MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

CRIME ONLINE

Head to the Web to see our top crime stories for February.

mrt.com

NEW LEE COACH

San Antonio East Central head football coach and Athletic Director Clint Hartman is expected to be introduced this week as Lee High School's next football coach and campus coordinator.

Page 1C

Strep throat on the rise in MISD schools

By Erin Stone
estone@mrt.com

Though it's happening a little later than usual, flu and strep throat are on the rise across Midland, with strep spreading at a wildfire pace, say local health care providers.

"We are actually seeing numbers higher than average for strep," said Imo Jean Douglas, MISD Health Services supervisor. "While we are seeing higher numbers of flu than are typical for this time of year, if you overlay those with flu seasons from past years, it lines up with what you see in those years, but just at a different time of year."

Last year, flu season peaked in mid-December, and this year, a noticeable upturn in flu and strep cases didn't start until January, Douglas said. The numbers started to pick up in February, but the reason is unclear.

"Sometimes, it's just the nature of the flu season," she said. "The other thing might be that we are seeing folks who received their flu immunization as early as September and there might be a bit of a waning of that immunity. We actually see flu season sometimes all the way through May. So if people are wondering if they should still get a flu shot, the answer is yes. Though they're not 100 percent effective, they're still the best immunity that we have against the flu."

Midland Christian School reported a period of two weeks earlier in February during which there was a particularly noticeable rise in strep throat and flu in their students. Just in the past three weeks, the CVS Pharmacy on Andrews Highway has tripled its sales of strep throat antibiotics, said pharmacist Don Strah. Strah went so far as to call the recent increase an outbreak.

"We have given a lot more antibiotics than normal in the past two, three weeks due to the strep outbreak," Strah said. "We didn't have one last year, but when we do, we usually triple the sales on amoxicillin and augmentin (antibiotics for strep throat)."

If children are exhibiting symptoms of strep

Please see **STREP**/2A

By the numbers

Attendance at Midland ISD schools has dropped in the past three weeks, partially because of students out with the strep throat and flu

Attendance:
- as of Feb. 12: 24,342 students
- as of Feb. 19: 24,329 students
- as of Feb. 26: 24,272 students

Source: Midland ISD

WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Associated Press

Republican presidential candidates Sen. Ted Cruz, from left, businessman Donald Trump and Sen. Marco Rubio are seen speaking at various campaign events recently.

Midlanders have history of voting anti-establishment

From staff reports

Polls indicate U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz is the front-runner to win in the Republican primary for president in Texas. As we head into today's balloting, the question is: Will billionaire Donald Trump take Midland County?

Cruz — who leads by nearly 10 points, according to the Real Clear Politics average of Texas polls — should have a lock on Midland County based on past elections. But voters here have been known to throw a curve ball or two. Specifically, Midland County voters have been known to support that "anti-establishment" and certainly that "anti-Washington" candidate.

Cruz carried 62 percent of Midland County voters in the Republican Party primary runoff for Senate in 2012. Dewhurst, the lieutenant governor of Texas, was branded establishment, while Cruz ran on a platform to change how business would be done.

Inside

- Find out where to vote in today's primary election.
- Catch up on the latest campaign stories.

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An even greater of example of Midland County voters turning their backs on the establishment candidate occurred in the GOP primary for governor in 2010, when insurgent candidate Debra Medina finished with more votes in Midland County than U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Medina's second-place showing in Midland County was one of many around the Permian Basin, as she also placed second to Gov. Rick Perry in Andrews, Ector, Pecos, Ward and Martin counties. Medina actually beat Perry and Hutchison in Crane County.

So, for anyone looking for an interesting story line tonight, check out which presidential candidate actually wins Midland County and other counties in the Permian Basin.

TURNOUT: Many expected voter turnout to be higher this year compared to four years ago, and the results so far are living up to expectations. The Midland County Elections Office reported 10,352 (9,458 Republican and 894 Democrat) ballots cast in Midland County. That is more than the 6,000-plus in 2012.

Historically, the number of voters on Election Day in Midland County is comparable to the number who voted during the early-voting period. If that trend holds up this year, the 19,000 or so voters would be a significant increase to the 11,620 who voted in the Republican and Democratic party primaries in 2012.

Judge upholds ruling vacating lesser prairie chicken listing

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

Senior U.S. District Judge Robert Junell on Monday upheld his September 2015 ruling overturning the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as "threatened."

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas denied a motion by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to amend Junell's original judgment, according to a press release from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. After he vacated the listing, the agencies appealed, asking that the decision be remanded to the Fish and Wildlife Service or that the judge's ruling be limited to the Permian Basin.

The Permian Basin Petroleum Association, along with Chaves, Eddy, Lea and Roosevelt counties in New Mexico, had sued the agencies after the listing.

In response to the court's ruling Monday, PBPA President Ben Shepperd issued the following statement: "The PBPA applauds Judge Junell's denial of the Motion made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior. This ruling serves as vindication of the unprecedented stakeholder participation across the lesser prairie chicken range."

The association also applauded the decision. The association is responsible for implementing the LPC Range-wide Conservation Plan. Under this plan, more than 180 oil and gas, pipeline, electric transmission and wind energy companies have enrolled in conservation agreements to avoid, minimize, or mitigate their operations' impact on the chicken. In the process, these companies have committed $45.9 million in enrollment and impact fees to cover offsite mitigation actions for unavoidable impacts and that contributes to habitat conservation. The chicken's population increased 25 percent from 2014 to 2015, in part as a result of industry's conservation efforts.

More than 101,000 acres of farm and ranch land have been enrolled in 10-year agreements, and an additional 1,600 acres have been enrolled in permanent conservation to offset industry impact.

Weather
Sunny
69/43
Get your complete forecast on 5B

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$33.75	▲ $0.97
WTI Posted	$30.25	▲ $1.00
WTS Posted	$27.05	▲ $1.00
Natural Gas	$1.711	▼ $0.080
Gasoline	$1.574	▲ $0.002

The big number
"Footlongs" are now
12-inches long
at Subway after a court battle, Page 4A

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

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Daily $1, Sunday $2

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VOTE TODAY!

KEEP
ALISON HALEY
MIDLAND COUNTY CLERK
Election Day – March 1, 2016
When experience matters, 18 years really counts.

- Hired as Deputy Clerk – November 1997
- Deputy Probate Clerk – May 2000
- Promoted to Assistant
- Chief Deputy – September 2012
- Sworn in as County Clerk – March 2015

Pd. Pol. Adv. – Approved by Alison Haley for County Clerk, Robert Haley, Treasurer
P.O. Box 52813, Midland, Texas 79710 alisonhaley92@gmail.com

Obituaries

Ellen Elizabeth Darlington Busch

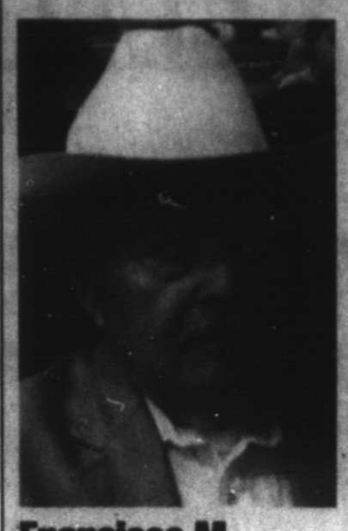
Ellen Elizabeth Darlington Busch, 90, of Midland, passed away peacefully at 12:51 a.m. on Sunday, February 28, 2016. She was born on June 4, 1925 in Long Pine, Nebraska to Ross and Sarah Darlington. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

The family would like to extend their gratitude toward Midland Memorial Hospital's emergency and intensive care department's physicians and nurses, Hospice of Midland, Ann Westermmen, Barbara Peacock, Cimarron Place, and Grace Presbyterian Church for their loving care and support.

Ellen is survived by her son, Steve Busch and wife Kim of Midland; granddaughters, Aleena Busch of Center, Texas and Kaylee Fiello and husband Josh of Hawaii; great grandchildren, Joseph Fiello, Jaxon Fiello, Shelby Youngblood, Brandon Youngblood, all of Hawaii, and K.C. Johns of Bedford, Texas; son, John Busch and wife Mary of Houston, Texas; grandchildren, David Busch of Houston, Texas, Michael Busch of Dallas, Texas, and Sara Suquinoto and husband Ryotaro of Shizuoka, Japan.

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

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



Francisco M. Ramirez

Francisco M. Ramirez came into this world on May 11, 1931 and he departed for home on February, 27, 2016.

He was a humble man of few words, but with a wry sense of humor that came to be his signature. Though of few words, he told his story in the way he lived and the way he treated his fellow man.

His legacy is one of fidelity and loyalty - fidelity to the Lord that led to fidelity to his wife Modesta of 60 years, and loyalty to his sons and daughters, who grew up in emulation of their 'Papa.' A man of the land, he toiled in the West Texas sun as a sign of his love for his family, without a single complaint or sigh.

He worked with strong hands on ranches and farms since he was a child, first on his father's farm in Mexico and then in Texas. He labored well into his 70s until Parkinson's forced him to retire. He then focused on his garden at home, growing peppers, tomatoes, strawberries, peaches, and whatever else he fancied.

This note about Papa is not a message of sadness nor is it a message of loneliness now that he is gone. It is a message of joy. It is a celebration of life, for Papa lived a full life. He drank the cup of life to the dregs and his legacy is a wife, Modesta, filled with faith, and pine sons and daughters who march forward in thanksgiving. His grandchildren number 47 and his great grandchildren are 27, thus his legacy is secure.

Papa is now with Our Lady and Our Blessed Lord. He is home, but he will never be forgotten.

En paz descanse o gran señor . . .

Rosary services will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland. Funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

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

Kirby Claire Collier

Kirby Claire Collier, 22, passed away on February 26, 2016. Services will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church Chapel in Midland, Texas. There will be a private burial held at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Kirby was born January 22, 1994 to Kim and Forrest Collier in Midland, Texas. Kirby was baptized on Mothers' Day 2002 by Dr. Gary Dyer at First Baptist Church in Midland. She graduated from Midland High School, where she was a gifted student and volleyball player.

She enjoyed working with children and volunteering in the nursery and during Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church. Kirby loved babysitting and will be missed by the many children who knew her as Miss Kirby. Born with a servant's heart, Kirby also spent many hours volunteering at the Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals.

Kirby attended Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California where she was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and had recently been accepted into the University of Texas Medical Branch School of Nursing in Galveston.

She is survived by her parents, Kim and Forrest Collier; sister, Ashley Collier; grandparents, Trula Jennings Smith of Houston, Anne Collier of Dallas, and Lana and Raye Collier of Dallas; aunt, Julianne and husband, Brad Jennings of Houston; aunt, Blair and husband, Kirk Lechtenberger of Dallas; and by cousins, Caroline Jennings of Houston, and Olivia and Wes Lechtenberger of Dallas.

She is preceded in death by her grandfather, Champney Smith.

The family would like to express their gratitude toward the many friends and family who have fervently prayed for Kirby over the last four years, especially the Nehemiah Sunday School Department and to Elizabeth Steele of Northbound Treatment Services in Newport Beach, California.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be donated to The Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals or the Palmer Drug Abuse Program in Midland, Texas.

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

Odell Mason, Sr.

Odell Mason, Sr., 86, of Big Spring, formerly of Midland, died Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

Funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at Mount Rose Baptist Church at 211 Tyler Street in Midland.

Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 with Military Honors at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Virginia L. Martinez

Virginia L. Martinez, 58, of Midland, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, February 24, 2016.

Rosary service was at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2016 in Johnson's Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service was at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 28, 2016 in Johnson's Funeral Home Chapel, with Fr. Joey Faylona of St. Mary's Catholic Church officiating. Virginia has now been laid to rest.

Virginia was well known for her tamales. She was known as the "Tamale Lady" in Midland and Odessa.

Virginia is preceded in death by her father, J. O. Martinez; and two brothers, Billy Martinez and Danny Martinez.

Survivors include her mother, Clara Martinez; children, Antonio Jose Gonzales, Myra Jessica Martinez, Linda Darlene Hulsey, and Evelyn Eulalia Hernandez; grandchildren, Chantae Ann Arredondo, Brian Anthony Morales, Adrianna Adilene Hernandez, Iris BryAnna Morales, Adrian Angel Hernandez, Daniel Edward McClure, Gerardo Gabriel Jasso, Antonio Gonzales, Virginia Valeria Jasso, Layla Shaye Miles, Bernadette Gonzales, Hailey Justine Morales, Isabella Gonzales, and Diamond Danielle Urquidez; siblings, Linda Martinez Salas, Billy Martinez, Joel Martinez, Priscilla Martinez, Daniel Martinez, Gilbert Martinez, and Claudelia Martinez; and by two great-grandchildren.

Family and friends may sign the online register book at *johnsons-funeralhome.com*.

Death Notices

Benton Floyd Massey

Benton Floyd Massey, 53, of Robert Lee, Texas, passed away on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

He is survived by his parents, Bennie Frank and Julie Yvonne Massey; and by two sisters.

Services are pending with American Heritage, Cemetery & Funeral Home, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas.

Irece Jordan

Irece Jordan, 67, of Midland, Texas, passed away peacefully Friday, February 26, 2016 in Midland.

A memorial service will be at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Sunset Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home, 6801 E. Business 20, Odessa.

She is survived by her daughter, Staci Klapproth; father, Milton Cardwell; and by one brother.

Mario Cruz

Mario Cruz, of Midland, Texas, passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2016.

There will be a memorial service in Hobbs, New Mexico on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at the Vida Nueva Church at 6:30 p.m.

Pauline Roberson

Pauline Roberson, 91, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, February 28, 2016.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at First Assembly of God in Midland. Burial will follow at Resthaven Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Clifton Roberson, daughter, Cheryl Jones; son, Gary D. Roberson, Sr.; and by one brother and two sisters.

CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man allegedly beats woman in public

A Midland man was arrested Friday for allegedly choking and beating a woman, according to court documents.

Larry W. Snodgrass, 44, was being held Monday on a $30,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assaulting a family/house member impeding breath.

Snodgrass

Officers were dispatched to the area of 3400 Kansas Avenue in reference to an assault in which multiple callers stating a man was beating a woman, according to his arrest affidavit.

Snodgrass said he and the woman had been arguing and she had scratched his face when he was trying to get away from her, according to the affidavit. The woman said Snodgrass had been hiding in the back of her van when he assaulted her by choking her while she was driving, according to the affidavit.

She ran away from the van, but Snodgrass chased her down and began hitting her with his fists, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the third-degree felony, Snodgrass could face up to 10 years in prison.

MCSO: Woman attacks man with cement pineapple

A Midland woman was arrested Friday for allegedly hitting a man on the head with a cement lawn ornament and wooden club and threatening him with a knife, according to court documents.

Krista Jankowiak, 48, was being held Monday on a $50,000 bond for first-degree felony charge of aggravated assault of a date/family/house member.

Jankowiak

Deputies were dispatched to a residence on the 2100 block of West Wadley Avenue in reference to a disturbance, according to the affidavit. A male was standing outside of the residence with a "large amount" of blood on the front of his body and neck, according to the affidavit.

The male stated that he and Jankowiak had gotten into a verbal argument and that she became very angry and began hitting him in the face with her fists, according to the affidavit. As the male attempted to push her off him, Jankowiak bit him on the forearm, according to the affidavit.

Jankowiak continued to grow angrier, and as the male tried to leave the residence, she hit him on the back of the head with a wooden club, according to the affidavit. The male was able to take the club from her and throw it over the fence, according to the affidavit.

Jankowiak then threatened him with a large knife, and the male again disarmed her, according to the affidavit. Lastly, Jankowiak picked up a cement lawn ornament shaped like a pineapple and hit the male on the head, at which point he called the police, according to the affidavit.

When questioned, Jankowiak stated that she had not assaulted the male, but that he given the wounds to himself, according to the affidavit. Jankowiak allegedly continued to change her story.

If convicted of the first-degree felony, Jankowiak could face up to 99 years in prison.

MPD: Man chokes woman

A Midland man was arrested Friday for allegedly choking a woman, according to court documents.

Michael V. Jackson, 38, was being held Monday on a $30,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of assault of a family/house member impeding breath.

Jackson

Officers were dispatched to Avalon Springs Apartments in reference to an assault. When officers arrived, Jackson had a "strong odor of alcoholic beverages" on his breath. Jackson said he and a woman had been in an argument, according to the affidavit.

The female said Jackson became increasingly verbally aggressive toward her and eventually pushed her onto the bathroom floor, according to the affidavit. She punched him in self-defense, and he then got on top of the woman and wrapped his hands around her neck to the point where she couldn't breathe, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the third-degree felony, Jackson could face up to 10 years in prison.

STREP

From 1A

throat — sore throat, white patches on the tongue, fever especially accompanied by a headache or upset stomach — it's imperative that parents take them to be checked out by their primary care doctor. Only a rapid strep test or culture can confirm a diagnosis of strep throat, Douglas said.

Some providers are having to prescribe more than one round of antibiotics to treat the strain of strep throat going around. However, common mistakes are also contributing to the rising numbers of cases, Douglas said.

"We really try to impress upon families the importance of sticking to the antibiotic regimen prescribed," Douglas said. "A lot of times, patients, students, families get into the thought process of, 'Well I've had a few doses; I feel better; I'm going to save that antibiotic and use it when I don't feel well again.' But it's incredibly important to stick to that antibiotic regimen exactly as it is prescribed."

Oftentimes, patients will feel the positive effects of the antibiotic within 24 hours, but that doesn't mean they're not sick anymore.

"People will have some relief of the symptoms caused by the bacteria, so there's that perception, 'Oh, I'm feeling better, I must be well,'" Douglas said. "Well, it's dampened down the activity of the bacteria so your symptoms have improved, but it has only killed the weaker bacteria. Some of the stronger ones are still hanging around and that can result in those stronger bacteria staying around and continuing to make people sick."

On the other hand, if patients don't feel a lessening of symptoms within 24 hours, they should follow up with their doctor, she said.

But the easiest way to prevent the flu and/or strep throat in the first place is hygienic.

"Hand washing is the No. 1 defense that anybody anywhere can do to prevent illness," Douglas said. "

She also emphasized the importance of keeping your distance from others who are sick, which can be next to impossible in reality.

"You can go out to dinner or H-E-B, and you will be exposed," Douglas said. "So, hand-washing is most important. Cough and cold hygiene, too: coughing into your elbow or using a tissue and then washing your hands with soap and water ... staying home when you are sick, etc."

The downturn in the economy, though, could also be contributing to more strep throat cases, Douglas said."

"We're focusing on hand-washing and keeping kids home when they are sick, but with the economy that we're seeing here ... it's hard for any parent to miss work, so parents are sometimes reluctant to keep kids home," Douglas said.

The school district has a policy in place that requires students to be fever-, vomiting- and diarrhea-free for 24 hours without the help of any medications, including Tylenol and Advil, before they return to school.

Strep throat is always contagious while the patient is running a fever and can even be contagious with no fever, Douglas said. Flu can be contagious a day before symptoms show up and five to seven days after that.

"We're doing a lot of teaching about taking care of kids and making sure that even though they're feeling better, they could still be contagious to other students," Douglas said. "With spring break coming up, we want to encourage parents to follow up with their primary care providers, especially if their kids are symptomatic."

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LUBBOCK

Worker dies of injuries from bridge collapse

A West Texas man has died of injuries suffered in the collapse of a Lubbock park pedestrian bridge under an excavator he was operating.

A city statement said 57-year-old Mark Fort died Monday morning at a Lubbock hospital.

Fort was injured Feb. 19 when a pedestrian bridge at Mae Simmons Park collapsed as he was driving a skid-loader onto it.

Witnesses said he spent five to 10 minutes inside the submerged excavator until rescue crews could break its windshield and pull him out.

DALLAS

Group files injunction to prevent import of elephants

An animal-rights group has filed an injunction in federal court to prevent a group of elephants from being imported and kept at three zoos, including the one in Dallas.

Friends of Animals requested the injunction Friday, after earlier filing a lawsuit to block the 18 elephants from being transported from Swaziland.

The group argues that when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed the transfer of the animals, it did not take into account how the move would hurt their social, mental and physical well-being.

DALLAS

Bush library exhibit focuses on elections

An exhibit opening at the George W. Bush Presidential Center will focus on the history of campaigns and elections in the U.S.

The exhibit, called "Path to the Presidency," opens today at the center on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. It will give visitors a look at the history of presidential campaigns.

The exhibit, which runs through Oct. 9, includes a letter from George Washington in which he declines calls for a third term and the sunglasses Bill Clinton wore in his 1992 campaign appearance on "The Arsenio Hall Show."

WORD OF THE DAY
brought to you daily by
JimBurrito
crackerjack
[krak-er-jak] noun.
1. a person or thing that shows marked ability or excellence.
2. of marked ability; exceptionally fine.

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Austin American-Statesman via AP

Travis County District Judge Julie Kocurek was welcomed with applause as she returned to the bench Monday in Austin after spending weeks recovering from an assassination attempt in November of last year. She said she felt reborn and though she is still undergoing physical therapy for her wounds will spend only half days on the bench for now.

Judge targeted in shooting returns to bench

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A Central Texas judge who was shot last year in a targeted attack returned to the bench Monday to applause from friends and colleagues who gathered in her courtroom.

State District Judge Julie Kocurek said she felt "reborn" following months of rehabilitation after the Nov. 6 shooting. The support she received "far outweighs the evil moments," she said.

Kocurek is not yet ready for a full-time schedule and is still undergoing physical therapy on her arm, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Kocurek was hospitalized for nearly two months after the attack. The shooter had placed an object in the driveway of her home, forcing the driver of her car to get out and move it. At that point the gunman opened fire. She was not struck by a bullet and instead was injured by flying glass and debris.

Austin police continue to investigate.

Retired state District Judge Mike Lynch has handled much of Kocurek's docket in her absence and said he was notified last week of her return.

"I can't think of a better way to lose work," Lynch told the newspaper. "She's a brave and strong lady. She's got a lot of guts. I've always respected her, and I respect her even more now."

A man charged in a Houston-area fatal shooting is the lone suspect in the attack. Kocurek oversaw the probation of Chimene Onyeri from a 2012 fraud case.

Onyeri is being held in a Houston jail on an unrelated murder charge.

At a January court hearing on the murder charge, Harris County prosecutor Justin Keiter said Onyeri, 28, is "the prime and only suspect" in the attack on Kocurek.

But Onyeri has not been charged in the Austin shooting, defense attorney Samuel Adamo said at the time, adding that Onyeri feels he is being "railroaded" for crimes he didn't commit.

REGION&STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NAVASOTA

Man training to become pilot, 2 children die in crash

A man training to become a pilot was flying with his instructor and his girlfriend's two children when their single-engine plane crashed over the weekend in Southeast Texas, killing all four.

Grimes County Sheriff Don Sowell told The Eagle newspaper that Amjad Sultan owned the plane and was working to earn his pilot's license.

The Cirrus SR-20 crashed Sunday morning near the airport in Navasota, northwest of Houston. Also killed were instructor Russell Reina and the children of Sultan's girlfriend, a 7-year-old boy and his older sister.

The pilot of another plane spotted the wreckage of the Cirrus in a wooded area.

It was not clear whether Sultan or Reina was flying the plane at the time, and the cause was not immediately known.

NEW MEXICO

Feds impose fire restrictions on western national grasslands

ALBUQUERQUE — Federal officials say dry conditions have prompted them to impose fire restrictions on national grasslands in eastern New Mexico, West Texas and a small portion of Oklahoma.

U.S. Forest Service officials in Albuquerque said the level-two restrictions include lands within the boundaries of the McClellan Creek National Grasslands near Amarillo and the Rita Blanca National Grasslands, which cover parts of all three states.

Officials say fire danger is increasing and the restrictions will remain in place at least through the end of the year if conditions don't improve.

The restrictions prohibit campfires, fireworks and smoking except when inside a vehicle or building. Driving off designated roads or using certain equipment with an open flame also is prohibited.

NEW MEXICO

Carlsbad sees rise in homelessness as oil industry struggles

CARLSBAD — As the oil industry continues to struggle, officials in Carlsbad say homelessness in the city is on the rise.

The Current-Argus reported that southeast New Mexico has long been a hotbed of activity when oil prices are high, but with oil dropping below $30 per barrel in January, residents of the region have fallen on hard times.

The Carlsbad Transitional Housing and Homeless Shelter estimates 170 homeless adults live in the city, based on a point-in-time survey. Carlsbad Municipal Schools found 240 children with temporary housing addresses.

To help combat the rise homelessness, the City Council has voted to contribute $310,000 to upcoming affordable housing projects.

NEW MEXICO

Ex-state senator charged with fraud, other counts

ALBUQUERQUE — A former New Mexico state senator who resigned abruptly last year has been charged with fraud and other counts over his role in the sale of a state-owned building, the New Mexico Attorney General's Office announced Monday.

In a nine-count criminal complaint filed in district court in Santa Fe, prosecutors said Phil Griego used his role as a legislator to receive personal compensation in the real estate deal and then failed to disclose it as required by state law.

The complaint also said the former Democratic senator withheld the commission owed to each of his qualifying brokers and failed to disclose his interest in the deal.

He also failed "to alert anyone to factual inaccuracies and misstatements made at various times regarding the sale," the attorney general's office said.

The complaint charges Griego with fraud, perjury, tampering with public records and financial disclosure violations.

Griego told The Associated Press he was unaware of the criminal complaint filed Monday and vowed to fight all charges.

"I absolutely did nothing wrong," Griego said. "I'm flabbergasted. I don't know what this is about. This is my reputation here."

In March 2015, Griego abruptly resigned from his post in District 39, which includes parts of six counties, including Bernalillo, Lincoln, San Miguel, Torrance, Santa Fe and Valencia. His resignation came while the Legislature was still in session.

Griego had drawn scrutiny in the final weeks of the session over the real estate deal involving a Santa Fe building. Griego was one of several lawmakers who approved the sale of the building that used to belong to the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

The buyer, Galisteo Street Inc., later hired Griego to act as its agent in the purchase. Griego was promised a $50,000 commission fee if the sale closed, according to a copy of the agreement. He was still in office at the time.

According to state's legislative ethics guide, lawmakers cannot be even indirectly interested in "any contract with the state or a municipality authorized by any law passed during the legislators' terms for one year thereafter."

Griego, who was first elected to the Senate in 1996, said he didn't know about the one-year rule.

The criminal complaint came just weeks after Senate Democrats derailed efforts to create an independent ethic commission in New Mexico. Senate Democrats said they worried the commission could be used as a forum for false accusations designed to inflict political damage.

