized poor Miles Teller as a nightmarish jazz band conductor. This guy knows from cruelty.

Luckily, Po feels totally confident and up to the task. NOT! But first, an update: Our roly-poly friend has been busily goofing around, as usual, when the old master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman) informs him he must take over the task of teaching kung fu. "ME teach?" Po asks. Shifu replies: "If you only do what you CAN do, you will never be more than what you are now."

If that weren't enough drama, Po's biological father, Li, has turned up, causing consternation for Po's adoptive father, Mr. Ping (the very funny James Hong). "How do we know he's even related to you?" Mr. Ping — a goose, of course — says angrily, as the pandas happily bump bellies.

Po decides to journey with Li to the secret mountain enclave where pandas live to master his own "chi," which he'll need to defeat Kai. In this charming sequence, set in a gorgeous Shangri-La-like setting, Po meets — and hugs, and hugs — his extended panda family. They include adorable young'uns (a couple are the offspring of Angelina Jolie, who's back here as Tigress) and a sexy ribbon dancer, Mei Mei (Kate Hudson, hamming it up).

Ultimately, this is a story about having the courage to live up to one's potential — a potential one might not know one had. "I like who I am," Po says early on. "You don't even KNOW who you are," Shifu replies.

It's a conversation we could all have with our kids. Ideally, we'd soften it with some wit and a whole bunch of dumplings.

"Kung Fu Panda 3," a 20th Century Fox and DreamWorks Animation release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America "for martial arts action and some mild rude humor." Running time: 95 minutes. Three stars out of four.

MPAA definition of PG: Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Live at The Wine Rack February 13th 6:30-9:30



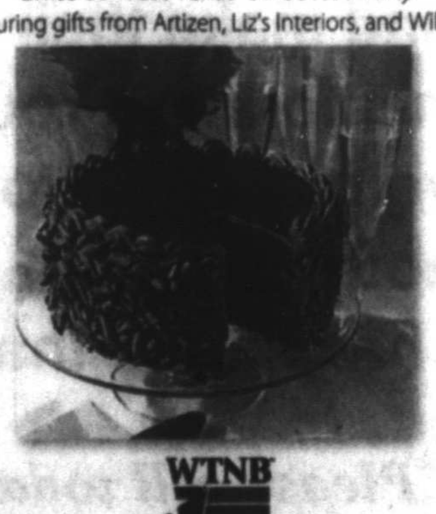
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www.mctmidland.org

ON SCREEN

Depiction of harrowing climb conveys true story

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Everest" (PG-13) Although the outcome is well-known to climbing aficionados and even to those of us only casually familiar with the story that made international headlines, the film wonderfully conveys the brutal climb. It also does a great job of showing what motivates people to take the risk. **A-**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Arthur and Merlin" (unrated) In naming this film after the legend of Camelot, one would expect, oh, I dunno, something about the legend and the Round Table and all that other neat stuff. Not this time. This is a low-budget thriller with lots of badly choreographed sword fights and projected performances that wouldn't pass muster in a small-town community theater. **F**

MORE REVIEWS

"Burnt" (R) Not even the food is appealing in this film in which Bradley Cooper's character is a despicable bully whose tantrums and behavior are tolerated because he has two Michelin Stars. If you missed "The Hundred-Foot Journey," watch it instead. **D**

"The Condemned 2" (R) The sequel is a far cry from the visceral experience found in the first film. The "game" has been changed and so have the actors. There's still a decent action film here; it's just not as much fun. **B-**

"David & Goliath" (not rated) Some interesting filming choices detract from the presentation. There are many scenes showing conversations in which extras — both human and equine — are constantly walking behind and in front of the actors who are talking. It's not only distracting, it's unrealistic. Most of the extras don't seem to have any purpose; they are rarely carrying anything and never stop to hold their own conversations That would be fine if it was set in a bustling metropolitan city. But this is the middle of the desert. Seems to me these folks would be wanting to stay out of the hot sun before tangling with the Philistines. As for the story, it sticks to Scripture, so it scores for accuracy. **C**

"The Diary of a Teenage Girl" (R) The role reversals and dialogue make this coming-of-age film a winner. **B+**

"Eden" (R) Can there be such a thing as too much music in a film about the 1980s British garage sound? When the film runs 131 minutes, the answer is yes. **C**

"He Never Died" (R) Henry Rollins is perfectly cast in this surreal story that rolls along brilliantly until the third act, when it unravels somewhat, just not enough to dismiss altogether. **B**

"Indigenous" (R) Another tale of tourists out to see the unusual in a South American country. As with "The Ruins" and the more recent "Green Inferno," things go wrong. Unlike those two films, which are decent at best, this one can't even manage that level. **D**

"The Intern" (PG-13) After a lackluster trailer, I admittedly wasn't looking forward to this. I was wrong. This delightful comedy is Nancy Meyers' best film since "Something's Gotta Give." **B+**

"Jem and the Holograms" (PG) Although the music is actually likable, this live-action adaptation of the "Jem" animated series is as equally unnecessary as the 2006 live-action "Josie and the Pussycats." **C+**

"Learning to Drive" (R) Patricia Clarkson and Ben Kingsley share a wonderful chemistry in this enjoyable film about a woman dealing with the end of her marriage. **B**

"Mercury Plains" (R) Film takes a unique look at those on the fringe of the Mexican drug trade who are trying to capitalize on the cartel leftovers. **B**

"The Throwaways" (not rated) Shameless rip-off of the "Expendables" series lacks the star power and the sense of humor. **D+**

"Woodlawn" (PG) If you're looking for this to be a biopic of Alabama legend Paul "Bear" Bryant, you will be disappointed. His character doesn't make an appearance until 72 minutes in. Otherwise, this is essentially another "Facing the Giants" faith-based movie in which God apparently has nothing better to do than pick sides in football games. **D**

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

FILM CAPSULES



"13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi" (R) During the 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Libya, elite ex-military operatives bravely fight back when plans go awry. With James Badge Dale, John Krasinski, Max Martini, Pablo Schreiber, Toby Stephens. Directed by Michael Bay.

"The Boy" (PG-13) In an English village, a young American woman is hired to care for an 8-year-old, who appears to be a life-sized doll. With Lauren Cohan, Rupert Evans, Jim Norton. Written by Stacey Menear. Directed by William Brent Bell.

"Daddy's Home" (PG-13) In its best moments, it's a sly expose of the frailties of the contemporary male self-image and in its lesser moments a simplistic slapstick. This being a Will Ferrell comedy, sometimes those moments are one and the same. Written by Brian Burns. Directed by Sean Anders.

"Dirty Grandpa" (R) Ambitious Zac Efron jeopardizes his upcoming marriage when he reluctantly takes troublemaking grandfather Robert De Niro to spring break in Florida. With Aubrey Plaza. Written by John Phillips. Directed by Dan Mazer.

"The 5th Wave" (PG-13) Four deadly surges have left the world ravaged and a teen must trust a mysterious young man to save her brother. With Chloe Grace Moretz and Nick Robinson. Written by Susannah Grant and Akiva Goldsman & Jeff Pinkner. Directed by J Blakeson.

"Fifty Shades of Black" (R) Marlon Wayans spoofs a certain insanely popular erotic BDSM romance. With Kali Hawk, Mike Epps. Written by Marlon Wayans and Rick Alvarez. Directed by Michael Tiddes.

"The Finest Hours" (PG-13) In 1952, the Coast Guard attempts a daring rescue of an oil tanker during a fierce nor'easter in the frigid Atlantic waters. With Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, Ben Foster. Written by Scott Silver and Paul Tamasy & Eric Johnson. Directed by Craig Gillespie.

"Jane Got a Gun" (R) Natalie Portman plays a frontierswoman who recruits her former fiance to help save her family from a band of ruthless outlaws. With Joel Edgerton, Noah Emmerich, Ewan McGregor. Directed by Gavin O'Connor.

"Kung Fu Panda 3" (PG) Furry martial artist Po journeys with his long-lost father to a panda paradise where he must train his klutzy compadres to fight the evil Kai. Voices of Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie. Directed by Jennifer Yuh Nelson and Alessandro Carloni.

"Norm of the North" (PG) Animated tale about a talkative polar bear who travels to New York City to stop a greedy developer from building condos in the Arctic. Voices of Rob Schneider, Heather Graham, Ken Jeong. Directed by Trevor Wall.

"The Revenant" (R) Oscar-winning director Alejandro Innaritu is up to his old pretentious tricks, but his wilderness survival tale is saved by a potent performance by Leonardo DiCaprio and brilliant cinematography by Emmanuel Lubetzki.

"Ride Along 2" (PG-13) Kevin Hart and Ice Cube reunite for this sequel to the 2014 comedy. With Ken Jeong, Benjamin Bratt, Olivia Munn, Bruce McGill, Tika Sumpter. Written by Phil Hay & Matt Manfredi. Directed by Tim Story.

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher return for the latest installment of the space saga as it kicks off another trilogy set in a galaxy far, far away. With Adam Driver, Oscar Isaac, Lupita Nyong'o, Andy Serkis, Domhnall Gleeson, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew and Max Von Sydow. Written by J.J. Abrams & Lawrence Kasdan. Directed by Abrams.

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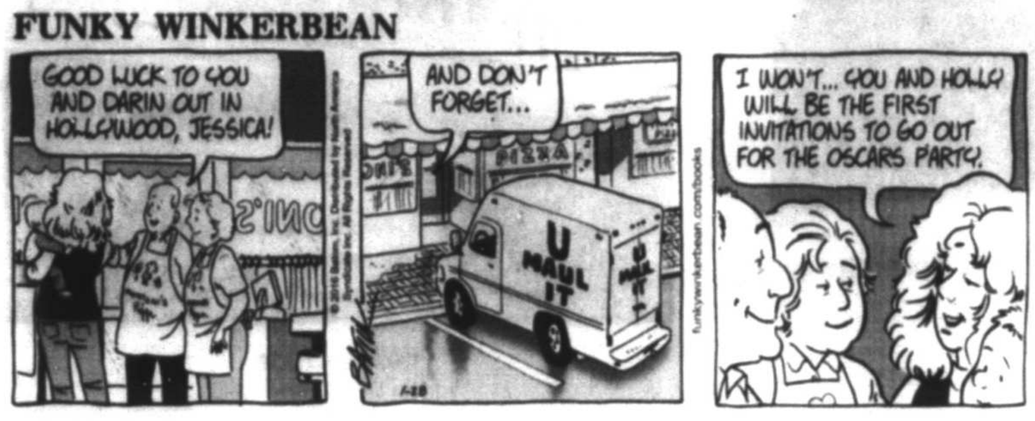
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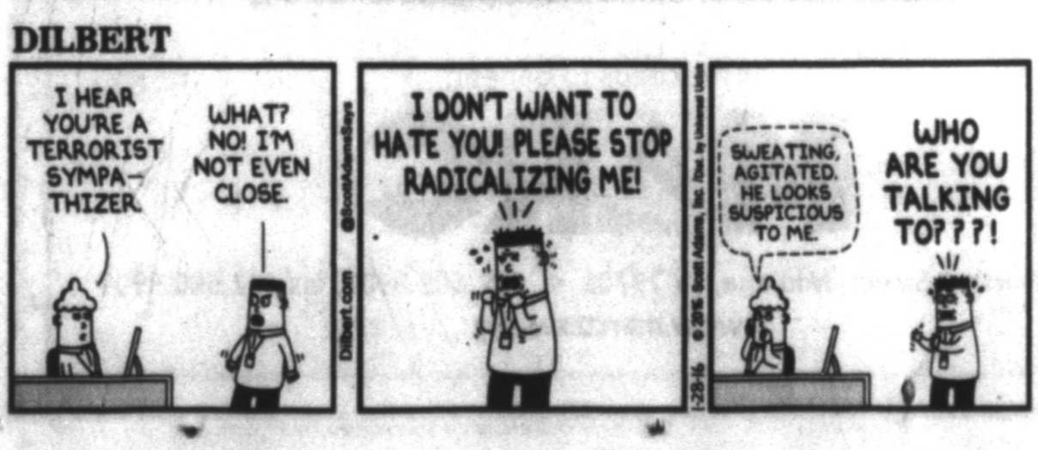
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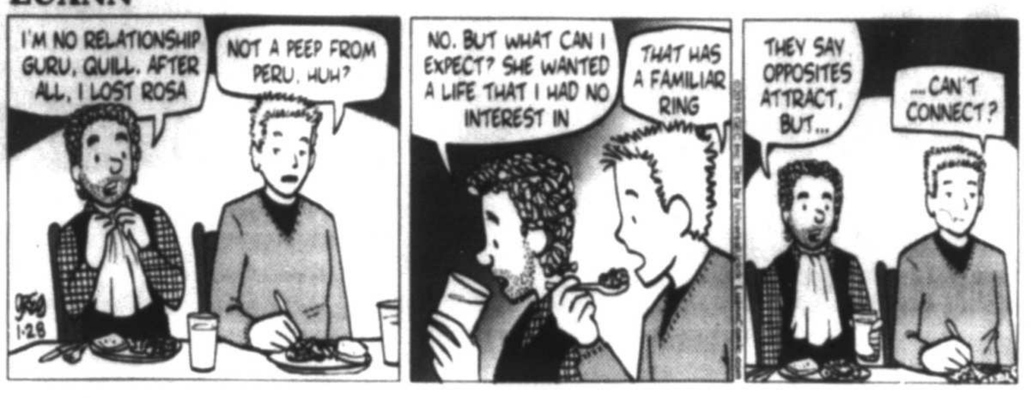
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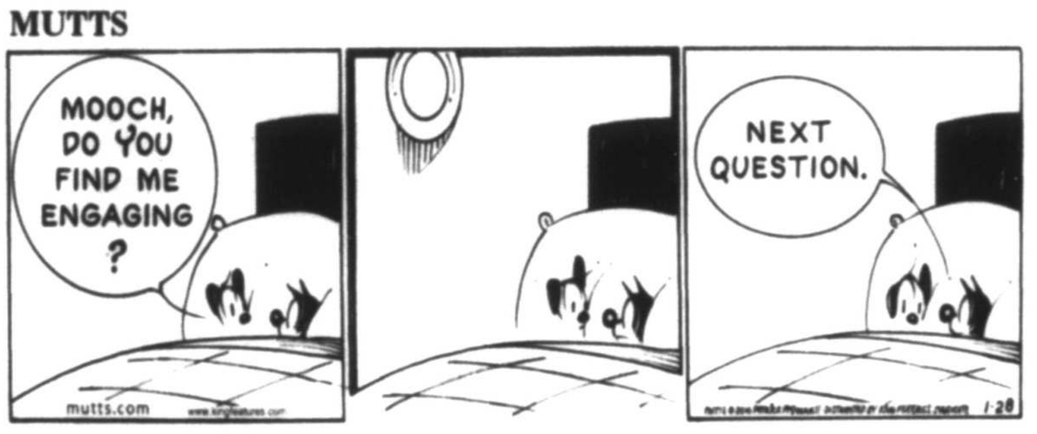
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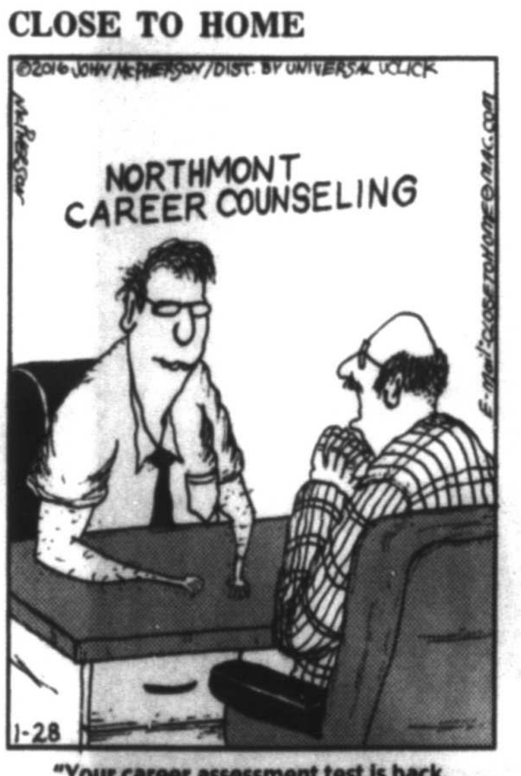
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MUTTS



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DENNIS THE MENACE



"TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DON'T WANT TO TELL THE TRUTH."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"I dropped my lollipop. How much floor is allowed on it before I can't eat it?"

LOCKHORNS



"OF COURSE THEY'RE BROWN... THAT'S HOW 'SEASONAL VEGETABLES' LOOK IN WINTER."

DINING

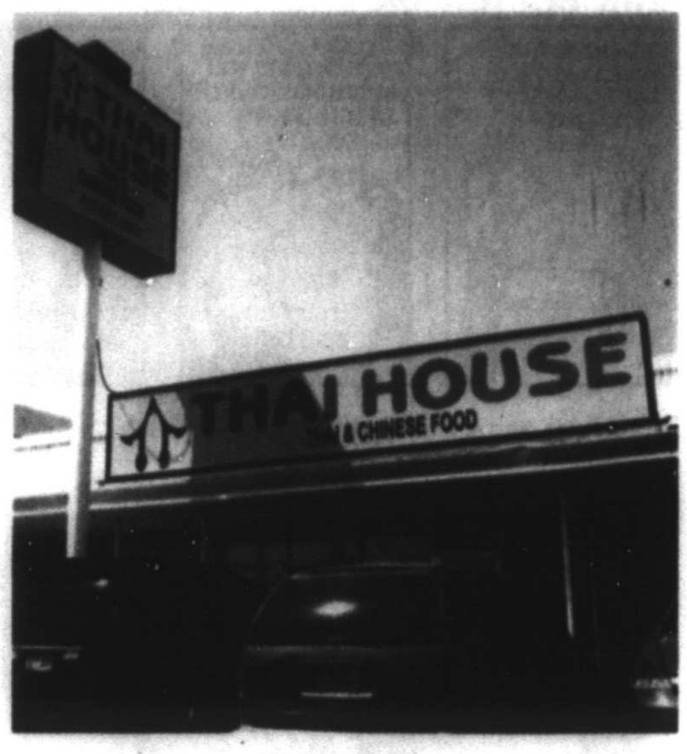
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GRAND BUFFET Extensive "all-you-can-eat" Asian buffet includes hodgepodge of options including Chinese dishes, salads, seafood, Jell-o, fried okra, sushi and a Mongolian grill station. 2510 W. Louisiana Ave. 688-8881 | $ | 2 spoons

THE GREAT WALL Chinese takeout restaurant offers large portions from extensive menu. Try the General Tso's chicken with sesame shrimp and add an order of egg rolls or spring rolls. 2215 N. Midland Drive 694-5555 | $ | 3 spoons

HUNAN GARDEN Chinese Restaurant Try the daily lunch buffet with about 10 options like sweet and sour chicken, cashew chicken and beef with snow peas. 4410 N. Midkiff Road, Building A., Space 1. 697-9818 | $ | 3 spoons

KING & I Authentic Thai food served at in the heart of Midland. Try the basil fried rice or Popcorn's special with angel hair pasta, green onions, white onions, tomatoes, broccoli, garlic and jalapenos. There's a reason the lunch crowd is often standing-room-only at the original location near downtown. It's worth the wait. 801 N. Big Spring St. | $ | 4 spoons

KUO'S CHINESE RESTAURANT Friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. Try the cashew chicken or Mongolian steak with a fried cream cheese wonton. 3303 N. Midkiff Rd., Suite 152 697-8888 | $ | 4 spoons

MOON GARDEN Try one of the lunch specials like broccoli with garlic sauce or kung pao shrimp. The Chinese restaurant is housed in what used to be a Red Lobster — just in case you were wondering about the nautical decor. 2319 W. Loop 250 N. 570-1165 or 685-3012 | $ | 2 spoons

OSAKA JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SEAFOOD Try steak, chicken or seafood grilled at Teppan Yaki tables or sushi with fresh seafood. Locations in Midland and Odessa. 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 617-7252 www.my-osaka.com | $$ | 4 spoons.

SHOGUN RESTAURANT Japanese steak house that's been serving Midlanders for more than 20 years. Watch your food being cooked on the Teppan Yaki tables after you enjoy cucumber and shrimp salad and soup. Lunch prices are very reasonable, be prepared to splurge for dinner. 4610 N. Garfield St. 570-8888 | $$ | 4 spoons

TASTE OF CHINA SUPER BUFFET All-you-can-eat buffet or order from menu. Senior citizen discount and children 3 and younger eat free. 4400 N. Big Spring St., #53. 684-5288 | $ | 2 spoons

THAI HOUSE Strip-center kitchen offering classic Thai and Chinese dishes in a modest, straightforward setting. 9 Meta Dr. 687-3373 | $ | 2 spoons



MARTINEZ BAKERY
206 W. FLORIDA AVE. | 683-3100



TONY'S BAKERY
1108 N. BIG SPRING ST. | 570-4166



YOUR WAY YOGURT
2300 W. WADLEY AVE., SUITE D | 897-4393

DESSERT & BAKERY

MARTINEZ BAKERY Walls lined with self-serve bakery cases filled with cookies. Also serves "super tortas" (Mexican sandwiches) with chicken, brisket or ham. 206 E. Florida Ave. 683-3100; 683-2278 | $ | **4 spoons**

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES Choose from 10 flavors and 40 unique cake designs while you browse thier unique gifts, charming cards and inspired decorator items. 3211 W. Wadley Ave., #22 A. 689-0060. | $$$ | **5 spoons**

TONY'S BAKERY Order petit fours or a cake for your next party or stop to browse the bakery items for a quick snack. Also try the sandwiches for breakfast or lunch. 1108 N. Big Spring St. 570-4166 | $ | **4 spoons**

YOUR WAY YOGURT Start with self-serve yogurt and add toppings ranging from strawberries and whip cream to cereal. 2300 W. Wadley Ave. Suite D 897-4393 | $ | **3 spoons**



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Siataga settled in, ready to lead Lady Chaps

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

A lot has changed in a year for Midland College softball player Cassie Siataga.

The sophomore shortstop from Christchurch, New Zealand, has gone from someone who was extremely homesick when she got to Midland to a player that the team is counting on to be a leader on and off the field.

There's no question that Siataga can have an impact as the Lady Chaps begin their season this weekend at the Coastal Bend College Tournament in Beeville.

Not only is she is a very good hitter, who is coming off a freshman season in which she batted .477 with six home runs and 61 RBI, but she is a strong fielder at arguably the most demanding position on the diamond.

But being an ocean away took its toll on Siataga in her early days in West Texas.

"I was homesick for the first month. It's a lot greener in New Zealand than in Texas," Siataga said. "There were a couple of times I went into (head coach Tommy Ramos') office just crying. I just wanted to go home and see my family. But (Ramos' wife Nicole) and Coach Ramos brought me into the family and made it feel like home. Now it's different and we have another girl (Danica Ferriso) from New Zealand on the team and I know what she's going through, and I'm trying to make it as comfortable for her as possible."

Ramos said Siataga was no different from most players who are so far away from home, in that they go through a transition period.

"They have some down time before we start and the weather is a factor, because they're not used to the West Texas weather," Ramos said. "Once we start playing consistently, they start making the adjustments a lot quicker."

Siataga is just the latest player out of the New Zealand talent pipeline that Ramos has been mining in recent years. Tyneesha Houkamau, the 2015 WJCAC MVP, was also from New Zealand and helped Siataga come to Midland College.

"At first I was looking into other schools, like in Florida and whatnot, but after talking to Coach Ramos and (assistant coach Amanda Evans), they made it feel like a second home," Siataga said.

Ramos said Siataga is no different from the other players he's seen from New Zealand.

"They're all different types of players but they're competitive," Ramos said. "They all understand what it means to compete."

Now Siataga is being counted on to lead a Lady Chaps team that will be depending on a lot of young players to fill critical

Please see **SIATAGA**/4C



Midland College shortstop Cassie Siataga is shown in this portrait taken Monday.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Solid season's work

Even teammates are amazed with MCS' Venzant

By Will Korn
wkorn@mrt.com

Thirty-five, 40, 45 and even 52.

These are the point totals one will routinely see next to Midland Christian junior guard Daniel Venzant's name in an official score book after a Mustangs' game.

One 40-point game might be a career hallmark for the average high school basketball player. But for Venzant, who is averaging about 38 points, 4.5 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals per contest this season, a game like that really is just another day at the office.

Most recently, Venzant's monster 52-point performance helped lift the Mustangs to an 81-80 road win against Grapevine Faith Christian last Saturday. MCS (19-12, 5-2 in TAPPS 1-4A) trailed in that game by seven points entering the final quarter.

Not many coaches have a player with Venzant's ability at their disposal. But MCS head coach Chris Ryburn happens to be one of them and he continues to be awe-struck watching his 5-foot-9 point guard play.

"It certainly takes a lot of pressure off, especially offensively, to have a guy that can do that," Ryburn said. "Sometimes he's able to do things that you just have no words for and he does have that ability where at times he can almost score at will. What else can I say? It's just really nice to have him."

If you need more testimony, just ask Venzant's teammates.

"Just give the ball to Daniel, that's what we've got to do," junior forward Colton Snively said. "Everybody else is just a role player."

Added senior guard Brock Smith: "It's incredible to be a part (of a game on Venzant's team). Just to watch it every day, to realize you're witnessing something special. He does a great job of setting everyone else up for success. Being on the court with him makes me a better player."

The somewhat soft-spoken Venzant has been playing basketball since he was 3 years old. But he said it wasn't until his sophomore year at MCS that he morphed into an elite scorer.

"Last year and this year has been the most I've probably had to take the scoring role," Venzant said. "My freshman year here I was more of a facilitator. But this year, I've been doing a lot of scoring."

With the departure of fellow high-scoring wing Grant Little — now a Texas Tech University baseball signee — from last season's Mustangs' team, Venzant has taken a noticeable step forward both as a scorer and as an overall player in the last year.

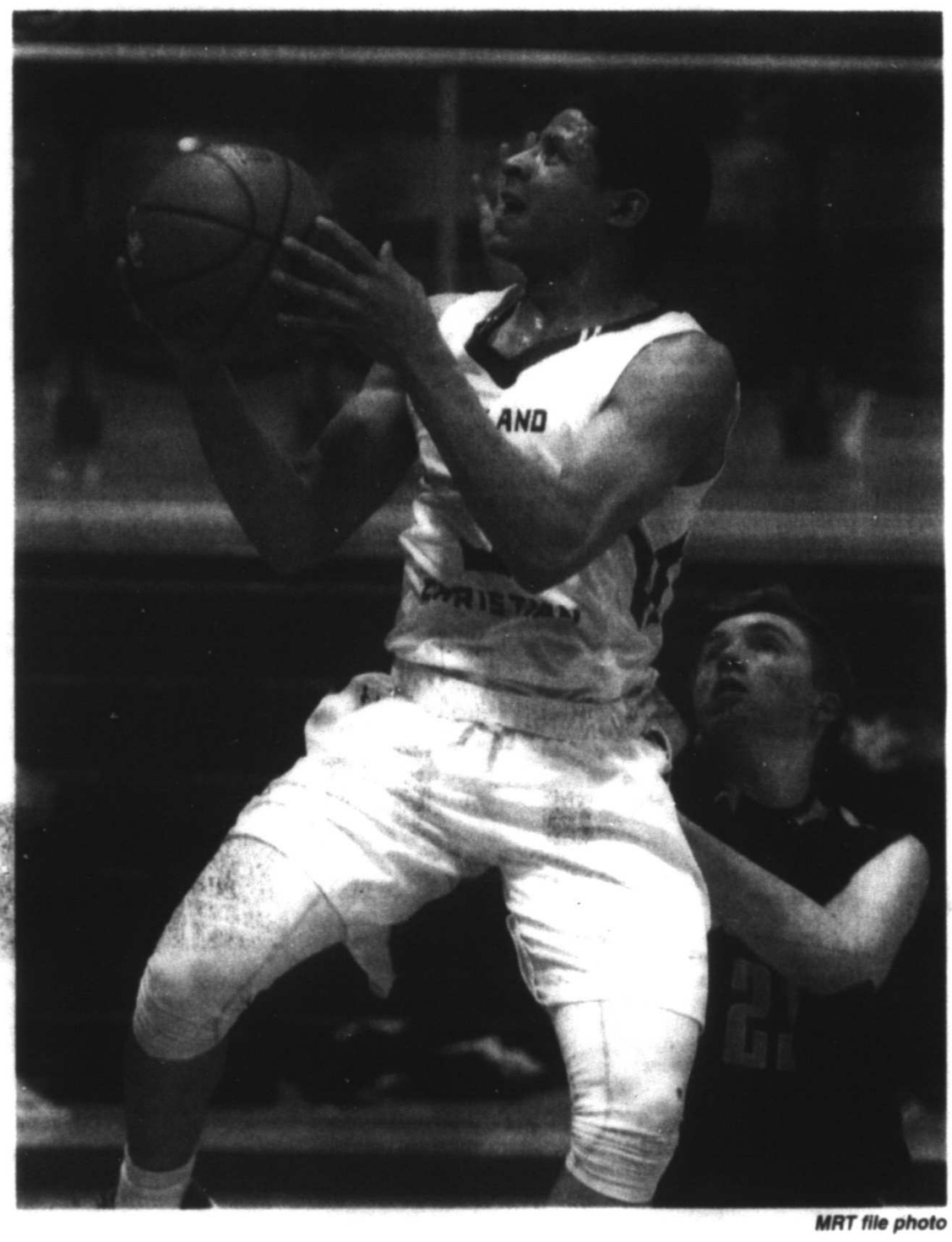
"He did a lot of work in the weight room in the fall," Ryburn said. "That has really had a positive effect on his game. I think he's stronger finishing at the rim. That's the comment that I've gotten from other coaches who played against us last year, was that they feel like he's stronger."

Ryburn added that Venzant has also matured mentally since the start of this year, even with a bit more responsibility than he had last season.

"He's always really comfortable with the ball in his hands and he's really comfortable running the offense," Ryburn said. "He generally has a pretty good feel for when to go (and take over) and when to lay back."

Another sign of Venzant's maturity is that he doesn't allow a memorable night to get into his head during a game.

Please see **VENZANT**/3C



MRT file photo

Midland Christian's Daniel Venzant drives past Seminole's Carter Johnson on Dec. 15, 2015, at the McGraw Events Center.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL REPORT

Spurs rebound from loss to Warriors, pound Rockets

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs rebounded from their worst loss in three years to bash the Houston Rockets 130-99 on Wednesday night and remain undefeated at home.

San Antonio (39-7) has won 25 straight at home to open the season and 34 consecutive dating back to last season.

Aldridge bounced back — as did the rest of the Spurs — after he was held to five points and three rebounds in a 30-point loss to Golden State on Monday.

Spurs	130
Rockets	99

San Antonio had 32 assists and shot 56 percent from the field in snapping Houston's three-game winning streak and handing the Rockets their worst loss of the season.

James Harden had 20 points and Dwight Howard added 13 for Houston.

San Antonio was without Tim Duncan for a second straight game due to a sore right knee, but he wasn't needed as the Spurs won their league-high 17th game by at least 20 points.

It was the type of feel-good victory San Antonio needed after a crushing loss to Golden State in what was supposed to be a showdown between the league's two best teams.

Tip-ins

Rockets: The highest first-half production by an opponent prior to Wednesday was 65 points by Oklahoma City on Nov. 2. Howard was listed as questionable for Wednesday's game with a sprained left ankle, but he played 22 minutes against the Spurs.

Spurs: San Antonio tied the Portland Trail Blazers for seventh all-time with its 34th straight home victory. The Trail Blazers' streak ran from March 5, 1977, to Feb. 3, 1978.

Cam Newton: 'I'm an African-American QB that scares people'

By Steve Reed
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers quarterback Cam Newton suggested for the first time Wednesday that race may play a factor in why he's become a lightning rod for public criticism.

"I'm an African-American quarterback that scares people because they haven't seen nothing that they can compare me to," said the 6-foot-5, 245-pound Newton.



Newton

The No. 1 pick in the 2011 NFL draft out of Auburn, Newton has his share of detractors who either don't like how he plays, his celebrations or his abundance of self-confidence.

Newton, a leading league MVP candidate putting up record-breaking numbers, said he learned a long time ago that he can't please everyone.

"People are going to judge, and have opinions on things I don't have control over," Newton said.

The stout and speedy Newton is beating teams with his arm and his legs, throwing for 35 touchdowns and running for 10 this season. He has helped lead the Panthers (17-1) to their first Super Bowl since 2003. Carolina plays the AFC champion Denver Broncos on Feb. 7 in Santa Clara, California.

Newton acknowledged being leery of talking about how others may perceive him.

"I think it's a trick question," Newton said. "If I answer it truthfully it's going to be 'Aw, he's this or that.' But I will say it anyway.

"I don't think people have seen what I am or what I'm trying to do."

Newton said he hasn't changed, and has previously responded to his critics.

"I said that prior to me being in this situation," Newton said of being misunderstood. "But when I said it then it was like, 'Oh he is immature,' or, 'Oh he's young and this that and the third.' I felt a certain type of way then and I feel a certain type of way now — nothing has pretty much changed. They talk about maturity. They talk about skillset. ... The only thing that has changed (about me) is that we're winning now."

Panthers coach Ron Rivera doesn't believe Newton should have to fight perceptions about race.

"I think he has always strived to have that separation," Rivera said. "I don't think he wants to be known as an African-American quarterback; he wants to be known as a quarterback. I think that is what drives him, to be able to transcend those boundaries, which I think is great."

Rivera, who is Hispanic, said he has battled that notion to some degree himself.

"It really should be about your merits more than anything else," the coach said. "More about what you have accomplished, what you have done."

Rivera said some people may simply not like Newton because of his personality.

The All-Pro quarterback plays the game with open enthusiasm, pointing his arms forward after running for a first down, doing the "dab" in the end zone and pretending to rip open his shirt like Superman. He gets his teammates to pose for pictures on the sideline near the end of games when the outcome is no longer in doubt.

None of that bothers Rivera, who said Newton needs to remain true to himself.

"I think some people believe you should be stoic when you play this

Please see **NEWTON**/4C

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Senior Bowl Practice, 9:30 a.m., ESPNU

Senior Bowl Practice, 1:30 p.m., ESPNU

GOLF

European PGA: Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, 2nd Round, 5 a.m., GOLF

LPGA: Pure Silk Bahamas LPGA Classic, 1st Round, 10:30 a.m., GOLF

PGA: Farmers Insurance Open, 1st Round, 2 p.m., GOLF

Asian Tour: SMBC Singapore Open, 2nd Round, 7 p.m., GOLF

European PGA: Commercial Bank Qatar Masters, 3rd Round, 10:30 p.m., GOLF

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Iowa at Maryland, 6 p.m., ESPN

Notre Dame at Syracuse, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Cincinnati at Connecticut, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Robert Morris at Mount St. Mary's, 6 p.m., CBSSN

UAB at Western Kentucky, 6:30 p.m., FS1

Oregon State at Arizona State, 7:30 p.m., P12, P12 AZ, P12 OR

Michigan State at Northwestern, 8 p.m., ESPN

Oregon at Arizona, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Richmond at George Washington, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Southeast Missouri at SIU Edwardsville, 8 p.m., CBSSN

Ohio State at Illinois, 8 p.m., BTN

Santa Clara at Gonzaga, 8 p.m., ROOT

St. Francis-NY at Wagner, 8 p.m., FCSA

Washington at UCLA, 9 p.m., FS1

Washington State at USC, 9:30 p.m., P12, P12 LA, P12 WA

UC Santa Barbara at Long Beach State, 9:30 p.m., FCSP

Loyola Marymount at BYU, 10 p.m., ESPNU

MEN'S SOCCER

Copa del Rey: Las Palmas vs. Valencia, 1:50 p.m., beIN, beIN2

NBA

New York at Toronto, 7 p.m., TNT

Chicago at LA Lakers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS

Australian Open, Mixed Doubles Semifinals & Women's Doubles Finals, 10 p.m., TENNIS

Austrlian Open Men's Semifinal #2, 2:30 a.m., ESPN2, ESPNDEP

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Auburn at Georgia, 6 p.m., SEC

Northwestern at Ohio State, 6 p.m., BTN

Notre Dame at Georgia Tech, 6 p.m., FSSW

Texas A&M at Alabama, 6 p.m., SEC+

Weber State at Northern Arizona, 7:30 p.m., FCSC

Tennessee at Mississippi State, 8 p.m., SEC

ON RADIO

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Clarendon at Howard, 7:30 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring), KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

South Plains at Midland, 7:30 p.m., KLVT 1230 AM (Levelland), listen online klvtradio.com

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Clarendon at Howard, 5:45 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring), KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

South Plains at Midland, 5:45 p.m., KLVT 1230 AM (Levelland), listen online klvtradio.com

WHAT'S ON DECK

Junior college

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

South Plains College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

South Plains College at Midland College, 7:30 p.m.

NJCAA POLLS

NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll
(first place votes in parentheses)

No. Team	Record	Pts.	Prv.
1. Trinity Valley (15)	21-1	360	1
2. Georgia Highlands (1)	20-1	334	2
3. North Idaho	23-0	314	4
4. Gillette	22-0	313	3
5. Northwest Florida State	19-2	293	6
6. Indian Hills CC	21-2	284	5
7. Hercum College	18-2	257	9
8. Connors State	17-2	244	11
9. John A. Logan	18-2	229	5
10. Iowa Western	18-3	201	8
11. McLennan CC	19-3	185	15
12. Mineral Area	23-3	180	16
13. Eastern Florida State	19-3	172	19
14. Odessa College	17-3	159	10
15. Hutchinson CC	19-3	150	16
16. Salt Lake CC	20-3	137	18
17. Palm Beach State	17-3	112	12
18. Southwest Tennessee	16-3	94	23
19. Chattahoochee Tech	17-2	93	13
20. Vincennes	17-4	63	22
21 Daytona State	19-4	71	14
22. Mississippi Gulf Coast	14-1	64	24
23. Otero JC	18-3	36	RV
24. Arkansas Baptist	17-3	31	24
25. Cochise College	18-3	18	NR

Others receiving votes: **Midland College (16-5), 5 points**

NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Poll
(first place votes in parentheses)

No. Team	Record	Pts.	Prv.
1. Trinity Valley CC (8)	19-1	200	1
2. Gulf Coast State	20-0	192	2
3. Daytona State	20-1	184	3
4. Salt Lake CC	22-1	176	4
5. Shelton State	19-1	168	5
6. Southern Idaho	22-1	160	7
7. Chipola College	16-4	152	6
8. Hutchinson CC	20-1	144	8
9. New Mexico JC	19-2	136	9
10. Midland College	19-3	128	10
11. Walters State	20-0	120	11
12. Casper College	18-2	112	14
13. Tyler College	18-3	104	12
14. N.E. Oklahoma A&M	16-3	96	15
15. Iowa Western	18-3	88	16
16. Northwest Florida State	16-5	80	13
17. Collin County	18-4	72	18
18. Northern Oklahoma Enid	18-3	64	21
19. South Georgia Tech	19-4	56	22
20. Western Nebraska	16-2	48	24
21. Seward County	15-5	40	20
22. Odessa College	14-6	32	17
23 North Idaho	17-4	24	25
24. Mineral Area	15-4	16	RV
25 State Fair	17-4	8	19

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Named Tyrone Brooks senior director of front office and field staff diversity pipeline program and Renee Tirado senior director of recruitment

American League

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with OF Yoris Cespedes on a three-year contract. Traded INF Kody Eaves to Detroit for INF Jeffry Marte.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Nick Tepesch on a minor league contract. Promoted Rafic Saab to director of international scouting.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Assigned RHP Brandon Beachy outright to Oklahoma City (PCL).

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with OF Yoenis Cespedes on a three-year contract. Designated OF Darrell Ceciliani for assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Named Dave Jauss bench coach. Promoted Kevan Graves to assistant general manager, Will Lawton to assistant director of baseball operations and Sean Kelly to baseball operations assistant.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed CB Cariel Brooks to a reserve/future contract.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Named Andrew Berry vice president of player personnel.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed DL Joe Vellano to a reserve/future contract.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Named Jim O'Neil defensive coordinator, Curtis Modkins offensive coordinator/backs, Derius Swinton II special teams coordinator, Bob Bicknell wide receivers coach, Ryan Day quarterbacks coach, Jeff Nixon tight ends coach, Pat Flaherty offensive line coach, Mick Lombardi offensive quality control coach, Jerry Azzinaro defensive line coach, Jeff Hafley defensive backs coach, Hendy Nidenson inside linebackers coach and Michael Clay assistant special teams coach. Announced running backs coach Tom Rathman, Eric Wolford assistant offensive line coach and outside linebackers coach Jason Tarver were retained.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ARIZONA COYOTES — Assigned F Christian Thomas to Springfield (AHL).

BUFFALO SABRES — Assigned Fs Cal O'Reilly, Tim Schaller and Phillip Varone to Rochester (AHL).

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Reassigned F Mark McNeill to Rockford (AHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned Fs Joseph Blandisi and Reid Boucher and D Marc-Andre Gragnani and Seth Helgeson to Albany (AHL). Recalled F Sergey Kalinin from Albany.

American Hockey League

CHARLOTTE CHECKERS — Assigned F Carter Sandlak and G Rasmus Tirronen to Florida (ECHL).

LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS — Recalled F Pavel Padakin and G Martin Ouellette from Reading (ECHL).

ROCHESTER AMERICANS — Assigned Fs Matt Gardowesky and Allan McPherson to Elmira (ECHL).

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Returned F Jon DiSalvatore to Florida (ECHL).

UTICA COMETS — Returned F Mike Pereira to Reading (ECHL).

ECHL

READING ROYALS — Released F Andrew Ammon. Signed G Nick Niedert.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

LA GALAXY — Signed D Ashley Cole.

PHILADELPHIA UNION — Named Tim McDermott chief business officer.

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Signed coach Caleb Porter to a contract extension.

TENNIS

World Team tennis

WTT — Announced the Orange County Breakers will return to World Team Tennis this summer. Named Rick Leach coach.

COLLEGE

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE — Named Ted Jackson assistant coordinator for football replay.

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M — Announced the resignation of men's basketball coach Byron Rimm II. Promoted assistant coach Byron Smith to interim head coach.

Williams within 1 win of 7th Australian Open title

By John Pye
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams gave another reminder of her dominance in women's tennis with a 6-0, 6-4 win in the Australian Open semifinals against Agnieszka Radwanska, who is soon to move to the No. 3 ranking.

Six-time champion Williams has never lost a semifinal or final at the Australian Open.

The first set was no contest, over in 20 minutes. Williams hit 18 winners and Radwanska, in her fifth major semifinal, had one — in the fourth game.

The second set was closer, with Radwanska holding serve three times and breaking Serena's powerful serve once. But the 34-year-old Williams lifted again to finish it off, winning the last eight points of the match and closing with three aces and a big forehand winner.

Despite her 21 major titles and all her success, it is a loss that is inspiring Williams in this tournament. She was two wins away from a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2015 when she lost to Roberta Vinci in the U.S. Open semifinals.

"Physically I'm feeling a lot better, mentally I needed that break after the Open," she said, but "I didn't think I would do this well this fast.

"I'm really excited to be in the final — it just kind of blows my mind right now."

Williams remains unbeaten in nine matches against Radwanska, and is an overwhelming favorite going into the final against the winner of Thursday's later match between No. 7-seeded Angelique Kerber and No. 47-ranked Johanna Konta, the first British woman since 1983 to reach a major semifinal.

With the roof on Rod Laver Arena closed because of a thunderstorm closing in, the most obvious noise in the first set was the chirping of trapped birds who'd taken shelter in the stadium.

The chirping intensified as Williams served in the sixth game of the second set, and she looked up angrily after her off-balance, forehand from the baseline conceding her only service break of the match.

Williams finished with eight aces for the match — after none in the first set — and has dropped only 26 games in six rounds in a dominating run that included a 6-4, 6-1 win over No. 5 Maria Sharapova in the quarterfinals, a rematch of the 2015 final.

Jamie Murray and Brazil's Bruno Soares are through to the men's doubles final after a 6-3, 6-1 win over the French team of Adrian Mannarino and Lucas Pouille.

The first men's semifinal between defending champion Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer will open the night session.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN RESULTS

Wednesday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: $30.18 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Men
Quarterfinals

Andy Murray (2), Britain, def. David Ferrer (8), Spain, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3.

Milos Raonic (13), Canada, def. Gael Monfils (23), France, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Women
Quarterfinals

Angelique Kerber (7), Germany, def. Victoria Azarenka (14), Belarus, 6-3, 7-5.

Johanna Konta, Britain, def. Zhang Shuai, China, 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles
Women
Semifinals

Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka (7), Czech Republic, def. Xu Yi-Fan and Zheng Saisai (15), China, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Martina Hingis, Switzerland, and Sania Mirza, india (1), def. Julia Goerges, Germany, and Karolina Pliskova (13), Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-0

Mixed
Quarterfinals

CoCo Vandeweghe, United States, and Horia Tecau, Romania, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Bob Bryan (2), United States, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 10-6

Elena Vesnina, Russia, and Bruno Soares (5), Brazil, def. Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, and Jamie Murray (4), Britain, 6-2, 6-3.

Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Treat Huey, Philippines, def. Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, and Rohan Bopanna (5), India, 6-2, 7-5.

Legends Doubles
Round Robin
Men

Thomas Enqvist and Magnus Norman, Sweden, def. Pat Cash, Australia, and Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia, 4-3 (4), 1-4, 4-3.

Jonas Bjorkman and Thomas Johansson, Sweden, def. Henri Leconte, France, and Mark Philippoussis, Australia, 4-3 (2), 4-2.

Women

Lindsay Davenport and Martina Navratilova, United States, def. Nicole Bradtke, Australia, and Barbara Schett, Austria, 4-1, 4-3 (2)

Early Thursday
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: $30.18 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Women
Semifinals

Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, 6-0, 6-4.

Doubles
Men
Semifinals

Jamie Murray, Britain, and Bruno Soares (7), Brazil, def. Adrian Mannarino and Lucas Pouille, France, 6-3, 6-1.

Junior Singles
Girls
Quarterfinals

Sara Tomic, Australia, def. Lin Beijing, Australia, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2.

Wheelchair Singles
Quad
Round Robin

Lucas Sithole, South Africa, def. Andrew Lapthorne, Britain, 2-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Dylan Alcott, Australia, def. David Wagner, United States, 7-5, 6-1.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CAVALIERS 115
SUNS 93

CLEVELAND — Tyronn Lue is three games into his tenure as a head coach — and on his way to the All-Star Game.