NEW MEXICO

Sandia Labs reverses course on driver's licenses

SANTA FE — Sandia National Laboratories has returned to accepting New Mexico driver's licenses for visitors to gain entry to its facilities.

A Sandia official said Monday that a New Mexico driver's license is now acceptable by itself to verify a person's identity to access the premises.

New Mexico last week was given an extension until October to meet tougher federal identification requirements for driver's licenses after the state Legislature approved new rules for immigrant driver's licenses.

Republican Gov. Susana Martinez plans to sign legislation that stops the practice of providing state driver's licenses to immigrants regardless of legal status.

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Subway to ensure 'Footlongs' measure up after lawsuit

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Subway customers can finally rest assured that their "Footlong" sandwiches will be as long as promised.

A judge last week granted final approval to a settlement of a class-action suit filed against Subway after an Australian teenager in 2013 posted an image of his sandwich on Facebook that was only 11 inches. The image garnered international media attention, with The New York Post writing that it found four out of seven Footlongs it purchased in New York "measured only 11 or 11.5 inches."

A judge had given preliminary approval in October to a settlement between Subway's parent company Doctor's Associates and plaintiffs' attorneys. Final approval was granted on Feb. 25.

As part of the settlement, Subway agreed to institute practices for at least four years to ensure its bread is at least 12 inches long. The judge approved $520,000 in attorney fees and $500 for each of the 10 individuals who were representatives of the class, but no monetary claims were awarded to potential members of the class.

"It was difficult to prove monetary damages, because everybody ate the evidence," said Thomas Zimmerman, who was co-lead attorney for the class. Zimmerman said the attorney fees are being split among 10 law firms.

Subway said in a statement that it was pleased the judge found no wrongdoing on its part.

"This allows us to move forward, without distractions, on our goal to provide great tasting sandwiches and salads, made exactly as each guest likes. We have already taken steps to ensure each guest receives the Footlong or six-inch sandwich they order," the statement said.

AP file photos

On March 3, 2015, workers make sandwiches at a Subway sandwich franchise in Seattle. Subway promises to ensure its "Footlong" sandwiches measure up to settle a class-action lawsuit. The suit was sparked after a teenager posted a photo on Facebook showing his sandwich was only 11 inches. In October 2015, Subway's parent company, Doctors Associates, agreed to a preliminary settlement, which was granted final approval on Feb. 25, 2016.

Lynn Adelman, a judge for the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Wisconsin, wrote in the final approval that the plaintiffs' attorneys realized their claims "were quite weak" after an initial mediation session. Instead of trying to get class certification for monetary damages, he said plaintiffs decided to focus on injunctive relief requiring Doctor's Associates to ensure its sandwiches are at least 12 inches long.

Adelman wrote that the plaintiffs' attorneys learned Subway makes its bread with "dough sticks" that weigh the same when they arrive at stores frozen. The dough is then thawed and stretched before baking, a process that can lead to variability in the size and shape of the resulting bread.

While the dough may have different shapes, it still has the same quantity of ingredients, Adelman wrote. The amount of meat and cheese is also standardized, but it's possible that a shorter bread loaf might lead to a slightly less toppings. For instance, "a sandwich that was ¼-inch shorter than advertised might be missing a few shreds of lettuce or a gram or two of mayonnaise," the judge wrote.

But Adelman also noted that sandwiches are made in front of the customer, who can ask for more toppings.

"Thus, the plaintiffs learned that, as a practical matter, the length of the bread does not affect the quantity of food the customer receives," Adelman wrote.

Still, Subway agreed as part of the settlement to take steps to ensure its bread is at least 12 inches long, including requiring franchisees to "use a tool for measuring bread."

NATION BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LOS ANGELES

KKK leader: Request for police security denied before rally

A Ku Klux Klan leader who was injured when his small group of demonstrators brawled with counter-protesters in a Southern California park this weekend said Monday that he called police beforehand asking for security and was told, "We don't do that."

Will Quigg said in an interview with The Associated Press that he contacted the Anaheim Police Department but that the agency denied his requests for a police presence. The KKK then told officers that the group would hire an outside security company.

"They said, 'No, you can't do that either,'" Quigg said.

The Police Department is facing scrutiny for its response after three people were stabbed and several others were injured in the melee Saturday involving several dozen people and spanning a city block. Investigators determined that Klan members acted in self-defense after the counter-protesters attacked.

The department notified the public that the KKK planned to hold an anti-immigration protest at a park about 3 miles from Disneyland, but at least one witness said he saw no uniformed officers when the attack began.

INDIANAPOLIS

Judge blocks Indiana's Syrian refugee order

A federal judge in Indianapolis on Monday blocked Republican Gov. Mike Pence's order that barred state agencies from helping Syrian refugees resettle in Indiana, saying the governor's directive "clearly discriminates" against refugees from the war-torn country.

The ruling grants a request for a preliminary injunction from Exodus Refugee Immigration, which helps resettle refugees in Indiana. The group sued shortly after Pence issued his order in November, saying the change would hurt aid groups by withholding reimbursements for housing and medical care to assist Syrian refugees.

Exodus and other organizations have continued to resettle Syrian refugees, though the state has sought to withhold funds earmarked for resettlements. Four Syrian refugees were settled in January, with Exodus planning to settle nearly 200 more this year, Monday's opinion said.

NY judge: US cannot make Apple provide iPhone data

By Larry Neumeister and Tami Abdollah

NEW YORK — A federal judge ruled Monday that the U.S. Justice Department cannot use a 227-year-old law to force Apple to provide the FBI with access to locked iPhone data, dealing a blow to the government in its battle with the company over privacy and public safety.

The ruling, by U.S. Magistrate Judge James Orenstein, applied narrowly to one Brooklyn drug case, but it gives support to the company's position in its fight against a California judge's order that it create specialized software to help the FBI hack into an iPhone linked to the San Bernardino terrorism investigation.

Orenstein belittled some government arguments, saying attorneys were stretching an old law "to produce impermissibly absurd results."

He rejected government claims Apple was only concerned with public relations. He said he found no limit on how far the government would go to require a person or company to violate the most deeply-rooted values.

And he said claims that Apple must assist the government because it reaped the benefits of being an American company "reflects poorly on a government that exists in part to safeguard the freedom of its citizens."

Both cases hinge partly on whether a law written long before the computer age, the 1789 All Writs Act, could be used to compel Apple to cooperate with efforts to retrieve data from encrypted phones.

"Ultimately, the question to be answered in this matter, and in others like it across the country, is not whether the government should be able to force Apple to help it unlock a specific device; it is instead whether the All Writs Act resolves that issue and many others like it yet to come," Orenstein wrote. "I conclude that it does not."

Apple's opposition to the government's tactics has evoked a national debate over digital privacy rights and national security. On Thursday, the Cupertino, California-based company formally objected to the California order, accusing the federal government of seeking "dangerous power" through the courts and of trampling on the company's constitutional rights.

The separate California case involves an iPhone 5C owned by San Bernardino County and used by Syed Farook, who was a health inspector. He and his wife Tashfeen Malik killed 14 people during a Dec. 2 attack that was at least partly inspired by the Islamic State group. The couple died later in a gun battle with police.

Orenstein, ruling with an eye to the California case, referenced it multiple times in a 50-page ruling and noted that the government request there was far more "intrusive."

The New York case features a government request far less onerous for Apple and its cellphone technology; the extraction technique exists for that older operating system and it's been used before some 70 times before to assist investigators.

Since late 2014, that physical extraction technique hasn't existed on newer iPhones. In California, U.S. Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym ordered investigators to create specialized software to help the FBI bypass security protocols on the encrypted phone so investigators can test random passcode combinations in rapid sequence to access its data.

The court ruling comes one day before a Tuesday congressional hearing that will include testimony from FBI Director James Comey and Apple General Counsel Bruce Sewell on encryption and "balancing Americans' security and privacy."

> *"Ultimately, the question to be answered in this matter, and in others like it across the country, is not whether the government should be able to force Apple to help it unlock a specific device; it is instead whether the All Writs Act resolves that issue and many others like it yet to come. I conclude that it does not."*
>
> U.S. Magistrate Judge James Orenstein

Orenstein said he was offering no opinion on whether in the instance of this case or others, "the government's legitimate interest in ensuring that no door is too strong to resist lawful entry should prevail against the equally legitimate societal interests arrayed against it here."

He noted Congress has not adopted legislation that would achieve the result sought by the government and said it must be discussed by "legislators who are equipped to consider the technological and cultural realities of a world their predecessors could not begin to conceive."

The Justice Department said in a statement that it's disappointed in the ruling and plans to appeal in coming days. It said Apple had previously agreed many times prior to assist the government and "only changed course when the government's application for assistance was made public by the court."

A senior Apple executive said company policy has been to give the government information when there's a lawful order to do so, but that in New York the judge never issued an order and instead asked attorneys about the constitutionality of the government's use of the All Writs Act. The executive spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a pending legal matter.

Apple has since declined to cooperate in a dozen more instances in four states involving government requests to aid criminal probes by retrieving data from individual iPhones.

for your information

Debbie Court (from left), Fran Hawke and founder Patricia Gomez love working with people and it shows, for 36 years now! Call them at 432-684-0527.

Staffing Resources celebrates 36 years of placing great workers in great jobs

"Congratulations on being able to serve Midland for all of these years," says one very happy employer. "WHAT A COMPANY!!!!!"

For 36 years this month, Staffing Resources has been eliciting comments like that from both employers and employees, as they play employment matchmaker across the Permian Basin. All this started very humbly in 1980.

"I started the company by myself in a one-room office on Ohio St." says founder Patricia Gomez. "All the paperwork was done by hand. One of our most common placements was for switchboard operators—who, in those days, plugged wires into the board to connect calls. Things have certainly changed!"

She moved from there into a two-room office, then to a three-room building on Missouri, landing finally at the current four-room location in the early 1990s.

"I started the business because I had worked for a couple of existing services and they just didn't do a good job of connecting with workers they had placed," Gomez recalls. "I found myself thinking, 'If I did this, I would keep in better touch with my employees.' About a year later, Staffing Resources (originally Temporary Resources) was born.

"I decided to commit my business to the Lord and to make Him part of my everyday work life," she adds.

Those attitudes have come through for both workers and employers. The employer quoted above also said, "Fran and Debbie care about me and they care about the people they send out into the job market. I just know when I call Staffing I have no worries, concerns, surprises or doubts that they will send a quality candidate for employment."

Another employer says, "I appreciate all of the staff there and their dedication to service that is so important to me as a Manager."

A longtime client of Staffing Resources says, "When the firm has a staffing issue Staffing Resources is our go-to solution. They have placed current staff members with the firm that collectively, as of 2016, have 40 years of service with the firm. We have been working well together for a long time."

People who've gotten jobs through Staffing Resources are just as pleased. One says, "I cannot express how grateful I am for the job…and also the prayers for my mom." Another says, "I appreciate all your hard work and dedication. I am thankful that you always seem to make me smile!"

After 36 years, Staffing Resources is STILL locally owned—and operated by hometown professionals who know the ropes and who care about you as an individual. Back to the Midland client quoted at the top of the story: "Staffing gives you the old time values that are needed at the job, they truly care about their product (people), and most of all they care about me."

Make your own connection with Staffing Resources today!

Call Staffing Resources at 684-0527 to start making your work life easier. Their web address is www.igotthejobs.com.

PAID CONTENT

for your information

To appear in *For Your Information* call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Midland Reporter-Telegram account executive at 682-5311.

Invest your income tax refund in a bright new look for your trusty work or school car from Allstar Refinishing and Collision. It's a great investment and much less costly than buying a new car in this economy. Allstar is at 4600 West Wall.

New car out of reach these days? Spend a fraction and give your old one a new look

Wouldn't it be great to buy a new vehicle right now? Maybe your old one has rattled down one too many lease roads or faded in the hot sun for too long. But right now, with the economy's uncertainty, buying a new car under any circumstances—cash or payments—is too risky for many people.

But if your old just looks terrible but you've kept the rest of it in good repair, there's another solution, says Allen Frasier of Allstar Refinishing and Collision. For as little as $499.95 for the most basic package, Allstar's production painting system will sand and repaint your old car with a bright, shiny new coat of paint and, at that price, give you a one-year warranty against fading or peeling.

You can do the conservative thing—go back with the original color or another factory look. That way you can slip quietly down the street without being noticed—at least not for a car whose body looks like it's barely survived a rollover off an overpass.

Or you could pick a bold color that says, "I'm free of the factory look!" There are packages that include pinstripes and other amenities.

Plus, the more advanced packages offer longer warranties and more protection against fading, designed to keep those colors clear and bright for even longer. The top option is the Five Star Package, which gives you a five-year warranty against fading, peeling and oxidation.

Not only will this give you years of great looks and protection against rust and corrosion, it will also enhance the salability of your car whenever you do decide to trade up to a new one.

Allstar's production painting system uses an assembly-line procedure to keep costs low and value high. You'll have your vehicle back in just a few days, with a whole new lease on life. Allstar staff may have to reintroduce you to your car—you may just not recognize it at first!

Another side effect of the downturn may be that you're getting extra tax money back come April. You can invest that in something that will give lasting value when you put it toward a bright new coat of paint for your favorite work or school car.

Allstar, in business for 37 years, is now helping its third generation of customers get their vehicles looking their best, and protecting the finish against rust.

Go by Allstar today and get a free estimate on how they can get your trusty old vehicle looking like brand new.

Allstar Refinishing and Collision's Collision and Express Rent-A-Car Center is located at 4600 West Wall. The phone number is 683-2761 and the web address is www.allstarmidland.com.

Bring springtime indoors with beautiful arrangements from Flowerland

It won't be long before the freshness of the season, like these Kalanchoes, is springing up everywhere, including Flowerland! Go by and see what exciting colors and collections you can get to enliven your own home. Flowerland is at 413 Andrews Highway.

Spring is coming very soon—with bright, fresh colors bursting forth everywhere. Why let all that joy and beauty remain outdoors? At Flowerland, the green leaves, bright colors and fragrances of springtime are arriving by the truckload every day, just waiting for you to bring it home!

You'll want to stop by Flowerland's refreshing showroom, maybe more than once, to take in the beautiful new colors that they're putting out daily in the most inviting arrangements you can imagine. Flowerland's Chief Designer, Chris Collum, AIFD, TMF, has combined the latest fashion designs from around the world with his own creativity to create amazingly fresh looks that are uniquely west Texas.

Where on the rainbow is your home's ambient design? What color defines your décor? Wherever you fall on the rainbow, you'll find your favorites at Flowerland. From light pastels to the season's brightest colors, it's all there.

When you go in, feel free to browse all you want. Chris has divided the showroom into clearly defined areas with appropriate combinations of colors, flowers and accessories all designed to get you to the "Wow!" And, of course, to get your friends and family to the same place when you take those arrangements home and add them to your décor.

If you see a design you like, but that just needs a couple of tweaks to make it perfect for your taste, be sure and ask. They can probably make that happen for you.

March is the time to "spring forward" and the times are changing weekly at Flowerland—so go by today and see what exciting colors you can capture in order to update your own home.

Go by Flowerland today—and again soon—and see how spring goes forward.

Flowerland is located at 413 Andrews Highway in Midland. The phone number is 682-1634. Flowerland is an FTD and Teleflora florist. Their web address is www.flowerland-midland.com.

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Are you a member of a secret society?

By Paul Wiseman
FYI Expert

My neighbor Jimmy and I tried to start some secret clubs when we were in grade school. We met in the dog house because it was that big—my dad had gotten it in a trade for a partially broken lawnmower or something. It was way too big for our beagle!

We were so successful that no one but the two of us ever joined these clubs. I remember one of them was called the "Gol-O-Lee Club" because we just sat around and moaned that phrase.

As a business owner, the *last* thing you want to be is a secret. If you find yourself sitting around saying, "Gol-O-Lee, where are the customers?" the MRT and Around the Oil Patch (in Sunday's Oil Report), Healthy Living (Monday's paper) or FYI (Tuesday's paper) can help you reach more customers.

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Every week, 75.4 percent of adults 55 and older, 70.9 percent adults aged 35 or older and 56.5 percent of adults ages 18-34 read the paper, either in print, online or in an e-edition. These are potential customers! Lots of readers buy the Sunday paper especially for the Oil Report. What other media outlet has that kind of following?

By reading this far you've verified that stories grab your attention—and that's what these pages are about! In about 500 words we'll tell your story clearly, concisely and, best of all, enthusiastically, generating more business for you.

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Ready to start filling more orders? Call me or your MRT representative and tell us your story so we can tell your secret to everyone, and get your phone ringing and your door swinging.

To learn more call me at 697-7468 or talk to your MRT representative. Let's talk about how to spread the word about your business—all over town.

for your information around the oil patch

Obama is not off the hook for Trump's rise

ROSS DOUTHAT
New York Times News Service

The spectacle of the Republican Party's Trumpian meltdown has inspired a mix of glee and fear among liberals — glee over their rivals' self-immolation, and fear that what arises from the destruction will be worse.

What it hasn't inspired is much in the way of self-examination, or a recognition of the way that Obama-era trends in liberal politics have helped feed the Trump phenomenon.

Such a recognition wouldn't require letting the Republican Party off the hook. The Trump uprising is first and foremost a Republican and conservative problem: There would be no Trumpism if George W. Bush's presidency hadn't cratered, no Trumpism if the party hadn't alternated between stoking and ignoring working-class grievances, no Trump as front-runner if the party leadership and his rivals had committed fully to stopping him before now.

But Trumpism is also a creature of the late Obama era, irrupting after eight years when a charismatic liberal president has dominated the cultural landscape and set the agenda for national debates. President Obama didn't give us Trump in any kind of Machiavellian or deliberate fashion. But it isn't an accident that this is the way the Obama era ends — with a reality TV demagogue leading a populist, nationalist revolt.

First, the reality TV element in Trump's campaign is a kind of fun-house-mirror version of the celebrity-saturated Obama effort in 2008. Presidential politics has long had an escalating celebrity component, a cultish side that's grown ever-more-conspicuous with time. But the first Obama campaign raised the bar. The quasi-religious imagery and rhetoric, the Great Man iconography and pillared sets, the Oprah endorsement and Will.i.am music video and the Hollywood stars pledging allegiance — it was presidential politics as one part Aaron Sorkin-scripted liturgy, one part prestige movie's Oscar campaign.

And it worked. But because it worked, now we have the nearly inevitable next step: presidential politics as a season of "Survivor" or, well, "The Apprentice," with the same celebrity factor as Obama's '08 run, but with his campaign's high-middlebrow pretensions stripped away. If Obama proved that you can run a presidential campaign as an aspirational cult of personality, in which a Sarah Silverman endorsement counts for as much as a governor or congressman's support, Trump is proving that you don't need Silverman to shout "the Aristocrats!" and have people eat it up.

He's also proving, in his bullying, overpromising style, that voters are increasingly habituated to the idea of an ever more imperial presidency — which is also a trend that Obama's choices have accelerated. Having once campaigned against his predecessor's power grabs, the current president has expanded executive authority along almost every dimension: launching wars without congressional approval, claiming the power to assassinate American citizens, and using every available end-around to make domestic policy without any support from Congress.

In the process, he's cut the legs from under principled liberal critiques of executive power, and weakened the American left's role as a bulwark against Caesarism. Which makes it altogether fitting — if deeply unfortunate — that his reward is the rise of a right-wing Caesarist whose authoritarian style and outrageous promises makes George W. Bush look like Cato the Younger.

And that Caesarist, crucially, is rallying a constituency that once swung between the parties, but that the Obama White House has spent the last eight years slowly writing off. Trump's strongest supporters aren't archconservatives; they're white working-class voters, especially in the Rust Belt and coal country, who traditionally leaned Democratic and still favor a strong welfare state.

These voters had been drifting away from the Democratic Party since the 1970s, but Obama has made moves that effectively slam the door on them: His energy policies, his immigration gambits, his gun control push, his shift to offense on same-sex marriage and abortion. It was possible to be a culturally conservative skeptic of mass immigration in the Democratic Party of Bill Clinton. Not so anymore.

Of course this process has been a two-way street, as bigotry inclined some of these voters against Obama from the start, or encouraged them to think the worst of him eventually. And political coalitions shift all the time: There's nothing inherently wrong with the Obama White House's decision that a more ethnically diverse and thoroughgoingly liberal coalition held more promise than continued efforts to keep Reagan Democrats in the fold. (Though Democrats in Congress and statehouses might be forgiven for doubting the decision.)

But liberalism still needs to reckon with the consequences. As in Europe, when the left gives up on nationalism and lets part of its old working class base float away, the result is a hard-pressed constituency unmoored from either party, and nursing well-grounded feelings of betrayal.

Hence Marine Le Pen and the nationalist parties of Europe. And hence, now, Donald Trump.

He is the Republican Party's monster, yes. But what he represents is also part of the Obama legacy — a nemesis for liberal follies as well as conservative corruptions, and a threat to both traditions for many years to come.

OUR VIEW

Business owners ultimately are responsible for making sure ADA laws are followed

It is sad we have people preying on business in our community to make a quick buck in the name of disability advocacy. That is how some see the lawsuits facing nearly 30 Midland businesses by two local plaintiffs and their Florida-based lawyers. The reason for the lawsuits are alleged and very real violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

These "drive-by" suits — as they were called in an op-ed by the Midland Chamber of Commerce — leave us with a bad feeling. As a lawyer representing businesses around Midland stated, it is as if "(the plaintiffs) got in a van and drove around looking for parking problems, and they look for parking problems because you can do that without getting out of the car. ...

"You would expect a lawyer to send (a) demand letter, but they don't. And the reason they don't is because they don't want the problem fixed before they can file a lawsuit because only when they file a lawsuit do they have the leverage to enter into a settlement to get some money."

As the lawyers representing local businesses stated, if violations exist, those problems should be fixed. This is not in dispute, which brings us to the bigger problem. There are people involved in local businesses without being clear about what it means to be in business.

Some believe businesses face too many government regulations. But if you are going to be responsible for running a business, you owe it to yourself and the community to know all the rules, ordinances and laws. While we hope there isn't a penny made on these "drive-by" lawsuits, they have raised the issue that there are businesses not compliant with the Americans with Disability Act, and that is not acceptable.

There may be business owners who don't think they should have to spend money to meet the law's requirements. That person is welcome to his or her opinion, but that isn't an excuse for not following the law.

We appreciate efforts being made to educate local businesses on the ADA. The Chamber of Commerce is offering informational meetings on Wednesday. We hope businessmen and women attend and find out what improvements they may need to make.

Because if a person goes into business, it is up to him or her to be aware of rules and regulations. It is not the responsibility of government or people driving around to educate anyone.

Informational meeting about Americans with Disabilities Act requirements

When: Wednesday
Time: 11 a.m. or 3 p.m.
Location: Junior League of Midland, 902 W. Dengar
Speaker: R.W. Gregonis, registered accessibility specialist
Participation is free; registration is required www.MidlandTX-Chamber.com

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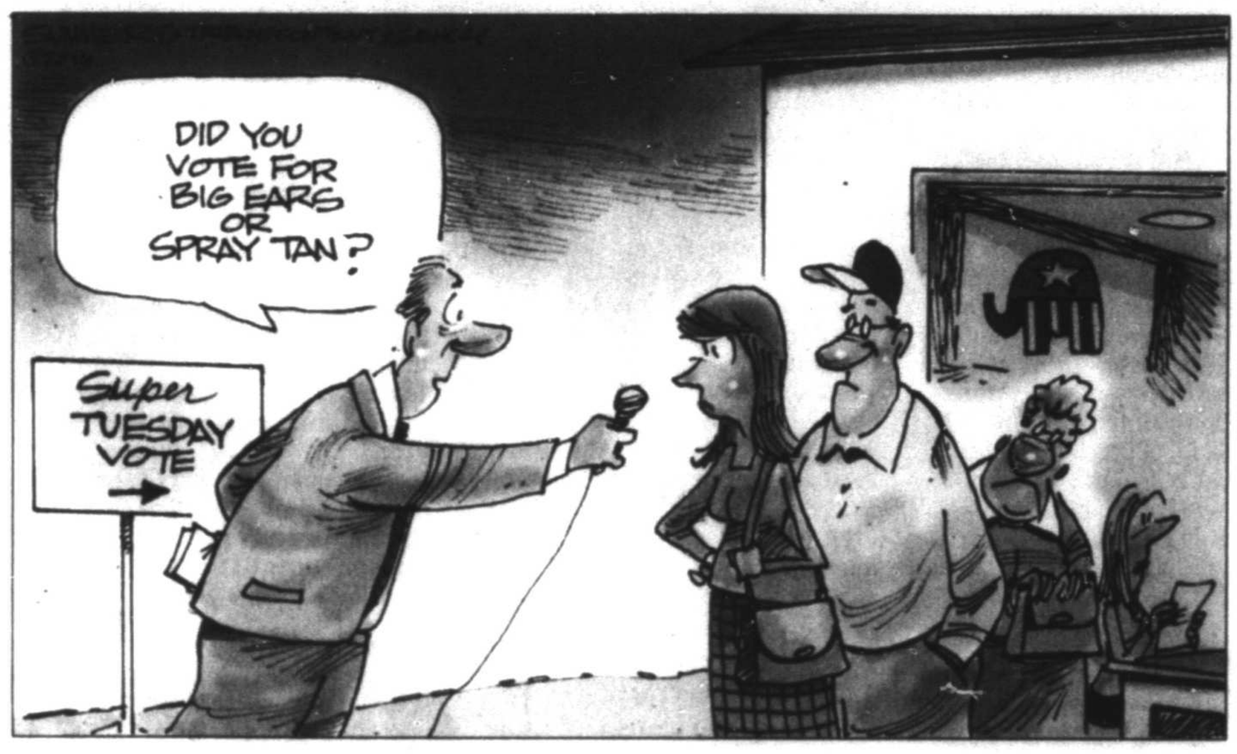

It's put up or shut up for Cruz

KEN HERMAN
Austin American-Statesman

Key questions every GOP candidate not named Donald J. Trump had to confront during prep for Thursday night's GOP presidential debate:

Do I want to aggressively attack Trump as the ill-prepared, ill-tempered, ill-mannered, curiously coiffed charlatan of a carnival barker that he is?

Or do I want to be his running mate?

Kind of a tough call. There are worse things in this world than being Trump's running mate (though none immediately come to mind). And if Trump crashes and burns as the nominee — assuming the charred debris doesn't fall on your head — being his running mate could put you in line for the 2020 nomination.

And, if somehow Trump becomes president, his veep could be advantageously situated for when Trump's head explodes when Mexico opts not to pay for the wall.