An interesting week in Cleveland took another odd turn.

LeBron James scored 21 points before sitting out — and dancing — in the fourth quarter, Kevin Love added 21 points and 11 rebounds, and the Cavaliers stormed away in the second half for a 115-93 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

Sluggish for the first 24 minutes, the Cavs opened the second half with a 12-0 run and sent Phoenix to its 17th loss in 19 games.

Cleveland improved to 2-1 under Lue, who took over last week when David Blatt was surprisingly fired halfway through his second season despite an NBA Finals appearance last season and an overall 83-40 record. The Cavs' second win under Lue means he and the Cavs' coaching staff will represent the Eastern Conference on Feb. 14 in Toronto.

Like everything else that has come his way, Lue took it in stride.

"It's a tribute to coach Blatt and the players and the hard work the assistant coaches put in to get us to this point," Lue said. "I know my coaches are excited, and I know it's going to be a surreal moment."

CLIPPERS 95
HAWKS 83

ATLANTA — Jamal Crawford scored 21 points and the Los Angeles Clippers won again without Blake Griffin, holding off the mistake-prone Atlanta Hawks 85-83 on Wednesday night.

The Hawks turned it over a season-high 23 times but still had a chance to force overtime when Chris Paul lost the handle on an inbounds pass after Al Horford's free throw. Atlanta got it back with 6.7 seconds left and inbounded to Paul Millsap, who drove against Luc Mbah a Moute and got a good look at the basket but came up short on a running one-hander. The horn sounded as the Clippers celebrated their 14th win in 17 games.

Los Angeles won for the second straight night after word leaked that Griffin would be out 4-to-6 weeks, having broken his shooting hand by punching a staff member. He apologized for the incident on Twitter late Tuesday, and his teammates kept on winning.

DeAndrew Jordan scored 13 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, foiling the Hawks' strategy to keep sending him to line by making 6 of 8 free throws in the fourth quarter.

Jeff Teague led Atlanta with 16 points.

Both teams looked ragged — not surprising with the Hawks coming off a weeklong West Coast road trip, while the Clippers were finishing up a five-game East Coast run and played the night before at Indiana.

Atlanta shot just 42 percent (33 of 79) and eclipsed its previous high for turnovers, after surrendering the ball 22 times at Indiana on Dec. 28. The Clippers connected on just 39 percent (33 of 85) from the field, including a dismal 5-of-27 showing from behind the 3-point arc.

Chris Paul had 11 points and 10 assists, while J.J. Redick added 12 points.

THUNDER 126
TIMBERWOLVES 123

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Durant had 27 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and hit two huge shots in the final two minutes to help the Oklahoma City Thunder win a second-straight, fast-paced thriller with a 126-123 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Russell Westbrook had 24 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds, while Enes Kanter had 23 points and 10 boards for the Thunder, who beat the Knicks in overtime the night before. Oklahoma City outrebounded Minnesota 47-31 to go home from a four-game road trip at 3-1.

Zach LaVine scored 35 points on 14-for-17 shooting. Andrew Wiggins added 20 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points, 13 boards and five assists for the Timberwolves. Minnesota shot 55.6 percent and had 31 assists, but missed 10 free throws.

The Thunder were clinging to a 113-111 lead when Durant hit a 25-foot 3 from the wing. He then made a jumper in the lane to pad it back to 118-113, the second straight night his late-game heroics helped Oklahoma City escape. In New York, Durant hit the game-tying shot with 16.2 seconds to go, then scored seven in OT to finish with 44 points.

The Thunder didn't arrive in Minneapolis until 3 a.m. after spending four days in snowy New York and needing extra time to board the Knicks. Durant and Westbrook carried the load against the Knicks, combining to play more than 87 minutes and score 74 points to help the Thunder bounce back from a disappointing loss to the Nets.

They were facing the Timberwolves for the third time this month, but Minnesota has been playing with a different energy and pace over the last week to break out of a 1-13 funk. The young Wolves came out running again, surging out to an eight-point lead on the strength of terrific ball movement and shot-making from LaVine, Towns, Wiggins and Gorgui Dieng.

PISTONS 108
76ERS 97

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Andre Drummond had 25 points and 18 rebounds, and the Detroit Pistons rallied to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 108-97 on Wednesday night.

Drummond, who came into the game having gone 1 for 14 from the line in the last two games, even hit seven of his 12 free throws. Reggie Jackson added 27 points, while rookie Stanley Johnson had 18 off the bench.

CELTICS 111
NUGGETS 103

BOSTON — Avery Bradley matched his season-high with 27 points, and the Boston Celtics earned their fourth straight victory with a 111-103 win over the Denver Nuggets on Wednesday night.

Kelly Olynyk added 17 points and seven rebounds. Isaiah Thomas finished with 16 points and five assists.

The victory ties a season-high win streak for the Celtics.

Boston took a 15-point lead into the fourth quarter on a last-second 3-point play by Olynyk to end the third.

The Celtics kept attacking, scoring the first seven points of the quarter and growing their cushion to 22 points.

The Nuggets lost for the fourth time in five games.

They got within 10 points on a dunk by Kenneth Faried with about five minutes remaining. But the Celtics went on a run again to help secure the win.

JAZZ 102
HORNETS 73

SALT LAKE CITY — Rodney Hood scored 24 points as the Utah Jazz avenged a loss to the Charlotte Hornets last week with a 102-73 victory on Wednesday night.

The Jazz lost to the Hornets in double-overtime last week.

Utah broke loose in the second quarter with a 20-2 run, highlighted by a pair of alley-oops from Hood to Rudy Gobert. Trevor Booker added a pair of dunks that pushed the lead to 38-22.

Charlotte worked the lead down to single digits in the third quarter, but a trio of 3-pointers from Trey Burke pushed the lead back up to 19.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	30	15	.667	—
Boston	26	21	.553	5
New York	22	25	.468	9
Brooklyn	12	34	.261	18½
Philadelphia	7	40	.149	24

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	27	20	.574	—
Miami	25	21	.543	1½
Charlotte	22	23	.489	4
Washington	20	23	.465	5
Orlando	20	24	.455	5½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	32	12	.727	—
Chicago	25	19	.568	7
Detroit	25	21	.543	8
Indiana	23	22	.511	9½
Milwaukee	20	27	.426	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	39	7	.848	—
Memphis	26	20	.565	13
Dallas	26	21	.553	13½
Houston	23	23	.521	15
New Orleans	16	28	.364	22

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	35	13	.729	—
Portland	21	26	.447	13½
Utah	19	25	.432	14
Denver	17	29	.370	17
Minnesota	14	33	.298	20½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	41	4	.911	—
L.A. Clippers	30	16	.652	11½
Sacramento	20	25	.444	21
Phoenix	14	33	.298	28
L.A. Lakers	9	36	.191	33

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Scores

Cleveland 115, Phoenix 93
Boston 111, Denver 103
Detroit 110, Philadelphia 97
Oklahoma City 126, Minnesota 123
San Antonio 130, Houston 99
L.A. Clippers 85, Atlanta 83
Utah 102, Charlotte 73
Dallas at Golden State, late

Today's Games

Atlanta at Indiana, 6 p.m.
Denver at Washington, 6 p.m.
Sacramento at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Memphis, 7 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Friday's games

Orlando at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Miami at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Portland, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	49	29	15	5	63	135	108
Tampa Bay	49	27	18	4	58	130	117
Detroit	49	25	16	8	58	122	124
Boston	49	26	18	5	57	147	131
Montreal	50	24	22	4	52	136	134
Ottawa	50	23	21	6	52	139	155
Buffalo	50	20	26	4	44	114	136
Toronto	48	17	22	9	43	114	134

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	47	35	8	4	74	158	104
N.Y. Rangers	49	27	17	5	59	142	129
N.Y. Islanders	47	25	16	6	56	130	118
Pittsburgh	48	24	17	7	55	121	120
New Jersey	50	25	20	5	55	114	118
Carolina	51	23	20	8	54	123	135
Philadelphia	47	21	18	8	50	109	127
Columbus	51	19	27	5	43	133	163

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	53	33	16	4	70	147	122
Dallas	50	31	14	5	67	162	133
St. Louis	52	28	16	8	64	129	128
Minnesota	49	23	17	9	55	121	115
Colorado	51	26	22	3	55	139	139
Nashville	49	23	18	8	54	127	130
Winnipeg	49	22	24	3	47	126	140

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	48	30	15	3	63	126	109
San Jose	48	26	18	4	56	142	129
Arizona	49	24	20	5	53	131	146
Anaheim	47	22	18	7	51	101	111
Vancouver	50	20	19	11	51	122	139
Calgary	47	21	23	3	45	125	144
Edmonton	50	19	26	5	43	122	169

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Scores and schedule

Wednesday's Games

Tampa Bay 1, Toronto 0
Philadelphia 4, Washington 3, OT
Nashville at Calgary, late
Colorado at Los Angeles, late

Today's Games

No games scheduled

Friday's Games

No games scheduled

SPORTS ODDS

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Carolina	3½	4½		Denver

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MCBASKETBALLCAPSULES

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Women

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE AT NO. 10 MIDLAND COLLEGE

When/where: 5:45 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 19-3, 8-1 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; South Plains College, 15-8, 8-4

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 59, Odessa College 57 (Jan. 21); South Plains College 56, Western Texas College 52

Notes & quotes: Midland College had the bye on Monday but is coming off a big road win at rival Odessa College as the Lady Chaparrals got a big game from Walnatia Wright, who had a game-high 28 points. ... Tonight's game begins the second half of WJCAC play. ... MC defeated South Plains 76-57 in the WJCAC opener back on Dec. 2 in Levelland. ... The Lady Texans have won their last two games and are currently on the outside looking in to capture a spot in the Region V Tournament. MC coach Ron Jones said SPC is certainly capable of making the regional tournament and expects the Lady Texans to give his team everything they've got. "South Plains is an athletic team that runs an offense that requires you to work hard on every possession," he said. "They have good ball movement and they have got good shooters. We were fortunate the last time against them to beat them at their place as we made a run in the fourth quarter to separate from them. We know what they want to do and we just have to make it as difficult as possible for them and try to limit them to one shot." ... Elizabeth Cera, a 5-foot-8 freshman guard, leads SPC with 12.5 ppg, while fellow 5-8 freshman guard Jasmyne Martin adds 10 ppg.

Next: Midland College at Clarendon College, 5:45 p.m. Monday; Frank Phillips College at South Plains College, 5:45 p.m. Monday

WJCAC Women's basketball

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
New Mexico JC	7	1	20	2
Midland College	6	1	19	3
Howard College	5	2	15	7
Odessa College	4	3	15	6
South Plains	3	4	15	8
Frank Phillips	2	5	9	9
Western Texas	1	6	14	9
Clarendon College	0	7	5	19

Monday's Scores

South Plains College 56, Western Texas College 52; Odessa College 69, Frank Phillips College 47; New Mexico JC 64, Howard College 45; Midland College and Clarendon College were open

Today's Games

South Plains College at Midland College; Clarendon College at Howard College; Odessa College at New Mexico JC; Frank Phillips College and Odessa College are open

WJCAC Men's basketball

	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
New Mexico JC	7	1	17	5
Odessa College	6	2	17	6
South Plains	4	2	15	6
Midland College	5	3	17	5
Frank Phillips	3	4	15	6
Western Texas	4	5	12	10
Howard College	2	6	12	10
Clarendon College	2	6	14	9
NMMI	0	8	6	13

Monday's Scores

Midland College 88, New Mexico Military Institute 60; South Plains College 83, Western Texas College 76; Frank Phillips College 78, Odessa College 72; New Mexico JC 88, Howard College 79; Clarendon College was open

Today's Games

South Plains College at Midland College; Clarendon College at Howard College; Odessa College at New Mexico JC; New Mexico Military Institute at Frank Phillips College; Odessa College is open

Men

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

When/where: 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 17-5, 5-3 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; South Plains 15-6, 6-2

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 88, New Mexico Military Institute 60; South Plains College 83, Western Texas College 76

Notes & quotes: Midland College looks to extend its winning streak to three games tonight as it fights to stay in the top four of the crowded WJCAC standings. ... The Chaparrals overcame a somewhat slow start against NMMI on Monday behind the strong play of freshman forward Jachai Simmons, who had 19 of his 26 points in the first half. MC eventually pulled away by playing more together and getting to the free-throw line 21 times in the second half. Daeshon Francis added 16 points, Bryce Ervin had 12 and William Tchiengang chipped in with 10 in a winning effort. ... SPC has won four in a row and is tied with Odessa College for second place in the WJCAC standings. ... The Chaps would like to forget the last time they played the Texans, as SPC ran away with an 89-63 win in the WJCAC opener in Levelland on Dec. 2. "We know what happened and that still feels bad every time somebody brings it up, so we've got to do something to fix that," said MC coach Jordan Dreiling about the last meeting. Dreiling added that how his team practices leading up to the game will dictate how it plays. ... Three Texans are averaging in double figures, led by sophomore 6-foot-5 guard Che Bob with 14.8 ppg, sophomore 6-4 guard Deontae North averages 12.2 ppg, while sophomore 6-9 forward Marlon Jones is at 10.2 ppg.

Next: Midland College at Clarendon College, 7:30 p.m. Monday; Frank Phillips College at South Plains College, 7:30 p.m. Monday

Boyette leads No. 6 Texas past Kansas

By Mark Rosner
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Imani Boyette has eight double-doubles in nine Big 12 games, personal accomplishment that pleases the Texas center.

"I should say no," Boyette said, smiling. "But I am aware."

Boyette had one Wednesday night with 16 points and 10 rebounds and No. 6 Texas routed Kansas 70-46 for the 1,000th win in program history. Boyette also had four blocks while playing just 21 minutes.

No. 6 Texas	**70**
Kansas	**46**

Brooke McCarty added 13 points as the Longhorns (19-1, 8-1) took command with a 23-0 push bridging the second and third quarters.

Lauren Aldridge scored 15 for Kansas (5-15, 0-9), which has lost 11 consecutive games. Caelynn Manning-Allen scored 14. The Jayhawks made eight 3-point baskets, including five by Aldridge, but scored only two points in the paint.

The only Big 12 game in which Boyette did not produce a double-double was a 75-38 win at Kansas on Jan. 13. She had 15 points and eight rebounds in 21 minutes. She did not play in the fourth quarter.

"She definitely, at Kansas, wanted to go back in," Texas coach Karen Aston said. "But the game was in hand. Tonight the starters played a little bit in the fourth quarter."

Indeed, Boyette appeared for two minutes, grabbed her 10th rebound, and was removed from the game by Aston.

Boyette said the statistical lapse at Kansas was her own fault.

"I was kind of messing around and not taking the game seriously," Boyette said. "I could have played harder and hopefully accomplished (a double-double). Coach told me you should have done it while you were in there."

The Longhorns finished the first half Wednesday with a 19-0 push that gave them a 39-15 halftime lead. Kansas failed to score during the final 7:45 of the half.

Arkansas ends No. 5 Texas A&M's streak

By Kurt Voigt
Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Moses Kingsley had 18 points and 11 rebounds, Dusty Hannahs and Anthlon Bell scored 17 apiece and Arkansas ended No. 5 Texas A&M's 10-game winning streak with a 74-71 victory Wednesday night.

Arkansas	**74**
No. 5 Texas A&M	**71**

The loss was the first for the Aggies (17-3, 7-1 Southeastern Conference) since a defeat at Arizona State on Dec. 5, ending the school's longest winning streak since a 13-game stretch during the 2010-11 season.

Bell and Hannahs each hit a trio of 3-pointers for the Razorbacks (10-10, 4-4), who ended a three-game losing streak and won their eighth straight against Texas A&M in Bud Walton Arena.

Danuel House scored 24 points and shot 4 of 5 from 3-point range to lead Texas A&M, which was 19 of 48 (39.6 percent) from the field.

Texas A&M was attempting to win its eighth consecutive conference game, its most since the school won seven in a row as a member of the former Southwest Conference during the 1979-80 season.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Wednesday's scores

MEN

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 74, Texas A&M 71
Houston 81, Tulsa 66

SOUTH

Clemson 73, Pittsburgh 60
Coastal Carolina 68, UNC Asheville 66, OT
Coppin St. 73, NC A&T 68
Delaware St. 71, NC Central 60
East Carolina 64, Temple 61
Georgia Tech 90, NC State 83
High Point 73, Campbell 63
Jacksonville 78, Florida Gulf Coast 69
Kennesaw St. 78, SC-Upstate 75
Kentucky 88, Missouri 54
Liberty 69, Gardner-Webb 55
Louisville 91, Virginia Tech 83
Mississippi 80, Auburn 63
Morehead St. 75, Austin Peay 65
Murray St. 75, E. Kentucky 71
Radford 80, Longwood 61
South Florida 73, Tulane 60
Winthrop 87, Charleston Southern 72

FAR WEST

Colorado St. 74, San Jose St. 66

MIDWEST

Butler 67, DePaul 53
Dayton 73, Saint Louis 57
Indiana St. 68, Missouri St. 59
Michigan 68, Rutgers 57

EAST

Albany (NY) 75, Mass.-Lowell 63
American U. 63, Navy 58
Binghamton 66, UMBC 57
Boston U. 76, Army 67
LIU Brooklyn 92, Sacred Heart 64
Lehigh 79, Colgate 70
Lipscomb 81, NJIT 72
Loyola (Md.) 71, Holy Cross 54
Maine 105, Hartford 100, OT
Rhode Island 79, Fordham 63
Saint Joseph's 79, UMass 70
Seton Hall 79, St. John's 60
Vermont 66, New Hampshire 50

WOMEN

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 77, Houston Baptist 60
Baylor 69, Texas Tech 43
Oklahoma 57, West Virginia 54
S. Dakota St. 68, Oral Roberts 50
Sam Houston St. 78, Lamar 76
Texas 70, Kansas 46
Texas A&M-CC 57, Incarnate Word 56
UConn 94, Tulsa 30

SOUTH

Augusta 56, UNC Pembroke 52
Bridgewater (Va.) 87, Shenandoah 71
Carson-Newman 64, Lincoln Memorial 72
Clint. Arkansas 74, Northwestern St. 49
Coppin St. 65, NC A&T 59
Delaware St. 68, NC Central 59
Emory & Henry 66, Washington & Lee 63
Ga. Southwestern 71, Clayton St. 59
George Washington 79, Davidson 60
Jacksonville St. 58, E. Kentucky 54
Johns Hopkins 64, Washington (Md.) 42
Johnson C. Smith 92, Winston-Salem 58
Livingstone 100, Bluefield St. 56
Morehead St. 96, SE Louisiana 79
Memphis 75, UCF 59
Morehead St. 75, Tennessee Tech 71
Murray St. 65, E. Illinois 50
NC State 82, Virginia 52
New Orleans 82, Nicholls St. 65
Randolph-Mac. 68, Randolph 59
SIU-Edwardsville 72, Austin Peay 61
South Florida 73, Houston 49
Tenn. Wesleyan 60, Reinhardt 43
UT Martin 77, Tennessee St. 50
VCU 61, Fordham 31
Washington & Lee 100, Thiel 87

FAR WEST

Boise St. 75, UNLV 56
Fresno St. 49, Wyoming 42
New Mexico 63, Air Force 33

MIDWEST

Adrian 86, Trine 59
Albion 74, Kalamazoo 68
Augsburg 82, St. Mary's (Minn.) 70
Benedictine (Kan.) 82, Peru St. 58
Bowling Green 67, E. Michigan 63
Cent. Michigan 53, W. Michigan 51
Central Methodist 66, Evangel 51
Concordia (Mich.) 65, Aquinas 44
Concordia (Mono.) 62, St. Olaf 50
Concordia (Wis.) 58, Milwaukee Engineering 55
Doane 91, Concordia (Neb.) 55
Gustavus 79, Bethel (Minn.) 65
Hope 76, Olivet 55
Indiana 64, Rutgers 48
Kent St. 95, N. Illinois 85
Lakeland 68, Marian (Wis.) 39
Lawrence Tech 63, Cornerstone 60
Lourdes 49, Michigan-Dearborn 46
Madonna 77, Davenport 62
Michigan St. 86, Purdue 56
Missouri Valley 62, William Penn 51
Nebraska 75, Wisconsin 62
North Central (Ill.) 104, Millikin 65
Ohio 75, Akron 55
SMU 73, Cincinnati 55
South Dakota 102, W. Illinois 77
St. Benedict 65, Hamline 57
St. Catherine 70, Carleton 44
St. Thomas (Minn.) 79, Macalester 62
TCU 72, Iowa St. 62
Wis.-Lutheran 68, Edgewood 49
Wis.-Oshkosh 65, Wis.-Eau Claire 53
Wis.-Stevens Pt. 68, Wis.-Stout 61
Wis.-Whitewater 74, Wis.-Platteville 47

EAST

Albany (NY) 85, Mass.-Lowell 55
Baruch 72, York (NY) 44
Castleton 59, Middlebury 52
Dayton 67, La Salle 51
Fairleigh Dickinson 73, LIU Brooklyn 58
Hartwick 64, Utica 39
Lehigh 82, Lafayette 74
Maine 61, Hartford 43
Maryland 88, Penn St. 53
Rhode Island 80, UMass 79
St. Bonaventure 65, Saint Joseph's 51
Stockton 54, College of NJ 53
Syracuse 82, Boston College 61
UMBC 82, Binghamton 51
Vermont 83, New Hampshire 63
W. New England 68, Gordon 24

Today's schedules

MEN

SOUTHWEST

IPFW at Oral Roberts, 7 p.m.
Georgia Southern at UALR, 7:15 p.m.
Georgia St. at Arkansas St., 7:35 p.m.

SOUTH

UNC Greensboro at The Citadel, 5 p.m.
Old Dominion at FIU, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at FIU, 6 p.m.
W. Carolina at Furman, 6 p.m.
UNC Wilmington at James Madison, 6 p.m.
Middle Tennessee at Marshall, 6 p.m.
Iowa at Maryland, 6 p.m.
Wm. at Mercer, 6 p.m.
ETSU at Wofford, 6 p.m.
Northeastern at Coll. of Charleston, 6:30 p.m.
UTSA at Louisiana Tech, 6:30 p.m.
UAB at W. Kentucky, 6:30 p.m.
Belmont at Jacksonville St., 7 p.m.
Texas-Arlington at Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
UTEP at Southern Miss., 7 p.m.
Texas St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 7:15 p.m.
Appalachian St. at Troy, 7:30 p.m.
Tennessee St. at Tennessee Tech, 8 p.m.

FAR WEST

Seattle at Utah Valley, 7 p.m.
Oregon St. at Arizona St., 7:30 p.m.
South Dakota at Denver, 8 p.m.
Santa Clara at Gonzaga, 8 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at Grand Canyon, 8 p.m.
S. Utah at Idaho St., 8 p.m.
N. Arizona at Weber St., 8 p.m.
Portland St. at E. Washington, 8:05 p.m.
UC Riverside at Cal Poly, 9 p.m.
Sacramento St. at Idaho, 9 p.m.
San Francisco at Portland, 9 p.m.
Washington at UCLA, 9 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara at Long Beach St., 9:30 p.m.
Pepperdine at San Diego, 9:30 p.m.
Washington St. at Southern Cal, 9:30 p.m.
Oregon at Arizona, 10 p.m.
Loyola Marymount at BYU, 10 p.m.

MIDWEST

UT Martin at E. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Youngstown St. at IUPUI, 7 p.m.
Nebraska-Omaha at S. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
Evansville at S. Illinois, 7 p.m.
SE Missouri at SIU-Edwardsville, 7 p.m.
Cleveland St. at Valparaiso, 7 p.m.
Ohio St. at Illinois, 8 p.m.
Michigan St. at Northwestern, 8 p.m.

EAST

Bryant at CCSU, 6 p.m.
William & Mary at Delaware, 6 p.m.
Towson at Drexel, 6 p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at Fairleigh Dickinson, 6 p.m.
Elon at Hofstra, 6 p.m.
Sacred Heart at LIU Brooklyn, 6 p.m.
Robert Morris at Mount St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Notre Dame at Syracuse, 6 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. UConn at the XL Center
Hartford, Conn., 6 p.m.
St. Francis Brooklyn at Wagner, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Marist, 6:30 p.m.
Monmouth (NJ) at Quinnipiac, 6:30 p.m.
Rider at St. Peter's, 7 p.m.
Richmond at George Washington, 8 p.m.

WOMEN

SOUTHWEST

Georgia St. at Arkansas St., 5:05 p.m.
Georgia Southern at UALR, 5:15 p.m.
Florida at Arkansas, 7 p.m.
Louisiana Tech at UTSA, 7 p.m.
Southern Miss. at UTEP, 8:05 p.m.

SOUTH

Samford at Furman, 10 a.m.
Mercer at Wofford, 10:30 a.m.
Texas St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 5 p.m.
Texas-Arlington at Louisiana-Monroe, 5:15 p.m.
Appalachian St. at Troy, 5:15 p.m.
Texas A&M at Alabama, 6 p.m.
FIU at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Saint Louis at George Mason, 6 p.m.
Auburn at Georgia, 6 p.m.
Notre Dame at Georgia Tech, 6 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Clemson at Louisville, 6 p.m.
FIU at Old Dominion, 6 p.m.
Duquesne at Richmond, 6 p.m.
Mississippi at South Carolina, 6 p.m.
Miami at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.
Florida St. at Wake Forest, 6 p.m.
Marshall at Middle Tennessee, 6:30 p.m.
W. Kentucky at UAB, 7 p.m.
Tennessee at Mississippi St., 8 p.m.

FAR WEST

Weber St. at N. Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
Gonzaga at Santa Clara, 8 p.m.
Idaho St. at S. Utah, 8 p.m.
Grand Canyon at CS Bakersfield, 9 p.m.
BYU at Loyola Marymount, 9 p.m.
San Diego at Pepperdine, 9 p.m.
E. Washington at Portland St., 9 p.m.
Portland at San Francisco, 9 p.m.
Utah Valley at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Long Beach St. at UC Davis, 9 p.m.
CS Northridge at UC Irvine, 9 p.m.
Cal Poly at UC Riverside, 9 p.m.
Idaho at Sacramento St., 9:05 p.m.
Cal St. Fullerton at Hawai`i, 11 p.m.

MIDWEST

N. Kentucky at Cleveland St., 6 p.m.
Omaha at IPFW, 6 p.m.
Denver at IUPUI, 6 p.m.
Northwestern at Ohio St., 6 p.m.
Wright St. at Youngstown St., 6 p.m.
Oakland at Green Bay, 7 p.m.
Michigan at Iowa, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
LSU at Missouri, 7 p.m.

EAST

Siena at Marist, 4 p.m.
Monmouth (N.J.) at Quinnipiac, 4 p.m.
Rider at Fairfield, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Niagara, 6 p.m.
Duke at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

Top 25 fared

MEN

Wednesday

1. Oklahoma (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Tuesday.
2. North Carolina (18-2) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Saturday.
3. Iowa (16-3) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Maryland, Thursday.
4. Kansas (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 20 Kentucky, Saturday.
5. Texas A&M (17-3) lost to Arkansas 74-71. Next: vs. No. 14 Iowa State, Saturday.
6. Villanova (17-3) did not play. Next: at St John's, Sunday.
7. Xavier (18-2) did not play. Next: at DePaul Saturday.
8. Maryland (17-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Iowa, Thursday.
9. West Virginia (17-3) did not play. Next: at Florida, Saturday.
10. Providence (17-4) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Saturday.
11. Virginia (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Louisville, Saturday.
12. Michigan State (17-4) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Thursday.
13. SMU (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Saturday.
14. Iowa State (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Texas A&M, Saturday.
15. Miami (16-3) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Saturday.
16. Louisville (17-3) beat Virginia Tech 91-83. Next: vs. No. 11 Virginia, Saturday.
17. Baylor (15-4) at Oklahoma State. Next: vs Georgia, Saturday.
18. Arizona (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 23 Oregon, Thursday.
19. Indiana (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Saturday.
20. Kentucky (15-4) vs. Missouri. Next: at No. 4 Kansas, Saturday.
21. Purdue (17-4) at Minnesota. Next: vs Nebraska, Saturday.
22. Wichita State (14-5) vs. Loyola of Chicago. Next: at Evansville, Sunday.
23. Oregon (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 18 Arizona, Thursday.
24. Duke (15-6) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Tuesday.
25. Notre Dame (14-5) did not play. Next: at Syracuse, Thursday.

WOMEN

Wednesday

1. UConn (19-0) beat Tulsa 94-30. Next: vs Memphis, Saturday.
2. South Carolina (19-0) did not play. Next: vs Mississippi, Thursday.
3. Notre Dame (19-1) did not play. Next: at Georgia Tech, Thursday.
4. Baylor (20-1) beat Texas Tech 69-43. Next: at No. 24 West Virginia, Saturday.
5. Maryland (19-2) beat Penn State 89-53. Next: vs. Indiana, Saturday.
6. Texas (19-1) beat Kansas 70-46. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.
7. Ohio State (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern, Thursday.
8. Arizona State (17-3) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Friday.
9. Oregon State (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona, Friday.
10. Texas A&M (14-5) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Thursday.
11. Florida State (16-4) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Thursday.
12. Kentucky (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Thursday.
13. Mississippi State (17-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 Tennessee, Thursday.
14. Louisville (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Thursday.
15. UCLA (14-5) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Friday.
16. Stanford (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25 Washington, Friday.
17. Miami (17-3) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.
18. Michigan State (15-4) beat Purdue 88-56. Next: at Wisconsin, Sunday.
19. Tennessee (12-7) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Mississippi State, Thursday.
20. South Florida (14-5) beat Houston 73-49. Next: at SMU, Sunday.
21. Oklahoma (14-5) beat No. 24 West Virginia 57-54. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.
22. Missouri (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Thursday.
23. DePaul (15-6) did not play. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Friday.
24. West Virginia (16-5) lost to No. 21 Oklahoma 57-54. Next: vs. No. 4 Baylor, Saturday.
25. Washington (15-4) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Stanford, Friday.

COLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

HOUSTON 81 TULSA 66

HOUSTON — Galen Robinson Jr. scored 19, on 8-of-11 shooting, and Rob Gray Jr. added 16 points to help Houston beat Tulsa 81-66 Monday night.

Devonta Pollard had 12 points and 10 rebounds, Danrad Knowles scored 11 and Damyean Dotson finished with nine points and nine rebounds for the Cougars.

Houston (14-6, 4-4 American Athletic Conference) opened the game on a 9-0 run and Gray's 3-pointer with 12:26 left in the first half sparked a 16-2 spurt that made it 31-14 about 5 1/2 minutes later.

The Cougars led by as many as 21 before taking a 40-27 lead into halftime.

Houston led by double figures throughout the second half.

Tulsa (13-7, 5-3) committed a season-low five turnovers, but couldn't overcome its poor shooting. The Golden Hurricane shot just 32.8 percent, including 3 of 26 (11.5 percent) from 3-point range.

Pat Birt scored 16 and Shaquille Harrison added 15 points for Tulsa.

NO. 17 BAYLOR 69 OK. STATE 65

STILLWATER, Okla. — Rico Gathers scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half to help No. 17 Baylor defeat Oklahoma State 69-65 on Wednesday night.

Gathers also had nine rebounds and made a critical free throw in the closing seconds. The preseason all-Big 12 selection had scored in single digits three of his previous five games and scored just two points Saturday against No. 1 Oklahoma.

Taurean Prince scored 17 points and Lester Medford added 12 for the Bears (16-4, 6-2 Big 12), who moved a half-game ahead of Oklahoma, Kansas and West Virginia in the conference race.

It's just the third time in 20 years Baylor has swept the regular-season series with the Cowboys.

Chris Olivier scored 17 points, Leyton Hammonds scored 12 and freshman Jawun Evans had nine points and a season-high 10 assists for the Cowboys (10-10, 2-6).

Women

NO. 4 BAYLOR 69 TEXAS TECH 43

WACO — Baylor coach Kim Mulkey wasn't sure if a ragged win over Texas Tech had something to do with the fourth-ranked Lady Bears coming off big road wins against Texas and Iowa State.

Mulkey just knows her team needs the intensity to return before Saturday's visit to No. 24 West Virginia.

"We've got to get back to where we were," Mulkey said after Nina Davis scored 12 of her 18 points in the third quarter of a turnover-plagued 69-43 victory against the Lady Raiders on Wednesday night. "Tonight was not a very pretty sight."

The Lady Bears (20-1, 7-1 Big 12) extended their Big 12 record by securing a 16th straight 20-win season — covering all 16 years Mulkey has been the coach. They overcame 21 turnovers by holding Texas Tech to 25 percent shooting, including 1 of 13 from 3-point range.

The Lady Bears stayed a half-game behind No. 6 Texas atop the Big 12 after the Longhorns beat Kansas 70-46.

"It wasn't anything that they were doing on defense," Davis said. "It's not like they were playing the passing lanes and just putting a lot of pressure. It just all comes down to focus and that's something we can't do when we're playing a good team."

Davis had 12 rebounds for her second double-double of the season as Baylor beat the Lady Raiders (10-10, 1-8) for the 10th consecutive time in a series Texas Tech still leads 47-35.

After scoring six of the first eight Baylor points in the third quarter, Davis scored the final six of the period.

The Lady Raiders shot 14 percent in the first quarter and were outscored 10-2 over the final 5 minutes of the second. Japreece Dean led Texas Tech with 17 points, but on just 5-of-19 shooting.

NO. 20 SOUTH FLORIDA 73 HOUSTON 49

TAMPA, Fla. — Kitija Laksa made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points and No. 20 South Florida defeated Houston 73-49 on Wednesday night.

Laksa was 8 of 17 from the floor, including 6 of 11 from the arc to lead the Bulls (14-5, 7-2 American). Courtney Williams added 16 points on 7-of-13 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds for her eighth double-double this season. Williams climbed past Shantia Grace to No. 2 on the USF career scoring list with 1,953 points.

Alecia Smith led the Cougars with 11 points. Houston (4-15, 0-8) shot just 30 percent and was 5 of 21 (24 percent) from the arc in losing for the ninth straight time.

Laksa scored 10 points in an 18-0 run to give USF a 19-point advantage, 31-12. The lead stayed comfortably in double figures with the Bulls taking their biggest lead of 29 points in the final minute.

VENZANT

From 1C

Though spectators may be on the edge of their seats during one of his 40-point-plus performances, Venzant said he doesn't think much of it.

"I never really think about it," Venzant said. "But usually one of my teammates asks me about it or will tell me I have that many points. I don't get too excited. But it's better if we get the win. That's what I think about and I do whatever I can to get it."

Venzant is listed as a junior, but is actually in his final season in the Mustangs' program. He plans on attending a preparatory school next season before heading off to likely play for an NCAA Division I program.

He's already received an offer from Sam Houston State University and has gotten interest from other schools such as Tulsa, Texas State, Abilene Christian, Nebraska-Omaha and Stephen F. Austin.

For now, Venzant is focused on trying to take the Mustangs as far as he possibly can.

"(I want to) win district," Venzant said. "I think we have a chance to win out, go undefeated, get ready for the playoffs and make a long run."

MHS hits the road, Lee coming home

After playing three consecutive games in the friendly confines of Chaparral Center, the Midland High boys (8-13, 2-2 in District 3-6A) are set to hit the road for a date with Odessa High (15-8, 2-2) at 6 p.m. Friday at OHS Field House.

Following a disappointing home loss to Odessa Permian on Tuesday, Shan Hooker's bunch will be looking for redemption against a much-improved Bronchos team.

Meanwhile, Lee (3-17, 0-4), who is coming off of a forgettable two-game road swing at Abilene High and OHS, is returning to Chap Center to host a suddenly stumbling San Angelo Central (16-10, 1-3) squad.

The Rebels also received some other good news earlier this week, as head coach Chris Packer said freshman sharpshooter Avery Chambers will return to the team's lineup on Friday.

Chambers, who played a major offensive role in the absence of guard Sema'J Davis earlier this season, had missed the first four games of district play due to academic ineligibility.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

G Daniel Venzant, Jr., MCS — Venzant scored 52 points in the Mustangs' 81-80 road win against Grapevine Faith Christian on Saturday. He also netted 26 points in MCS' 64-57 win over Colleyville Covenant on Friday.

HONOR ROLL

G Shawn Rivers, Sr., MHS — Rivers' game-high 24 points helped the Bulldogs pull away from San Angelo Central with a 68-55 win on Friday at Chaparral Center.

G Sema'J Davis, Jr., Lee — Davis' 16-point performance was one of the lone bright spots in the Rebels' 91-41 road loss to Abilene High last Friday. Davis then tallied 18 points in a 53-44 road loss against Odessa High on Tuesday.

G Heath Gladson, Sr., MCA — Gladson netted a team-high 19 points to lead the No. 9 Knights past visiting Abilene Christian, 81-54 on Tuesday.

F Peter Rodenko, Sr., Trinity — Rodenko led the Chargers with 17 points in a 44-41 home loss to Abilene Christian last Saturday.

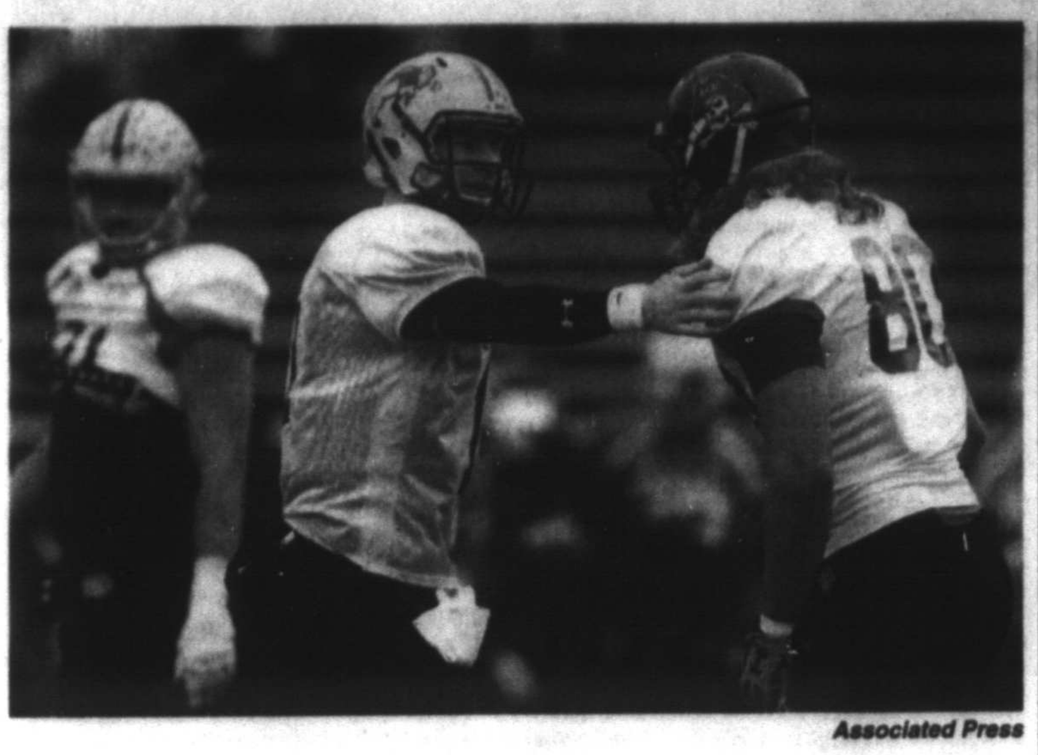
G Devon Fitzgerald, Sr., Andrews — Fitzgerald racked up a game-high 22 points in Andrews' 65-54 district win against Pecos on Tuesday.

G Kyle Garza, Sr., Grady — Garza registered 24 points to lead the No. 3-ranked Wildcats to a 66-45 blowout win against O'Donnell on Tuesday.

F Jaylen Short, Jr., Grady — Short matched his teammate's production with 24 points of his own in the Wildcats' win over O'Donnell.

F Ethan Goodwin, Jr., Garden City — A 23-point output from Goodwin helped the Bearkats run past Bronte, 58-39, on Tuesday.

Follow Will on Twitter: @Will_MRT



Associated Press

North Dakota State quarterback Carson Wentz of (11) runs through drills with East Carolina tight end Bryce Williams (80) during NCAA college football practice for the Senior Bowl on Wednesday at Ladd–Peebles Stadium, in Mobile, Ala.

Wentz, FCS counterparts trying to make an NFL impression

By John Zenor
Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Those NFL executives who couldn't make the trek to North Dakota to check out Carson Wentz in college are now getting a close-up view of the player in the mix to be the first quarterback drafted.

The former North Dakota State star is the most prominent of a number of FCS products trying to make an impression on NFL teams throughout this week at the Senior Bowl.

They'll be lining up against guys who played at programs like Alabama and Ohio State all week, with pro coaches, scouts and executives watching closely.

"I think a lot of the small-school guys come in here with a little chip on their shoulder, something to prove," Wentz said. It's "just exciting to finally get out there and face these guys."

The 6-foot-5, 233-pound Wentz might be the top prospect at the Senior Bowl after returning from a broken wrist to lead North Dakota State to its fifth straight national title.

Bison teammate offensive lineman Joe Haeg is also trying to show NFL teams ahead of Saturday's game that he can play at that level. From William & Mary defensive back DeAndre Houston-Carson to Southeast Missouri wide receiver Paul McRoberts and Harvard offensive tackle Cole Toner, they're finally on a level playing field with those FBS guys.

Wentz is vying with California's Jared Goff and Memphis's Paxton Lynch to be the first quarterback selected. He returned from a broken right wrist, sustained on Oct. 17, to lead North Dakota State to a win over Jacksonville State in the championship game.

Wentz isn't trying to carve a reputation among NFL types but live up to it.

"Yes, he was scouted in the fall but Fargo, North Dakota is a tough place to get to," said Senior Bowl executive director Phil Savage, a former Cleveland general manager. "There were probably a handful of (general managers) that made it out there.

"But to be on this stage in front of this many people, I mean this can be almost a coming out party for him: OK, this is who Carson Wentz is, this isn't just a rumor or hearsay or talk."

The other guys from FCS schools face similar challenges, even if they're not being scrutinized quite so closely as a potential first-round quarterback.

Some were undersized or late bloomers who were barely recruited by major colleges or not at all. Wentz grew from a 5-8, 125-pound beanpole as a high school freshman in Bismarck, North Dakota and didn't play quarterback as a junior because of an injury.

"In North Dakota, it's hard to get found in general, let alone missing a junior year," Wentz said. "I came in my senior year at 6-5 and 200 pounds and kind of came out of nowhere."

Teammate Haeg was only recruited by Division II schools, but opted to walk on at North Dakota State. He's packed on about 80 pounds since his freshman year and gone from not being able to bench-press 225 pounds to lifting 380.

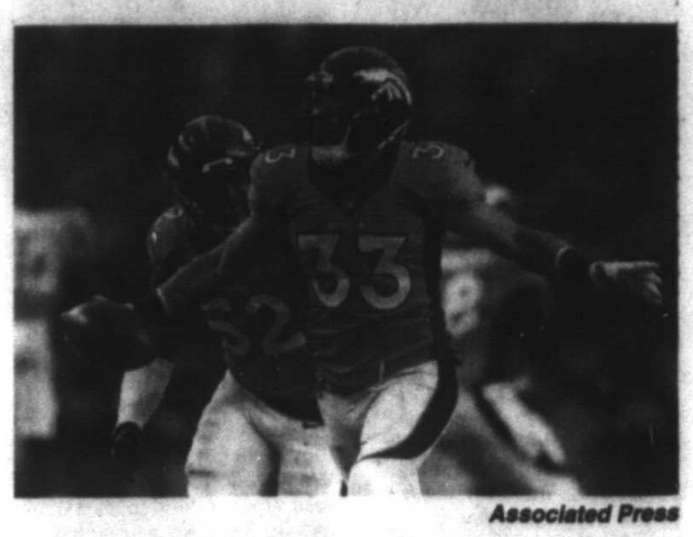
"I would definitely say there's a lot of people that kind of look down on FCS players because obviously there's a lot of great players at the FBS level," Haeg said. "But also there's a lot of great players that are overlooked at the FCS level.

"When we get on the field, it doesn't matter where you're from. We're all on the same practice field. We're all out there competing."

McRoberts is the first Southeast Missouri player to make it to the Senior Bowl. He got a few recruiting letters but no scholarship offers from bigger schools coming from a small school program.

Street free agent Shiloh Keo helped secure AFC title

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press



Associated Press

Denver Broncos defensive back Shiloh Keo (33) celebrates with Corey Nelson following the AFC Championship game between the Denver Broncos and the New England Patriots on Sunday in Denver. The Broncos defeated the Patriots 20-18 to advance to the Super Bowl.

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Safety Shiloh Keo made a bad first impression when he joined Denver's dominant defense. He's more than made up for it with big plays that helped the Broncos reach the Super Bowl.

Five days after joining the league's top-ranked defense, Keo made a big blunder, surrendering the winning touchdown in the Broncos' stunning 15-12 loss to the Oakland Raiders.

Keo was a fifth-round pick in 2011 by Houston but hadn't played in the NFL since 2013. He had to lobby defensive coordinator Wade Phillips for a job on Twitter, and then was pressed into duty right after signing because an injury epidemic leveled the Broncos' depth at safety.

He helped them hold the Raiders to a paltry 126 yards in Week 14, including minus-12 yards in the first half. But after Emmanuel Sanders fumbled a punt deep in Denver territory, the nightmare unfolded for the street free agent who had been working out in hopes of signing a futures contract and making a comeback next season.

On third-and-15 from the 16, David Carr dropped back and threw to tight end Mychal Rivera, who whizzed past Keo and hauled in the game-winning touchdown pass.

Chided by his coaches, chewed out by his teammates and cursed by fans for not staying back in coverage, Keo vowed to make up for his mistake.

Has he ever.

Keo intercepted Philip Rivers with 5 minutes left in the regular season finale, setting up Ronnie Hillman's game-winning TD in Denver's 27-20 win that secured the AFC's top seed.

He topped that Sunday when he was pressed into crunch-time duty again along with Josh Bush when starting safeties T.J. Ward sprained an ankle and Darian Stewart sprained a knee.

Keo played 36 snaps on defense and 29 more on special teams.

He helped cover Rob Gronkowski on Tom Brady's 2-point conversion attempt, and when Aqib Talib tipped the throw to Julian Edelman into Bradley Roby's hands, they needed one more big play to seal the AFC title.

They got it from Keo.

He lined up right in front of kicker Steve Gostkowski, whose first missed PAT in 524 tries in the first half put them in this precarious position. The kicker had six teammates bunched to his right and four to his left.