All of this crossed my mind predebate as we pondered just how nasty the event would get. History, of course, is replete with White House candidates who said bad things about each other and then became running mates. It's kind of an odd tradition in The Greatest Nation Ever.

Early on, it was clear U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas weren't worrying about running mate status or about saying things that could come up when and if the time comes for them to embrace Trump as their party's nominee. With the front-runner standing between them, the Rubio-Cruz tag team made a Cuban-American sandwich of the part-hammy, part-cheesy Trump, with Rubio often taking the lead.

Among Cruz's better shots was an obviously rehearsed one questioning Trump's dedication to the anti-illegal-immigration cause:

"I really find it amazing that Donald believes that he is the one who discovered the issue of illegal immigration," Cruz said. "I can tell you, when I ran for Senate here in the state of Texas, I ran promising to lead the fight against amnesty, promising to fight to build a wall. And in 2013, when I was fighting against the 'gang of eight' amnesty bill, where was Donald? He was firing Dennis Rodman on 'Celebrity Apprentice.'"

Good one, but I thought Rubio, thinking quickly on his feet, did the best job of exposing Trump for an empty suit when it comes to some difficult topics. You know, the ones Trump says he can quickly and easily solve because he's built apartments in Manhattan.

The topic was Obamacare and exactly what Trump would replace it with. For Rubio, it was an attack based in part on his own infamous and repetitious defense against now-ex-candidate Chris Christie in the recent New Hampshire debate.

"Now he's repeating himself," Rubio said as Trump failed to answer the health care question.

"I don't repeat myself. Here's the guy who repeats himself," Trump shot back. "I watched him repeat himself five times four weeks ago."

Rubio: "I saw you repeat yourself five times five seconds ago."

And Rubio ended the exchange with this on-point summary of Trump's campaign: "Everyone's dumb. He's going to make America great again. He's going to win, win, win; he's winning in the polls."

CNN's Dana Bash tried to restore order by asking Trump, who still hadn't fully answered the health care question, if he had anything to add.

"No, there's nothing to add," Trump said. "What's to add?"

At another point, Rubio summed up Trump's success in life thusly: "Here's a guy that inherited $200 million. If he hadn't inherited $200 million, you know where Donald Trump would be right now? Selling watches in Manhattan."

Trump, characteristically, resorted to offense when the moment called for defense.

"This guy's a choke artist," he said of Rubio.

"And this guy's a liar," he said of Cruz.

So there's that for the Democrats.

All in all, it made for a decent night for Cruz to the extent it hurts Trump in Texas. Right now, Texas is what matters most for Cruz, who might not have a chance of beating Trump in any of the other 11 nominating contests today. Cruz is in a tricky position. He also doesn't want Rubio to accumulate many, if any, delegates in Texas. But not losing to Trump is Cruz's top immediate priority.

If Cruz somehow loses his home state, we may very well have seen the last of him on the debate stage.

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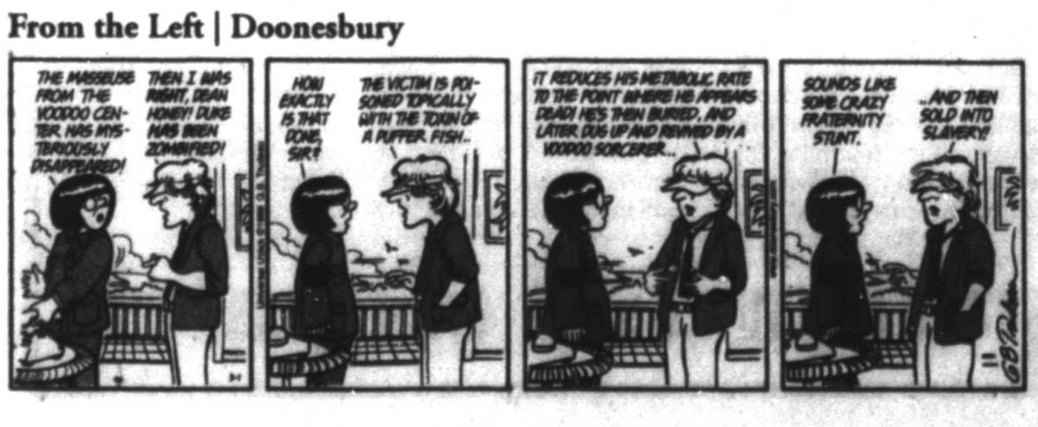
From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Live Trivia by Challenge Entertainment. 7 p.m., Basin Burger House.

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

Support groups, club meetings today

■ Survivors of sexual abuse; interactive Bible study to help deal with the consequences of sexual abuse meets Tuesdays. Child care available; House of Hope, 570-5935.

■ Pop-Up Toasters Toastmasters Club, 6:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church's Family Life Center - Room 228, 800 W. Texas Ave.; 432-242-2061 or popuptoasters@gmail.com.

■ The Helping Hand Metastatic Cancer Support Group, noon, Texas Tech Physicians of the Permian Basin Clinic, Room 210B. Lunch will be served. To RSVP , call Amber Chavez at 620-1023.

■ Parent Quest, for parents of special needs children, 6-8 p.m., First Christian Church. For more information, contact Malissa Roach, SHARE program coordinator, at 349-1069.

■ Midland Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church (Koinonoa Room); Judith Craig, 683-3648.

■ Overeaters Anonymous; 7-8 p.m., B&J Plaza, 206 N. Midkiff Road, Suite 1-D; 553-1031.

■ Classic Movie Club, 7 p.m., Cigar Frog's, 216 N. Main St.; 687-1671.

■ Permian Basin Dance Club with live country western bands, 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m., St. Stephen's ballroom, 4601 Neely St. 432-520-4343 or 432-296-9840.

Military support groups today

■ A confidential peer-to-peer support gathering for combat veterans, at Midland College Cogdell Center, 201 Florida Ave.; Steve Cree, 770-7469.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m., Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 403; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.

■ VFW Post 4149 Women's and Men's auxiliaries, 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively, 409 Veterans Airpark Lane, 684-9226.

■ Tall City VFW Post 7208, 1303 E. Taylor, bingo games 7 p.m.

Honor those who served

"There are many organizations in operation right here in the Permian Basin that are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:

■ Show of Support (687-2167)

■ Honor Our Troops (889-0177), Reel Thanx (528-6633)

■ Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)

■ Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (685-4511)

■ Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (366-3458)

■ Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (631-3429)

Community calendar

■ Midland Odessa Symphony & Chorale's Permian Basin String Quartet will present a concert 5:30-6:30 p.m. today at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. The free concert — the first in a series planned for the MCPL — is scheduled to entertain voters expected for the primary election.

■ The Aaron Estes Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Midland County Historical Society and the Haley Memorial Library will host the annual Texas Independence Day celebration — "Toast to Texas" — 1:30 p.m.Wednesday at the Haley.

The annual observance includes raising a ceremonial flag as re-enactors fire a volley of muskets. Students who won the Aaron Estes Chapter's essay contest will read their essays. The winners are Hillander School fourth-grader Cal Heidelberg and Midland Christian School seventh-grader Tanner Hedrick.

■ Midland Municipal Court and the Midland Police Department are participating in the 2016 Great Texas Warrant Roundup starting Monday. More than 300 law enforcement agencies across the state will be serving outstanding warrants.

Notices have been mailed to residents with active warrants informing them that they should deal with the warrant to prevent being arrested next week.

Citations can be paid at www.midlandmunicipalcourt.com or at the courthouse, 406 E. Illinois Ave., with cash, money order or credit card. Personal checks aren't accepted.

Courthouse hours are 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday. For warrant information, call Municipal Court at 685-7308 or 685-7314.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 0-3-1
Pick 3 day: 6-8-0
Pick 3 evening: 7-8-3
Pick 3 night: 3-2-2
Daily 4 morning: 2-0-3-6
Daily 4 day: 3-2-7-9
Daily 4 evening: 2-2-6-2
Daily 4 night: 2-4-9-1
Cash Five: 01-18-29-33-35
Texas Two Step: 02-05-25-33, Bonus: 26
All or Nothing morning: 02-03-04-08-07-09-10-11-12-14-15-24
All or Nothing day: 01-03-07-09-10-11-13-15-16-18-20-22
All or Nothing evening: 02-06-07-09-11-12-13-15-17-18-20-23
All or Nothing night: 01-03-04-05-07-12-14-16-17-18-20-24

WHERE TO VOTE TODAY

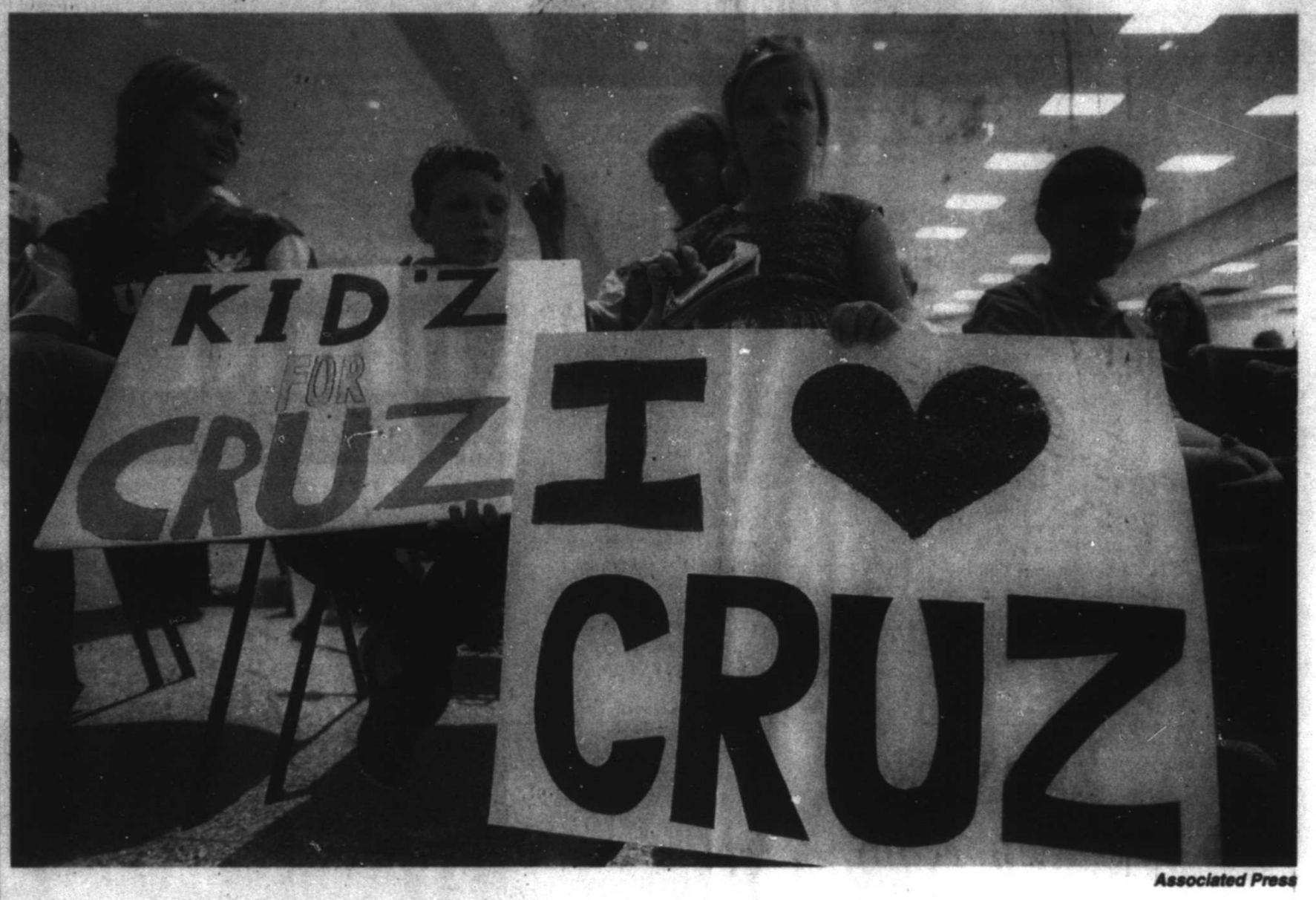
Primary Election Day is today. Voters may cast a ballot at any one of the vote centers. Polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

The vote centers are:

■ Midland County Annex, 2110 N. "A" St.
■ Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.
■ Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.
■ Cogdell Learning Center, 211 W. Florida Ave.
■ Cotton Flat Baptist Church, 6409 S. Highway 349.
■ Fairmont Park Church of Christ, 3813 N. Midland Drive.
■ Fellowship Community Church, 5206 N. Midland Drive.
■ Golf Course Road Church of Christ, 3500 W. Golf Course Road.
■ Greater Ideal Baptist Church Life Center, 301 S. Tyler St.
■ Greenwood Baptist Church, 10906 Farm-to-Market Road 307.
■ Manor Park, 5212 Sinclair Ave.
■ MLK Jr. Community Center, 2300 Butternut Lane.
■ Odessa Country Club, No. 1 Fairway.
■ Palmer Drug Abuse Program building, 1208 W. Wall St.
■ St. Paul's Methodist Church, 4501 Thomason Drive.
■ Stonegate Fellowship, 6000 W. Wadley Ave.

Election concert

Don't miss the symphony's Permian Basin String Quartet performing a free concert live at the Centennial Library for voters who have to wait in line during the afterwork rush, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.



Associated Press

Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, wait in their seats before a campaign appearance by Cruz on Monday in San Antonio.

Texas shapes Super Tuesday, has state race drama

By Will Weissert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Without Texas, today wouldn't be so super.

The state is the largest of 12 holding "Super Tuesday" presidential primary elections in one or both parties, and its 155 Republican and 252 Democratic delegates could reshape both parties' nomination battles. It takes 1,237 Republican National Convention delegates to win the GOP's nomination and 2,382 delegates to secure the Democratic one.

All 36 of Texas' U.S. House seats also are up, but only a few races appear competitive in the primary. And GOP control of both the Texas Senate and House won't change, but some establishment Republicans could be tested by tea party-backed challengers, while other tea party legislators may be put to the test themselves.

Here are some key questions that could be answered:

Home state advantage?

Ted Cruz is Texas' junior senator, claims 27,000 volunteers statewide and was endorsed by Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, former Gov. Rick Perry and many top state Republicans in Congress and the Legislature.

Amid expectations he'll lock up his home state, however, Cruz still appears to face a dogfight with New York billionaire Donald Trump and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. That means Cruz supporters could face a scary proposition should their candidate lose in his must-win home state.

Even the Texas winner may not take all, though. Garnering 50-plus percent of the statewide vote guarantees just 47 Republican delegates, while taking the remaining 108 will require capturing a majority of the votes cast in each congressional district.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, is not from Texas but has decades-long ties to its Democratic base and is favored over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The Texas Democratic primary winner statewide locks up 77 delegates, while 145 will be allocated based on the results in each of the 31 state Senate districts. The final 30 are super delegates who can back any candidate in July, at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Congressional drama?

Powerful House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady is among 13 Texas Republican congressional incumbents facing primary opponents. Brady has challengers from the right in a four-way primary, and may be forced into a runoff May 24 if no one wins a majority today. That's when things could get really dangerous for him.

On the Democratic side, 12-term U.S. Rep. Gene Green has drawn his first serious primary challenger in years from former Harris County Sherriff Adrian Garcia. The Houston-centric district is nearly 80 percent Hispanic.

Fellow Democratic U.S. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa is retiring. Among six Democrats vying for the party nomination for his South Texas seat is Dolly Elizondo, who is trying to become the first Hispanic woman to represent Texas in Congress. A runoff may be necessary.

That's also the case in the West Texas district where U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer is retiring and hasn't endorsed any of the nine Republicans running to replace him.

Tea party takedowns?

In the Texas House, some conservative insurgents are aiming to topple establishment Republicans — even as other tea party-backed legislators could find themselves ousted by more-moderate challengers.

House Speaker Joe Straus is facing a pair of challengers from the right in his San Antonio district, while tea party-backed candidates are hoping to upset Straus lieutenants Rep. Byron Cook of Corsicana and Fort Worth Rep. Charlie Geren.

Meanwhile, Reps. Jonathan Stickland of Bedford and Molly White of Belton, leading tea party voices in the chamber, are facing primary challenges. Irving Rep. Matt Rinaldi is competing with former state lawmaker Bennett Ratliff, who lost to Rinaldi by fewer than 100 votes during 2014's Republican primary.

Early winner?

During the governor's race two years ago, 53 percent of Texas voters cast ballots before Election Day, and early voting topped 63 percent of all ballots cast during the November 2012 presidential election. That means Texas' primary could be decided long before the polls even open today.

More than 1.7 million votes — representing 12 percent of registered statewide voters — were cast through the end of early voting on Friday. Of those, about 450,000 were in the Democratic primary and nearly 660,000 in the Republican one. It won't be clear until after today, though, what percentage of the overall number of votes cast those tallies represent.

Turnout turnaround?

During the 2012 presidential race, Texas held its primary in May, after the Republican nomination had been locked up by Mitt Romney, and with no one challenging the sitting Democratic president for his party's nomination. This cycle, Texas deliberately moved up to Super Tuesday, seeking outsized influence on still-competitive nomination races.

Turnout this time could be closer to March 2008, when the much-watched race between Clinton and Barack Obama saw more than 2.8 million Texans, or nearly 23 percent of statewide registered voters, participate in the Democratic primary. More than 1.3 million Republicans, or nearly 11 percent of the state's registered voters, cast ballots in that year's Republican primary, featuring John McCain and Mike Huckabee.

GOP split on Trump heading into Super Tuesday

VALDOSTA, Ga. — On the eve of Super Tuesday's crucial primaries, a sharp, new divide erupted between Republicans who pledge to fall in line behind Donald Trump if he wins their party's nomination and others who insist they can never back the bombastic billionaire.

The fissure could have major implications beyond the primaries, exposing the looming challenges in uniting the party after the election, no matter who wins.

Nebraska's Ben Sasse, a rising star among conservatives, became the first current senator to publicly raise the prospect of backing a third-party option if Trump clinches the nomination. In a letter posted on Facebook late Sunday, Sasse urged Republicans to consider whether a party led by Trump would still represent their interests.

"If our party is no longer working for the things we believe in — like defending the sanctity of life, stopping Obamacare, protecting the Second Amendment, etc. — then people of good conscience should stop supporting that party until it is reformed," he wrote.

The Associated Press asked Republican senators and governors across the country if they would support Trump if he secured the nomination. Just under half of those who responded would not commit to backing him, foreshadowing a potentially extraordinary break this fall.

"I am increasingly concerned by Donald Trump's statements and behavior, and I have serious concerns about his ability to win the general election and provide presidential leadership," Indiana Sen. Dan Coats said in a statement to the AP.

The concern among Republican leaders appeared to grow in light of Trump's refusal to immediately disavow former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke's support.

Mitt Romney, the party's 2012 nominee, called that "disqualifying." And South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, campaigning in Atlanta alongside Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, said she would "not stop fighting a man who refuses to disavow the KKK."

Trump said he had not understood the interviewer who first raised the question about Duke, and he did later repudiate him. "How many times do I have to continue to disavow people?" he said.

Several high-profile Republicans and conservative writers have embraced an anti-Trump social media campaign, using the Twitter hashtag "NeverTrump."

Trump has won three of four early primary contests, rolling a party that had assumed his populist appeal with voters would fizzle. Instead, he's only grown stronger and appears to be in commanding position heading into Super Tuesday, the biggest single-day delegate haul of the year.

Tensions boiled over during Trump's rally Monday in Radford, Virginia, where he was repeatedly disrupted by demonstrators, including 20 or more chanting "Black lives matter." At another point, he asked a protester, "Are you from Mexico?" after he was interrupted during remarks about immigration. He ordered several people to be removed, then cast himself as a unifying political force.

"Believe it or not, we're going to unify this country," he said.

If Trump sweeps most of the states up for grabs today, he could amass a delegate lead that would be difficult for any rival to overcome. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is banking on a win in his home state to keep him in the race, while Rubio wants to stay close in the delegate count until the primary hits his home state of Florida on March 15.

Meanwhile, Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is solidifying her lead. Like Trump, Clinton could begin putting her party's nomination out of reach for rival Bernie Sanders with a strong showing on Super Tuesday.

As Trump has rolled through the early voting states, he's received enthusiastic endorsements from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, one of the most vocal opponents of immigration-law changes on Capitol Hill. Several other party officials have said they would back the real estate mogul if he does become the nominee, though some say their support would be reluctant.

"I'm a Republican and I will support the nominee," Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said Monday. "I do not think he is our best nominee, but I will support the nominee."

Associated Press

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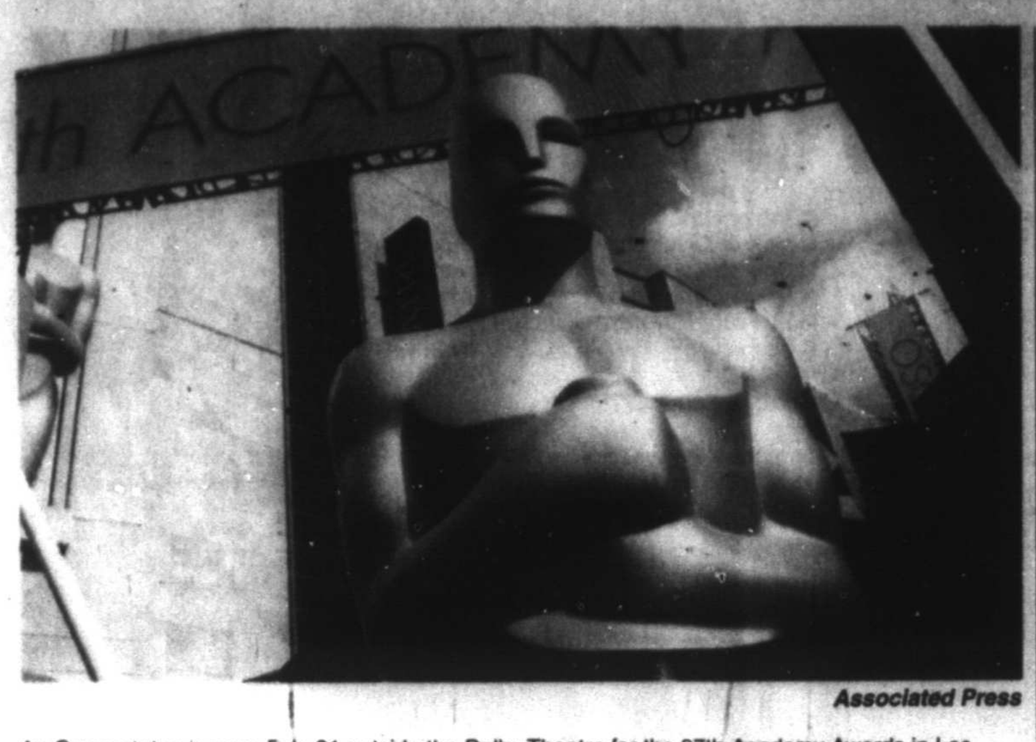
To count the stars in a galaxy at a rate of one every second it would take about 3,000 years to count them all.

In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.



Associated Press

An Oscar statue is seen Feb. 21 outside the Dolby Theatre for the 87th Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Critics of Oscars show say diversity talk was too narrow

By Hillel Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As Felix Sanchez watched the Academy Awards ceremony, he kept wondering when all the talk of diversity from host Chris Rock and others would itself become more diverse.

"I was shocked that Latinos and Asians and Native Americans were not a part of this conversation," says Sanchez, chairman and co-founder of the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, based in Washington, D.C.

"They have this idea that the paradigm is still black-white and they need to expand the conversation. That it was so narrow is indefensible."

The all-white list of acting nominees led to widespread criticism in the weeks leading up to Sunday night's show and to the hashtag movement OscarsSoWhite. Rock was praised for introducing an unusual level of candor about race to the telecast, but his comments were almost exclusively about blacks, and the show overall made only brief references to other minorities.

In one segment, three Asian children carrying briefcases walked out on stage and were introduced as PricewaterhouseCoopers accountants, an apparent reference to Asians being good at math.

"If anybody's upset about that joke, just tweet about it on your phone, which was also made by these kids," Rock said.

Mee Moua, president and executive director of the Washington-based Asian Americans Advancing Justice, said in a statement Monday that the show was a setback for diversity.

"Last night's ceremony, and particularly the 'joke' involving Asian children, which played off more than one damaging stereotype of Asians and Asian Americans, exposed one of the failings of how we talk about race in America: race relations are not a black-white binary," she said.

"It is to all of our detriment to look at race narrowly. We need to work together to dismantle the systems that devalue the experiences of minority groups so we can see the tales of the diversity that have shaped our nation reflected accurately.

A publicist for Rock, Leslie Sloane, said Monday that he was unavailable for comment. And the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sanchez said that he watched closely to see if any attendees were wearing brown ribbons, which Eva Longoria and others had suggested as a protest against the absence of Hispanics.

"I didn't see one person wearing the brown ribbon," he said.

Some at the Oscars did make broader calls for diversity. "The Revenant" filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, in his acceptance speech, urged "our generation to really liberate ourselves from all prejudice and ... make sure for once and forever that the color of the skin becomes as irrelevant as the length of our hair."

Oscars get lowest rating since 2008

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Academy Awards viewership dipped to its lowest level since 2008 in a year where the movie industry's ability to reflect the nation's diversity was a central issue.

The Nielsen company said Monday preliminary estimates showed 34.3 million people watched Sunday night's telecast, where "Spotlight" won best picture. Last year's show was seen by 37.3 million people.

Since 1990, only two Academy Awards telecasts had fewer viewers: in 2008, when "No Country For Old Men" won best picture, and in 2004, when "Chicago" was honored. The peak came when "Titanic" won a boatload of awards in 1998 and 55 million people tuned in.

The paucity of minority nominees this year led to calls for a boycott among some black stars, including Jada Pinkett Smith and Spike Lee. But Nielsen did not immediately have any ethnic breakdown of Oscar viewership. Generally, the popularity of movies being honored tends to be the biggest factor in whether the audience for the live telecast is up or down.

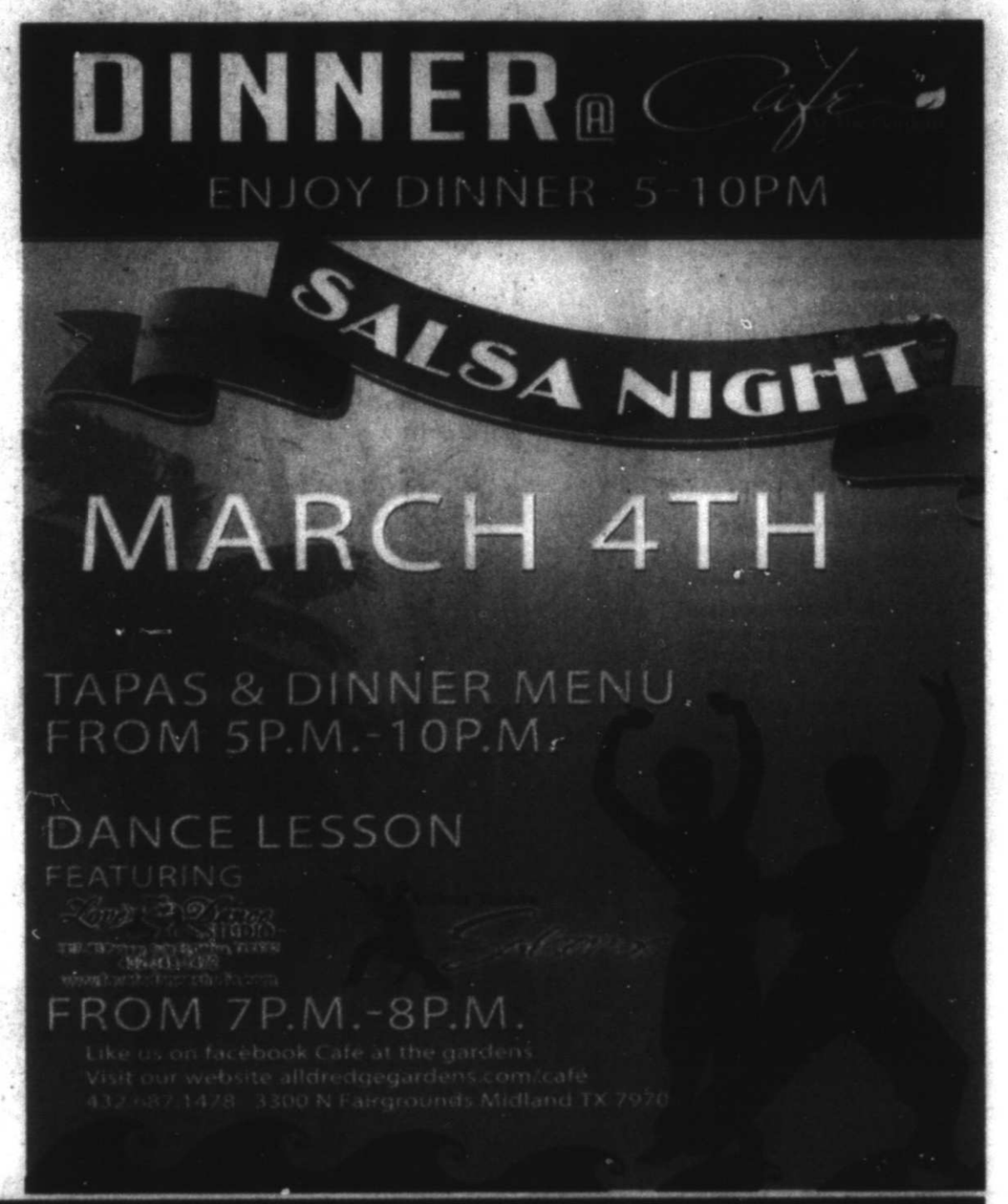
Rock, in his second time hosting, hardly stayed away from the diversity issue. He peppered the audience with his first three jokes on the topic within 25 seconds.

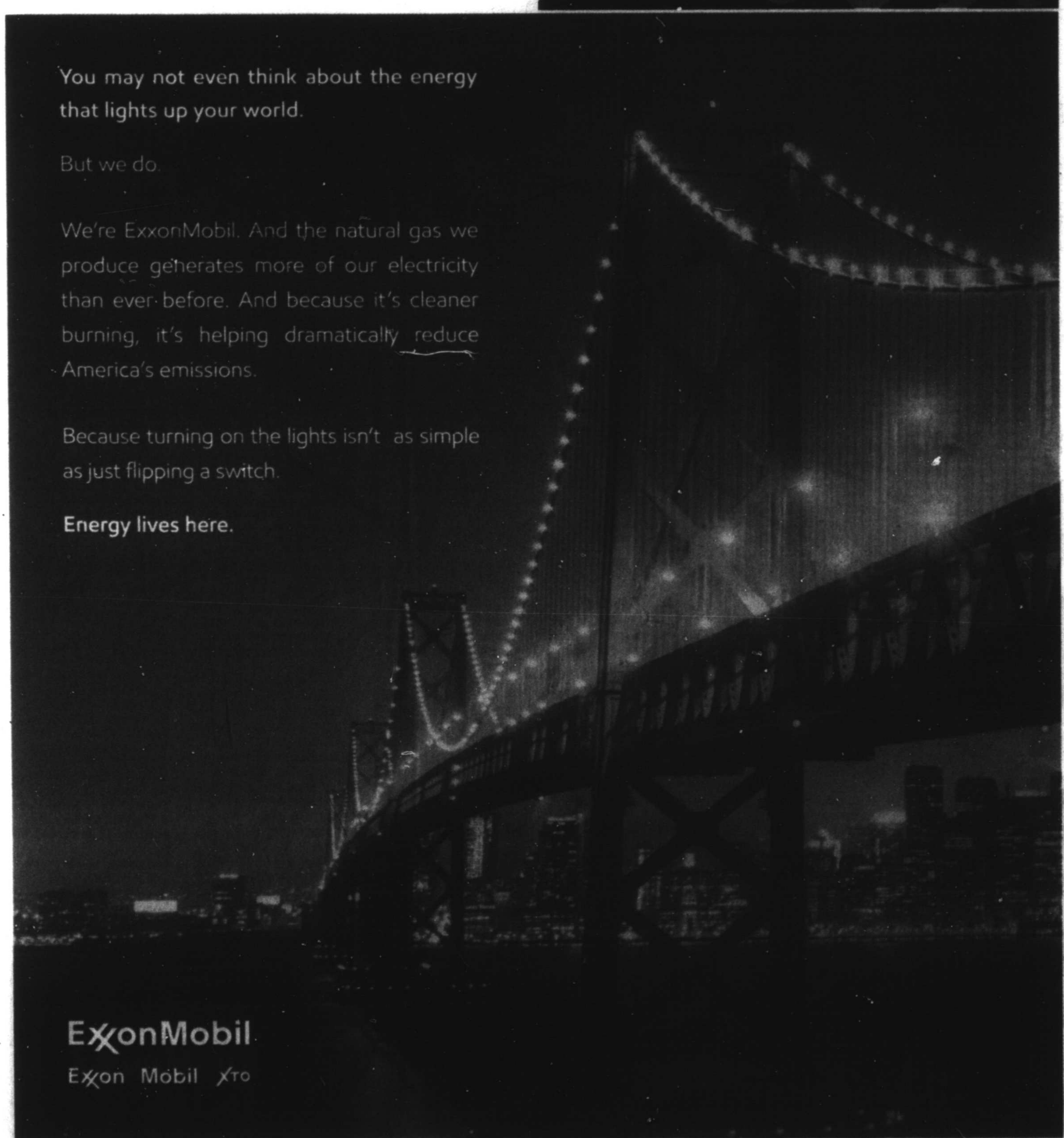
The most recent awards shows, the Golden Globes and Grammys, also saw ratings declines. The Globes, which honor film and television, were seen by 18.5 million people, down from 19.3 million in 2015. The Grammy telecast hit a seven-year low in viewership.

Many years, the Oscars are television's biggest event after the Super Bowl.

The final half hour of ABC's pre-show telecast was watched by 22.2 million people, down from 23.8 million last year, Nielsen said.

Twitter marked a milestone, however: Leonardo DiCaprio's best actor award generated 440,000 tweets in a minute, the fastest ever counted at the Academy Awards. The previous Twitter highlight came two years ago when Ellen DeGeneres made her star-studded selfie.

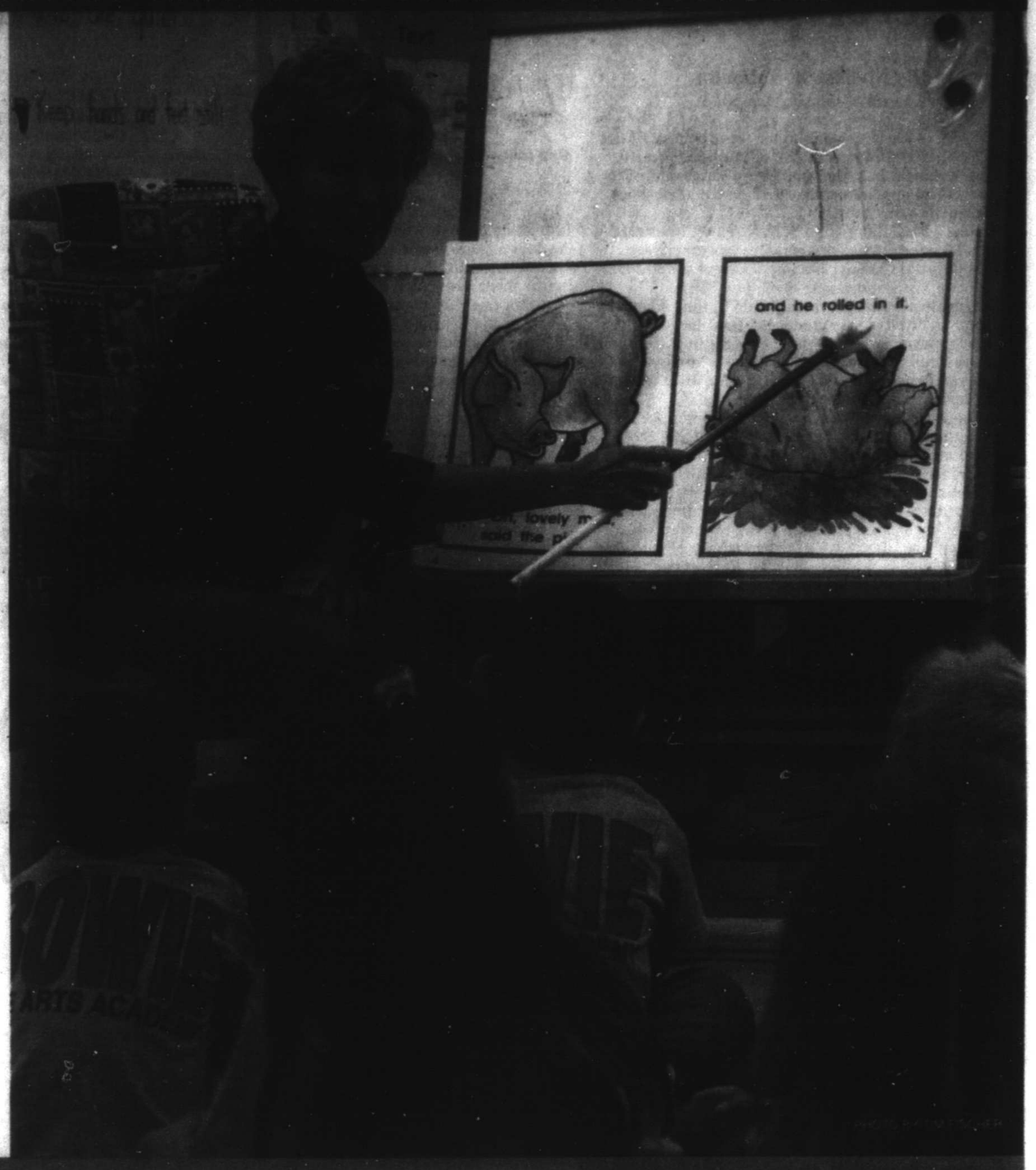




PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM PRESENT

Classroom Pioneers

CELEBRATING INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL LEADERS



Debbie Billups

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT BOWIE FINE ARTS ACADEMY

When Debbie Billups entered the field of education 23 years ago, she didn't quite understand the impact educators have on the lives of students.

"Over the years, after learning much from students and fellow workers, I realize what a high calling it is to be an educator," said Billups, a kindergarten teacher at Bowie Fine Arts Academy. "We are entrusted to effectively and appropriately teach students and instill in their lives a desire and love for learning."

Billups holds a bachelor's of science in kindergarten, vocational home economics and English as a second language.

Before moving to Midland five years ago, Billups taught six years at a private school in Tyler and 12 years in Denton ISD.

Billups and her husband, Bob, have three sons. Eldest son, Jared, is married to Krystal, and they have blessed the Billups with three grandchildren, Karoline, Klare and Kade. Middle son, Brandon, is married to Brigette, and have blessed them with one grandchild, Beckett. Youngest son, Ryan, is married to Becky.

Q&A with the Pioneer

How, and why, do you make a difference in Midland's educational landscape?

Teaching is a calling. I love my job and what I do. I am very blessed to work at Bowie where all the administration, teachers and support staff make a difference in students' lives. The students at Bowie are not only engaged in successful learning, critical thinking and problem-solving, but they are encouraged to be the best they can be, and they are truly loved by all who work at Bowie. The students are valued and held in high esteem. Every teacher at Bowie provides a student-centered environment where active learning takes place. Learning is meaningful and meets the needs of each student. Each classroom provides a safe and supportive environment where there are many opportunities for students to succeed.

How have you moved beyond the basic curriculum and found innovative ways to reach your students?

There are many resources available to teachers. Our district provides excellent curriculum for teachers to use in teaching students the academic skills required. Our principal, Mrs. (Laurie) Sherrod, provides teachers with many resources to supplement and enhance teaching and learning. We have participated in numerous training opportunities such as thinking maps, writing, professional learning community and TEKS training, to only name a few.

What is the one lesson you want to impart on every student who enters your classroom?

My goal is for every student to feel loved, secure, safe and inspired to do their best.

How do you inspire your peers, colleagues and others aiming to make a difference in Midland ISD?

Honestly, I am the one who is inspired by those I work with everyday. I am encouraged and learn something new from a colleague daily. I work very closely with the kindergarten teachers at my school. We share ideas and encourage each other in problem-solving. We work together to create a classroom where students learn but also have fun.

Has the role of being an educator changed since your first year as a teacher? If so, how?

There are many more demands on students and teachers since I began teaching more than 20 years ago. Students are more challenged academically. Kindergarten is now what first grade used to be. Teachers are constantly looking for ways to differentiate instruction to meet the needs and support each learner.

How have you implemented technology into your classroom and instruction model?

Technology is an invaluable tool for teachers to use in the classroom. We use the SmartBoard, which is a large interactive white board that uses touch recognition. It provides students with hands-on interaction to inspire learning. Our kindergarten classrooms are also provided with computers and iPads. Students work on fun and educational programs that are provided by the district. We use the document camera to enlarge print displayed on the SmartBoard to help students see the lessons.

What are your professional goals for the future?

I plan to finish my career in the classroom. I strive to play a vital role in the lives of my students and build a strong foundation that will set the stage for the rest of their education.

What is the greatest challenge to being an educator in Midland today?

One of the greatest challenges that educators face today is helping every student reach their full potential. It is every educator's goal for students to leave their classrooms well-prepared and ready to meet the challenges ahead.

What support can Midlanders provide you and other educators?

The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" is very true. It is the highest responsibility of the community, schools and parents to ensure that all students receive the highest quality of education. When communities, schools and parents work together, students are the ones who benefit.

Mrs. Billups is a flexible, take-charge person

Debbie Billups is truly a remarkable kindergarten teacher — one who you know will give 150 percent to every student, every day, with a smile on her face. We have the pleasure of having this teacher at Bowie. We can always count on her to do the honorable thing when dealing with staff, parents and students. She is a kind, compassionate and loving woman. She is a woman of great faith. Her character is one that is simply defined by integrity. Debbie acts as a mentor teacher to other teachers, both formally and informally for the good of the children.

Mrs. Billups' students come to her with vastly different experience bases. She is able to meet children where they are academically and help them thrive and learn the knowledge they need to be successful. Her lessons are well-planned and scrupulously executed. Children thrive in her class.

As a teacher, she is amazing. She informally assesses students in unique ways to reinforce the skills being taught. She tackles all assignments with dedication and a smile. She is a joy to work with, and her students are excited to come to school every morning.

Besides being a joy to work with, Mrs. Billups is a flexible, take-charge person. She has successfully created a wonderful classroom environment that students thrive in and that ensures their academic success. Due to her unwavering attitude and diligence, our campus has benefited in a way that is evidenced in the hearts and lives of those she teaches. During her time here at Bowie, we have seen an increase in student performance. Mrs. Billups is always willing to do whatever is necessary to see that the job is done and that the best interest of all parties is considered.

Debbie does everything in the spirit of excellence, but does not lose sight of the things that matter most — the people she works with and the students she teaches. Our campus is more enriched because Mrs. Billups is here.

— LAURIE SHERROD,
BOWIE FINE ARTS ACADEMY PRINCIPAL

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Stricter policies on school absences draw backlash

By Melissa B. Taboada
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — Despite being in the top 1 percent of her class, Lauren Molloy was at risk of failing to receive credit for courses last semester after a series of absences for medical appointments were counted against her by the Austin school district.

Molloy, a McCallum High School senior, has a rare congenital bone disease that requires her to receive weekly physical therapy, and last semester she had multiple doctor visits and exams, including MRIs.

Such medical visits previously didn't affect whether a student received course credit, but now they do as the school district ramps up its policies regarding absences.

"It's incredibly frustrating," said Della Molloy-Daugherty, Lauren's mom. "It made me realize what a headache the new attendance policy is."

Students can appeal to an attendance committee if they've attended at least 75 percent of the time, and they can make up classes by attending Saturday school to restore their class credit. But some parents — including about a dozen who wrote letters to their campus administrators — are complaining that Austin's stricter policy will mean more children going to school when they're sick and more hassle for the parents of students who struggle with chronic ailments. At least one neighboring district is more lenient.

State law requires students in kindergarten through 12th grade to be in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days a class is offered. But districts have varying interpretations of the law and offer different exceptions. Before this school year, the Austin district only denied credit for unexcused absences.

> *"It's incredibly frustrating. It made me realize what a headache the new attendance policy is.*
>
> Della Molloy-Daugherty, parent of child with frequent medical absences

The Austin district's new practice, which started in the current school year, counts it against the student anytime he or she misses the entire day, regardless of whether there is a doctor's note.

Religious holidays, a limited number of college visits and school-sponsored events remain as excused absences, as do medical absences involving a health care professional during school hours if the student is in attendance for at least part of the day.

Such excused absences are outlined in the law.

In communications with parents, the school district says the change is meant to bring Austin into compliance with the law.

But one parent points out in a letter to the district that the law states that students "may be excused for temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal or superintendent of the school."

Another parent said the change "really has us reconsidering the public school option. Sadly, I can see parents pulling their children out of public schools and exercising a home schooling option that would offer more flexibility with kids that are sick often."

The Leander district's practice is similar to Austin's. In Round Rock, a documented illness with a doctor's note counts against the student's 90 percent attendance requirement. The Hays school district doesn't count absences with a doctor's note against the attendance requirement.

State funding is tied in part to attendance, and some parents raised concerns that money was the real reason behind the change.

District officials say that's not the case.

"We want to make sure we're following the law correctly," Austin school board President Kendall Pace said.

Ultimately, Molloy-Daugherty was able to retrieve documentation for the doctor appointments and emergency room visit and ensure her daughter received credit.

Another parent, Anissa Ryland, called the new rule "shortsighted" and warned that parents might feel pressured to send their child to school despite public health recommendations that a child should be fever-free for 24 hours.

"A lot of people are going to get exposed," she said.

DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY

Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Patrons attend the Dr. Seuss birthday party event Saturday at Midland County Public Library Centennial Branch. Activities uncluded storytellers, crafts, face painting and a visit from the Cat in the Hat. Theodor Seuss Geisel was born March 2, 1904 in Springfield, Mass. He was a writer and illustrator best known for authoring popular children's books under the pen name Dr. Seuss. His work includes several of the most popular children's books of all time including "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Lorax" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." His works had sold over 600 million copies and been translated into more than 20 languages by the time of his death on Sept. 24, 1991.

MHS JROTC takes 1st, 2nd places at TTU drill meet

By Cassie Burton
cburton@mrt.com

Midland High School's junior ROTC picked up two trophies at Texas Tech University's drill meet last weekend. MHS' color guard, whose members are all freshmen, took home first place, and the honor guard, comprised of two sophomores and two juniors, scored second place.

"It was kind of a surprise," said Lt. Col. Brayden Woods, corps commander at MHS. "I've been in this unit for four years and we've never taken home an honor guard or color guard trophy. These cadets worked hard on practicing and getting the movements down precisely. ... It meant a lot (those trophies)."

Each guard did an armed regulation drill, were inspected by TTU's Air Force cadets and completed a physical training challenge of a one-mile run, sit-ups, push-ups and pull-ups, Woods said.

Twelve other schools' Jr. ROTC attachments of all military branches — Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps — participated in the two-part competition.

Members of the guard were Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Garrett Hilliard, Cadet 1st Lt. Dora Perchez, Cadet SMSgt. Melynna Morgan, Sr. Airmen Thomas Pylant, Eric Rowley, Braxton Reed, Baylee Britton and Airman 1st Class Francis Biggar were on the guards.

MHS JROTC is scheduled to compete April 9 at Angelo State University's drill meet.

Follow Cassie on Twitter: @Cassie_Burton51

Reading with children creates great memories

TINA BRILEY
Pease Communications and Technology Academy

"How do you eat an elephant?" a little boy said. He laughed hysterically as he told me, "One bite at a time."

As I walked away, smiling at first-grade humor, I realized there is actually wisdom in that childhood joke. Any large and formidable task is best accomplished by breaking it down into manageable parts.

Later that evening, as I spent time on Facebook and other Internet sites, I noticed several 30-day challenges: 30 days of no sugar; 30 days of working out; 30 days of no sodas; 30 days of random kindnesses; and the list goes on. Recently, I read an article that stated 30-day challenges on the Internet have increased 140 percent since 2013. Part of the draw is the "eating an elephant" concept. It's easier to stick to a monthlong plan than a yearlong resolution. In fact, University of Scranton research suggests that only 8 percent of people achieve their New Year's goals.

Those of us in education know we need to set SMART goals: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely.

As both a teacher and an administrator, I often have had parents ask what they can do to help their child academically. My answer has almost always been the same: read with them. I now realize that response is too vague. It doesn't fall in line with SMART goals, and as a result, the ambiguity of the task lends itself to failure. My answer now is read with your child for 15 to 20 minutes every night for 30 days.

Don't tell your child to go read for 20 minutes while you watch TV or engage in some other activity. Instead, sit down with your child and read together. If you read to a child from birth to age 5 for 20 minutes each day, that would equal a little more than 600 hours of positive literacy interactions. It might surprise you to know that a child with that much lap reading will probably start kindergarten as a reader just because someone read to him. No one taught him the fundamentals of reading, they just shared the joy of reading. That in itself is invaluable.

But please don't stop reading with your child once he turns 5. Elementary students still love to snuggle into a lap and have a story read to them. As you read the story, stop and talk about what is happening. Ask your child questions about the pictures and the storyline. Have him make predictions and connections to other stories and even to his own life experiences.

If you really want to stretch your child, throw in a novel every now and then. My 5-year old granddaughter loved when her mom read "Charlotte's Web" to her. After reading the book, they watched the movie together. It was amazing listening to a 5-year-old compare and contrast the book and the movie. As a reading teacher, my heart rejoiced when she said, "I really liked the book better than the movie."

Many parents think that once their child has the ability to read on their own, they don't need to be read to anymore. Quite honestly, older students still enjoy having picture books read to them. Those books allow students to learn new vocabulary and practice complex thinking skills with what they perceive to be a non-threatening text.

As a teacher, I would read to my seventh- and eighth-graders every week. If I wasn't able to read one week, the kids would get very upset. I once left a book for a substitute to read. When I came back the next day, the students asked me to reread it because they said, "She didn't even read it with expression." Those junior high kids, although they balked the first time I pulled out a picture book, came to love story time.

As your child moves on to chapter books and novels, don't think they've moved away from their desire to share their literary experiences. Some of my favorite memories with my own children are of reading with them novels of their choosing. And when my kids had to read a novel for school, I read it, too. Sometimes we read out loud together, and sometimes we read individually and discussed our favorite parts. I remember times when my child would come in and ask excitedly, "Have you reached chapter eight yet?" I would say, "No. Don't tell me what happened." Then she would tell me to hurry up and read that part. And one of the sweetest memories was when my son woke me up after midnight crying and said, "You didn't tell me he died." We spent time mourning the character together. During those junior high and high school times, we challenged and encouraged each other. We shared stories, life lessons and ultimately sweet memories.

You grow great readers the same way you eat an elephant. Instead of one bite at a time, you do it one night at a time. We can begin this great journey with a simple 30-day challenge. Commit to reading with your child every night for 30 nights. Choose some of your favorite stories to share with your child and ask him to share his favorites with you. Snuggle up, turn off all electronics, and escape with your child into a book. The adventure will be great and the memories even better.

Tina Briley is assistant principal at Pease Communications and Technology Academy.