He tried the straight-ahead on-side kick, but Keo sliced in and grabbed it 6 yards downfield, cradling both the football and redemption.

"What a gutsy play," coach Gary Kubiak said.

After he ran off in jubilation, Peyton Manning took a knee, sending the Broncos to their record-tying eighth Super Bowl, including a record seventh under owner Pat Bowlen, who's battling Alzheimer's.

Afterward, Keo sat in the corner locker, soaking in the moment with linebacker Brandon Marshall.

"When I think about it, I get emotional," Keo said, thanking both God and the Broncos.

"They believed in me, that's why they brought me here," Keo said. "They trust everybody in this locker room. I just hope I can continue to come through and bring home a championship."

Keo had a front-row seat to the epic beating Denver's front-seven put on Brady, who was hit an incredible 23 times.

When he arrived in Denver, Keo spoke about how blessed he was to join one of the best defenses the NFL has ever seen.

He worried after his blunder against Oakland that he might have messed up Denver's mojo.

Kubiak and Phillips knew Keo from their time together in Houston, and they weren't about to give up on him so quickly.

"Obviously it's a coverage we should have handled better," Kubiak said the day after that loss to Oakland. "We've got a couple of young guys back there playing who don't have a lot of snaps under their belt. ... We've got confidence in those guys. As we try to get David (Bruton Jr.) healthy and Omar (Bolden) healthy, those guys are going to have to play well for us."

SIATAGA

From 1C

roles.

"Cassie is such a talented young lady, and this fall she did a very good job of leading the team by actions and even words, which makes her uncomfortable," Ramos said. "But she took the lead in that role. She obviously has the skills but becoming a stronger leader will make her and even better athlete. She's going to be the face of our team defensively. She's going to get that stop for us and communicate with the rest of the girls."

Ramos said the key is keeping Siataga healthy this year as she is still battling through a shoulder injury that has been nagging her since last season. Ramos said the team will likely rest Siataga some in the early part of the season to make sure she's healthy for conference play.

Siataga said keeping the team healthy will be a key if it wants to qualify for the NJCAA National Tournament for the first time since 2008.

"What we want is to get to nationals," she said. "I think we should do it for Coach Ram since he's been wanting it for a while."

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

NEWTON

From 1C

game," Rivera said. "But a lot of people disagree and think you should have fun. This is a kid's game. I know there is a lot of money involved, but at the end of the day it's about entertainment. If you aren't enjoying yourself, don't play the game —it's that simple."

Newton's teammates have their own theories about the anti-Newton uproar.

Panthers cornerback Charles Tillman said it may be because Newton wins in an "unconventional way," unlike a traditional NFL quarterback, and fans aren't used to that on Sundays.

"Some people can't accept that," Tillman said. "He is setting a precedent as far as for how quarterbacks are now — and how they may become. He's in a league of his own. He has created his own category for winning."

Tillman likens Newton, in some respects, to Tim Tebow.

"People would say, 'Oh Tebow is not a good quarterback,' but the guy won games and took his team to the playoffs," Tillman said. "All Tim Tebow did was say that he loved Jesus and he prayed all of the time — and people hated him for that."

Carolina defensive tackle Dwan Edwards senses the hatred of Newton stems from the QB's popularity.

"In sports, people want to root against people, whether it's LeBron (James), Kobe (Bryant) or (Michael) Jordan," Edwards said. "There are a lot of people who don't care for them and no matter what they do, it's 'Oh that's the wrong way. That's not what we're used to.'

"It's tough, because people are going to hate you regardless."

Lady Chaps at a glance

Coach: Tommy Ramos, 18th season (770-248-3 overall)

Last season: 51-9, 21-7 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference (T2nd)

Postseason: 5-2 at NJCAA Region V West Tournament (runner-up)

Key losses: WJCAC MVP, NJCAA All-American Util. Tyneesha Houkamau (Colorado Mesa), third-team NJCAA All-American P Dominique Alcocer (Texas Tech), All-WJCAC OF Danielle Bottley (Saint Leo University); All-WJCAC OF Melissa Zuniga (UTPB), All-WJCAC SS Tammy Viliamu (Midwestern State), INF Terri Nava, All-WJCAC C Vanessa Munoz

Key returners: All-WJCAC SS Cassie Siataga (.477, 6 HR, 61 RBI), WJCAC honorable mention P Kaitlyn Durrett (12-2, 2.86 ERA), OF/2B Desiree Hagberg (.388, 3 HR, 38 RBI), OF Jessica Ball (.366, 21 RBI)

Key newcomers: 1B/3B Lauren Taunu'u (Eastern Arizona transfer), C/OF Roblynn Kami (2015 medical redshirt), OF Kiana Broderson-Jones, 2B/OF Danica Ferriso, P/INF Marta Pasqualin, OF Alexis Sullivan-Aguilar

Coach's quote: "I thought mentally we were a lot stronger last year. This year with the young freshmen we have, that's going to have to be something we develop. That's definitely something that will hold us back, but as the year goes on I think they'll make the adjustments, just because I like their work ethic."

Notes: The Lady Chaparrals enter the season ranked No. 15 in the NJCAA Preseason Division I Softball Poll. ... Ramos said the team has some good sophomores and the freshmen are eager and talented enough to fill some of the spots that need to be filled. Ramos said the team will have to replace a lot of its defensive positions from last year because of graduation or players leaving the team. ... Taunu'u should make an immediate impact as she was an NFCA All-American last year at Eastern Arizona College.

2016 LADY CHAPS ROSTER

No.	Name	Class	Pos.	Hometown
1	Kaitlyn Santos	2B	Fr.	Honolulu, Hawaii
2	Kaitlyn Durrett	P	So.	San Jacinto, Calif.
3	Jessica Ball	OF	So.	Victorville, Calif.
4	Lilyan Bermudez	C/1B	Fr.	Waiuku, Hawaii
6	Hannah Howard	2B/OF	Fr.	Piuma Lake, Calif.
7	Cassie Siataga	SS	So.	Christchurch, New Zealand
8	Rebecca Hernandez	2B/1B	So.	Hesperia, Calif.
9	Danica Ferriso	2B/OF	Fr.	Lower Hutt, New Zealand
11	Kassie Maddox	P/INF	Fr.	Midland
12	Danielle Baughman	C	Fr.	Grape Creek
13	Melina Martinez	Utility	Fr.	Waco
14	Marta Pasqualin	P/IF	Fr.	Rovigo, Italy
15	Kiana Broderson-Jones	OF	Fr.	Menifee, Calif.
16	Sanae Nakoa	P/OF	Fr.	Kahuluí, Hawaii
18	Desiree Hagberg	OF/2B	So.	Huntington Beach, Calif.
20	Lyana Bermudez	3B	Fr.	Waiuku, Hawaii
21	Alexis Sullivan-Aguilar	OF	Fr.	Brea, Calif.
23	Roblynn Kami	C/OF	So.	Pearl City, Hawaii
26	Lauren Taunu'u	1B/3B	So.	Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Head coach: Tommy Ramos
Assistant coach: Amanda Evans

2016 LADY CHAPS SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 29-30	at Coastal Bend College Tournament	TBA
Feb. 5-6	at Cowtown Tournament	TBA
Feb. 11	Trinidad State	1 p.m.
Feb. 12-13	Midland Classic Tournament	TBA
Feb. 19-20	Odessa Classic Tournament	TBA
Feb. 26-28	Region 14 Crossover	TBA
March 11-12	Central Arizona Tournament	TBA
March 18	El Paso CC*	1 p.m.
March 19	El Paso CC*	1 p.m.
March 25	Western Texas College*	1 p.m.
March 26	at Western Texas College*	1 p.m.
April 1	at Howard College*	1 p.m.
April 2	Howard College*	1 p.m.
April 8	at Luna CC*	1 p.m.
April 9	at Luna CC*	1 p.m.
April 15	Frank Phillips College*	1 p.m.
April 16	Clarendon College*	1 p.m.
April 22	Odessa College*	1 p.m.
April 23	at Odessa College*	1 p.m.
April 29	at Clarendon College*	1 p.m.
April 30	at Frank Phillips College*	1 p.m.
May 5-7	Region V West Tournament (Lubbock)	TBA

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
Kansas City 30, Houston 0
Pittsburgh 18, Cincinnati 16
Sunday, Jan. 10
Seattle 10, Minnesota 9
Green Bay 35, Washington 18
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 16
New England 27, Kansas City 20
Arizona 26, Green Bay 20, OT
Sunday, Jan. 17
Carolina 31, Seattle 24
Denver 23, Pittsburgh 16
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 24
AFC
Denver 20, New England 18
NFC
Carolina 49, Arizona 15
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 31
At Honolulu
Team Rice vs. Team irvin, 6 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 7
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Denver vs. Carolina, 5:30 p.m. (CBS)



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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 28, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	Q	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Beyond the Tank (N)		My Diet Is Better Than Yours "Run for Your Life/ The Final Weigh In" (SF) (N)			Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Life in Pieces	Mom	Angel Hell (N)	Elementary "Alma Matters" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert	(:35) J.Corden
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne & Shirley	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Capricious Corpse"		Columbo
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Hollywood Round #2" (N)				TMZ	2 Broke Girls	Modern Family	Two and Half Men	Met Your Mother	Hot in Cleveland
KMLM	IND	11	12	12	11	11	Lars Enarson	Zola Levitt Presents	Update News	HaYesod	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Joshua Caleb	Jean-Claude	Called Out	Biblical Israel
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		Apocalypse "Who Are These People?" (P) (N)		The Blacklist "The Velvet" (N)		Shades of Blue (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Arts in Context	Masterp. Abbey: Season Six*	Downton Abbey*	Manor of Speaking	Mercy Street "The Haversack"		Charlie Rose (N)		World News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Muchacha Italiana viene a casarse		Antes muerta que lichita		Pasion y poder		El Hotel de los Secretos		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Fam. Feud	Fam. Feud	The Mentalist				Mike&M.	Mike&M.	To Be Announced		Anger M.	Anger M.
FLIX		340	575		165		(5:20) The Watcher		The Watcher	★★★★ 12 Monkeys Bruce Willis,					(:15) ★★ eXistenZ ('99, Susp) Sarah Polley,		Silent Night, Dead...	
HBO		300	590	14	14		Real Sports		The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel						(:05) W.Cummings		★★★★ Mad Max: Fury Road	
HBO2		302	551	15	101	23	(:10) ★★ Divergent ('14, Act) Shailene Woodley,								Unfriended Heather Sossaman,		Taxicab (:50) ★★ Burn After Reading	
HBO5		304	552	16	102		(:15) ★★ Feast of Love Morgan Freeman,				★★ Scream ('96, Hor) Neve Campbell,						Borat: Cultural Learnings of A...	Movie
MAX		380	557	17	120	24	Movie	(:40) ★★ K-19: The Widowmaker Harrison Ford,					★★★ The Village			JumpOff	(:20) Zane's Jump Off	
MAX2		382	559	18	122		(:20) ★★★ Rush Hour Jackie Chan,				★★ Lucy Starlett Johansson,				(:35) ★★ Hulk ('03, Act) Nick Nolte, Eric Bana,			
PLEX				96			(6:25) The Messeng...	★★ The Grudge 2					(:40) ★★ Gattaca Uma Thurman,		(:35) ★★ Solarbabies			
SHOW		320	565	19	140	25	(:15) ★ St. Vincent ('14, Com) Bill Murray,				Billions		Shameless		Dark Net	Gigolos	Dark Net	Billions
TMC		336	573	22	155	26	CollegBang (:35) ★ Enemies Closer				★★★★ The Silence of the Lambs				★★ Basic Instinct 2 Sharon Stone,			
A&E		27	58	28	35	47	First 48 "Neighborhood Watch/ Eye on the Skye"		The First 48 "Secrets and Lies"		The First 48 "Moonie/ Dark Impulse" (N)		Nightwatch "Saints and Sinners" (N)		The First 48		The First 48 "Secrets and Lies"	
AMC		40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) ★ Red Dawn		★★★ Bad Boys ('95, Act) Will Smith,						★★★ The Italian Job ('03, Act) Mark Wahlberg,			
BET		58	-		40		Martin	Martin	Zoe Ever	Zoe Ever	Zoe Ever	Zoe Ever	Criminals at Work		Husbands	Husbands	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO		65	76		41		Beverly "Going Deep"		Beverly "Busted BBQ"		Top Chef (N)		Recipe Deception (N)		Watch (N)	Top Chef		Recipe
CNBC		46	52		39	72	Restaurant Startup		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Profit *240 Sweets*		The Profit		Restaurant Startup	
CNN		43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Anthony Bourdain		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360 "Post Debate Special" (L)			
DISC		50	60	31	24	42	Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Diesel "Hell Camino"		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers		Diesel Brothers	
DISNEY		56	64	36	25	36	Austin	Mako Mer	★ Cloud 9 Dove Cameron,			Liv/Mad	Friends	Underc.	Girl M.	Liv/Mad	Jessie	Jessie
ESPN		32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Notre Dame at Syracuse (L)				NCAA Basketball Mich. St./N.West. (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2		34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Cincinnati at Connecticut (L)				NCAA Basketball Oregon at Arizona (L)				30 for 30 "Four Falls of Buffalo"			
FNC		45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The Kelly File		Hannity				The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD		64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Kids Baking		BeatFlay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Kids Baking	
FREEFORM		53	63	34	42	33	(:15) ★★★★ Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 ('10, Adv) Daniel Radcliffe,								The 700 Club		★ The Wedding Date...	
FSSW		37	38	50	45	29	NCAA Basketball Notre Dame vs. Georgia Tech -- Atlanta, Ga. (L)				Big 12 Showcase	Big 12 Champ	H.S. Football UIL State Championship 6A Division I Galena Park North Shore vs. Austin Westlake					
FX		31	56	59	64	69	★★★ The Avengers ('12, Act) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr.,						Baskets	Baskets	Baskets	★★ The Benchwarmers		
HALLMARK		54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	69	26	48	44	Bargain	Bargain	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	H.Hunt	House	H.Hunt	House	FlipFlop	FlipFlop
HISTORY		71	59	29	50	43	(5:00) Sniper		Live to Tell		Live to Tell				Live to Tell		SmartGuy	Live to Tell
LIFETIME		28	30	25	28	48	Project Runway "Make a Statement"		Child Genius "Pull Yourself Together!" (N)		Project Runway Junior "Finale, Part 1" 1/2 cont'd Feb 4 (N)				Project Runway Junior "Finale, Part 1" 1/2 cont'd Feb 4		Child Genius "Pull Yourself Together!"	
MSNBC		47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN		38	43				(5:30) NFLTP	Crazy Train		Crazy Train	Crazy Train			Crazy Train		CrzyTrn "Zululand"	CrzyTrn	
NICK		55	-	39	34	37	MakePop	Thunder	★ Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed				F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	-	55	53	58	(4:30) ★★ Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen...				Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	★ Transformers: Revenge of the ...		
SYFY		66	82	41	57	67	(5:30) ★★★ Blade: Trinity Wesley Snipes,				★★ From Dusk Till Dawn ('95, Hor) George Clooney,					★ John Carpenter's Vampires		
TBS		25	33	44	66	41	Sein. "The Doorman"	Seinf. "The Jimmy"	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	BigBang "Pilot"	Big Bang Theory	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Conan Jack Black, Rob Kazinsky, Ty Dolla Sign	2 Broke Girls	Conan	
TCM		41	75	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ The Smiling Li...		★★★★ Ivy Joan Fontaine,				(:45) ★★★★ Black Book			★★ The Whip Hand		
TELE		20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado (N)		Celia (N)		Eva, La Traillera (N)		Querida centauro		Al rojo	Titulares	Gran Hermano	
TLC		51	61	32	38	52	My 600-lb Life "Charity's Story"		600 Life: Supersized "Chad's Story" (N)		Extreme Weight Loss "Nyla" Nyla has spent a lifetime struggling with her weight. (N)				Skin Tight "Lindsey and Derek"		600 Life: Supersized "Chad's Story"	
TNT		24	34	40	26	50	NBA Tip-Off		NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Toronto Raptors Site: Air Canada Centre -- Toronto, Ont. (L)						NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)			
TVLAND		49	-	35	54	35	Griffith	(:35) Griffith	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray	(:25) Ray "The Plan"		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	55	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit *Night*		WWE Smackdown! in long-running rivalries.		WWE superstars do battle		Colony "98 Seconds" (N)		(:05) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Blood"		(:05) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Weak"	
WGN		19	85				Elementary "Ears to You"		Element. "The Hound of the Cancer Cells"		Elementary		Outsiders "Farrell Wine"		(:10) Met Mother	(:40) Met Mother	(:10) Met Mother	(:40) Met Mother

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Mickelson's homecoming at Torrey brings mixed memories

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The best thing about Phil Mickelson playing at Torrey Pines is that it's his hometown event on the PGA Tour, and he is treated accordingly.

These days, that might be the only thing that appeals to him.

Yes, Mickelson is a three-time winner of what is now called the Farmers Insurance Open. But the last of those three victories was 15 years ago, before Rees Jones got his hands on the South Course at Torrey Pines to bulk it up for the U.S. Open.

Mickelson has had only one close call since then. That was in 2012, when he needed to hole out with a wedge from 72 yards for eagle on the par-5 18th hole to force a playoff. He had his caddie tend the pin. He just missed.

If his recent history on the South Course isn't bad enough, Mickelson lost out on his bid to redesign the North Course last fall.

Mickelson was so excited about the design last year during the tournament that he eagerly showed his plans during the pro-am. He wanted to bring the aesthetics of the canyon into play and make the course more enjoyable for amateurs and a strong test for the pros.

But he fell victim to a quirky decision by the California Fair Political Practices, which said that anyone who worked on preliminary designs could not take part in the design or the construction based on the bid for the contract.

Ultimately, the project went to Tom Weiskopf, who is at Torrey Pines this week. Work on the North Course, used for the opening two rounds of the Farmers Insurance Open, will start next week. Weiskopf said he hasn't talked to Mickelson.

"I was quite surprised that Phil wasn't chosen, to tell you the truth," he said. "It made all the sense in the world."

So now Mickelson is left to play a tournament on one course that has been changed to his dislike, and another course where he had great plans that fizzled in politics.

Even so, this week figures to be an early barometer of his 25th year on the PGA Tour.

Mickelson hasn't won since the 2013 British Open at Muirfield, and he didn't contend in any tournament since the St. Jude Classic last June. But after taking nearly four months off and working with a new swing coach, he began 2016 with a bogey-free weekend and a tie for third in the Career-Builder Challenge.

It's just one tournament. And whatever happens at Torrey Pines certainly won't indicate what kind of year he can expect.

Even so, this is an important step given the nature of the courses. The rough on the North Course is thick enough that players couldn't see their golf balls from a few paces away in some spots. And the South Course, already a brute, also has ample rough.

"It's an ideal tournament for me to start driving the ball well because it's such a demanding ball-striking golf course that it feels great to be able to go there and really put it to the test," Mickelson said.

Tyson Fury avoids punishment for controversial comments

Associated Press

LONDON — Tyson Fury was reminded of the responsibilities that come with being world heavyweight champion when he met with British boxing officials this week to discuss remarks he made about homosexuals and abortion that caused a backlash in Britain.

The British Boxing Board of Control did not punish Fury, saying it had been advised that it cannot interfere with his basic human rights because Fury "didn't break the law by exercising his right to freedom of expression."

However, Fury was warned by the BBBC that he has "heavy responsibilities ... to avoid making controversial, non-boxing comments" now that he is "holder of the most prestigious title in sport."

"He has assured the stewards that he understands the responsibilities upon him," the BBBC said in a statement, "and has expressed regret that he has caused offense to others, which was never his intention."

In an interview with the Mail on Sunday newspaper, Fury, who is Catholic, said: "There are only three things that need to be accomplished before the devil comes home: one of them is homosexuality being legal in countries, one of them is abortion and the other one's paedophilia. Who would have thought in the '50s and '60s that those first two would be legalized?"

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Each set of letters below is arranged alphabetically, and the ? is in the correct alphabetical position. Figure out what letter the ? represents, and then rearrange the letters to spell a six-letter word. For example, in DL?PRUY the ? could be an L, M, N, O or P. Here it represents an O, which can be combined with the other letters to spell PROUDLY. The first letter is placed to get you started.

A B E I ? V
_ _ _ _ _ _ E

E G L O ? Y
_ _ _ _ _ _ Y

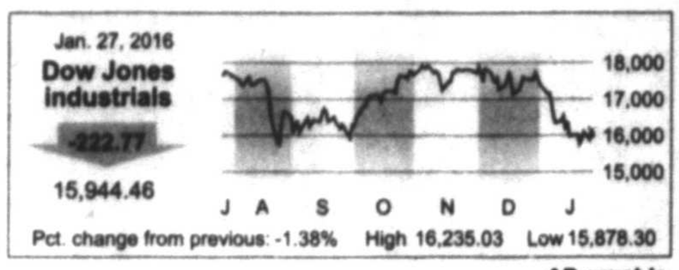
A ? S T U X
_ _ _ _ _ _ X

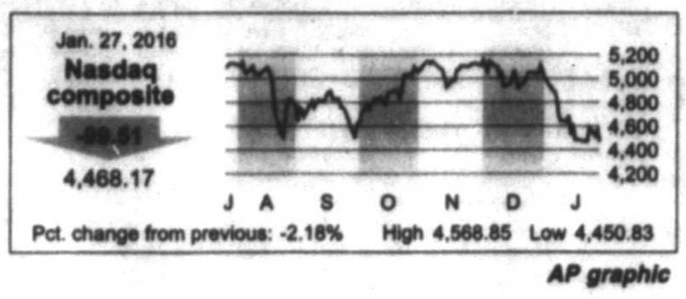
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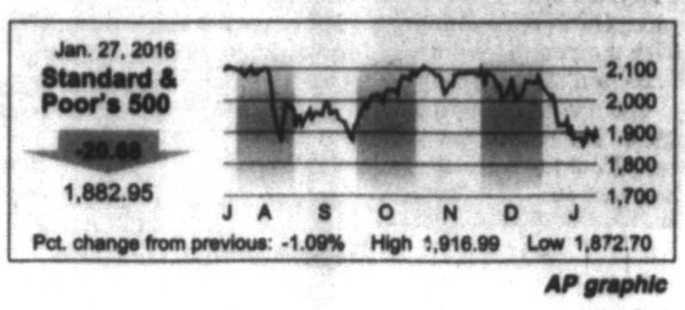
Yesterday's Answer: FEATHERS, DOGS; POLLEN, CATS; PEANUT, LATEX; EGGS, MILK

BUSINESS & OIL

A DAY ON WALL STREET







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Wednesday: $32.30
Previous: $31.45

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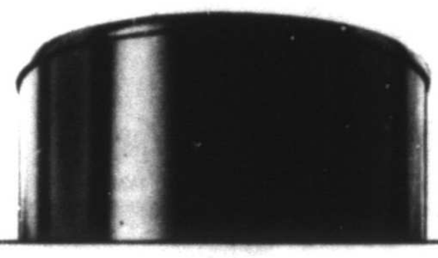
Wednesday: $28.75
Previous: $28.00

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Wednesday: $25.10
Previous: $24.35

NATURAL GAS

Wednesday: $2.189
Previous: $2.180



Nexstar to buy Media General as Meredith agrees to bow out

From staff and wire reports

NEW YORK — Nexstar said Wednesday that it is buying rival TV station operator Media General after Meredith agreed to allow Media General to get out of a takeover bid for Meredith.