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — MARCH 1, 2016

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						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	Muppets (N)	Muppets (N)	Carter "Hollywood Ending" (SP) (N)		Super Tuesday (N)		Local 2 News/ 10	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "After Hours" (N)		NCIS: New Orleans "Radio Silence" (N)		CBS News: Campaign 2016 (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	P. Mason "The Case of the Greek Goddess"	Twilight "The Gift"
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	New Girl (N)	Grandfathered (N)	Brooklyn 99 (N)	Grinder (N)	Fox 24 News	TMZ	2 Broke Girls	Modern Family	Two and Half Men	Met Your Mother
KMLM	IND	11	12	12	11	11	Jean-Claude	Joshua Caleb	Update News	Audra Grace	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Israel Inspired	Mission: M25	Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	NewsWest 9 Now	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Premiere" 2/2 from Feb 29 (N)				Super Tuesday (L)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show	(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Finding Roots "The Long Way Home" (N)		American Experience "Spacs Men" (N)		Frontline "Poor Kids"		Super Tuesday (N)	World News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Un camino hacia el destino		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	Dead "Hounded"		The Walking Dead		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Office	Access H.
FLIX		340	575		165		(5:00) ★★ Wicker Park						★★ The Gift ('00, Thril) Cate Blanchett.			★ Trainspotting		
HBO		300	590	14	14		★★★ Remember the Titans				Vinyl		Gonzaga	★★★ Knocked Up ('07, Com) Seth Rogen.		Together		
HBO2		302	551	15	101	23	(5:15) ★★ Disturbia		★ San Andreas ('15, Act) Dwayne Johnson.				LastWeek	Bill Maher		Boxing (L)		
HBO3		304	592	16	102		(5:30) ★ Down to E...		Real Sports		Girls (N)	Together	★★ The Birdcage Robin Williams.				★ The Second Be...	
MAX		380	557	17	120	24	Movie	(:40) ★ Get on Up ('14, Bio) Chadwick Boseman.					★★★ The Bucket List		(:40) Chemistry		Movie	
MAX2		382	558	18	122		★★★ 300 ('06, Epic) Gerard Butler.				★★★ Runaway Train Jon Voight.				(:55) ★ Another Me		(:20) ★ Maps to the...	
PLEX				96			(5:30) ★ All She Wi...		★★★★ Searching for Bobby Fischer				(:55) ★★★ Mask ('85, Bio) Cher.				(:55) ★ The Secret...	
SHOW		320	565	19	140	25	Movie	★ Becoming Bulletproof			60 Minutes Sport (N)		Shameless		60 Minutes Sports		★★ Scream 3	
TMC		336	573	22	155	26	(5:30) ★ Wrecked		★★ Grosse Pointe Blank John Cusack.				★ Last Knights ('15, Adv) Clive Owen.				★★ Tape	
A&E		27	58	28	35	47	Married/1stSight "Last Chance for Romance"		Married/ First Sight "Final Decisions"		Married/ First Sight "Final Decisions"		Fit to Fat to Fit "Carrie/ Kenlee" (N)		Married/ First Sight "Final Decisions"		Married/1stSight "Final Decisions"	
AMC		40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) ★ 3:10 to Yuma		★★★ The Bourne Supremacy Matt Damon.					★★★ The Fugitive ('93, Thril) Harrison Ford.				
BET		58	-		40		★ Good Deeds ('12, Com/Dra) Thandie Newton, Tyler Perry.						Mann's	Mann's	Mann's	Mann's	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO		65	76		41		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills (N)		Tour Group (N)		Watch (N)	Beverly Hills		Tour Grp
CNBC		46	52		39	72	Guide	Rich Guide	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Guide (N)	Guide	Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN		43	50	51	30	56	America's Choice		America's Choice		America's Choice		America's Choice		America's Choice		America's Choice	
DISC		50	60	31	24	42	Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Venom Hunters		Moonshiners		Moonshiners	
DISNEY		56	64	36	25	36	Liv/Mad	Underc.	★ Lemonade Mouth Bridgit Mendler.				Austin	Bunk'd	Underc.	Girl M.	Jessie	Jessie
ESPN		32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Kentucky at Florida (L)				NCAA Basketball Indiana at Iowa (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2		34	36	49	32	31	NFL Live		NCAA Basketball Baylor vs. Oklahoma (L)				The Fab Five				Basketb.	NBA
FNC		45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD		64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FREEFORM		53	63	34	42	33	Pretty Little Liars		Liar "Burn This" (N)		Shadowhunters (N)		Liar "Burn This"		The 700 Club		★ 13 Going on 30	
FSSW		37	38	50	45	29	Stars Inside (N)	Ultimate Insider (N)	Mavs Pre (L)		NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)				Maverick-ks Live (L)	Rodeo Wrap (L)	WPT Poker	
FX		31	56	59	64	69	★★★ The Avengers ('12, Act) Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr..						O.J. Simpson (N)		O.J. "The Race Card"		O.J. Simpson	
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	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
HISTORY		71	59	29	50	43	Counting	CountCars	Counting	Counting	Count. (N)	Count. (N)	(:05) Forged Fire (N)		(:05) Forged in Fire		Counting	Counting
LIFETIME		28	30	25	28	48	Dance Moms "Debbie Allen to the Rescue"		Dance Moms: Chat "Maddie is Back" (N)		Dance Moms "Nia Saves the Day" (N)		Mother Daughter Exp. (P) (N)		Mother Daughter Exp.		Dance Moms: Chat "Maddie is Back"	
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				NHL Live	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Pittsburgh Penguins (L)					(:15) NHL Overtime (L)		Rivals (N)	NHLTop10	Feherty (N)	
NICK		55	-	39	34	37	Paradise	H.Danger	H.Danger	Nicky	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	-	55	53	58	Movie	★ To Be Announced					★ To Be Announced					
SYFY		66	82	41	57	67	★★★ Final Destination Devon Sawa.				★★ Final Destination 2 All Larter.				Colony		★ Final Destination	
TBS		25	33	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinf. "The Jacket"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		2 Broke Girls	Conan
TCM		41	75	24	63	66	(5:15) ★ Torpedo Run		★★★ Sense and Sensibility Emma Thompson.								★★★ The Remains of the Day Sir Anthony Hopkins.	
TELE		20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		Quien es quien?		Eva, La Traitera		Querida centauro		Al rojo	Titulares	Gran Hermano	
TLC		51	61	32	38	52	The Little Couple "All Aboard!"		Little Couple "Just the Facts, Please"		The Little Couple "New Challenges" (N)		Rattled "Daycare Drama" (N)		The Little Couple "New Challenges"		Rattled "Daycare Drama"	
TNT		24	34	40	26	50	Castle "Probable Cause"		Rizzoli & Isles "Scared to Death"		Bizzoli & Isles "East Meets West" (N)		Rizzoli & Isles "East Meets West"		Castle "The Final Frontier"		CSI: NY "Right Next Door"	
TVLAND		49	-	35	54	35	Griffith	(:55) Griffith	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern "Spy"	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
WGN		19	85				(5:00) ★★★ Backdraft ('91, Action) William Baldwin, Robert De Niro, Kurt Russell.				Outsiders (N)	"Weapons"	Outsiders	"Weapons"	Outsiders	"Weapons"	Outsiders	"Weapons"

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MAKINGTHEGRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lee High School senior **Leah Dumas** has been honored by the Midland West Rotary Club. She is the daughter of James and Laura Dumas.

Dumas

She is involved in the youth group at Crestview Baptist Church and helps lead Bible study.

Dumas plans to attend Midland College and major in English.

* * *

Lee High School senior **Andrew Portillo** has been honored by the Midland West Rotary Club. He is the son of Marissa Aranda and Adam Portillo.

Portillo

He is class treasurer and is a member of Spanish Honor Society, football team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and AVID. He received a scholarship from the Lee Booster Club.

He is a member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church and volunteers with Opportunity Camp and Keep Midland Beautiful.

Portillo plans to attend the University of Oklahoma and major in business.

* * *

Midland High School senior **Bryce Hoppel** has been honored by the Midland Rotary Club. He is the son of Rita Hoppel and Monty Hoppel.

Hoppel

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Dawg Pack and cross country and track and field teams.

He volunteers with Helping Hands, Meals on Wheels and Keep Midland Beautiful.

Hoppel plans to attend the University of Kansas and major in mechanical engineering.

* * *

Midlander **Raekwon Anderson** received a scholarship at the annual Scholarship Day competition at McMurry University.

Scholarship Day award is among the highest academic recognition made by McMurry University to entering freshmen. These awards provide an annual stipend of at least $8,000 and are renewable for up to eight semesters of full-time study, according to a press release from the university.

* * *

Thirty-one Midland College students were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa in a ceremony last month at the Carrasco Room at the Scharbauer Student Center. Membership in the honor society for two-year colleges is by invitation and is for students who maintain a GPA of at least 3.5. Inductees are:

Jaime Bagley, Lyssa Bell, Dora Carey, Patricia Chick, Joselin Corral, Heather Dudley, Alex Figueroa, Ashley Frazier, Janith Garcia, Derek Haskell, Guerardo Hernandez, Emily Hobbs, BreAnna LaFoy, Rachel Long and **Taylor McComic.**

And, **Lacy Molina, Zack Neuser, Tho Nguyen, Silvia Pena, Raquel Ramirez, Erika Sanchez, Mingming Shi, Allison Smith, Cali Stone, Mckenzie Stubbs, Ashley Sullivan, Behrong Tahantani, Wendy Tenorio, Vincent Varela, Reba Vick** and **Abibat Yusuff.**

* * *

LEXINGTON, Va. — Midlander **Joshua Ashley** was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Virginia Military Institute. To be eligible, cadets must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0.

* * *

Midland College music students **Rebecca James** and **Manny Navarrete** recently received state and regional awards and recognition.

James, a music major, was chosen first chair oboist of the Texas Community College Band Director's Association All-State Honor Band. The band performed at the Texas Music Educators Conference in San Antonio last month. She plays oboe in the MC Wind Ensemble and saxophone in the MC Jazz Band.

Navarrete won first place in the collegiate division of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin's 2016 West Texas Guitar Festival. He performed a solo to conclude the festival and will be featured in a solo performance at a future concert.

* * *

TROY, N.Y. — Midlander **Olivia Fryt** has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. To be eligible, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0.

* * *

FAYETTVILLE, Ark. — Midlander **Malachi Nichols** has been named to the Chancellor's List for the fall semester at the University of Arkansas. To be eligible, students must maintain a 4.0 GPA.

* * *

DENTON — Three Midlanders graduated in December from Texas Woman's University.

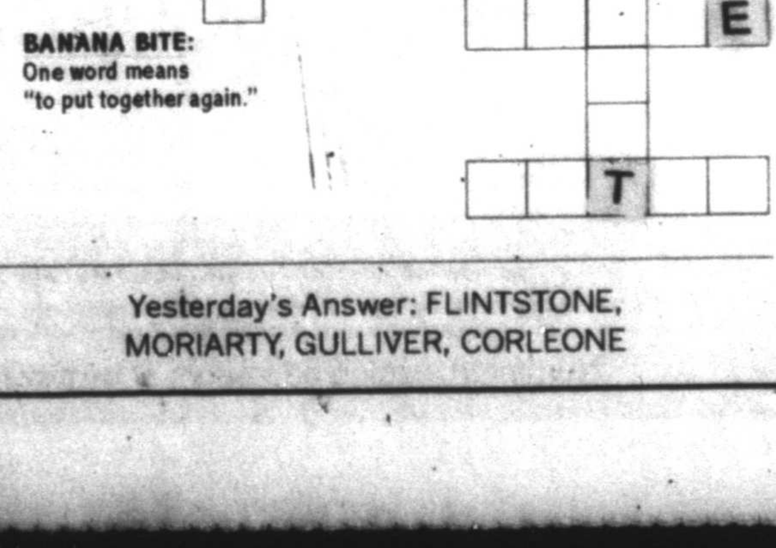
Jasmine Ellis received a bachelor of business administration, **Sara Thomas** received a master of library science, and **Katie Tower** received a bachelor of science in nursing and graduated cum laude.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. The BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

B E E E I I J L N N O P R R T



Yesterday's Answer: FLINTSTONE, MORIARTY, GULLIVER, CORLEONE

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3.1

Do you know innovative educational leaders who make an impact on the students they teach?

Nominate them for Classroom Pioneers, a program presented by Pioneer Natural Resources.

Visit **mrt.com/classroompioneers** to nominate a Midland ISD or Greenwood ISD educator who stretches beyond the curriculum to inspire and motivate students to achieve academic success.

PIONEER
NATURAL RESOURCES

Celebrating Midland's innovative spirit.

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INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL LEADERS PAVE THE WAY FOR STUDENT SUCCESS. THEY ARE CLASSROOM PIONEERS.
Help us recognize Midland and Greenwood ISD educators who stretch beyond the curriculum to inspire and motivate students to achieve academic success.
Each individual selected as a Classroom Pioneer will receive a $500 educational grant to purchase classroom materials.
Nominate leading educators at mrt.com/classroompioneers. Nominees may not be nominated by a family member.

TODAY: Sunny — High: 69 Low: 41
WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 83 Low: 47
THURSDAY: Sunny — High: 74 Low: 44
FRIDAY: Sunny — High: 79 Low: 50
SATURDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 79 Low: 51
SUNDAY: Mostly sunny — High: 79 Low: 54

Local forecast

The run of above-average temperatures continues this week with highs as much as 16 or 17 degrees above normal, according to the National Weather Service. There is no rain in the seven-day forecast, according to the NWS.

The record high for Feb. 29 is 90 set in 1940. The record low is 20 set in 1960.

Weather brief

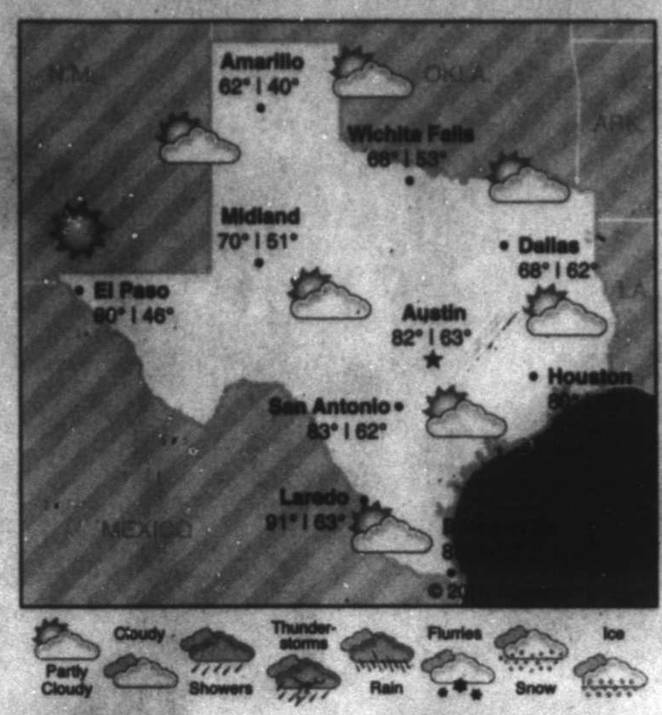
MICHIGAN

Part of UP highway closed because of white-out conditions

HARVEY — A portion of a highway in Michigan's Upper Peninsula has been temporarily closed because of heavy snowfall and white-out conditions along Lake Superior.

The Michigan State Police said M-28 between Munising and Harvey in Marquette and Alger counties was shut down Monday.

High winds also have prompted authorities to close the Mackinac Bridge to all vehicles except passenger cars, passenger vans and empty pickups.



Precipitation

Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.30 in.
Year total	0.48 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.27 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	66
Low	38
Normal high	66
Normal low	38
Sunrise	7:15 a.m.
Sunset	6:47 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, March 1

Depressed pregnant wife is confined by abusive husband

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: I'm 39 and seven months' pregnant with my husband's only child. Since becoming pregnant, I have become somewhat withdrawn from depression. My doctor prescribed Paxil, but my husband won't allow me to take it. I don't leave the house unless I absolutely need to because he accuses me of cheating on him daily.

Two nights ago, he took a single female friend out to dinner and they were gone for five hours. It hurt my feelings because in my view it was disrespectful on both their parts. When they got back, I was sitting outside and she wouldn't even come to say goodbye to me. When I asked my husband why I hadn't been invited, he said, "Neither of us wanted you there."

In his eyes he has done nothing wrong. He tells me I'm crazy and I need mental help. Am I wrong for being so upset? — NOT CRAZY IN TEXAS

DEAR NOT CRAZY: Not at all. It appears you are married to a controlling, emotionally abusive man who might be cheating on you. One of the hallmarks of philanderers is that they will accuse the innocent partner of cheating. Feeling depressed during a pregnancy under these circumstances isn't surprising. (If you felt any other way, you WOULDN'T be normal.)

That your doctor would prescribe an antidepressant and your husband would "not allow" you to take it is alarming. If you have close friends and family, I urge you to tell them what's going on. And while you're at it, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) — the phone number is 800-799-7233 — because you might need help to get safely away.

DEAR ABBY: I currently live in a situation where my husband, our two kids and I share a home with my parents, two sisters and younger brother. Sometimes, it seems crowded because there is no privacy and a lack of respect.

Lately, I am having a problem with my sister. Despite the fact that she and my family share the upstairs level of the home, she continues to walk around nude or in her undergarments throughout the day because she "hates" wearing clothes. At various times, my family members and I have had uncomfortable encounters with her over this. I have talked to her about it repeatedly, but she refuses to cooperate.

I think it's rude, inconsiderate and inappropriate, not to mention a completely avoidable problem. What do you think? Am I wrong for being upset that her behavior doesn't change and the message doesn't seem to get through to her? — CLOTHES-MINDED

DEAR CLOTHES-MINDED: I agree that your sister's behavior is inappropriate. She should not be parading around in a state of undress in front of your husband and children. Because she has chosen to ignore your requests, enlist the help of your parents to get the message across to her. It's their roof she's under, and perhaps they will have better luck.

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 Tuesday, March 1, 2016:

This year you are very strong-willed and can be quite disciplined, if you so choose. You often find yourself caught in the crosswinds of expectations and reality. If you are single, you will meet someone just by doing your own thing. You'll have many potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you often disagree or trigger each other. Do not blame your significant other; instead, find out when this type of response started to bother you. You both will grow and become closer as a result. SAGITTARIUS can be very irritating.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You will hear what someone else says, but you can't seem to make sense of his or her words. If you ask for clarification, you could feel as if this person is speaking gibberish. You might want to consider letting the issue go for now. Tonight: Use your imagination.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Others will respond to your inquiries, as long as you ask on a one-on-one basis. If they feel like you are addressing a group, they will not be as likely to reply. A friend might not intend to be irritating, but he or she could come across that way. Tonight: You need to let go of tension.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Keep reaching out to others. An associate might have given you the cold shoulder the last time the two of you spoke. Perhaps you'll want to schedule a late lunch or early dinner with this person. You sometimes don't realize how scattered you can be. Tonight: Listen rather than react.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You might want to tame your moodiness and get involved in some work. Confusion surrounds a key matter, but you will gain clarity, given some time. You like to pioneer new ideas, but don't let that interfere with your effectiveness. Stay focused. Tonight: Relax at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You will be on a roll if you allow your creativity to emerge. How you deal with a personal issue could determine your effectiveness during the day. If your mind continues to wander, you might need more self-discipline in order to handle the problem. Tonight: Have fun!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ If you can work from home, do. You might be tense about a situation revolving around your professional life, and you'll feel better at home. You might not be ready for a discussion just yet. Let a loved one take the lead in handling a problem. Tonight: Stay close to home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Your mind seems to be working on two different levels: the actual communication you are dealing with, and the dreamy ideas your imagination triggers. Pressure builds to respond, and you might not be sure which level you should react to. Tonight: Catch up on someone else's news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Be aware of the costs of proceeding as you have been. Finances could spin out of control as you attempt to get a handle on a situation. You might be reacting to the pressure by spending too much. Approach the situation in a more creative way. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You are willing to blaze a new trail, even if you encounter more than your fair share of responsibilities and hassles. You might feel as though you are heading toward a desired goal. Tension builds between you and a family member. Tonight: Happily head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You might feel as if you should say little. You have a strong sense that others would be best at explaining what is going on. The more you listen, the surer you will be that your stance is correct. Listen to the whole plan from beginning to end. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Use caution with your finances. You easily could make an error and cause yourself some stress. Choose your words with care when having an animated discussion; otherwise, you could create a problem where there isn't one. Tonight: Catch up on a loved one's news.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Deal with your confusion directly. You might think that someone has said something different from what he or she claims was said. Don't even try to be right, because there is no right or wrong here. It would be a mistake to make more of a misunderstanding. Tonight: Out late.

BORN TODAY

Film director Ron Howard (1954), singer Justin Bieber (1994), singer Winston Rodney, aka Burning Spear (1945)

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Timing

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4 3
♡ Void
◇ K 10 7 6 4 2
♣ 10 7 5

WEST
♠ 10 8 7 2
♡ 8 7 6 5 3 2
◇ 8
♣ A 4

EAST
♠ K 9 5
♡ A K J 10 9
◇ 5
♣ J 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ J 6
♡ Q 4
◇ A Q J 9 3
♣ K Q 3 2

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♡	2◇	4♡	5◇
All pass			

Opening lead: Five of ♡

East-West might have competed to five hearts at any other vulnerability, but it was too dangerous here. Besides, they had fair chances on defense.

South ruffed the opening heart lead in dummy, crossed to his hand with a trump, and ruffed his last heart. Confident that the ace of clubs was with East for his opening bid, South led a low club to his king. He was disappointed to see that lose to West's ace, but he would still succeed if West shifted to a spade. West, however, made no mistake. He returned his remaining club, forcing out South's queen. When the ensuing spade finesse lost, East cashed the jack of clubs to defeat the contract.

Declarer was certainly unlucky to find West with the ace of clubs, but he could have done better. Can you spot how?

South timed the hand poorly. He should have played on spades before playing on clubs. East was absolutely certain to hold either the king of spades or the ace of clubs for his opening bid. Instead of leading a club, South should have led a low spade toward his jack. Should East rise with his king, declarer would have discards for both of his low clubs. Should East decide to duck his king, South can now afford two club losers.

What if West produces the king of spades? South will have lost an unnecessary spade trick, but he would have located the ace of clubs ... with East! Two club leads toward his king-queen would have assured the contract.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Human rights advocate Jagger
7 Leaves in a big hurry
15 Seductive quality
16 Having the capacity for learning
17 "Whom Charlotte saved, in an E.B. White classic
18 "'Animal Farm" tyrant
19 Reason-based faith
20 Self-regard
21 One-__ jack
22 CB's gains
23 "GEICO spokescritter who squeals, "Wee wee wee!"
27 Variety
28 More pert
33 Mets' old stadium
36 Singer Yoko
38 "Ninotchka" star Greta
39 "'Toy Story" toy bank
40 "Stutterer in Looney Tunes sign-offs
43 "Unlikely title shepherd in a 1995 film
44 Reputed UFO pilot
46 "Golly!"
47 "Great Taste..., __ Filling": Miller Lite slogan
48 Carter's vice president
51 Suffix with novel
53 "40-Across' gal
55 __ Grande
58 Burn slightly
62 Latin art
63 Doggie
65 With 67-Across, annual March 1 event celebrated in the answers to starred clues
67 See 65-Across
68 Biological order including eight-armed creatures
69 Waiting one's turn
70 Catching-up query
71 FBI operatives

DOWN

1 Ribald
2 Perjurer's confession
3 "Silent Night" words before calm and bright
4 Used-up pencils
5 Really bad
6 __ Lingus
7 Take more Time?
8 Maxims
9 Domelike building top
10 Earth-friendly prefix
11 Mall event
12 Do as told
13 Arctic chunk
14 Provide (for oneself)
24 Per unit
25 Strange: Pref.
26 Tote
27 Domesticated
29 Pay television
30 "Dies __": Latin hymn
31 Flows back
32 Some reddish deer
33 Bedding accessory
34 Saintly glow
35 Key with one sharp: Abbr.
37 Nonprofit URL ending
41 Really eager
42 Bigfoot kin
45 Rest of the afternoon
49 Use as support
50 Online investment service
52 Music studio activity
54 Amer. attorney's study
55 "The Thinker" sculptor
56 Words of refusal
57 "I remember now!"
58 Skiing surface
59 Per unit
60 "__ girl!"
61 Real hoot
64 Gawk at
66 Photo __: media events
67 Actress Zadora

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

A	C	C	T		L	E	A	S	E			S	R	S
G	A	L	A		I	N	K	I	N		G	N	A	T
A	R	A	B	S	P	R	I	N	G		L	A	V	A
I	B	M		C	O	O	T			D	E	F	E	R
N	O	R	A	H		B	A	N	K	V	A	U	L	T
		N	O	L	O	S	E		Y	A	R	N		
G	A	L	L	O	P		S	P	Y		S	I	G	H
U	R	L		L	E	A	P	D	A	Y		M	O	O
M	A	S	T		E	L	F		K	E	E	N	O	N
			R	E	D	O		I	S	O	P	O	D	
D	U	T	Y	B	O	U	N	D		M	A	T	T	E
O	H	O	B			E	I	R	E		S	I	X	
G	A	I	N		G	O	R	D	O	N	J	U	M	P
M	U	T	E		A	D	V	I	L		A	R	E	A
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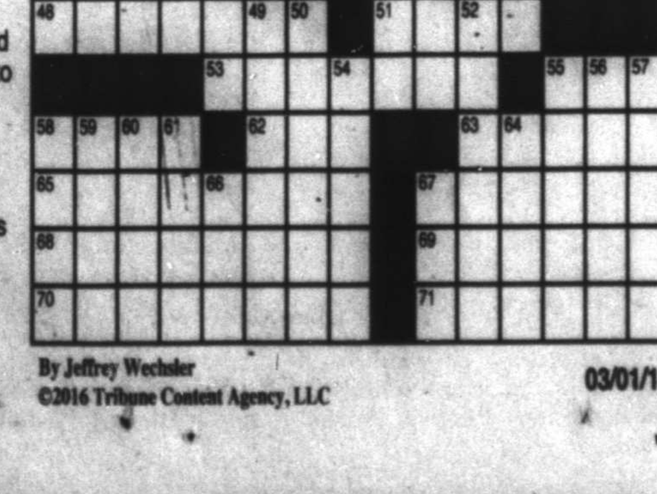
xwordeditor@aol.com 03/01/16



By Jeffrey Wechsler
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Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Abby Barto on trumpet, and Crystal Jaquez, alto 1 choir, were awarded All-State honors Monday.

ALL-STATE HONORS

MHS orchestra, choir students receive state recognition

Editor's note: Lee all-state choir students will run next week.

ABBY BARTO
Orchestra
School: Midland High School
Year: Senior
Instrument: Trumpet
All-state ensemble: 6A All-State Philharmonic Orchestra
Extracurricular activities: Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Orchestra, Handbells, Choir, NHS, German NHS
Other honors you have received: All-region for four years, all-area for four years, all-state for two years, State Solo and Ensemble, and academic awards

What does it mean to you to be an all-state performer: Being an all-state performer means pushing yourself to go the extra mile in order to accomplish one of the highest honors available to high school musicians. People who make all-state demonstrate the responsibility and dedication that is required to make such great performing ensembles. I am very blessed to have gained the experience of playing with both the all-state band (last year) and the all-state philharmonic orchestra (this year). Both ensembles were incredible, and I will remember playing with them for the rest of my life.

Why are the fine arts important to education: The fine arts are important to education because they not only teach students what it means to hold responsibility within a group but also allow them to dedicate their time towards the creation of something beautiful.

Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline: My favorite moments in band definitely have been both of the times I have made all-state. Reaching that level of competition only enhanced my love for music.

CRYSTAL JAQUEZ
Choir
School: Midland High School
Year: Senior
Voice part: Alto
All-State ensemble: Girls' Choir
Extracurricular activities: Church
Other honors you have received: For three years I have been in all-region. Then, two years of state ensemble and three straight years of state solo. Last year I was the Choir's historian but this year I got the honor to be the president.

What does it mean to you to be an all-state performer: To be an all-state performer means that all of my hard work finally paid off. It was such a honor to have been able to sing with such amazing and talented young women like me.

Why are the fine arts important to education: Fine arts education is very important. Music is connected to many things and many people. It can make people happy or sad. But none of this would happen if it wasn't for the education we receive from our elementary to even our college days.

Favorite moment in your fine arts discipline: My favorite moment would have to be when we sing a song and time just comes to a hold. It's like all of my worries go away and the music fills my heart with more joy then I could ask for.

Area piano students compete, perform recital

The annual Mary Alice Knox Piano Competition was Saturday at Midland College. The event was hosted by the Midland Music Teachers' Association. Close to 200 students from Midland, Odessa, Andrews and Hobbs, Roswell and Artesia, New Mexico, competed.

Judges were Diana Dyer and Janelle Schlaudt, both of San Angelo, and Lynn Bethel-Baldwin of Snyder.

The first-place winners performed in a recital on Sunday.

■ **First place:** Sneha Kesavan, Miranda Yang, Kenra Thibeault, William Russell, Jack McDonald, Melissa Fu, Oscar Lin, William Dorman, Elijah Catungal, Abigail Nichols, Steven Xu, Zach Allen, Maryann Yang, Swetha Kesavan, Lydia Dietsch, Lydia Lee, Brylee Russell, Jinny Lim and Allison Doonan.

Also, Lawson Bell, Lucas Kim, Peter Yang, Sophia Stangebye, Jessie Barraclough, Erynn McKelvy, Tripp Arnold, Madison Bogle, Mary Brown, Raylene Moore, Leon Samaniego, Jenna Young, Jaylene Moore, Sallyanna Stangebye, Abigail Blackwell, Priya Patel, Sybella Underwood, Hannah Lilley, Jaiden Catalasan,

And, Caden Blair, Sarah Lilley, Andrew Chen, Shayne Thompson, Kate Stansell, Curtis Wong, Kayla Theiner, Nicholas Venters, Sophie Shartum, Janna Sun, Julia Diaz, Chera Lee, Dakota James, Timothy Dietsch, Abigail Vinson, Nicholas Elwell, Sophia Koo and Hannah Bynum.

■ **Second place:** Rishi Yarlagadda, Abby Van Husen, Kyler Graham, Dessa Snyder, Connor Garcia, Jade Throneberry, Alice LaFarelle, Richard Black, Hyeonji Lee, Oakley Atwood, Kelton Chesshire, Joshua Galindo, Jamie Barraclough, David Pando, Nicholas Allen and Parke Swallow.

And, Meghan Mills, Gloria Koo, Reid McKelvy, Claire Xu, Sarah James, Seth Medina, Parker Weber, Sylvia Xu, Cenzie Pyeatt, Maggie Lannom, Alyssa Vasquez, Hallie Doonan, Joseph Kim, Mary Blackshear, Rachel Stansell, Claire Coble, Julian Reyes, Lauren Thompson and Maggie Guo.

And, Jackson Elwell, Nathan Swallow, Grace Weatherl, Isabel Nichols, Kara Roberts, William Cole, Melissa Massey, Amulya Ganta, Thomas Rubio, Julia Sharum, Ruth Sorenson and Elenie Avampato.

■ **Third place:** Mitchell Sharum, Raina Mathews, Jordan Wray, Regina Kodom, Lucas Tang, Kloi Watkins, Shivani Alur, Morgan Crutchfield, Crystal Theimer, Michael Herrera, Elva Fowler, Olivia Torrez, Kanishk Yankaria, Amelia Morris and Farah Ben Yacoub.

And, Mason Hamilton, Josie Reed, Jian Catalasan, Jaelyn Lee, Madeleine Edwards, Alex Wootton, Regan Corral, Sammy Setiadarma, Elijah Baltazar, Madeleine Sterling, Kristin Gibbons, Seth Diaz, Tucker Barraclough, Katie Humphrey, Rachel Dent and Anthony Dragun.

■ **Honorable mentions:** Luke Van Husen, Emily Crawford, Noah Crawford, Andrew Keeler, Lowell Irby, Matthew Hall, Brehnan Davis, Shwetha Jayakumar, Josiah Sun, Sarah Blackshear, Alayah Valdiviezzo, Lindsey Edgar, Luke Bell and Brittan Lee.

Source: Midland Music Teachers' Association

Report: Lee to get next coach from San Antonio

From staff reports

San Antonio East Central head football coach and Athletic Director Clint Hartman is expected to be introduced this week as Lee High School's next football coach and campus coordinator, according to multiple reports.

The San Antonio Express-News, citing a report from Matt Stepp of TheCidCoach.com, said Hartman is the candidate who will be presented to the Midland ISD board of trustees for discussion and possible approval. MISD has scheduled a special board meeting for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

MISD would not confirm if Hartman is the lone finalist, and Hartman did not return phone calls to the Reporter-Telegram on Monday.

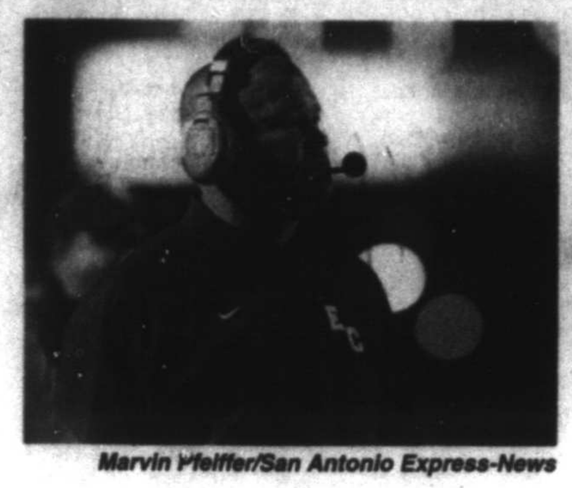
Hartman spent three years at East Central, his alma mater, going 17-17 in that time. This past season, the Hornets went 4-7 and lost to San Antonio Stevens in the bi-district round of the Class 6A playoffs.

Prior to arriving at East Central, Hartman was 40-18 in five years as head coach at League City Clear Creek.

The San Antonio Express-News also reported that Hartman had previously been an assistant coach at Odessa High, an assistant at Tornillo in El Paso County and a defensive coordinator at Seguin.

If approved, Hartman will replace James Morton, who announced in late January that he was leaving Lee to go coach at his alma mater, Eastland High School — a strong Class 3A program — about 50 miles east of Abilene. Morton spent seven years coaching the Rebels, guiding them to a 38-35 record.

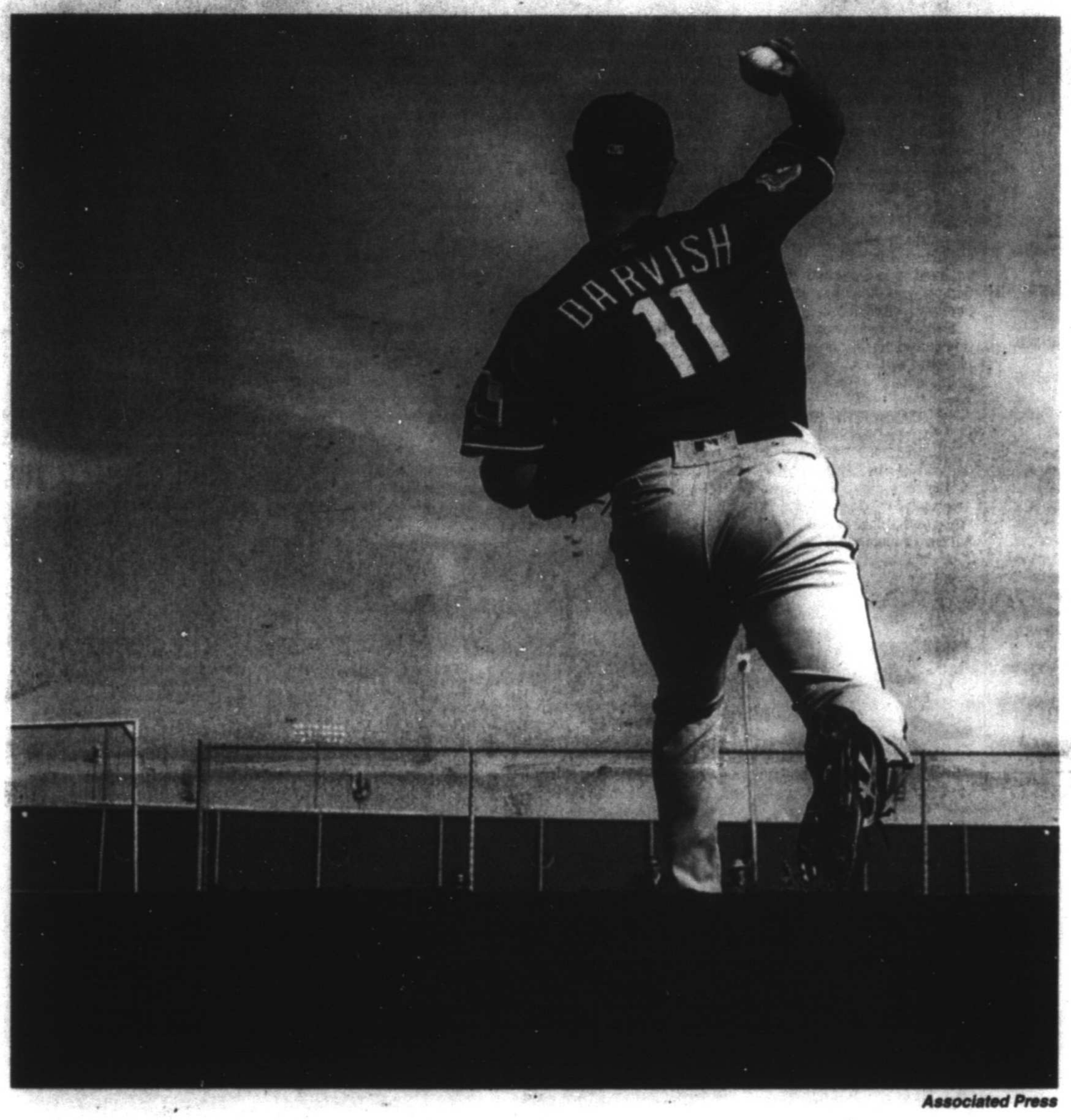
However, Lee has not made the playoffs since 2013 and has won just five games in the last two seasons.



East Central coach Clint Hartman on the sideline during the second half of their game with Reagan at Comalander Stadium on Sept. 19, 2015.

Marvin Pfeiffer/San Antonio Express-News

Straight out of surgery



Associated Press

Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish throws off a pitching mound in the bullpen during a spring training baseball workout at the team's training facility Monday in Surprise, Ariz.

Darvish throws off full mound for 1st time

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Yu Darvish was free and easy when throwing off a full-sized mound for the first time since elbow surgery last spring.

While not very talkative afterward, the ace said what mattered most to the Texas Rangers: He's pitching without any pain.

"Good, very good," Darvish said through his interpreter after the scheduled 15-pitch session Monday. "No pain, no problem at all."

Darvish threw off a half-mound three times in five days last week, working up to 25 pitches. The next step will be throwing more pitches off the full mound.

The last time Darvish had thrown off a full mound was one inning in a Cactus League game last March 5, when he experienced tightness in his right elbow. He had Tommy John surgery 12 days later and missed all of last season. He hasn't pitched in a major league game since Aug. 9, 2014.

"The view hasn't changed much," Darvish said. "I feel like I'm able to throw nice and easy, and throw the ball well."

Robinson Chirinos, the Rangers primary catcher last season, caught Darvish's session. He squatted down primarily over the top of the plate, and not in the normal spot a few feet further back.

After throwing his final pitch, Darvish conferred briefly with Chirinos and new pitching coach Doug Brocail. Then with a crowd of media and fans following him, Darvish went to another field to do conditioning work before going inside for further workouts.

Since he hasn't pitched in a major league game since late in 2014, and the Rangers don't expect him back in their rotation before mid-May or June, it could be 21 months or more between Darvish starts.

Darvish missed the end of the 2014 season because of right elbow inflammation, but was full strength when he got to Arizona last spring before experiencing tightness and eventually having surgery.

The 29-year-old Darvish was 39-25 with a 3.27 ERA and 680 strikeouts in 83 starts for Texas from 2012-14, after the previous seven seasons in Japan. He was an All-Star in each of his first three seasons with the Rangers.

Now he is working through the steps to get back in a big league game, and was asked if it was gratifying seeing some progress.

"Of course, that I'm feeling painless right now," he said. "My hope is to continue."

Lee's Lewis, MHS's Washington are co-MVPs

From staff reports

Lee forward Kyra Lewis and Midland High guard Alexandrea Washington have been named District 3-6A co-MVPs following their standout campaigns during the girls basketball season.

Lewis

Washington

The two seniors were among several Midland High and Lee girls basketball players who were recognized in the All-District 3-6A girls basketball selections released Monday.

Lewis guided the Lady Rebels to a perfect 10-0 season in District 3-6A and made an appearance in the state's Sweet 16 as a Region I-6A tournament participant.

Meanwhile, Washington played an integral role in leading the Lady Bulldogs to a second-place finish in District 3-6A as they came up one point short of sharing a co-district championship with rival Lee.

MHS senior guard Alexis Washington received the district's Offensive MVP, joining her twin sister Alexandrea among the superlative honorees. Lee senior guard Allison Valdez was the recipient of the Defensive MVP award after being the stalwart of the Lady Rebs' suffocating full-court press defense.

Junior guard Karysa Edwards and senior post Yaritza Rivas both represented the Lady Rebels on the first team.

The Lady Bulldogs were represented by senior Claire Lancaster and junior Kaylyn Evans, both post players, on the first team.

Abilene High freshman Jhayah Adams earned the district's Newcomer of the Year honor, the only non-Midland ISD player to be given a superlative award.

ALL-DISTRICT 3-6A GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Superlatives

Co-MVPs — Kyra Lewis, Sr., Lee and Alexandrea Washington, Sr., Midland High

Offensive MVP — Alexis Washington, Sr., Midland High

Defensive MVP — Allison Valdez, Sr., Lee

Newcomer — Jhayah Adams, Fr., Abilene High

First team

Karysa Edwards, Jr., Lee; Yaritza Rivas, Sr., Lee; Claire Lancaster, Sr., Midland High; Kaylyn Evans, Jr., Midland High; Rhianna Jones, Sr., Odessa Permian; Tatianesha Fleming, Sr., Odessa Permian; Cadye Nelms, So., San Angelo Central; Dakila Morris, Sr., Abilene High; Jasmine Brooks, Sr., Abilene High; Ruthie Fox, Jr., Odessa High

Second team

Alaysha Green, So., Lee; Zion Niblett, Jr., Lee; Rylee Rushton, Sr., Midland High; Amber Salcido, Sr., Midland High; Mallyan Comer, S., Odessa Permian; Ke'Avionni Ramzy, Sr., Odessa Permian; Ashley Pierce, Sr., Abilene High; Synia Pitts, Jr., Abilene High; Latavia Dosson, So., San Angelo Central; Ruby Shell, Sr., San Angelo Central; Kai'Naja Walton, Jr., Odessa High; Skyler Herrera, Fr., Odessa High

More basketball

See more high school basketball capsules, pairings and lists inside.

Page 3C

Baseball toughens up on chew as sky darkens for big dippers

By Ben Walker
Associated Press

Red Sox pitcher Clay Buchholz spit some chew into a bottle at his locker, then dipped into the latest notice from baseball.

Big leaguers are now getting a written reminder that smokeless tobacco is banned at stadiums in Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

One-page letters are being put in clubhouse stalls throughout spring training, where there is no prohibition. The notes come jointly from Major League Baseball and the players' union.

So, will Buchholz quit?

"That'll probably happen," he said. "If you get reprimanded for something, there comes a time where you're tired of paying fines for something you don't have to do or doesn't make you any better."

"You've got to obey the rules or there's consequences to it. We'll probably learn more about that when we get up North," he said at camp in Fort Myers, Florida.

Washington Nationals manager Dusty Baker was a big dipper for a long time. He's cut back over the years, but still might pop in a pinch when games get tight.

"It's a bad influence for the kids. Big time. I'll say that. But also they're adults, too, at the same time," Baker said.

"We'll see," he said. "My daughter used to put water in my can and put it back in my truck. Or my son, he has lip check — 'Get it out, Dad!'"

Local laws will prohibit the use of all tobacco products at Fenway Park, Dodger Stadium and AT&T Park this year, meaning players, team personnel, umpires and fans. The letter advises the same ban will take effect at every California ballpark in December.

"Major league players are citizens," Commissioner Rob Manfred said last week in Arizona. "Municipalities pass laws. We expect that our players will comply with those laws."

Said new Dodgers manager Dave Roberts: "I support it."

"I think that the intentions are there, and there's obviously going to be some resistance with players," he said.

"Like it or not, players are role models, and we have a platform as coaches and players. So if that's the law, then we definitely support it," he said.

Similar legislation has been proposed in New York City, and both the Mets and Yankees say they back such a ban at their parks. In Toronto, a city legislator said Monday that he plans to pursue a ban that would cover the Blue Jays' stadium.

The letter being distributed to players on 40-man rosters and teams this spring says: "Please note that these are city ordinances and not rules established by Major League Baseball. However, the commissioner's office will be monitoring

Please see CHEW/4C

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

ON TV

COLLEGE BASEBALL

UTRGV at TCU, 6:30 p.m., FCSC

HOCKEY

KHL: Quarterfinal: Avangard vs. Neftekhim, 7 a.m., OWSPN

MLB

Toronto vs. Philadelphia, Noon, MLB

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kentucky at Florida, 6 p.m., ESPN

Virginia at Clemson, 6 p.m., ESPNU

DePaul at Villanova, 6 p.m., FS1

Tennessee at Vanderbilt, 6 p.m., SEC

Dayton at Richmond, 6:30 p.m., CBSSN

Purdue at Nebraska, 7 p.m., BTN

Indiana at Iowa, 8 p.m., ESPN

Texas A&M at Auburn, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Georgetown at Marquette, 8 p.m., FS1

Missouri at LSU, 8 p.m., SEC

Utah State at Air Force, 8 p.m., ROOT

San Diego State at New Mexico, 8:30 p.m., CBSSN

MEN'S SOCCER

AFC Champions: Jiangsu vs. Jeonbuk, 9:30 a.m., OWSPN

Bundesliga: Hannover 96 vs. VfL Wolfsburg, 1 p.m., FS1

Bundesliga: Ingolstadt 04 vs. 1 FC Koln, 1 p.m., FS2, FXDEP

English Premier: Leicester City vs. West Bromwich Albion, 1:45 p.m., NBCSN

English Premier: Norwich City vs. Chelsea, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

English Premier: Aston Villa vs. Everton, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

English Premier: Sunderland vs. Crystal Palace, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

English Premier: Bournemouth vs. Southampton, 1:45 p.m., NBCET

La Liga: Atletico Madrid vs. Real Sociedad, 1:50 p.m., beIN, beIN2

Coppa Italia: Milan vs. Alessandria, 2 p.m., GolTV

Copa Libertadores: Olimpia vs. Pumas de la UNAM, 4:30 p.m., FXDEP

Copa Libertadores: Penarol vs. Huracan, 6:30 p.m., FSP

CONCACAF Champions: DC United vs. Queretaro, 7 p.m., FS2, UDN

CONCACAF Champions: Santos Laguna vs. Los Angeles Galaxy, 9 p.m., FS2, GALA

AFC Champions: Sydney vs. Guangzhou, 3 a.m., OWSPN

NBA

Chicago at Miami, 6:30 p.m., NBAtv

Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., FSSW

Atlanta at Golden State, 9:30 p.m., NBAtv

NHL

Pittsburgh at Washington, 6:30 p.m., NBCSN

Dallas at Nashville, 7 p.m., FSSW+

ON RADIO

NBA

Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., KBEST 95.7 FM (Big Spring)

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

BOYS BASKETBALL

Class 1A Region II quarterfinal, Grady vs. Klondike, 6 p.m., Denver City

BOYS BASEBALL

Greenwood at Sweetwater, 6 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Lee at San Angelo Central, 5:30 p.m.

Odessa Permian at Midland High, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Lee at San Angelo Central, 7:30 p.m.

Odessa Permian at Midland High, 7:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Lee at Lubbock Coronado, 4 p.m.

Ballinger at Greenwood, 5 p.m.

Midland Christian at Pecos, 5 p.m.

SOCKERS FC NEWS

SOCKERS FC ANNOUNCE BARNES RETURN AS COACH, ADD 3 PLAYERS

Sockers FC announced on Monday that Matt Barnes will return as its head coach and that the team has signed three players for the upcoming season.

During the past two seasons, Barnes has led the Sockers to a 14-11-6 record, including a successful season in 2015, when they qualified for the U.S. Open Cup for the first time in franchise history and got a win. The Sockers also earned their second Premier Development League playoff appearance in team history after finishing second in the Mid South Division.

Barnes is currently the head coach at San Francisco State University.

Midland High's Alex VonHolle, a midfielder for the Bulldogs, will join the Sockers but he won't sign his paperwork to join the Sockers until after the high school season is over in April. VonHolle will be attending the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs in the fall.

"Alex has practiced with the Sockers each of the past two PDL seasons and has a good idea of what it takes in the PDL due to that training," Barnes said.

Olli Tynkkynen, a forward, and Jaakko Hietikko, a midfielder, are two players signed from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Tykkynen will be a junior, while Hietikko will be a freshman. Both players are natives of Finland.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL — Suspended Texas 1B Trever Adams (Frisco-Texas), Toronto RHP Andrew Case (Vancouver-NWL), Cleveland RHP Jordan Dunatov (Arizona League Indians) and free agent RHP Dan Urbina 50 games each for violations of baseball's minor league drug program.

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with OF David Murphy on a minor league contract.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with INF/OF Ian Desmond on a one-year contract. Placed RHP Tanner Scheppers on the 60-day DL, retroactive to Feb. 18. Named Steve Mintz manager of Hickory (SAL). Brian Shouse pitching coach for Frisco (Texas) and Joey Seaver pitching coach for Spokane (NWL).

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Named Andruw Jones special assistant to baseball operations.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Recalled F Jarell Martin from Iowa (NBADL).

MIAMI HEAT — Waived G Beno Udrih.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Waived G Ray McCallum. Signed G Andre Miller.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS — Placed the franchise tag on WR Alshon Jeffery.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed DL Cleyon Laing.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Agreed to terms with QB Tom Brady on a two-year contract extension.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Released WR Marques Colston.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed P Marquette King to a long-term contract extension.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Acquired F Jamie McGinn from Buffalo for a conditional third-round draft pick. Acquired F Brandon Pirri from Florida for a 2016 sixth-round draft pick. Traded LW Patrick Maroon to Edmonton for a 2016 fourth-round pick and D Martin Gernat.

ARIZONA COYOTES — Acquired F Sergei Plotnikov from Pittsburgh for F Matthias Plachta and a conditional 2017 seventh-round draft pick. Acquired F Alex Tanguay, F Conner Bleackley and D Kyle Wood from Colorado for F Mikkel Boedker. Acquired F Matia Marcantuoni from Pittsburgh for F Dustin Jeffrey, F Dan O'Donoghue and D James Melindy. Recalled F Craig Cunningham from Springfield (AHL). Assigned F Tyler Gaudet to Springfield.

CALGARY FLAMES — Traded RW David Jones to Minnesota for G Niklas Backstrom and a 2016 sixth-round draft pick.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Acquired F Anthony Camara, a 2016 third-round draft pick and a 2017 fifth-round draft pick from Boston for D John-Michael Liles. Recalled D Ryan Murphy and Fs Brock McGinn and Derek Ryan from Charlotte (AHL).

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Acquired G Drew MacIntyre from Carolina for D Dennis Robertson and assigned MacIntyre to Rockford (AHL). Acquired F Tim Jackman and 2017 seventh-round draft pick from Anaheim for F Corey Tropp and reassigned Jackman to San Diego (AHL).

COLORADO AVALANCHE — Reassigned G Reto Berra to San Antonio. Acquired F Taylor Beck from the New York Islanders for C Marc-Andre Cliche.

DALLAS STARS — Acquired D Kris Russell from Calgary for D Jyrki Jokipakka, F Brett Pollock and a conditional 2016 second-round draft pick.

DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled G Jared Coreau from Grand Rapids (AHL).

EDMONTON OILERS — Claimed F Adam Cracknell off waivers from Vancouver and D Adam Pardy off waivers from Winnipeg. Re-signed D Brandon Davidson and G Laurent Brossoit to two-year contract extensions.

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Traded RW Scott Sabourin to Minnesota for C Brett Sutter.

MINNESOTA WILD — Traded LW Michael Keranen to Ottawa for D Conor Allen. Activated D Jonas Brodin from injured reserve. Assigned D Christian Folin Iowa (AHL).

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Claimed RW Mike Brown off waivers from San Jose.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Acquired D Corey Potter from Arizona for future considerations and assigned him to Norfolk (AHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Traded D Eric Gelinas to Colorado for a 2017 third-round draft pick. Recalled F Stefan Matteau from Albany (AHL) and traded him to Montreal for F Devante Smith-Pelly. Acquired a 2016 fourth-round draft pick and a 2017 second-round draft pick from Boston for RW Lee Stempniak. Recalled F Joseph Blandisi, F Reid Boucher and D Damon Severson from Albany (AHL). Claimed D David Warsofsky off waivers from Pittsburgh.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Acquired Shane Prince and a 2016 seventh-round draft pick from Ottawa for a 2016 third-round draft pick.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned D Matt Taormina to Syracuse (AHL).

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Recalled C William Nylander, RW Kasperi Kapanen and F Nikita Soshnikov from Toronto (AHL). Loaned Fs Mark Arcobello, Brendan Leipsic and Josh Leivo to Toronto.

American Hockey League

CHARLOTTE CHECKERS — Acquired G John Muse from Texas for future considerations.

MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS — Signed D Jimmy Oligny to a two-year contract extension through the 2017-18 season.

SOCCER

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION — Elected Carlos Cordeiro vice president. Reconfirmed Donna Shalala as an independent director.

Major League Soccer

FC DALLAS — Signed G Ryan Herman and M Timo Pitter.

LA GALAXY — Waived D Dan Gargan and F Ignacio Maganto.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Waived M Mael Corboz.

North American Soccer League

NEW YORK COSMOS — Signed D-M Gabriel Farfan.

COLLEGE

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE — Fined Vanderbilt $100,000 after fans stormed the court following the Commodores' 74-62 victory over Kentucky on Feb. 27.

CHATTANOOGA — Named Adam Ross offensive line coach and John Srofe video coordinator and defensive quality control assistant for football program. Added the additional title of recruiting coordinator to corners and dimes coach Rod West.