Nexstar owns and operates local ABC affiliate KMID and has a management services agreement with FOX affiliate KPEJ and Estrella TV.

Media General had offered to buy media company Meredith in September. About two months later, Nexstar offered to buy Media General.

On Wednesday, Meredith said it agreed to allow Media General to get out of the deal. As a result, Media General will have to pay $60 million in cash to Meredith Corp. Based in Des Moines, Iowa, Meredith operates TV stations and publishes magazines such as Parents and Better Homes and Gardens.

Nexstar said Wednesday that it will pay a mix of stock and cash that worth about $17.14 for each share of Media General, valuing the deal at about $2.2 billion. Nexstar said deal is worth $4.6 billion when debt is included.

When the deal closes, which is expected to happen in the third or fourth quarter of the year, Nexstar Broadcasting Group Inc. will change its name to Nexstar Media Group Inc.

Based in Irving, Texas, Nexstar operates, programs or provides services to 106 television stations around the country. Media General Inc., based in Richmond, Virginia, operates or services 71 TV stations. Together, the combined company will reach about 39 percent of U.S. households with televisions, Nexstar said.

Shares of Nexstar fell 94 cents, or 1.9 percent, to $48.20 in midday trading. Media General edged up 10 cents to $16.23. Meredith rose $1.32, or 3.4 percent, to $40.22.

Stock market skids

Stocks sank Wednesday after the Federal Reserve gave a cautious assessment of the global economy and said growth in the U.S. has slowed down.

The statement from the Fed smothered a small rally in stocks earlier in the day. In addition to lowering its view of the U.S. economy, the Fed didn't say if it will respond to those and other concerns by slowing down its planned increases in interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 222.77 points, to 1.4 percent, to 15,944.46. A large chunk of that loss belonged to Apple and to Boeing, which gave a disappointing 2016 outlook and suffered its biggest one-day loss in 14 years.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index sank 20.68 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,882.95. The slump in tech stocks hammered the Nasdaq composite index, which lost 99.51 points, or 2.2 percent, to 4,468.17.

The Federal Reserve said it is watching developments in the world economy and financial markets and how they might affect the U.S. economy. It also said U.S. economic growth had slowed down.

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	1722580	198.13	-2.07
CSVLgCrd rs	1598837	2.11	+.12
BkofAm	1207548	13.36	+.05
FrptMcM	952205	4.65	+.45
B iPVixST	890120	26.02	+1.03

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
C&J Engy	2.25	+.36	+19.0
JP Energy	4.36	+.57	+15.0
Coeur	2.04	+.21	+11.5
Terex	22.85	+2.35	+11.5
FrptMcM	4.65	+.45	+10.7

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Lannett	27.52	-7.37	-21.1
SantCUSA	10.96	-2.44	-18.2
BBarrett	3.10	-.68	-18.0
DeVryEd	20.09	-3.65	-15.4
TotalSys	39.22	-6.78	-14.7

DIARY

Advanced	1,167
Declined	1,932
Unchanged	95
Total issues	3,194
New Highs	26
New Lows	52
Volume	4,664,551,923

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
TransEntx	93314	2.65	+.57
BaroGlbOil	67102	4.79	+.13
NwGold g	56271	2.46	+.13
SynergyRs	39552	5.95	-.16
ChenereEn	29519	29.17	+.10

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
TransEntx	2.65	+.57	+27.4
ErinEn rs	2.65	+.49	+22.7
Contango	5.76	+.79	+15.9
LGL Grp	4.08	+.54	+15.3
NthnO&G	2.96	+.18	+6.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GreenH pfC	2.30	-.60	-20.7
Amplphs rs	3.00	-.50	-14.3
DeltaApri	12.00	-1.16	-8.8
Pfsnex	9.01	-.81	-8.2
Flanign	20.20	-1.65	-7.6

DIARY

Advanced	166
Declined	206
Unchanged	25
Total issues	397
New Highs	4
New Lows	2
Volume	76,631,864

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc	1282896	93.42	-6.57
PwShs QQQ	504919	100.58	-2.57
CSVixSh rs	419785	9.85	+.74
Facebook	400197	94.45	-2.89
HuntBncsh	371496	8.26	+.21

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SeanrgM rs	4.95	+2.24	+83.1
Breitbrn pf	6.54	+1.16	+21.6
CNinsure	7.76	+1.10	+16.5
SpanBrdc	3.85	+.53	+16.0
CommVlt	36.39	+5.02	+16.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ParaShp 21	3.25	-.71	-17.9
AxsomeT n	9.57	-2.02	-17.4
SumTher n	8.25	-1.46	-15.0
Zafgen	7.09	-1.10	-13.4
SearsH wt	7.50	-1.14	-13.2

DIARY

Advanced	808
Declined	1,937
Unchanged	181
Total issues	2,926
New Highs	9
New Lows	90
Volume	2,054,493,633

Apple's iPhone is slumping. What's next?

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The bloom may be off Apple's iPhone, at least for now. So now the pressure is on the iconic Silicon Valley company to come up with its next big thing.

On Tuesday, Apple acknowledged that it's likely to see an uncharacteristic sales decline this spring, amid signs of global economic weakness and slowing overall demand for new smartphones. That drove Apple shares down more than 6.5 percent Wednesday, extending a months-long slide.

It's almost certainly too soon to expect an Apple Car or even some yet-to-be-named, virtual reality iDevice to turn things around. Apple said it wouldn't comment on its plans beyond what its executives said Tuesday. But among some analysts, hope springs eternal for what the next generation of iPhones — successors to the current 6S and 6S Plus — might bring.

Tech blogs have hinted at a thinner iPhone 7 with dual cameras and wireless earbuds — and minus the familiar headphone jack — to be released this fall. Other reports suggest Apple might also go back to the future with a 4-inch phone — last seen in Apple's 2013 iPhone 5S — as a companion to the next generation of bigger-screen iPhones.

Apple faces "a few tough quarters ahead until we get to the build-up around iPhone 7 later this year," said Daniel Ives of FBR Capital Markets, in a research note Wednesday. He suggested the next iPhones will "turn this ship back into growth waters."

But others warn that even new phones may not be enough to spark the kind of sales frenzy Apple experienced after it launched the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus models with 4.7- and 5.5-inch screens in 2014. "We are not seeing any meaningful upgrades" or significant new features, wrote Rosenblatt Securities analyst Jun Zhang. "It is in our view that iPhone 7 will not sell as well as the iPhone 6."

Apple doesn't have many alternatives for near term growth. Sales of iPads and Mac computers both dipped in the last three months of 2015. In an interview, Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri said the new Apple Watch had its strongest sales ever in the holiday quarter, but wouldn't provide numbers.

Maestri and other executives say they expect sales of iPads, Macs and Apple Watches to grow in the future. And the company is widely believed to be working on other new products.

While an Apple car isn't expected for several years, CEO Tim Cook may have hinted at another product category Wednesday, when he told analysts he doesn't view virtual reality as a "niche" product.

"It's really cool and has some interesting applications," Cook added, without elaborating. Apple also recently hired virtual reality expert Doug Bowman, a Virginia Tech computer science professor, according to reports last week.

Apple, meanwhile, stressed this week that it's making more money — nearly $5 billion last quarter — from a growing stable of online services, from the App Store to Apple Music and Apple Pay. The message seemed aimed at reassuring investors who worry that Apple relies on the iPhone for two-thirds of its revenue, but several analysts said it was a positive sign.

Metals end mixed

Gold fell $4.40 to $1,115.80 an ounce. Silver lost 10.5 cents to $14.459 an ounce. Copper gained 2.65 cents, or 1.3 percent, to $2.064 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $15.02 Down 0.58

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $87.94 Down 0.21

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $3.04 Up 0.02

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $68.27 Up 1.74

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $1.21 Up 0.06

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $2.07 Down 0.09

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $17.59 Down 0.38

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $21.47 Up 0.40

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $5.14 Up 0.09

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $13.93 Down 0.07

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.92f	15	35.48	+.08	+3.1
Abraxas	...	5	.97	-.05	-8.8
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	11.80	-.12	-9.6
Alcoa	.12	12	6.96	-.18	-29.5
Alibaba	...	27	69.54	-.23	-14.4
AlonUSA	.60	7	11.69	+.03	-21.2
Ambev	.19e	...	4.33	+.17	-2.9
Amgen	**4.00f**	**18**	**150.47**	**-3.31**	**-7.3**
Anadarko	**1.00**	**...**	**36.53**	**+.94**	**-26.9**
Apache	**1.00**	**...**	**38.63**	**+.60**	**-13.1**
Apple Inc	2.08	10	93.42	-6.57	-11.2
ApldMatl	**.40**	**15**	**17.09**	**-.26**	**-8.5**
Archrock	.60	16	5.26	+.19	-30.1
ATMOS	**1.68f**	**21**	**65.13**	**-.28**	**+3.3**
AutoData	2.12	26	80.48	-.41	-5.0
BP PLC	**2.40**	**...**	**30.68**	**-.06**	**-1.9**
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	16.53	-.20	-4.2
BakrHu	.68	...	40.83	+.86	-11.5
BkofAm	.20	10	13.36	+.05	-20.6
B iPVixST	...	...	26.02	+1.03	+29.4
BarrickG	.08	27	9.84	+.31	+33.3
BasicEnSv	...	...	2.01	-.03	-25.0
Berkshire A	**...**	**14180901.03**		**-548.99**	**-4.4**
BlkHillsCp	**1.82**	**31**	**47.99**	**-.63**	**+3.4**
Boeing	4.36f	15	116.58	-11.43	-19.4
BrMySq	**1.52f**	**60**	**61.71**	**-.98**	**-10.3**
BrownFA	**1.36f**	**32**	**101.58**	**-.52**	**-7.7**
BrownFB	**1.36f**	**29**	**92.75**	**-.99**	**-6.6**
CVS Health	1.70f	21	94.34	+.30	-3.5
CalifRescs	...	...	1.22	-.11	-47.6
Cameron	...	16	60.81	+.07	-3.8
Caterpillar	3.08	12	58.32	-.84	-14.2
Celestic g	...	12	9.83	-.20	-10.9
CntryLink	2.16	18	24.63	+.07	-2.1
ChesEng	...	...	3.28	+.09	-27.1
Chevron	**4.28**	**18**	**83.29**	**-.83**	**-7.4**
Chicos	.31	43	9.94	-.03	-6.8
Cimarex	.64	...	84.52	+3.15	-5.4
Cisco	.84	13	23.43	-.29	-13.0
Citigroup	.20	9	40.56	+.06	-21.6
CitizFincl	.40	14	21.21	+.92	-19.0
ClayEng	**...**	**...**	**15.02**	**-.58**	**-49.2**
CocaCola	**1.32**	**27**	**42.09**	**+.01**	**-2.0**
ColgPalm	**1.52**	**24**	**64.30**	**-.03**	**-3.6**
ConAgra	**1.00**	**21**	**39.34**	**+.09**	**-6.7**
ConchoRes	**...**	**52**	**87.94**	**-.21**	**-5.3**
ConocoPhil	**2.96**	**40**	**36.21**	**+.86**	**-22.4**
Corning	.48	16	17.91	+.20	-2.0
CrackerB	4.40a	18	128.55	-.21	+1.4
CSVLgNG rs	...	...	1.82	-.01	-25.4
CSVLgCrd rs	...	...	...	2.11	+.12
-46.6					
CSVelVST	...	...	18.63	-.77	-27.8
CSVixSh rs	...	...	9.85	+.74	+57.3
CrosTim	**1.56e**	**9**	**13.84**	**+.57**	**+6.4**
DCP Mid	3.12	9	17.67	-.87	-28.4
DTE	2.92f	16	82.00	+.30	+2.3
Dataram	...	...	.72	+.05	+9.2
DevonE	**.96**	**...**	**24.49**	**-.07**	**-23.5**
Disney	**1.42f**	**18**	**94.32**	**-1.96**	**-10.2**
DowChm	**1.84f**	**11**	**41.41**	**-1.06**	**-19.6**
eBay s	...	15	26.42	-.23	-3.9
EMC Cp	.46	20	23.90	-.40	-6.9
EOG Resrc	**.67**	**...**	**66.07**	**+.04**	**-6.7**
EmpDist	**1.04**	**22**	**28.79**	**-.29**	**+2.8**
Energen	.08	...	31.25	+.41	-23.8
EgyTrEq s	1.14f	10	8.85	-1.05	-35.6
EngyTsfr	4.22f	88	28.25	+.13	-16.2
EnPro	**.80**	**...**	**41.89**	**-.12**	**-5.1**
EntProdPt	1.56f	17	22.22	+.40	-13.1
Ericsson	.39e	...	8.99	-.62	-8.5
ExxonMbl	**2.82**	**16**	**75.29**	**-1.41**	**-3.4**
Facebook	...	95	94.45	-2.89	-9.8
FordM	.60a	10	11.85	-.01	-15.9
FrptMcM	...	...	4.65	+.45	-31.3
GATX	**1.52**	**7**	**38.74**	**-.08**	**-9.0**
GabMulT	**.94e**	**...**	**8.66**	**-.01**	**-10.8**
GAInv	**1.18e**	**...**	**27.86**	**-.29**	**-12.8**
GenDisc	**.92**	**...**	**28.00**	**+.31**	**-10.1**
GtBasSci rs	...	...	.26	+.06	-72.0
GtPlainEn	**1.08f**	**20**	**26.96**	**+.25**	**-1.3**
HalconRs rs	...	...	.43	-.03	-66.1
Halliburtn	**.72**	**...**	**29.06**	**+.12**	**-14.6**
HP Ent n	.22	...	13.39	-.21	-11.9
HuntBncsh	.28	10	8.26	+.21	-25.3
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	18.18	+.24	-12.1
iShJapan	.13e	...	11.21	+.01	-7.5
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	29.76	-.42	-15.6
iShEMkts	.84e	...	29.15	-.10	-9.4
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	54.36	-.35	-7.4
iShR2K	1.73e	...	99.71	-1.39	-11.5
Intel	**1.04f**	**13**	**29.81**	**-.13**	**-13.5**
InterDig	.80	16	43.16	-.59	-12.0
JD.com	...	...	25.38	-1.82	-21.3
JPMorgCh	1.76	10	57.04	-.04	-13.0
JohnJn	**3.00**	**17**	**102.16**	**+.86**	**-.8**
Keycorp	.30	10	10.92	-.02	-17.2
KimbClk	**3.52**	**35**	**124.20**	**+.89**	**-2.4**
KindMorg	.50m	22	14.22	-.75	-4.7
LegacyRes	.80m	...	1.21	+.06	-30.9
Lubys	**...**	**...**	**4.31**	**-.02**	**-3.6**
MannKd	...	...	1.05	+.13	-27.6
MarathnO	.20m	73	8.75	+.30	-30.5
MktVGold	.12e	...	14.20	+.23	+3.5
McDnlds	3.56f	24	120.87	+.44	+2.3
Merck	1.84f	13	50.37	-1.06	-4.6
Meritblad	**...**	**27**	**16.06**	**-.74**	**-13.5**
MexcoEn	...	...	2.07	-.09	-35.9
MicronT	...	6	10.39	-.16	-28.6
Microsoft	1.44	34	51.22	-.95	-7.7
MorgStan	.80	9	25.37	+.03	-20.2
Nabors	.24	...	6.33	+.37	-25.6
NatGrid	**3.35e**	**...**	**69.17**	**+.35**	**-.5**
NOilVarco	1.84	8	31.10	+.57	-7.1
Netflix s	...	...	91.15	-6.56	-20.3
NvMAd	**.70e**	**...**	**13.98**	**-.01**	**+.9**
NvPMI	**.70e**	**...**	**13.79**	**-.13**	**+1.0**
NuvPI	**.82e**	**...**	**14.11**	**-.02**	**+.1**
NSTFI3	**.55e**	**...**	**14.47**	**-.06**	**-.5**
NTXQI	**.66**	**...**	**14.21**	**+.04**	**-1.5**
OasisPet	**...**	**9**	**5.32**	**+.16**	**-27.8**
OcciPet	**3.00**	**28**	**64.16**	**+.83**	**-6.1**
Oracle	.80	17	34.91	-.32	-4.0
PerTech	**...**	**...**	**5.82**	**-.06**	**-18.0**
ParkDri	**...**	**...**	**1.23**	**-.01**	**-32.4**
PetIUTI	**.40**	**...**	**12.42**	**+.80**	**-17.8**
PennsRE	**.84**	**...**	**19.27**	**-.47**	**-11.9**
Pmian	.35e	12	5.06	+.19	+.4
Petrobras	...	...	3.13	+.20	-27.2
Pfizer	**1.32f**	**23**	**30.82**	**-.15**	**-5.5**
PioNtrl	.05	22	113.90	+.36	-9.2
PlainsAAP	**2.80**	**11**	**18.88**	**-1.00**	**-18.3**
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	100.58	-2.57	-10.1
Praxair	**2.86**	**18**	**98.10**	**-.04**	**-4.2**
PrmEgy	**...**	**18**	**36.01**	**...**	**-28.3**
PUVixST rs	...	...	45.02	+3.45	+58.8
PrUCrude rs	...	...	8.56	+.39	-31.7
ProctGam	**2.65**	**26**	**78.80**	**-.01**	**-.8**
ProUShSP	...	...	23.17	+.50	+16.3
RangeRs	**.16**	**17**	**27.24**	**-.14**	**+10.7**
RegionsFn	**.24**	**12**	**7.95**	**+.13**	**-17.2**
Rowcn	.40	...	11.55	-.09	-31.9
RoyDShlA	3.76	63	41.80	+.55	-8.7
SpdrDJIA	3.86e	...	159.30	-2.24	-8.4
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	188.13	-2.07	-7.7
SpdrLehHY	2.30	...	32.88	-.06	-3.0
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	26.26	+.12	-13.1
SabnR	3.09e	9	28.79	+1.06	+9.6
SanderFm	**.88e**	**8**	**76.35**	**+.26**	**+1.1**
Schlmbrg	2.00	19	65.55	+.22	-6.0
SiriusXM	...	36	3.63	-.10	-10.8
Smucker	2.68	35	124.44	+1.51	+.9
SwstnEngy	...	...	8.82	+.22	+24.1
Sprint	...	...	2.92	-.07	-19.3
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	49.25	-.04	-2.5
SP Engy	2.04e	...	54.89	-.28	-9.0
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	21.12	-.09	-11.4
SP Indx	1.12e	...	48.40	-.55	-8.7
SP Tech	.78e	...	39.47	-.83	-7.8
SunEdison	...	...	3.33	+.28	-34.6
SunocoLog	1.83f	...	20.51	-.24	-20.2
TelefEsp	**1.03e**	**...**	**10.32**	**-.01**	**-6.7**
Tesoro	2.00	6	82.81	-3.69	-21.4
3M Co	4.10	19	145.55	+.77	-3.4
Torchmark	**.54**	**13**	**52.51**	**-.39**	**-7.9**
TriContl	**.81e**	**...**	**18.16**	**-.16**	**-8.3**
Twitter	...	...	16.76	-.23	-27.5
TylerTech	**...**	**75**	**156.73**	**-1.88**	**-16.1**
UBSI	**1.32f**	**17**	**33.74**	**+.03**	**-8.8**
US OilFd	...	...	9.16	+.21	-16.5
USSteel	.20	...	6.67	+1.10	-18.4
Vale SA	.29e	...	2.31	+.09	-29.8
Vale SA pf	.29e	...	1.77	+.09	-30.6
ValeroE	2.40f	7	65.99	-1.72	-8.7
VangEmg	1.10e	...	29.31	-.19	-10.4
VerizonCm	2.26	11	49.03	+.78	+8.1
VulcanM	**.40**	**63**	**83.86**	**-.57**	**-11.9**
WEC Engy	1.99f	20	53.58	-.28	+4.4
WalgBoots	1.44	23	78.45	-.99	-7.9
WellsFargo	1.50	12	48.57	+.31	-10.7
WstnRefin	1.52f	6	31.85	-.73	-11.1
WhitingPet	...	...	7.07	+.20	-25.1
WmsCos	2.56	55	19.27	-1.15	-25.0
XcelEngy	**1.28**	**19**	**36.88**	**-.09**	**+2.1**
Xerox	.20	32	9.23	-.06	-19.2

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD %Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,351.36	15,370.33	Dow Jones Industrials	15,944.46	-222.77	-1.38	-8.50	-7.25
9,214.77	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	6,758.12	-59.64	-.88	-10.02	-23.02
657.17	539.96	Dow Jones Utilities	589.50	+1.09	+.17	+2.02	-8.35
11,254.87	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	9,373.76	-55.33	-.59	-7.59	-11.60
5,231.94	4,292.14	Nasdaq Composite	4,468.17	-99.50	-2.18	-10.77	-3.68
2,134.72	1,812.29	S&P 500	1,882.95	-20.68	-1.09	-7.88	-5.95
1,551.28	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,276.58	-13.20	-1.02	-8.72	-11.63
22,537.15	18,550.48	Wilshire 5000	19,335.88	-227.44	-1.16	-8.66	-8.52
1,296.00	958.48	Russell 2000	1,002.74	-15.23	-1.50	-11.72	-14.67

TODAY: Sunny	FRIDAY: Sunny	SATURDAY: Sunny	SUNDAY: Sunny	MONDAY: Mostly sunny	TUESDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 63 Low: 34	High: 70 Low: 38	High: 75 Low: 46	High: 73 Low: 43	High: 68 Low: 36	High: 53 Low: 28

Local forecast

Expect some patchy fog before 9 a.m. today, according to the National Weather Service. The NWS is calling for above-average high temperatures through Monday, and there is no rain in the seven-day forecast.

The record high for Jan. 27 is 80 set in 1970. The record low is 9 set in 1948. On Jan. 26 of last year, the high was 74 and the low was 36.

Weather brief

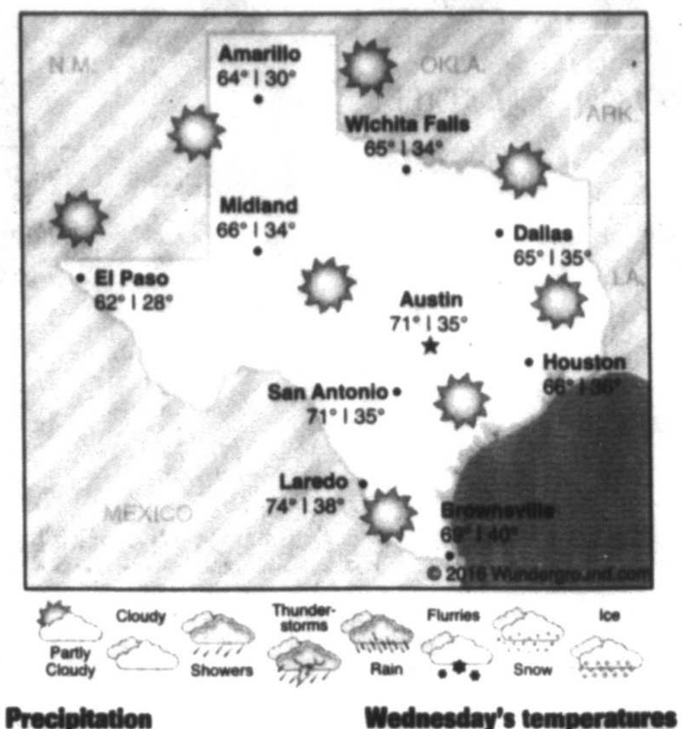
MIAMI

Tornado tosses vehicle along Florida turnpike

A tornado picked up a southbound vehicle on Florida's Turnpike near Fort Lauderdale Wednesday morning and dropped it in the northbound lane as a line of severe storms hit the area, officials said.