CONNECTICUT — Named Dave Benedict athletic director.

HAMLINE — Announced the resignation of football coach Chad Rogosheske to accept the same position at Capital.

LA SALLE — Named Bill Bradshaw interim director of intercollegiate athletics and recreation.

MISSOURI — Announced sophomore F D'Angelo Allen has left the men's basketball team and plans to transfer at the end of the season.

TENNESSEE TECH — Announced the retirement of Jim Davis, women's basketball coach.

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HIGHSCHOOLTRACKROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LEE GIRLS WIN IN MINERAL WELLS

MINERAL WELLS — The Lee girls track and field team won its second straight meet in two tries after finishing first out of eight teams at the Ram Relays on Saturday.

Ashley Rackow led the Lady Rebels' individual performers with a first-place showing in the long jump (16-1 3/4). The Lee girls also swept all three relay events.

In the boys competition, Lee received first-place performances from Isaiah Terrell in the 200 meters (22.29), Denim Rogers in the high jump (6-2), Michael Marsh (162-3 1/2) and its 800 meter relay team (1:31.43).

The Rebels were runner ups in the boys team standings, finishing behind District 3-6A foe Abilene High.

Mineral Wells Ram Relays
Saturday's results
Boys

100 — 3. Adrayll Burnett, Lee, 11.72
200 — 1. Isaiah Terrell, Lee, 22.29; 4. Avery Akbar, Lee, 23.10
3,200 — 5. Isaiah Bersoza, Lee, 11:14.29
110 hurdles — 2. Denim Rogers, Lee, 14.84
300 hurdles — 2. Rogers, Lee, 40.57
400 relay — 2. Lee (Conner Friel, Terrell, Burnett, Tony Jones) 43.94
800 relay — 1. Lee (Friel, Rogers, Akbar, Terrell) 1:31.43
1,600 relay — 6. Lee (Trevor Gonzarez, Josh Levario, Jones, Burnett) 3:35.00
High jump — 1. Rogers, Lee, 6-2; 4. Burnett, Lee, 5-8
Long jump — 2. Rogers, Lee, 20-9 1/4
Shot put — 5. Michael Marsh, Lee, 47-4
Discus — 1. Michael Marsh, Lee, 162-3 1/2

Girls

100 — 2. Alexus Bateman, Lee, 13.13
200 — 2. Chelsea Adams, Lee, 26.83; 3. Hillary Johnson, Lee, 26.85
800 — 4. Lagaya Barnes, Lee, 2:37.87; 5. Thalia Balderas, Lee, 2:38.47
3,200 — 6. Emily Ray, Lee, 13:11.24
100 hurdles — 3. Jordan Collins, Lee, 17.40
300 hurdles — 2. Brittney Leverrette, Lee, 47.62
400 relay — 1. Lee (Adams, Bateman, Johnson, Heavyn Burnett) 50.91
800 relay — 1. Lee (Bateman, Leverrette, Johnson, Kristian Ruiz) 1:45.77
1,600 relay — 1. Lee (Adams, Burnett, Leverrette, Ruiz) 4:13.25
High jump — 3. Kristian Ruiz, Lee, 6-0
Long jump — 1. Ashley Rackow, Lee, 16-1 3/4
Triple jump — 3. Heavyn Burnett, Lee, 32-10 3/4, 4. Rackow, Lee, 32-10
Discus — 6. Deborah Wallace, Lee, 94-4 1/2

HOPPEL LEADS MHS AT FRENSHIP

WOLFFORTH — Midland High senior Bryce Hoppel won both the boys 800 meters (1:52.63) and 1,600 meters (4:25.56) during Saturday's City Bank Relays at Frenship High School.

MHS junior Courtney McMaryion won gold with his first-place height of 6 feet, 2 inches in the boys high jump.

Sarah Ives, of Andrews, placed first in both the girls 100 hurdles (15.38) and the triple jump (36-3).

The Midland High girls placed fourth in the team standings, while the MHS boys team results were not available.

City Bank Relays
At Wolfforth Frenship HS
Saturday's area results
Boys

100 — 5. McLane Mannix, MHS, 11.19
400 — 1. Ian Gonzales, Big Spring, 49.42 4. Mario Garcia, Andrews, 50.72; 6. Jaylan Tryon, MHS, 51.67
800 — 1. Bryce Hoppel, MHS, 1:52.63; 2. Gonzales, Big Spring, 1:58.62; 6. Jeremy Cervantes, Big Spring, 2:01.82
1,600 — 1. Hoppel, MHS, 4:25.56; 5. Chad Schmidt, MHS, 4:36.74; 6. Ruben Guerra, MHS, 4:38.76
3,200 — 3. Guerra, MHS, 10:10.30; Schmidt, MHS, 10:21.49; 6. Cade Micheel, MHS, 10:32.44
400 relay — 3. MHS 42.77
800 relay — 3. MHS 1:29.16
1,600 relay — 2. Big Spring 3:23.06; 3. MHS 3:25.63; 5. Andrews 3:30.07
High jump — 1. Courtney McMaryion, MHS, 6-2; 4. Jeremiah Rushin, Big Spring, 6-0
Discus — 3. Esteban Lopez, Andrews, 150-5

Girls

100 — 5. Kailey Mathews, Big Spring, 12.56
200 — 1. Kaitlyn Mathews, Big Spring, 24.93; 2. Ashlynn Dominguez, MHS, 25.47; 4. Jasmine McCallister, MHS, 26.45
400 — 3. Mathews, Big Spring, 58.85
800 — 3. Samantha Solis, Big Spring, 2:31.56; 6. Jenia Mitchell, MHS, 2:34.05
1,600 — 4. Kandus Box, MHS, 5:50.00; 5. Mitchell, MHS, 5:50.83
3,200 — 3. Box, MHS, 12:34.56
100 hurdles — 1. Sarah Ives, Andrews, 15.38; 3. Lauryn Truesdale, MHS, 16.80
300 hurdles — 2. Bailey Crouse, MHS, 46.12
400 relay — 3. MHS 49.94
800 relay — 2. MHS 1:46.68
1,600 relay — 6. Big Spring 4:20.01
Pole vault — 1. Suzie Orson, Andrews, 9-0; 6. Taci Taylor, MHS, 8-0
Long jump — 2. Ives, Andrews, 17-10 3/4
Triple jump — 1. Ives, Andrews, 36-3; Mathews, Big Spring, 35-0
Shot put — 3. Faith Ragland, Andrews, 38-2
Discus — 4. Carlie Roberts, Big Spring, 108-0

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BUCKS 128 ROCKETS 121

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo recorded his second career triple-double with 18 points, 17 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Bucks outlasted the Rockets.

Jabari Parker scored a career-high 36 points for Milwaukee, and Khris Middleton had 30 points.

The Bucks nearly blew a late 13-point lead after the Rockets put together a 9-0 run. After forcing a turnover, Houston's Trevor Ariza was whistled for a 5-second violation on inbounds pass with 20 seconds remaining.

Dwight Howard had 30 points and 13 rebounds for Houston, while Ariza had 20 points and 11 assists.

CAVALIERS 100 PACERS 96

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 33 points after sitting out a game and Tristan Thompson made two huge plays in the final minute, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 100-96 win over the Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

James was rested on Sunday by coach Tyronn Lue and the Cavs were lethargic in a 113-99 loss at Washington. But with James back on the floor, Cleveland played with much more energy and again looked like a team with NBA championship aspirations.

Matthew Dellavedova hit a tying 3-pointer for the Cavs with 1:13 left before Thompson made it 96-94 with a layup. Thompson then blocked a shot by Indiana's George Hill with 18 seconds left.

Monta Ellis scored 28 points and Paul George had 23 for the Pacers, who lost their third straight but played much better than in a loss to Portland on Sunday.

WIZARDS 116 76ERS 108

WASHINGTON — John Wall scored 16 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Wizards rally for the win.

Wall and Marcin Gortat combined for 14 points during a 16-0 fourth-quarter run in Washington's sixth victory in eight games since the All-Star break. Gortat finished with 18 points and a career-high 20 rebounds.

Markieff Morris added 16 points and 13 rebounds in his first double-double with Washington.

Philadelphia played without rookie center Jahlil Okafor, who was sidelined by a right shin bruise. But the 76ers had six players score in double figures, led by Ish Smith's 25 points.

The 76ers were outrebounded 53-32 in their ninth straight loss.

GRIZZLIES 103 NUGGETS 96

DENVER — Zach Randolph scored 22 points, leading Memphis to the road win.

Matt Barnes had 16 points for the Grizzlies, and Mario Chalmers finished with 15. Memphis won its fifth in a row against the Nuggets, including three meetings this season.

Kenneth Faried had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have lost five of six. Gary Harris added 15 points.

Newly signed JaKarr Sampson started in place of injured forward Danilo Gallinari, the Nuggets' leading scorer who is sidelined indefinitely after severely spraining his right ankle Friday at Dallas. Sampson finished with seven points.

CELTICS 100 JAZZ 95

BOSTON — Jae Crowder had 22 points, and the Celtics extended their home win streak to 11.

Isaiah Thomas added 18 points and nine assists. Avery Bradley also finished with 18 points.

the Celtics went in front for good on a 3-pointer by Crowder with less than a minute to play.

Trey Lyles had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who have dropped three in a row. Shelvin Mack added 18 points. Gordon Hayward finished with 16.

NBA GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Toronto	39	19	.672	—
Boston	36	25	.590	4½
New York	25	36	.410	15½
Brooklyn	17	42	.288	22½
Philadelphia	8	52	.133	32
Southeast Division				
Miami	33	26	.559	—
Atlanta	33	27	.550	½
Charlotte	30	28	.517	2½
Washington	29	30	.492	4
Orlando	26	32	.448	6½
Central Division				
Cleveland	42	17	.712	—
Chicago	30	28	.517	11½
Indiana	31	29	.517	11½
Detroit	31	29	.517	11½
Milwaukee	25	35	.417	17½

WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	50	9	.847	—
Memphis	35	24	.593	15
Dallas	32	28	.533	18½
Houston	29	31	.483	21½
New Orleans	23	35	.397	26½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	41	18	.695	—
Portland	32	28	.533	9½
Utah	28	31	.475	13
Denver	23	37	.383	18½
Minnesota	19	41	.317	22½
Pacific Division				
x-Golden State	53	5	.914	—
L.A. Clippers	38	20	.655	15
Sacramento	24	33	.421	28½
Phoenix	15	44	.254	38½
L.A. Lakers	11	49	.183	43

x-clinched playoff spot

Scores and schedule

Monday's Scores

Cleveland 100, Indiana 96
Washington 116, Philadelphia 108
Boston 100, Utah 95
Milwaukee 128, Houston 121
Memphis 103, Denver 96
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, late
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, late

Today's Games

Phoenix at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Orlando at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Charlotte at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 6 p.m.
Utah at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Portland at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Pavel Datysuk scores in overtime, Red Wings beat Stars

Associated Press

DALLAS — Pavel Datsyuk scored a power-play goal in overtime and the Detroit Red Wings beat the Dallas Stars 3-2 on Monday night for their third straight victory.

Datsyuk put a rebound past goalie Antti Niemi at 2:33 of overtime while Mattias Janmark was off for hooking. Detroit moved into third place in the Atlantic Division, one point ahead of Boston.

Rookie center Andreas Athanasiou scored Detroit's first two goals, and goalie Jimmy Howard won for the first time since Dec. 3.

Dallas' Vernon Fiddler put in his own rebound to tie the score with 1:31 to play in the third period. The Stars had an extra skater on after pulling Niemi. Fiddler also assisted on Colton Sceviour's second-period goal.

By earning one point for the overtime loss, the Stars tied Chicago atop the Central Division.

Howard made 39 saves, and Niemi had 30.

Datsyuk has 49 points (19 goals, 30 assists) in 41 career games against the Stars. Detroit had failed to score in its last 20 power plays over seven games.

The Red Wings have won their last seven games in Dallas dating to Oct. 14, 2010.

Athanasiou gave the Red Wings one-goal leads in both the second and third. He had only two goals in his 17 previous NHL games.

Dallas outshot the Red Wings 15-7 in a scoreless first period. Detroit didn't have a shot on goal for the first 6 1/2 minutes.

The Stars' best chance came 17 1/2 minutes into the game when a deflected shot by Jason Demers bounced off the left post.

Each team had one power play in the first.

Both teams scored in the second period. Detroit's Gustav Nyquist took a shot from the slot and the puck was deflected. It rebounded into the right faceoff circle, where, Athanasiou sent a wrist shot past Niemi.

NHL GLANCE

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
Florida	62	35	19	8	78	171	146
Tampa Bay	63	37	22	4	78	175	151
Detroit	63	32	20	11	75	161	163
Boston	63	34	23	6	74	195	175
Ottawa	63	30	27	6	66	185	196
Montreal	62	30	27	5	65	171	169
Buffalo	63	25	31	7	57	147	170
Toronto	61	21	30	10	52	147	182
Metropolitan Division							
Washington	61	45	12	4	94	202	142
N.Y. Rangers	63	37	20	6	80	180	159
N.Y. Islanders	60	33	20	7	73	171	149
Pittsburgh	61	32	21	8	72	165	157
Philadelphia	62	29	22	11	69	157	168
New Jersey	63	30	26	7	67	139	153
Carolina	64	28	26	10	66	155	173
Columbus	64	26	30	8	60	167	196

WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Central Division							
Chicago	64	39	20	5	83	180	153
Dallas	64	38	19	7	83	206	184
St. Louis	65	36	20	9	81	162	159
Nashville	63	31	21	11	73	167	158
Colorado	64	32	28	4	68	172	181
Minnesota	63	28	25	10	66	164	159
Winnipeg	61	26	31	4	56	159	183
Pacific Division							
Los Angeles	62	37	21	4	78	165	143
Anaheim	61	34	19	8	76	153	144
San Jose	61	33	22	6	72	182	165
Vancouver	61	24	25	12	60	148	175
Arizona	63	27	30	6	60	168	198
Calgary	62	26	32	4	56	169	195
Edmonton	64	23	34	7	53	156	193

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Scores and schedule

Monday's Scores

N.Y. Rangers 2, Columbus 1
Philadelphia 5, Calgary 3
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 0
Tampa Bay 2, Toronto 1
Detroit 3, Dallas 2, OT
Montreal at San Jose, late

Today's Games

Calgary at Boston, 6 p.m.
Carolina at New Jersey, 6 p.m.
Edmonton at Buffalo, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 6:30 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

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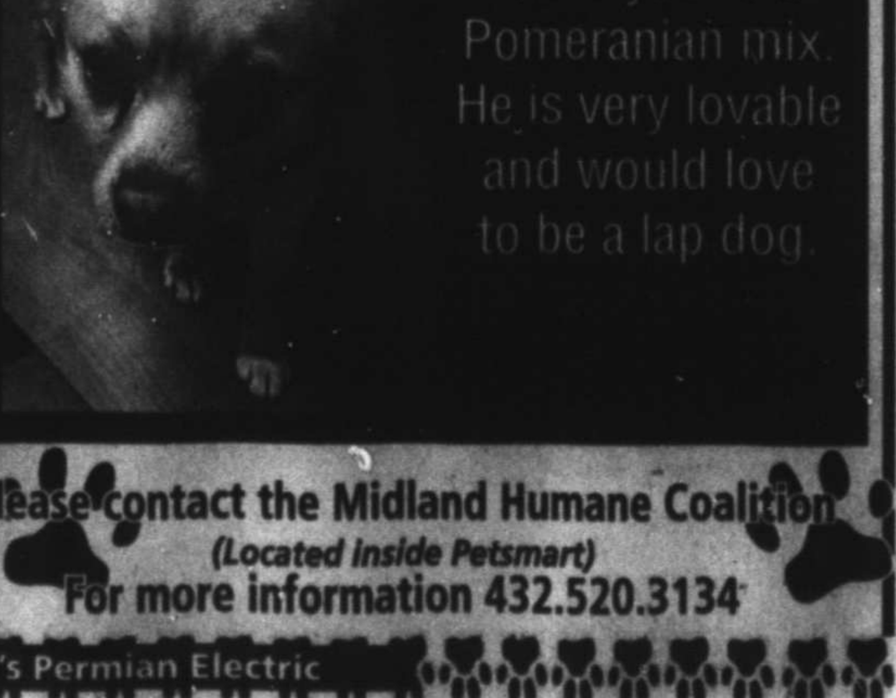

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(Located inside Petsmart)
For more information 432.520.3134

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MHS' Rivers honored by 3-6A coaches

From staff reports

Midland High senior guard Shawn Rivers was named to the All-District 3-6A Boys Basketball first team, which was released on Monday.

Rivers was the only Midland High player to garner first team honors, while no Lee players were represented on the first team.

The superlatives were dominated by District 3-6A champion Abilene High, as senior Diamond Gary took MVP honors, senior Austin Johnson was named Offensive MVP and Don Heseman was the Coach of the Year recipient.

The District 3-6A Defensive MVP was shared by San Angelo Central senior Kolton Kohl and Odessa Permian junior Kobe Robinson.

ALL-DISTRICT 3-6A BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
Superlatives
MVP — Diamond Gary, Sr., Abilene High
Offensive MVP — Austin Johnson, Sr., Abilene High
Co-Defensive MVPs — Kolton Kohl, Sr., San Angelo Central and Kobe Robinson, Jr., Odessa Permian
Coach of the Year — Don Heseman, Abilene High
First Team
Chris Castel, Sr., Abilene High; Payton Killam, Jr., Abilene High; Cody Henson, Sr., San Angelo Central; Anthony Signorelli, Sr., San Angelo Central; Shawn Rivers, Sr., Midland High; Isaac Hernandez, So., Odessa High; Ozzy Terrazas, So., Odessa High; Miguel Fonseca, So., Odessa High; Anthony Thomas, Jr., Odessa Permian; Jack Fawcett, Sr., Odessa Permian
Second Team
Avery Griffith, Sr., Abilene High; Jydonn Griffith, So., Abilene High; Qua'Shawn Washington, Jr., Abilene High; Will Grindstaff, Sr., San Angelo Central; Isaiah Oliver, Jr., San Angelo Central; Adam West, Jr., San Angelo Central; Courtney McMaryion, Jr., Midland High; Sema'J Davis, Jr., Lee; Ivan Aguilar, Jr., Odessa High; Memo Anaya, So., Odessa High; Justin Hammond, Fr., Odessa Permian

Greenwood's Payne named 4-4A MVP

From staff reports

Greenwood point guard Caity Payne was named co-MVP on the All-District 4-4A girls basketball selections that were released Monday.

Payne shared MVP honors with Seminole senior Kelea Pool, as both players led their respective teams to the co-District 4-4A championship.

The Greenwood girls, who reached the Elite Eight with an appearance in the Region I-4A tournament final, were represented by senior Layne Banks, senior Callie Rose Gilbert, sophomore Natalee Karcher and junior Cylie Mebane on the All-District 4-4A first team.

The Andrews girls landed senior Taylor Bailey and junior Rylee Diaz on the first team.

The All-District 4-4A boys basketball selections were also released as Greenwood was represented by juniors Sammy Magellan and Blake Elliott on the first team.

Seniors Devon Fitzgerald, Samuel Robertson and Joel Flores represented the Andrews boys on the first team. The Mustangs finished in a third-place tie with Greenwood.

ALL-DISTRICT 4-4A GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM
Superlatives
Co-MVPs — Caity Payne, So., Greenwood and Kelea Pool, Sr., Seminole
Offensive MVP — Kendall Freeman, Sr., Seminole
Defensive MVP — Tatum McGehee, Sr., Seminole
Newcomer — Brittney Kelly, Sr., Seminole
First Team
Victoria Arriaga, Jr., Fort Stockton; Taylor Bailey, Sr., Andrews; Layne Banks, Sr., Greenwood; Jaylin Burleson, So., Pecos; Rylee Diaz, Jr., Andrews; Callie Rose Gilbert, Sr., Greenwood; Natalee Karcher, So, Greenwood; Cylie Mebane, Jr.; Greenwood; Kynedy Rosalez, Sr., Seminole; Brittney Saldana, Sr., Pecos
Second Team
Mikyla Alvidrez, Sr., Andrews; Avary Carter, Jr., Monahans; Caroline Cutbirth, Jr., Monahans; Danielle Hernandez, Sr., Pecos; Natalee Hodges, Sr., Fort Stockton; Shelbi Holley, Sr., Monahans; Rae Johnson, So, Andrews; Janey Leach, Jr., Andrews; Ariana Leyva, So., Greenwood; Briana Pelham, Sr., Pecos; Estrella Porras, Fr., Monahans; Crishna Villarreal, Jr., Fort Stockton; Lindsey Wimmer, Sr., Seminole; Arianna Zapata, Jr., Fort Stockton

ALL-DISTRICT 4-4A BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
Superlatives
MVP — Luke Wimmer, Sr., Seminole
Offensive MVP — Reese Moore, So., Seminole
Defensive MVP — Marcus Montez, Sr., Monahans
Newcomer — Carter Laramore, So, Seminole
First Team
Devon Fitzgerald, Sr., Andrews; Lucas Rodriguez, Sr., Monahans; Samuel Robertson, Sr., Andrews; Andrew Acosta, Sr., Fort Stockton; Sammy Magellan, Jr., Greenwood; Malik Jackson, Jr., Monahans; David Birdwell, So., Monahans; Blake Elliott, Jr., Greenwood; Blayne Childers, Sr., Seminole; Julian Nichols, Jr., Pecos; Joel Flores, Sr., Andrews
Second Team
Elijah Villarreal, Sr., Seminole; Michael Smith, So., Monahans; Kalvin Hernandez, Sr., Fort Stockton; Carter Johnson, So., Seminole; Triston Williams, Jr., Andrews; Seth Keeton, Jr., Greenwood; Ronin Williams, Jr., Monahans; Colton Moore, Jr., Greenwood; Nathan DeAnda, Jr., Pecos; Payton Lopez, So., Andrews

HS BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 6A
Bi-District
North Crowley (29-3, W4) 79, Odessa High (18-13, F4) 34
Amarillo High (9-14, T2) 48, El Paso Eastwood (22-7, R1) 46
Abilene High (31-4, W3), Weatherford (13-18, F4) 74
Lubbock Coronado (24-5, R2) 78, El Paso El Dorado (17-12, T1) 52
DeSoto (30-2, W8) 78, Euless Trinity (17-12, F7) 43
Hebron (22-10, T6) 55, Keller (19-11, R5) 44
Duncanville (17-15, F8) 72, Coppell (25-6, W7) 61
Justin Northwest (22-12, T5) 60, Allen (24-8, R6) 54
Amarillo Tascosa (30-0, W2) 70, El Paso Coronado (14-14, F1) 49
Arlington Bowie (20-12, T4) 57, Odessa Permian 39
El Paso Americas (31-1, W1) 66, Lubbock Monterey (10-13, F2) 62
Arlington Martin (25-6, R4) 61, vs. San Angelo Central (21-12, T3) 36
Plano East (26-7, W6) 75, Trophy Club Byron Nelson (18-14, F5) 41
Cedar Hill (24-5, T8) 74, Southlake Carroll (16-13, R7) 66
Denton Guyer (30-2, W5) 75, Flower Mound (24-9, F6) 65
South Grand Prairie (21-8, R8) 65, Richland 50
Area
North Crowley (30-3, W4) 61, Amarillo High (9-15, T2) 43
Lubbock Coronado (25-5, R2) 89, Abilene High (31-5, W3) 65
DeSoto (31-2, W8) 72, Hebron (22-11, T6) 40
Justin Northwest (23-12, T5) 59, Duncanville (17-16, F8) 48
Amarillo Tascosa (31-0, W2) 87, Arlington Bowie (20-13, T4) 67
Arlington Martin (26-6, R4) 50, El Paso Americas (31-2, W1) 48
Plano East (27-7, W6) 62, Cedar Hill (24-6, T8) 55
South Grand Prairie (22-8, R8) 74, Denton Guyer (30-3, W5) 53
Regional quarterfinal
North Crowley (30-3, W4) vs. Lubbock Coronado (25-5, R2), 6 p.m. today, Clyde HS
DeSoto (31-2, W8) vs. Justin Northwest (23-12, T5), 7 p.m. today, Arlington Lamar HS
Amarillo Tascosa (31-0, W2) vs. Arlington Martin (26-6, R4), 6 p.m. today, Snyder HS
Plano East (27-7, W6) vs. South Grand Prairie (22-8, R8), 7:30 p.m. today, Conrad HS

CLASS 4A
Bi-District
Seminole (19-6, W4) 73, Clint 46
Levelland (14-10, T2) 66, Pampa 48
San Elizario (17-9, W3) 65, Andrews 53
Lamesa (24-7, R2) 57, Borger (11-16, T1) 45
Bridgeport (23-7, W8) 63, Alvarado (5-25, F7) 33
Hirschi (20-11, R5) 64, Graham (13-112, T6) 51
Kennedale (22-12, W7) 84, Springtown 65
Iowa Park (11-16, T5) 57, Mineral Wells 56
Lubbock Estacado (W2) 68, Perryton 40
Greenwood (8-23, T4) 71, Fabens (9-19, R3) 67
Bushland (17-9, W1) 71, Sweetwater (14-12, F2) 51
Monahans (10-12, R4) 69, Clint Mountain View 18
Abilene Wylie (26-5, W6) 86, Vernon 32
Midlothian Heritage (24-6, R7) 70, Lake Worth 57
Burkburnett (18-6, W5) 69, Stephenville (F6) 42
Decatur (23-8, R8) 91, Venus 47
Area
Levelland (15-10, T2) 54, Seminole (19-7, W4) 35
Lamesa (25-7, R2) 90, San Elizario (17-10, W3) 73
Bridgeport (23-7, W8) 67, Hirschi 37
Kennedale (23-12, W7) 65, Iowa Park (11-17, T5) 46
Lubbock Estacado (24-7, W2) 71, Greenwood (9-24, T4) 40
Bushland (17-9, W1) 70, Monahans 61
Abilene Wylie (27-5, W6) 71, Midlothian Heritage (24-7, R7) 39
Decatur (24-8, R8) 61, Burkburnett (18-7, W5) 57
Regional quarterfinal
Levelland (15-10, T2) vs. Lamesa (25-7, R2), 6:30 p.m. today, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock
Bridgeport (24-7, W8) vs. Kennedale (24-12, W7), TBA
Lubbock Estacado (25-7, W2) vs. Bushland (18-9, W1), 6 p.m. today, Plainview
Abilene Wylie (28-5, W6) vs. Decatur (25-8, R8), 7 p.m. today, Glen Rose