They said the storms tossed cars and trucks, knocked down trees and damaged some roofs in south Florida.

Broward Fire Rescue spokesman Mike Jachles said one person was hurt on the turnpike. He didn't know how many vehicles were overturned in the area.



Precipitation

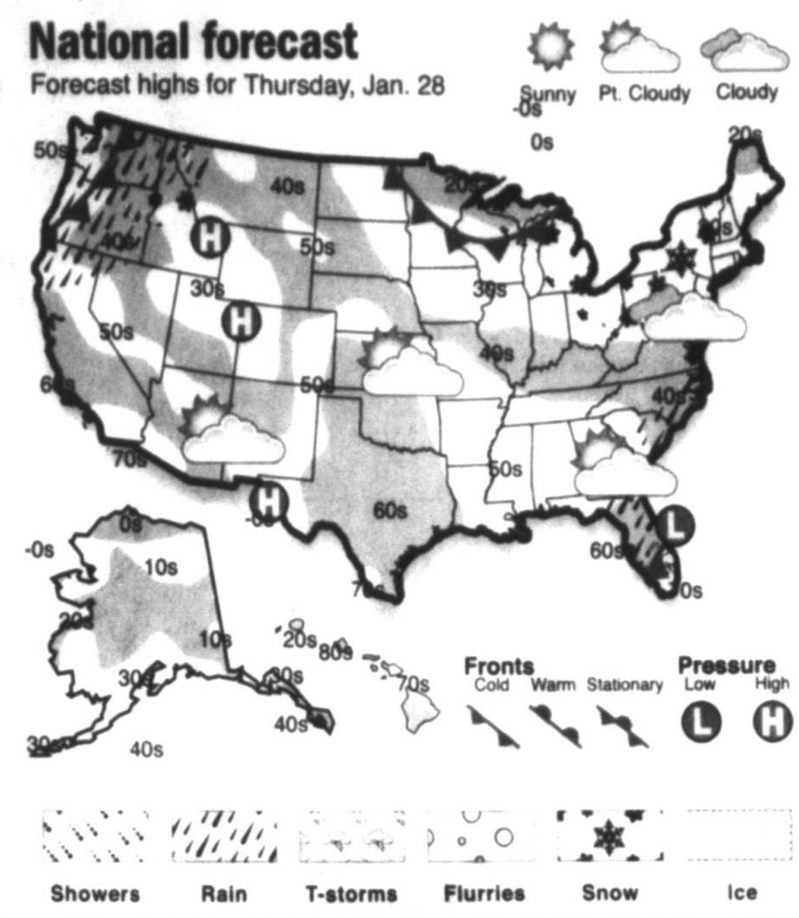
Tuesday	0.09 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.18 in.
Year total	0.18 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.46 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	52
Low	28
Normal high	59
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:45 a.m.
Sunset	6:19 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, Jan. 28



Long marriage is left in limbo by wife's attraction to women

DEAR ABBY



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

DEAR ABBY: After 27 years of marriage, my wife told me she is attracted to other women. To my knowledge, she has acted on this only once.

Every day I wonder where our relationship stands. One day she can't see herself without me; the next, she says we should divorce. I don't know if I should end this or wait to see where it goes.

I will need counseling if we divorce, but currently I can't afford it. Yes, I love her, but what matters most to me is that she is happy. I don't have anyone else to talk to about this. Any suggestions? — MR. D. IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MR. D.: After 27 years of marriage I can only imagine how shocking your wife's revelation must have been for you. That she is ambivalent about your marriage must be deeply painful because you are being treated like a yo-yo.

The book "The Other Side of the Closet," by Amity Pierce Buxton, Ph.D., has been mentioned before in my column and has proven helpful to others in your situation. There is also a support group called the Straight Spouse Network (www.straightspouse.org), which offers emotional support after a wife or a husband comes out as yours did. Please don't wait to read the book and visit the website. I think you will find them comforting.

DEAR ABBY: I have a large family consisting of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Looking through my photo albums, I can't complain that I don't have enough photos of my children, but it's a parade of tongues.

Their mothers all post photos on social media with their tongues hanging out. The children then mimic their moms and their photos are disgusting as well. I would love to have photos of my children minus the slimy organ.

Is this accepted behavior in our society now? Please, can someone enlighten me as to the inspiration of this repulsive action? — CLOSED-MOUTHED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CLOSED-MOUTHED: I suspect it originated back in the 1970s when Gene Simmons of Kiss licked his way to the top of the music charts. Lately, Miley Cyrus took up the torch and is keeping it burning brightly. Children often stick out their tongues when they are forced to have their picture taken or are trying to be funny, but I don't think Gene and Miley fall into that category. Quite the opposite, in fact.

DEAR ABBY: Sometimes I'll call a close friend or business associate for lunch with the goal of having a quality one-on-one conversation on a wide range of topics. After the lunch is set, more than one of them has then invited other people I know, but with whom I do not have the same quality relationship. It is not a pleasant surprise.

I find it irritating, because it invariably changes the dynamic of the conversation. I never say anything about it, but it bothers me. Is my reaction reasonable, or should I just roll with this? — THWARTED IN DALLAS

DEAR THWARTED: Your reaction is perfectly reasonable. The first time it happened, you should have shared your feelings with the person who did it. It has happened again because you didn't speak up. Now you will have to warn the person you're inviting in advance.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Choices

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 4 2
♡ J 6 2
♢ Q J 5 2
♣ A 8 6

WEST
♠ Void
♡ K 10 9 4
♢ A 8 7 3
♣ K Q J 7 5

EAST
♠ J 7 5 3
♡ 8 7 5
♢ 9 6 4
♣ 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 8 6
♡ A Q 3
♢ K 10
♣ 3 2

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Dbl	2♣	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

A good declarer will sometimes offer a defender a losing choice, hoping that he'll err in selecting it. The defender can make a winning choice in that situation, but sometimes there is no winning choice.

South ducked the opening club lead and won the club continuation with dummy's ace. This was followed by the normal play of a spade to the ace. When West showed out in spades, the contract was in jeopardy. Declarer next led the sneaky 10 of diamonds, giving West a choice. Had West ducked, South would have overtaken in dummy and then taken the marked trump finesse. West, however, stepped up smartly with his ace and continued clubs, ruffed by declarer.

South now led the queen of hearts from his hand, giving West another choice. Should West grab his king, there would be a heart entry to dummy for the trump finesse. West again rose to the occasion, ducking his king. South then cashed his king of diamonds and led the nine of spades from his hand. East had no winning choice. Ducking his jack would lose his trump trick, so East won with his jack and led a heart. Declarer rose with his ace and crossed to dummy with the 10 of spades. The queen of diamonds provided a discard for the losing heart and South was left with all high trumps. A lovely hand!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016:

This year you open up to many new ideas that seem unconventional, even to you. Travel or the acquaintance of a foreigner will introduce you to even more cultural differences. You will become more tolerant and less judgmental. If you are single, you could pine for someone yet never let him or her know how you feel. Take a risk, and tell this person. If the feeling is mutual, the two of you could have a blast. If you are attached, you and your sweetie flourish when left alone to your own devices. The more you get away from the here-and-now, the stronger this bond will become. LIBRA can be euphoric, but not necessarily grounded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You might decide that the ball is not in your court, and you'll be right. However, those who control the ball favor you. As a result, compliments and acknowledgement in some form, such as a pay raise or promotion, become real possibilities. Tonight: With a special person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You've been on cruise control for several days. Others have been impressed by your successes. Don't be surprised by a request that heads in your direction. Clearly, you are very good at what you do and know how to speak to others. Tonight: Take some time off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Your endurance will bring you many accolades. Accept all compliments with grace. Tap into your resourcefulness or romantic nature in order to help a loved one feel more. Don't judge what you don't know or have not experienced. Tonight: Enjoy the good life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You will try to reach out to someone over and over, and might not succeed in reaching him or her. Knowing when to let go is instrumental to your success. Decide to indulge yourself for a day. Spend time at home or pursuing a hobby. Tonight: Share news with a dear friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You love indulging others. Someone in your day-to-day environment needs extra caring or perhaps simply a compliment. It takes only a moment to touch base with this person, and it will make all the difference in how he or she feels. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Slow down some. You are likely to discover how many people around you have wanted to spend time with you to share some special news. The tone of the day is far different from what you had anticipated. Know that you don't need to be in control. Tonight: Let the fun begin!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You could be in a very good mood, perhaps even more so than you thought possible. A family member won't hesitate to treat you as you would like and think you deserve to be treated. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Your body language indicates that you are sincere. Remember this, and you'll get the reaction you want. Others are likely to respond more positively than you could have imagined. Authenticity can't be replaced, nor can it be disguised. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Your penchant for the good life can't be restrained for long. You often suppress your feelings and go overboard with spending, whether there is a risk involved or not. Recognize the potential damage of this behavior. At least keep the tags and receipts. Tonight: Be calm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You might be so gracious, soft-spoken and delightful right now that others won't be able to stay away from you. Use the moment to move forward with a heartfelt project. If you have been wanting to ask for a raise, the time to do so is now. Tonight: Out on the town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ You might not be revealing the whole story about a loved one or a potential sweetie. You can't get powerful feedback if you don't tell the truth and reveal all the facts. Tell it like it is. The advice you receive will be very dynamic and effective. Tonight: Try out a new spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ An encounter with a new acquaintance could affect you more than you might realize. This person could become even more than friends, as long as you are available. Tonight: Out to dinner with a loved one.

BORN TODAY

Actor Alan Alda (1936), painter Jackson Pollock (1912), theologian Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Takes shape
6 Military installations
11 Armonk, N.Y.-based tech company
14 Quarterback with the 2011 autobiography "Through My Eyes"
15 Tell's target
16 PBS funder
17 Downpour
19 40-yr.-old NBC show
20 Mature insect
21 Singer Vannelli
22 Fairy tale word
25 Weasel relative
29 Horned Frogs' sch.
30 Spot
31 Forward, in a way
32 Ankle bones
34 Put up
35 1980 sci-fi thriller, and a hint to this puzzle's circles
40 Sister of Clio
41 Drive respondent
43 It's usually taken in twos
46 Rival
48 Reason for adolescent angst
49 1988 Best Supporting Actress Oscar winner
51 Only
52 Mythical arrow shooter
53 Key
55 2014 FIFA World Cup champion: Abbr.
56 Christmas, for many
62 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
63 "__ Grows in Brooklyn"
64 Carrot family herb
65 __ jacket
66 About 17 of them equal a United States dollar
67 Toyota's luxury division

DOWN

1 Former Ford model
2 Poetic preposition
3 Japanese sash
4 Tinseltown vehicle
5 Show off a butterfly, perhaps
6 Snack sack
7 Grilling garment
8 Place to kick back
9 Whitney, by birth and by education
10 D.C. VIP
11 As found
12 "Pride and Prejudice" family name
13 NBA great Karl
18 Scruff
21 Underground chamber
22 Polo Grounds slugger
23 Univ. sports organizer
24 Circular lock
26 Drops the ball
27 Track competition
28 Penny __
30 "The Treasure of the __ Madre": Bogart classic
33 Beer orders
34 Tokyo, long ago
36 Vice squad tactic
37 Peak south of Stromboli
38 Automaker Ferrari
39 Get dirty
42 Map abbr.
43 Generation-to-generation span
44 Calm
45 Illinois county or its seat
46 Drops a line
47 European capital
50 Tape, maybe
51 "Goosebumps" series author
54 Ben Gurion carrier
56 Drivel
57 Emptied the feedbag
58 Govt. collection agency
59 Twice cinq
60 Pac-12 sch.
61 "Of course"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

E	V	I	T	A		H	A	I	R	S		O	O	F
X	E	N	O	N		O	B	A	M	A		N	P	R
P	R	E	T	T	Y	P	E	N	N	Y		T	E	E
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		D	I	E	G	O		D	A	Y	S	P	A	S
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B	O	N	K	S			R	U	E	S		B	L	O
C	P	A	S		S	T	A	B	S		A	E	O	N
S	E	P		S	H	A	W			A	L	A	R	M
			S	M	A	L	L	F	O	R	T	U	N	E
A	S	S	U	A	G	E		I	D	T	A	G		
B	L	A	N	C			I	R	E	S		E	D	U
Y	E	N		K	I	N	G	S	R	A	N	S	O	M
S	E	T		E	P	C	O	T		L	E	T	U	P
S	K	A		D	O	O	R	S		E	W	E	R	S

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/28/16

By Robert E. Lee Morris
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SWEET SAVINGS!

Find The Perfect Valentines Gift
With Over 100 Merchants
To Choose From

MUSIC CITY MALL



Burlington Dillard's JCPenney sears

An ICA Company • For employment opportunities log on to: www.icajobs.net

PUPPY ADOPTION DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
2-6PM

Puppies from the Humane Society of Odessa will be available for adoption.

MUSIC CITY MALL



4101 E. 42nd
Odessa
Across from Fuddrucker's inside entrance

432-381-5503
odessahumanesociety.org

mrt★com/jobs



Employment ads by:

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLISHING

The Midland Reporter-Telegram is accepting résumés for a full-time Copy Editor/Page Designer position on our Universal Desk.

The right candidate should have a knack for grammar, punctuation and Associated Press style but also can find inconsistencies in stories and isn't afraid to ask questions. He or she also should have an eye for page design.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to make a difference in the newspaper industry and who wants to perfect his or her craft at copy editing and page design.

A bachelor's degree in journalism or English, two years of editing experience, InDesign or Quark knowledge and proficiency in AP style are preferred. Recent college graduates and those who are graduating soon are encouraged to apply. Time on a universal desk and experience editing sports copy are pluses.

The Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst and offers a competitive salary and benefits.

If you are interested in our copy editor/page designer position, please email a cover letter, résumé, your best design samples and three references in PDF or Word format to Trevor Hawes, Assistant Managing Editor, at thawes@mrt.com. You can also mail a hard copy submission to Midland Reporter-Telegram, Attn.: Trevor Hawes, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Sales Assistant

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for a dynamic self-starter with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment with minimal supervision. Duties include supporting the advertising sales staff in day-to-day operations and helping the sales team consistently reach its revenue targets. Conducting sales and marketing research, creating sales presentations, event coordination and preparing reports are a few of the duties required. Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer Services

Pak Mail of Midland is seeking someone immediately to be an integral part of a unique packing/shipping business. We ensure our customers have a premium experience by providing efficient and effective service, exceeding expectations, while promoting products and services to meet the customers' needs. We are looking for someone who can lift 40-50 lbs. unaided, has a valid driver's license with a clean record. We are looking for a person with a positive attitude who can make accurate decisions on how to pack and ship items properly. Persons with sales experience preferred, but we will teach you all you need to know. Apply in person at 3323 N. Midland Dr., ste. 113, Midland, TX.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Field Service Technician with established company. Must have at least two years experience in oil and gas production. Benefits Package. Salary DOE. Submit resume to: Production Lift Systems, Inc., P. O. Box 9423, Midland, TX 79708.

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NOPHONECALLSPLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

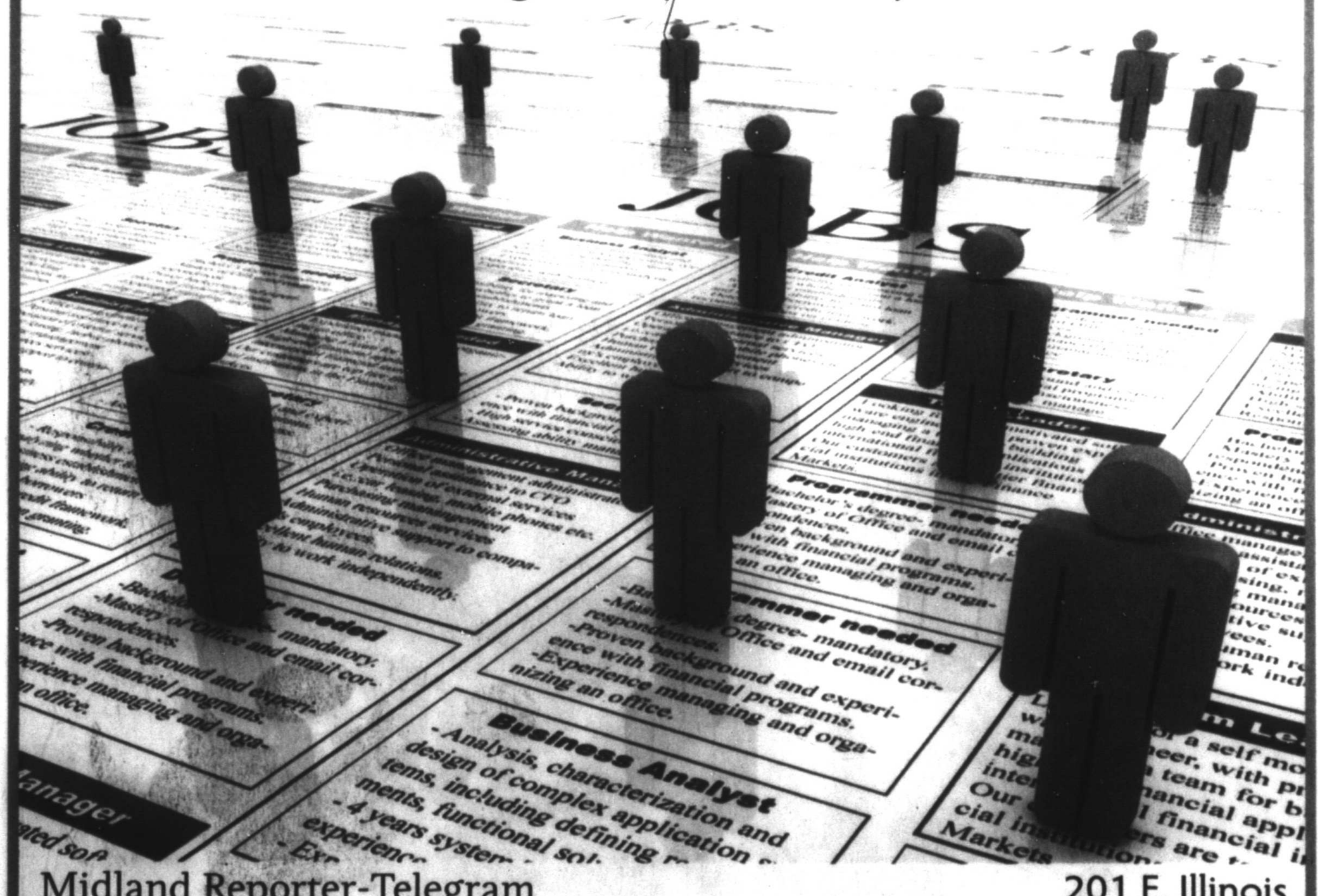
$10.00 per hour

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Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NOPHONECALLSPLEASE

Looking For A New Job?

Log into the classifieds to find a job that suits you better.
Listings are updated daily.



Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

201 E. Illinois
(432) 682-6222

mrt★com/jobs



Employment ads by:

432.682.6999

432.682.6222

mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

ENERGY & UTILITIES

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Our oil and gas company, PetroPro Services LLC is looking for a Sales Representative (Oil Service Equipment) for the Midland location. The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications and behaviors:

- Must have existing clients in the Midland area.
- The qualified candidate has engineering or a business degree, helpful but not required
- 5+ years of experience in the oil and gas industry.
- Must has strong knowledge / experience in completions/fracturing.
- Must has 3+ years direct sales experience for completion in the Midland area.
- Field experience with drilling and completions is an asset.

Please send resumes to Leticia Perez, HR Manager.
Email address: lperez@petroquip.com

SLICKLINE OPERATOR

Slickline Operator with established company. Must have at least two years experience as a Slickline operator. Benefits Package. Salary DOE. Submit resume to: Wireline Services, Inc.P.O. Box 9423, Midland, TX 79708

Swab Rig Operator

Swab Rig Operator with established company. Must have at least two years experience as a swab rig operator and CDL license. Benefits Package. Salary DOE. Submit resume to: Swabbing Services, Inc., P. O. Box 9423, Midland, TX 79708

HEALTHCARE

Available Positions

Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3263 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705

Desert Gardens located in Midland, Texas is currently seeking staff to fill the following Positions:

- **RN $2,000 sign on bonus**
- **LVN $1.500 sign on bonus**

New Shift Differential Rate
Full benefits

Available Positions

Desert Gardens Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3203 Sage Street
Midland, TX 79705

Desert Gardens located in Midland, Texas is currently seeking staff to fill the following Positions:

- **Social Worker**

Full benefits
Apply in person

Midland Surgical Associates, P.A.

is seeking a

Billing/ Coding &
Collections Specialist

with prior experience to join our team. Applicant must have worked with CPT and ICD9 coding and compatibility, electronic billing & posting, exception reports, claim appeals, disputes and collection methodologies. Experience with Greenway practice management system preferred. M-F 8:30-5:30. Benefit package includes PTO, Health, Life & AFLAC insurance coverages and a 401-K retirement plan.

Send resume to joann@midland-surgical.com

Veterinary Techs

Greenbelt Veterinary Hospital and Pet Resort has an immediate opening for Veterinary technicians.Experience is a plus but not necessary. Must have a can do attitude and willingness to learn.dependability is a must! Please submit resume to info@greenbeltpetdoc.com or stop by our office at: 5000 N. Midkiff Rd

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Sales Manager

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for an experienced and dynamic sales manager with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment and lead by example with confidence and enthusiam. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of the inside sales department and lead generation process, including training and coaching Account Executives, helping the sales team consistently meet/exceed established revenue targets, monitoring and reporting on sales metrics, managing the administration process and providing support to the Director of Advertising as needed.

Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

OTHER JOBS

Assembly Technician

Assemble and wire electrical control panels. Must be mechanically inclined and able to follow wiring diagrams. Pre-employment drug screen required. Apply in person at R&D Specialties, 2629 Faudree Road #B-7, Odessa, Texas 79765. or send resume via fax 432-561-5696 or email rdspec@rdspec.com.

Shop Hand/Field Coordinator

Local company seeks shop hand/field coordinator. Apply in person at 3913 FM 715, Midland Texas 79706

REAL ESTATE

Leasing Agent

Experienced in Commercial properties. Call 432-352-2067 ask for Don.

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales

WANTED: Sales Associate for a growing promotional products, advertising company. Twelve year old locally owned business in search of an experienced advertising/marketing sales person. **Send resume to: P-109 C/O Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland TX., 79701**

Sales Manager

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for an experienced and dynamic sales manager with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment and lead by example with confidence and enthusiam. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of the inside sales department and lead generation process, including training and coaching Account Executives, helping the sales team consistently meet/exceed established revenue targets, monitoring and reporting on sales metrics, managing the administration process and providing support to the Director of Advertising as needed.

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Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Chemist for Oil & Gas Industry needed

IMPACT! Chemical Technologies, Inc. is seeking a Chemist for the Oil and Gas Industry. Experience is a must with a Bachelors of Chemistry as a minimum for education level is a must. Great Benefits and 401K plan. Please send resumes to PO Box 10887, Midland, TX 79702 or tbohannon@impactchemtech.com.

SKILLED LABOR

Diesel Mechanic

Local company seeks diesel mechanic with in frame experience, knowledge of cummins and CAT motors. Send resume to: resume234@yahoo.com

Electrician/Lineman

Oilfield Electrician/Lineman Voltages up to 25KV CDL preferred, must pass drug screen Apply online @ www.hargravepower.com

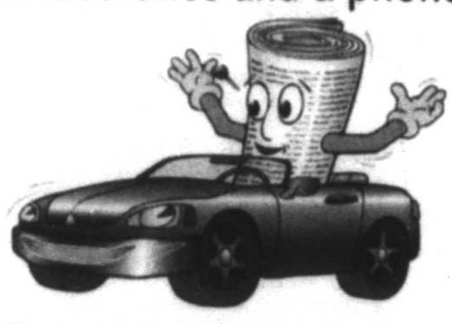
Geologist/ Geophysicist

Sharp Image Energy, Inc. is looking for a full time Geologist/ Geophysicist with a minimum of 12 years experience and must be familiar with Petra and Kingdom Suite Software. Will be working at SIE corporate headquarters in Big Spring, TX. Please send resumes to P.O Box 1888, Big Spring, TX. 79721.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??



Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

SKILLED LABOR

In-House Diesel Mechanic

Catalyst Oilfield Services looking for a in-house diesel mechanic. Competitive wages based on experience. Please bring in resume or call office with questions. ASE preferred but not required. Benefits offered. 11999 E. Hwy. 158, Gardendale, TX, 79758. Human resources at: 432-563-0727

Landscape / Maintenance Help Needed

Starting Pay $12 per hour. Must pass drug & background screening. Apply in person at: **Hunter's Ridge Apartments, 4201 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX 79703**

Mid-Tex of Midland

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents and assistant project coordinators. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must if applying for the project superintendent position. Experience not necessary, but a plus if applying for the coordinator position. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave.; Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

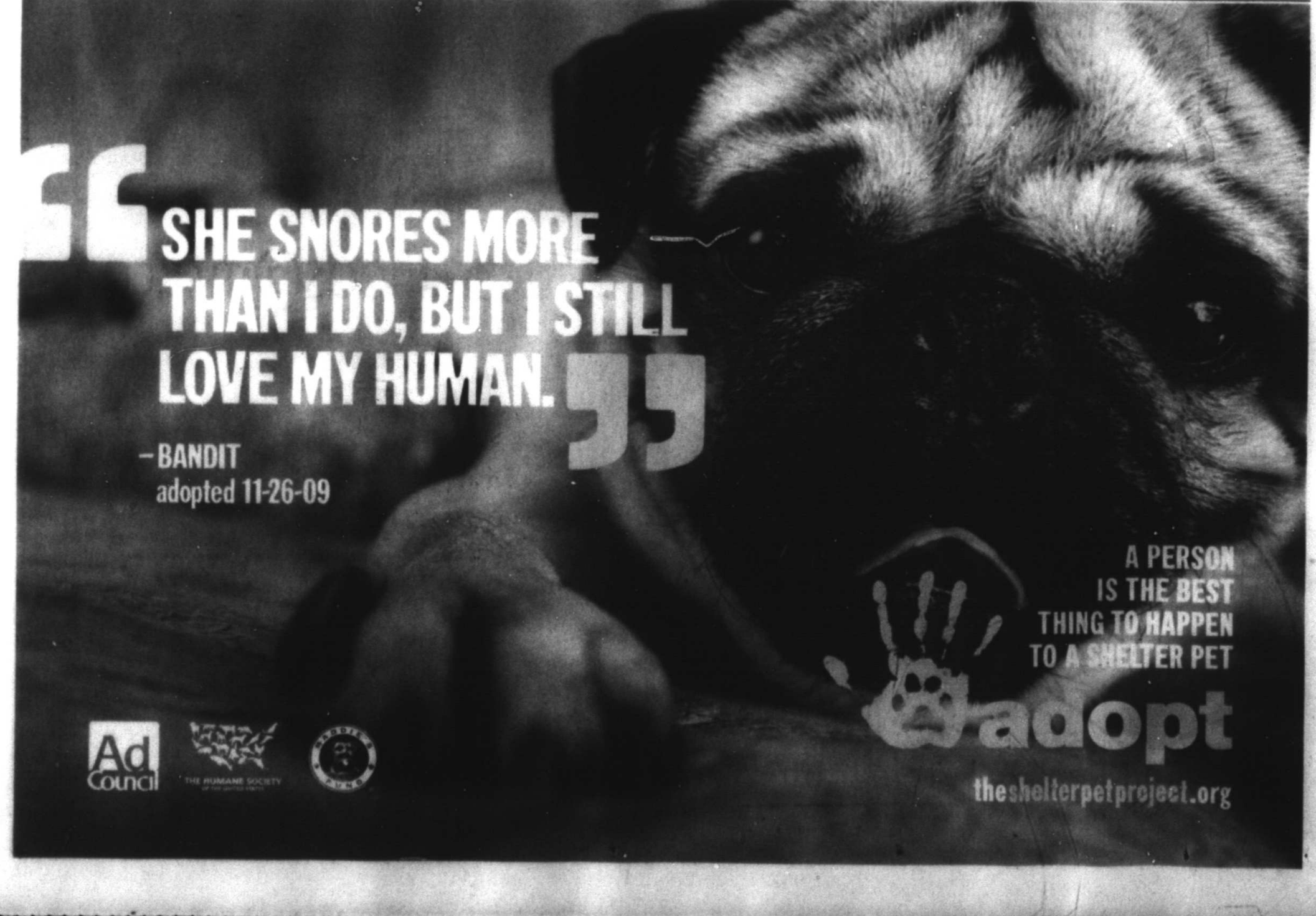
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

OTR Truck Driver

Triple D Supply is looking for qualified candidates for an OTR Long Haul position. If you want an opportunity to operate new equipment and get the miles you've been missing call 800-426-1675 ext 835.

SPOOLERS

JW Enterprise is looking for **Spoolers** with Class A CDL with Air Brake Endorsement. Great benefits and competitive wages, also on the job training available. It's a great place to work with a family-like atmosphere. Call Javius at 432-664-3408 or the office at 432-458-3675 for more information.



mrt classifieds

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Events and Notices

General Announcements

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ. Teach the Lords' Word 1-4

Lost & Found

FOUND: 3 LEGGED doberman. 432-425-7320.

FOUND/DUMPED! Need a loving home for twin kittens. Gray, orange and white calico. Just want to be loved. 432-853-9080.

LOST FROM Lee High School area: Jack Russell-Heeler mix, chipped, answers to Spike. Very sweet, 13 yrs. old, does not see well. White with brown/black markings, about 30 lbs. Please call (432) 230-8893 or (432) 553-3075

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

NEW TODAY!

2000 CORVETTE, royal blue, automatic 6 speed. $13,500.00 432-557-2987.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Passenger Cars



2005 FORD Wheelchair Van. Only 58,000 miles. Like new. $15,000 firm. 432-212-1830.

CADALLIC 2006 CTS good condition, black, $6,200. See at 2109 Western Drive, Midland, TX. 432-238-0614

SATURN 2008 Aura LE Sedan, 77K miles, new tires. $5000. Call 432-853-0110.

TOYOTA 2003 Avalon. Extra clean with sunroof. 120K miles. $7,500.432-697-2121.

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Antique & Vintage

CHEVROLET 1967 Camaro, 350, new A/C, paint & suspension. Call for pricing, serious inquires only! 432-661-6819

Pickup Trucks



GMC 2006 Canyon in excellent condition. 4 dr., 5 cylinder, mechanically sound. Sun roof, 6 CD player, 3.5 liter, automatic transmission, cruise control, trailer hitch, new battery and alternator, front end alignment and oil change. $7,850. Call 432-638-5405 or 432-682-0770

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

PREVENT TRUCK REPO. I am looking for a late model (14 – 15) clean, low mileage Chevrolet LTZ Crewcab, 6.6 Duramax with Allison transmission LOADED to pay off balance, possible trade. Prevent a repo on your record. Call Mike 903-521-0252.

TOYOTA 2008 Tundra, exterior black, cloth seat, all power, AC, automatic, 5.7 V8, grill guard, Rhino lined bed, running boards tool box, 91K miles. Asking $15,500. 432-254-1007.

4WD & SUV

LEXUS 1995 SC400 138k miles, runs but needs work $1,500 OBO. 432-238-8480

Utility Trailers

2013 TIGER gooseneck trailer, 40 foot. Tandem duals. Excellent condition. $7,950. 432-631-9868.

UTILITY TRAILER: 2014 10' X 6' Dove tail trailer with 2' ramp. $1000.00 or OBO call 432-638-1429

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified@mrt.com

Recreational Vehicles

2015 ROYAL TRAVEL 5th wheel. 39 ft, 2 bedroom, 4 slides, island kitchen, king bed, garden tub, 3 ACs, washer/dryer, loaded with upgrades. $41,500 OBO. 682-712-3574

APEX 2013 151RBX travel trailer, great condition. $10,950. 432-631-9868.

NEW TODAY!

HARLEY. 2007 FXSTSSE Softail Springer CVO, Screaming Eagle. 110 cubic inch engine, 25,000 miles, copper/red color, last year of this style made. $15,000. 432-557-2987

Classifieds Can! Call 432-682-6222

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
by Lamar Coats
3321 Camarie
Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
Friday 9:00am-1:00pm
Saturday. 9:00am-12:00pm

Mid Century bedroom furniture, Haywood Wakefield bedroom set, Pine hutch, Pine dining table, Alabaster lamp, sofa, refrigerator, 2 freezers, washer & dryer, desk, computer desk, Library table, outdoor yard furniture, great kitchen appliances, iron skillets, hundreds of cook books, china, Teissedre figures, 2 sets silver plated flatware, sewing machine, fishing equipment, two outdoor grills and more.

To see photo's go to estatesales.net

Estate Sales

Moving Sale
3614 Monclave - Midland
Fri. - Sat.: 9 - 5

4 Poster Bed, washer & Dryer, Wall clock, nightstand, Milk glass, Silver plate, Arthur Court Turkey, Depression glass, Oil lamps, Cranberry Punch bowl, Kitchen misc., Crochet tablecloths, Linens, Purses & bags, Guatemalan bedspread, over 135 pr shoes size 9-10.5, Over 150 Chico clothing size large, electronics, Disney, & much more
Turn south on Denton from Andrews Hwy. Turn right on Monclave
See photo's on estatesale.net

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
5904 W Hwy 80 • Midland TX 79706
432 697-6447 • kensrv.com
LARGEST SELECTION OF USED TRAILERS IN THE BASIN
TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK
TOY HAULERS FIFTH WHEEL GO RVing BUMPER PULLS MOTORHOMES
Sales 8:30-5:30 Mon.-Fri. • 9-3 Sat.

Yard & Garage Sales

79706

1313 ECR 135. Fri., Sat., & Sun. 9am-? 5-piece Antique bedroom set, 32 in. wide screen door, mattress and boxspring, vacuum cleaner, tools, and miscellaneous.

Merchandise

Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 minute pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-528-3046

Free Stuff

FREE KITTENS, Siamese mix, mama cat & baby. Preferably female, older person. 432-269-5365

FREE PUPPIES, Blue Heeler mix, female 6 wks old, 1 male 6 months old 238-9756.

FREE PUPPIES to a good home. Adorable, smart, 14 week olds, 2 females. Lab/ shepard mix 432-230-2763.

FREE to good home, 2 AKC registered chocolate labs. Ages 11 & 12. Owners moved to city & yard is tiny. 432-687-0304.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

MAGAZINES OUT THE wazzoo! Free, call 685-3189 after 6:00 p

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Legal & Public Notices

Notice Of Application For Fluid Injection Well Permit

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

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the Grayburg, San Andres Formations in the Means/ San Andres/ Unit Lease, well number: 1416Z. It is located in Blk A35, Section 9, which is approximately 9.2 miles northeast from the city of Andrews and is in the Means Field in Andrews, TX. Fluid will be injected into the strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4100 to 5000 feet.

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

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

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

1/28/16

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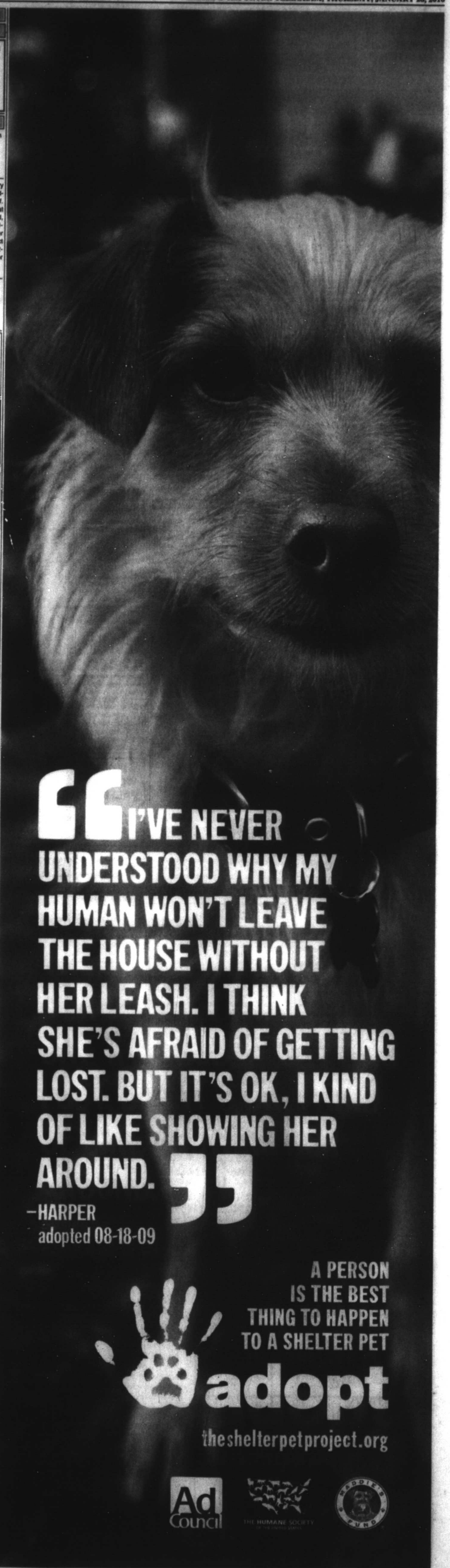
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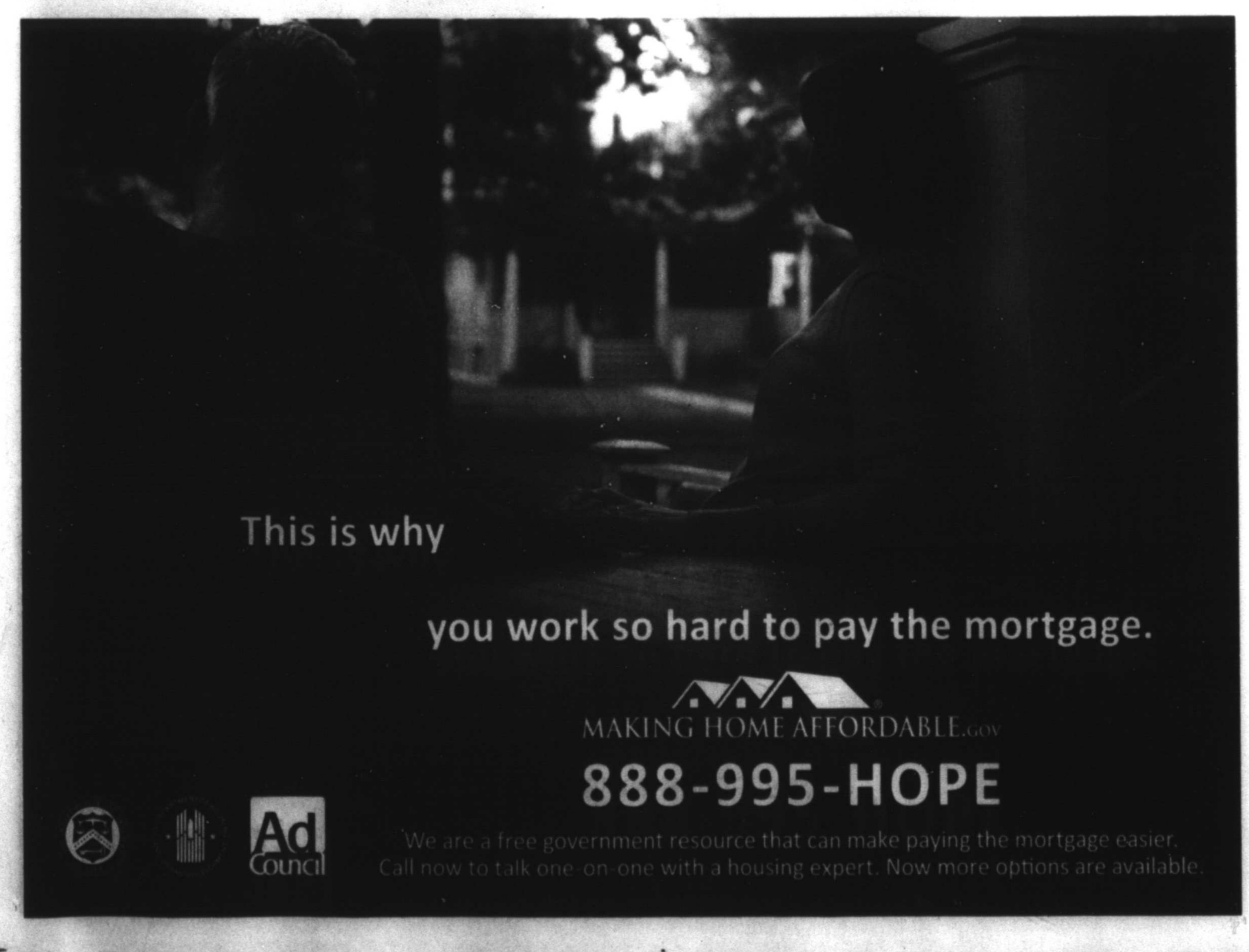
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THE AWARD WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black Inventors and Science Pioneers Touching Lives Every Day

Have you ever ridden in an elevator, worn shoes, played with a Super Soaker or used a microphone? Then your life has been touched by an African-American scientist.

Follow the maze to match each inventor with their invention.

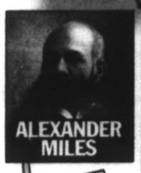






Photo: nanomedic67

Early elevators had doors that had to be opened and closed by hand. Elevator doors that open and close automatically made riding an elevator safer.

If you love to pick up a microphone and sing out a song, you will be glad this scientist loved electricity and physics. He invented a small microphone. His technology is used in 90 percent of microphones today and in cell phones, laptops, baby monitors and hearing aids.

In 1914, this inventor created a "safety hood" which made polluted air safer to breath. This was an early version of the gas mask.

Soggy Science Fun

This NASA engineer is best known for inventing the Super Soaker water blaster. The success of his invention has funded his own research and he now has more than 100 inventions to his name. Use the code to discover this inventor's name.



INVENTOR CODE

■ = E	▲ = L
◥ = G	◪ = N
● = H	■ = O
▼ = I	▪ = S
◢ = J	◉ = T



Jan Ernst Matzeliger

He invented a machine that could quickly attach the top of a shoe to the sole. The machine made shoes ten times faster than by hand, making shoes more affordable.

Find the two identical shoes.



Replace the missing words.

Mae Jemison

Mae Jemison has always had big _____. Her big dreams took her into space! She is the first African-American female _____. In 1992, she flew aboard the space shuttle *Endeavor*.

Mae loved _____ and dancing as a child. In college she decided to _____ medicine. After becoming a doctor, she went to Africa with the Peace Corps. When she returned _____, she decided to follow another dream—to be an astronaut.

HOME SCIENCE ASTRONAUT DREAMS STUDY



Extra! Extra! Inventor Poem

Look through the newspaper for ten words that describe inventors. Use these words to write a poem or a paragraph about inventors.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Cut and paste these sentences in the correct order to discover the beginnings of Black History Month.

week to encourage knowledge of the important contributions by the black community. What began

eventually became a month-long observance known as Black History Month.

as a week-long celebration to honor equal rights pioneers Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln

Carter G. Woodson was one of the first scholars to study African-American history. He lobbied to establish an African-American history

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

MICROPHONE
AMERICAN
AFRICAN
COLLEGE
SCIENCE
HISTORY
INVENT
DREAMS
FEMALE
PEACE
HONOR
BLACK
HAND
SONG
AIR

B	L	T	N	E	V	N	I	A	A
H	O	N	O	R	K	A	Y	F	C
S	P	E	A	C	E	C	R	E	S
C	K	D	A	H	O	I	O	M	M
I	S	L	N	L	C	R	T	A	A
E	B	O	L	A	I	E	S	L	E
N	T	E	N	A	H	M	I	E	R
C	G	S	T	G	O	A	H	R	D
E	N	O	H	P	O	R	C	I	M

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

Mission Possible

Students describe what they would want to be if they could be anything in the world.

I would become the first female president. If this were so, I would end war and world hunger.
Maya, 6th grade

I would be a giraffe. My favorite animal is a giraffe. I would eat plants and lay in the sun all day. I would canter back and forth with my head held high.
Anna, 5th grade

If I could be anything, then I would be a falcon because they're really fast and awesome. I also would like to be a falcon because they're free. They can fly anywhere.
Patrick, 5th grade

I would be a soccer player five times better than Pele. I'd be a professional at aged eleven. I'd be a one-man team and I'd be rich. I'd play on the American team and we would finally win a World Cup.
Adrian, 6th grade

If it were possible for me to be anything in the world, I would be water. I could travel all over the world in currents and see incredible sights. I would quench the thirst of tired children, or refresh weary travelers. Floating around in oceans or helping people in need, I would always be content to be water.
Jenna, 6th grade

I would be a writer, but not just any writer. I would write beautiful stories, so descriptive and life like that when you read them, you would slip into the story and be able to go on great adventures where you would have magical powers and defeat a great evil, and even when you were finished with the book, your dreams and thoughts would still be full of its magic.
Rebecca, 6th grade

I would be an extremely smart barn owl. I would want to be that because then I could talk with friends still and fly around silently. If I became tame, I would become a spy and use my silent flight and excellent hearing to do good things for the world.
Keiran, 6th grade

I would be a marine biologist. If that came true, I would get to work at once so that I could possibly save all the marine animals I can from pollution and set up a sanctuary for manatees.
Isabelle, 6th grade

I would want to be a millionaire. I would want to be a millionaire because I can help pay for people in Africa. I could send my people to build houses for people in need of places to stay. I would help people on the street.
Stella, 4th grade

Well, I would like to be a waitress for the Disneyland Resort because it would be fun and maybe I could go on rides for free on my break.
Ashley, 5th grade

Write On!

Easter Bunny Spotted

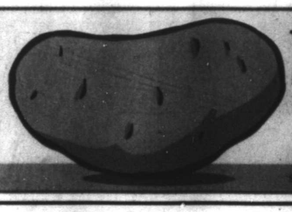
Pretend you are a reporter and you are writing a news story about someone who saw the Easter Bunny. Be sure to tell *who, what, when, where, why* and *how*.

Deadline: February 21
Published: Week of Mar. 20
Send your story to:
Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com
Please include your school and grade.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

STEM Newsmakers

Watch the newspaper for articles and pictures about important men and women in the world of science. Write a short paragraph about each. Keep all of your clippings and paragraphs in a notebook or folder called *STEM Newsmakers*.



What did the scientist get by combining a two ton elephant with two tons of potatoes?

ANSWER: Two tons of mashed potatoes

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