CLASS 3A
Bi-District
Kermit (29-2, W4) 71, Idalou 40
Muleshoe (T3) 58, Spearman (R1) 35
Brownfield (22-3, W3) 86, Crane (F4) 54
Littlefield (R2) 68, Amarillo River Road 65
Eastland (W8) 40, Comanche 32
Texas Leadership Charter Academy (20-8, T6) 49, Reagan County 44
Coleman (W7) 39, Cisco (5-12, F8) 35
Tuscola Jim Ned (21-9, R6) 59, Stanton (13-13, T5) 42
Shallowater (W2) 64, Sanford-Fritch (F1) 52
Slaton (15-8, R3) 70, Alpine 34
Childress (27-1, W1) 87, Dimmitt (F2) 55
Denver City (T3) 32, Tornillo (19-11, R4) 31
Wall (23-6, W6) 69, Sonora 27
Brady (R7) 55 Breckenridge 43
Colorado City (22-7, W5) 52, Ballinger (14-14, F6) 46
Early (12-13, T7) 56, Clyde (R8) 55
Area
Kermit (30-2, W4) 68, Muleshoe (T3) 42
Brownfield (22-3, W3) 76, Littlefield 37
Texas Leadership Charter Academy (22-8, T6) 49, Eastland (W8) 45
Tuscola Jim Ned (21-9, R6) 53, Coleman 42
Slaton (16-8, R3) 52, Shallowater (W2) 48
Childress (28-1, W1) 62, Denver City (T3) 38
Wall (24-6, W6) 53, Brady (R7) 50
Colorado City (22-7, W5) 65, Early 37
Regional quarterfinal
Kermit (30-2, W4) vs. Brownfield (23-3, W3), 7 p.m. today, Andrews
Texas Leadership Charter Academy (23-8, T6) vs. Tuscola Jim Ned (22-9, R6), 7 p.m. today, Bronte
Slaton (17-8, R3) vs. Childress (29-1, W1), 7 p.m. today, Canyon
Wall (25-6, W6) vs. Colorado City (23-7, W5), 6:30 p.m. today, McMurry University, Abilene

CLASS 1A
Region II
Bi-District
Borden County (W12), bye
Grandfalls-Royalty (T10) 59, Sierra Blanca 45
Imperial Buena Vista (W11), bye
Sands (R11) 63, Westbrook (T12) 42
Menard (W16), bye
Garden City (17-10, T14) 63, Aspermont (R1) 45
Water Valley (23-3, W14), bye
Eula (R15) 59, Rochelle 28
Grady (27-4, W11), bye
Wink (R10) 59, Fort Davis 39
Balmorhea (W9), bye
Klondike (T11) 73, Hermleigh 35
May (W15), bye
Bronte (R14) 50, Lueders-Avoca 20
W13, bye
Baird (T15) 58, Richland Springs (R16) 46
Area
Borden County (W12) 94, Grandfalls-Royalty (T10) 34
Imperial Buena Vista 68, Sands (R11) 60
Menard (W16) 73, Garden City (17-11, T14) 46
Water Valley (24-3, W14) 53, Eula (R15) 27
Grady (28-4, W11) 82, Wink (R10) 53
Klondike (T11) 63, Balmorhea (W9) 42
May (W15) 31, Bronte (R14) 24
Jayton 50, Baird (T15) 23
Regional quarterfinal
Borden County (W12) vs. Imperial Buena Vista, 6:30 p.m. today, New Mexico JC, Hobbs
Menard (W16) vs. Water Valley (24-3, W14), 6:30 p.m. today, Eldorado
Grady (28-4, W11) vs. Klondike (T11), 6 p.m. today, Denver City
May (W15) vs. Jayton, 8 p.m. today, Clyde HS

HS GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

2016 UIL Girls Basketball State Tournament
Thursday-Saturday
Alamodome, San Antonio
Thursday Games
Class 1A Semifinals
8:30 a.m., Chireno (33-3) vs. Nazareth (30-5)
10 a.m., Roby (32-2) vs. Lipan (30-7)
Class 3A Semifinals
1:30 p.m., Brock (33-4) vs. Little River Academy (32-6)
3 p.m., San Antonio Cole (37-3) vs. Wall (32-4)
Class 5A Semifinals
7 p.m., Canyon (33-1) vs. Crosby (30-7)
8:30 p.m., Cedar Park Vista Ridge (34-4) vs. Frisco Liberty (32-6)
Friday Games
Class 2A Semifinals
8:30 a.m., Panhandle (34-1) vs. Martin's Mill (31-6)
10 a.m., Weimar (37-2) vs. La Rue La Poynor (35-2)
Class 4A Semifinals
1:30 p.m., Waco La Vega (32-2) vs. Abilene Wylie (30-5)
3 p.m., Argyle (33-1) vs. Liberty Hill (36-3)
Class 6A Semifinals
7 p.m., Galena Park North Shore (36-1) vs. Spring DeKaney (36-1)
8:30 p.m., Duncanville (37-0) vs. Cibolo Steele (36-3)
Saturday, March 5
8:30 a.m., Class 1A Final
10 a.m., Class 3A Final
1:30 p.m., Class 2A Final
3 p.m., Class 5A Final
7 p.m., Class 4A Final
8:30 p.m., Class 6A Final

PLAYOFFCAPSULE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

REGION II-A QUARTERFINAL
NO. 3 GRADY VS. KLONDIKE

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Denver City HS

Records: Grady 28-4; Klondike 17-10

Last game: Grady 82, Wink 53, area; Klondike 62, Balmorhea 43, area

Notes: After earning a first-round bye thanks to its District 11-A title, Grady rolled through Wink, 82-53 in the area round on Friday. …Now the No. 3-ranked Wildcats have a date with district rival Klondike — the district's No. 3 seed — with a trip to the Region II-A tournament on the line. … Grady head coach Chris Short said he knows playing Klondike for the third time this season will be challenging. "It's always tough," Short said. "It's tough to beat someone a third time. It says a lot about our district that the third-place team came back and is still playing." … Short said his players are especially hungry after many of them played on the team that lost to Texline in last year's Class 1A state final. But the Wildcats are staying focused on the opponent immediately in front of them. "The goal we set here was to win it all," Short said. "What is going to help us is that we have the experience. We're taking it one game at a time and our biggest focus is Klondike. We've had a target on our backs all season and we know they're going to come play hard." …Senior guards Aaron Skille (13.5 ppg) and Chris Arismendez (13.2 ppg) are the Cougars' leading scorers this season. Sophomore guard Jayden Coleman is also averaging 12.2 points per contest for Klondike.

Next: Winner plays winner of May-Jayton, 7:30 p.m. Friday in regional semifinal, Moody Coliseum, Abilene

TEXASCOLLEGEROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

NO. 1 KANSAS 86
NO. 23 TEXAS 56

AUSTIN — Perry Ellis scored 20 points and top-ranked Kansas rolled over No. 23 Texas 86-56 on Monday night, an emphatic exclamation point that clinched the outright Big 12 championship for the Jayhawks.

Kansas had already earned at least a share of a 12th straight crown and settled the question of whether they would get to claim it as their own in the opening minutes with a barrage of 3-pointers, a steady diet of points from Ellis and defense that gave Texas nothing easy.

The Jayhawks (26-4, 14-3) made 11 3-pointers, led by 24 points by halftime and sent Texas' sellout home crowd headed to the exits early. Ellis finished 9 of 11 from the field.

Frank Mason III added 14 points for Kansas.

Javan Felix scored 13 points for Texas (19-11, 10-7), which has never beaten a No. 1-ranked opponent in nine tries.

Kansas, which spent two weeks at No. 1 in early January, looked every bit the part this time. And in a season the Big 12 finally seemed like it could crown a new champion, the Jayhawks stormed through the second half of the league schedule with a nine-game winning streak to take it again.

Kansas has won nine of its last 10 against Texas, but came into this one expecting a much tougher fight than the Longhorns put up.

With four wins already this season over Top 10 opponents, Texas looked like a team ready to grab another. The Longhorns came in brimming with confidence as the league upstart under first-year coach Shaka Smart. And after its impressive win two days earlier over Oklahoma, Texas turned out its biggest — and rowdiest — crowd of the season.

The Jayhawks greeted it with little more than a shrug and a scoring burst at the start that overwhelmed the Longhorns from the opening tip.

Devonte' Graham and Mason made three 3-pointers in a 15-0 run as Texas missed its first 14 shots. And Ellis had hardly even gotten started. The senior forward dominated Texas' front line for 15 points in the first half. His 3-pointer put the Jayhawks up by 21 points with 4 minutes left.

Even when Texas started matching shots, that's all the Longhorns could do. The Jayhawks shot 66 percent in the first half and consecutive 3-pointers by Wayne Selden Jr., and Brannen Greene in the final minutes sent Kansas into halftime with a 47-23 lead.

Women

NO. 4 BAYLOR
NO. 6 TEXAS

WACO — Kristy Wallace scored a season-high 23 points and the No. 4 Baylor women wrapped up sole possession of the Big 12 regular-season title with a 74-48 blowout of sixth-ranked Texas on Monday night.

The Lady Bears (30-1, 17-1 Big 12) had already clinched at least a share of their sixth straight league title, but left no doubt by sweeping the second-place Longhorns for their sixth consecutive 30-win season.

Nina Davis had 16 points as Baylor won its 17th straight game since losing the Big 12 opener at Oklahoma State.

The Lady Bears are 100-8 in Big 12 regular-season games during the current run of titles.

Brooke McCarty scored 12 points to lead the Longhorns (26-3, 15-3), who shot 29 percent and had a season low in points with a chance to share their first Big 12 crown since 2004.

The Lady Bears simply wouldn't let the Longhorns get clean shots around the basket, with 6-foot-4 Beatrice Mompremier and 6-7 Kalani Brown blocking or altering shots.

Mompremier never let 6-7 Texas post Imani Boyette get comfortable, helping hold her to 3-of-10 shooting and eight points. Mompremier had 10 rebounds and three blocks while scoring nine points.

And once the Lady Bears quitting committing turnovers — they had 11 of their 19 in the first 13 minutes — the game was no contest. Baylor outscored Texas 46-17 in the second and third quarters.

Niya Johnson had 10 points and 12 assists on senior night while helping Baylor improve to 129-11 in her four years. She left to a standing ovation and big hug from coach Kim Mulkey in the final seconds.

AP poll: Kansas is 1st team this season to return to No. 1

By Jim O'Connell
Associated Press

Kansas is No. 1 for a second time this season — the first school to reach the top for a second stint.

The Jayhawks have been No. 1 for three weeks this season, the first two in January.

Michigan State was No. 1 for four weeks, while Kansas, Oklahoma and Villanova were all there for three weeks. North Carolina and Kentucky both spent two weeks at the top.

The six schools to reach No. 1 is one off the record set in 1982-83.

TIME ON TOP: This is Kansas' 60th poll as No. 1. The Jayhawks are fifth on the all-time list behind UCLA (134), Duke (127), Kentucky (115) and North Carolina (113).

TOUGH WEEK FOR TOP TEN: The top 10 in last week's poll lost a total of 10 games from Monday to Sunday, while the bottom 15 lost just six.

BACK AGAIN: California (21-8) returns to the Top 25 on a seven-game winning streak, and only one of those victories was by less than double figures.

The 25th-ranked Bears were 14th in the preseason poll and then were 15th and 14th the first two weeks of the season before dropping out until this week.

OUT AGAIN: Notre Dame (19-9) was the only team to fall from the ranks of the ranked this week. The Fighting Irish were 23rd but split two games last week, beating Wake Forest and losing 77-56 to Florida State. Notre Dame, which was 19th in the preseason poll, was ranked for a total of six weeks.

UP AND DOWN: Utah, which beat Arizona State and Arizona last week, made the biggest jump in the poll, moving from 22nd to No. 13. Indiana, which beat Illinois in its only game, rose from No. 18 to 12th.

The biggest drops were Arizona's fall from No. 9 to 18th after losing to Colorado and Utah, and Iowa's drop from No. 8 to 16th after dropping games to Wisconsin and Ohio State.

CONFERENCE CALL: The Big 12 is on top by itself again with six ranked teams. It overtook the Atlantic Coast Conference, with Notre Dame dropping out of the Top 25.

The ACC is tied at five with the Big Ten while the Pac-12, with the addition of California this week, has four. The Big East and Southeastern Conference both have two and the American Athletic Conference one.

RANKED WINS: As the regular season winds down there is quite a race for which team will have the most wins over ranked teams this season.

Four schools are tied with six — Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Xavier — and four more have five — Iowa, Miami, Virginia and Wisconsin.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Monday's scores

MEN
SOUTHWEST
McNeese St. 77, Lamar 74
Prairie View 85, Alabama A&M 65
Sam Houston St. 83, Cent. Arkansas 73
Stephen F. Austin 84, Incarnate Word 58
SOUTH
Bethune-Cookman 62, NC A&T 52
Chattanooga 67, VMI 65
Hampton 79, Delaware St. 65
Jackson St. 67, Ark.-Pine Bluff 56
MVSU 58, Grambling St. 57
NC Central 61, Savannah St. 44
Nicholls St. 80, New Orleans 76
Norfolk St. 84, Howard 66
North Carolina 75, Syracuse 70
SE Louisiana 84, Northwestern St. 82
MIDWEST
Iowa St. 58, Oklahoma St. 50
TOURNAMENT NSIC
Conference Tournament Semifinals
Augustana (SD) 83, Winona St. 62
Minn. St.-Moorhead 89, Mary 65 WHAC
Conference Tournament Championship
Davenport 79, Cornerstone 69

WOMEN
SOUTHWEST
Alabama St. 58, Texas Southern 48
Memphis 77, Houston 64
Prairie View 93, Alabama A&M 72
TCU 55, Kansas 52
SOUTH
Ark.-Pine Bluff 66, Jackson St. 59
Bethune-Cookman 65, NC A&T 41
Delaware St. 89, Hampton 81
East Carolina 78, SMU 61
Grambling St. 79, MVSU 55
Howard 64, Norfolk St. 63
NC Central 65, Savannah St. 61
Tulane 70, Cincinnati 51
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 72, Valparaiso 65
EAST
Bryant 74, Fairleigh Dickinson 52
CCSU 67, St. Francis Brooklyn 61
LIU Brooklyn 71, Wagner 66
Robert Morris 57, St. Francis (Pa.) 43
Sacred Heart 60, Mount St. Mary's 52
Temple 78, UCF 64
UConn 79, South Florida 59
TOURNAMENT
Conference Carolinas Quarterfinals
Erskine 87, Barton 71
Limestone 91, Belmont Abbey 51
Mount Olive 55, Pfeiffer 25
NSIC Conference Tournament Semifinals
Augustana (SD) 65, Winona St. 64
Sioux Falls 71, Northern St. (SD) 63

Today's games

MEN
SOUTHWEST
Baylor at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Texas St. at Texas-Arlington, 7:15 p.m.
Arkansas St. at UALR, 7:15 p.m.
SOUTH
Virginia at Clemson, 6 p.m.
Kentucky at Florida, 6 p.m.
Tennessee at Vanderbilt, 6 p.m.
Dayton at Richmond, 6:30 p.m.
Wake Forest at Duke, 7 p.m.
Georgia Tech at Louisville, 7 p.m.
Texas A&M at Auburn, 8 p.m.
Missouri at LSU, 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
Utah St. at Air Force, 8 p.m.
San Diego St. at New Mexico, 8:30 p.m.
MIDWEST
Cent. Michigan at Ball St., 6 p.m.
N. Illinois at E. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Bowling Green at Kent St., 6 p.m.
Toledo at W. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Ohio at Akron, 7 p.m.
Purdue at Nebraska, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Iowa, 8 p.m.
Georgetown at Marquette, 8 p.m.
EAST
Miami (Ohio) at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
DePaul at Villanova, 6 p.m.
George Mason at George Washington, 7 p.m.
TOURNAMENTS
Atlantic Sun Conference
First Round
Lipscomb at Jacksonville, 6 p.m.
Kennesaw St. at Florida Gulf Coast, 6:05 p.m.
Stetson at NJIT, 6:30 p.m.
S.C.-Upstate at North Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Patriot League
First Round
Lafayette at Navy, 6 p.m.
Holy Cross at Loyola (Md.), 6:30 p.m.

WOMEN
SOUTHWEST
Texas St. at Texas-Arlington, 5 p.m.
Arkansas St. at UALR, 5:15 p.m.
Oklahoma at Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m.
SOUTH
Campbell at High Point, 6 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at Longwood, 6 p.m.
Presbyterian at Radford, 6 p.m.
Charleston Southern at UNC Asheville, 6 p.m.
Liberty at Winthrop, 6 p.m.
FAR WEST
Fresno St. at Colorado St., 8 p.m.
Air Force at Utah St., 8 p.m.
Boise St. at Nevada, 8:30 p.m.
New Mexico at San Diego St., 8:30 p.m.
Wyoming at San Jose St., 9 p.m.
MIDWEST
West Virginia at Iowa St., 7 p.m.

Top 25 polls

USA TODAY MEN

The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 28, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Kansas (31)	25-4	799	2
2. Villanova	25-4	734	1
3. Michigan State (1)	24-5	733	7
4. Virginia	22-6	673	3
5. Xavier	25-4	637	5
6. Oklahoma	22-6	623	4
7. Miami	23-5	607	11
8. North Carolina	23-6	584	6
9. West Virginia	22-7	518	12
10. Oregon	23-6	510	13
11. Indiana	23-6	434	15
12. Maryland	23-6	405	9
13. Utah	23-7	330	23
13. Purdue	22-7	330	19
15. Iowa	20-8	321	8
16. Arizona	22-7	307	10
17. Baylor	**21-8**	**288**	**16**
18. Texas A&M	**22-7**	**261**	**21**
19. Kentucky	21-8	226	14
20. Iowa State	20-9	221	17
21. Duke	21-8	211	18
22. Texas	**19-10**	**187**	**25**
23. Wichita State	23-7	68	—
24. Saint Mary's	24-4	61	—
25. California	21-8	58	—

Others receiving votes: Wisconsin 52, Notre Dame 42, Seton Hall 39, **Texas Tech 36**, Providence 28, Pittsburgh 17, Saint Joseph's 17, South Carolina 16, Dayton 14, Valparaiso 6, St. Bonaventure 4, Colorado 2, UALR 1.

ASSOCIATED PRESS MEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 28, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kansas (63)	25-4	1,623	2
2. Michigan St. (2)	24-5	1,510	6
3. Villanova	25-4	1,479	1
4. Virginia	22-6	1,405	[illegible]
5. Xavier	25-4	1,356	5
6. Oklahoma	22-6	1,297	3
7. Miami	23-5	1,211	12
8. North Carolina	23-6	1,205	7
9. Oregon	23-6	1,065	13
10. West Virginia	22-7	1,056	14
11. Louisville	22-7	822	11
12. Indiana	23-6	819	18
13. Utah	23-7	751	22
14. Maryland	23-6	733	10
15. Purdue	22-7	613	20
16. Iowa	20-8	572	8
17. Duke	21-8	495	15
18. Arizona	22-7	450	9
19. Baylor	**21-8**	**447**	**19**
20. Texas A&M	**22-7**	**419**	**21**
21. Iowa St.	20-9	413	17
22. Kentucky	21-8	405	16
23. Texas	**19-10**	**338**	**25**
24. SMU	**24-4**	**196**	**24**
25. California	21-8	178	—

Others receiving votes: Wisconsin 93, Seton Hall 60, Wichita St. 43, Saint Joseph's 29, Notre Dame 14, **Texas Tech 12**, Cincinnati 4, Saint Mary's (Cal) 3, Vanderbilt 3, UALR 2, Valparaiso 2, Dayton 1, **Stephen F. Austin 1**.

USA TODAY WOMEN

The top 25 teams in the USA Today women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 22, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. UConn (32)	26-0	800	1
2. South Carolina	26-1	756	2
3. Notre Dame	26-1	748	3
4. Baylor	**28-1**	**704**	**4**
5. Ohio State	23-4	664	5
6. Maryland	25-3	625	6
7. Oregon State	24-3	594	8
8. Texas	**24-2**	**588**	**7**
9. Arizona State	24-4	541	10
10. Louisville	22-6	503	11
11. Texas A&M	**20-7**	**461**	**12**
12. Florida State	21-6	433	9
13. Stanford	22-6	390	15
14. Kentucky	19-6	374	16
15. UCLA	20-7	335	14
16. Mississippi State	22-6	319	13
17. Miami	22-5	291	17
18. Syracuse	22-6	275	18
19. DePaul	23-7	229	19
20. South Florida	19-7	184	20
21. Michigan State	20-7	159	22
22. BYU	23-4	84	—
23. Oklahoma	18-9	71	21
24. Missouri	21-6	55	—
25. Colorado State	24-1	36	—

Others receiving votes: Duquesne 27, Oklahoma State 24, **UTEP 24**, Florida 21, Green Bay 20, Seton Hall 11, St. John's 11, West Virginia 11, Auburn 7, Florida Gulf Coast 7, Georgia 6, Albany 5, N.C. State 3, Western Kentucky 3, Arkansas State 1.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WOMEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 28, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (32)	28-0	800	1
2. Notre Dame	28-1	756	2
3. South Carolina	28-1	747	3
4. Baylor	**29-1**	**704**	**4**
5. Maryland	27-3	662	6
6. Texas	**26-2**	**642**	**8**
7. Louisville	24-6	578	10
8. Oregon St.	25-4	550	7
9. Ohio St.	23-6	549	5
10. Arizona St.	25-5	499	9
11. Stanford	24-8	469	13
12. UCLA	22-7	437	14
13. Kentucky	21-6	415	15
14. Florida St.	23-6	414	12
15. Texas A&M	**21-8**	**356**	**11**
16. Mississippi St.	24-6	326	16
17. Syracuse	23-6	272	18
18. DePaul	24-7	236	19
19. Michigan St.	22-7	233	20
20. South Florida	21-7	157	21
21. Miami	22-7	150	17
22. Colorado St.	26-1	96	25
22. West Virginia	22-8	96	—
24. Oklahoma	19-9	81	23
25. Florida	22-7	76	—

Others receiving votes: Oklahoma St. 38, **UTEP 23**, Green Bay 12, Arkansas St. 8, Florida Gulf Coast 6, BYU 4, Army 3, Indiana 3, James Madison 1, Princeton 1.

Decision-making process still evolving for college players

By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Jaylon Smith had his future planned.

Survive one more college game, declare for the NFL draft and live his lifelong dream.

Then the Notre Dame linebacker's left knee buckled following a late shove from Ohio State's Taylor Decker on New Year's Day. Smith was looking at two torn ligaments, months of rehab and the possibility of temporarily putting his pro career on hold.

Smith refused, and now is trying to resell himself to NFL scouts.

"It tests your patience, but it has made a man out of me," he said at the NFL scouting combine, which ended Monday. "That's the first time I have been injured in my life. It's the NFL, and there are a lot of knee injuries. Guys come back and play well, so there is no doubt in my mind. It's just a matter of when I will be able to."

The gamble could still pay big dividends.

Before the injury, Smith was widely considered one of this year's top draft prospects. If teams are convinced Smith will make a complete comeback — a major question — many draft analysts believe Smith remains worthy of a high pick. If not, Smith could recoup some of his lost money thanks to an insurance policy he took out before the 2015 season.

Smith is one of many early entrants who are rewriting conventional wisdom about turning pro early.

More guys are leaving with degrees in hand before they complete eligibility, and the conventional wisdom used to be that injured guys returned to school to prove they were healthy.

Associated Press

UCLA linebacker Myles Jack, left, and Notre Dame linebacker Jaylon Smith watch during drills at the NFL scouting combine on Sunday in Indianapolis.

Today, everyone wants to believe they're the next Willis McGahee or Todd Gurley, two running backs whose college careers ended with major knee injuries yet still went in the first round. What they often forget is that the NFL also is littered with stories like Marcus Lattimore's. San Francisco used a fourth-round pick on the South Carolina running back in 2013, but he never played in an NFL game after tearing every ligament in his knee and dislocating his kneecap in his college finale.

Of course, some players, such as Auburn running back Peyton Barber, are publicly acknowledging they feel a need to take the cash to overcome real-life hardships.

Just how much has changed over the past several years?

■ Penn State quarterback Christian Hackenberg left school early after enduring two straight subpar seasons and then injuring his throwing shoulder in his final college game.

■ Arizona linebacker Scooby Wright opted for the NFL after foot and knee injuries limited him to only three games and 23 tackles in 2015.

■ UCLA linebacker Myles Jack and Virginia Tech cornerback Kendall Fuller gave up their remaining eligibility despite having season-ending knee cartilage surgery last fall. Neither was cleared to do on-the-field drills in Indy.

"I had to make a decision pretty soon, considering it was a four to six month injury," said Jack, projected to go in the first round. "I just kind of decided being behind in school, being behind physically and everything, I felt like the best decision for me was to pull out of school and concentrate on getting better."

Returning to school comes with its own risks.

Ohio State's Cardale Jones was widely regarded as one of the top five quarterbacks in last year's draft class — until he opted to go back to school. He wound up winning the Buckeyes' starting job, then lost it and watched his draft stock sink.

Now Jones is trying to show scouts he's a more complete player.

Team officials can't afford to let public perceptions influence the decision-making process.

"If he's a junior right now and you're speculating him to get picked at position 'A' and he stays in and he gets picked at 'C' instead of 'A', well 'A' was just speculation anyway," Los Angeles Rams general manager Les Snead said. "That's more theory than truth. I do think that when you play that extra year, you have a better chance of playing better earlier."

There is also greater risk for injuries, as Smith and some of his draft-classmates learned during the 2015 season.

And after Smith posted a video of his rehab on social media, questions surfaced whether there might have been nerve damage in the knee — a complication that could slow the recovery process.

Even Smith couldn't clear it up. First, he told reporters the nerve was not injured at all.

Later, he acknowledged: "I feel great. There's no soreness in the knee or there's no pain. I've been off pain pills for almost a month. It's the matter of the recovery process. II don't know when the nerve and everything will heal, but it's just a matter of me taking it day-by-day and controlling what I can control."

So Smith will spend the next two months explaining why he'll make it back — and what they'd miss out on if teams bypass one of the best potential playmakers in the draft.

"I view myself as the best player in the draft, you know?" Smith said. "It's just a matter of waiting and enjoying the process and controlling what I can control."

Judge dismisses part of Romo-linked firm's claim against NFL

Associated Press

DALLAS — A judge has dismissed a major element of a lawsuit filed against the NFL by a company partly owned by Tony Romo over a canceled fantasy football event.

Following a hearing on Monday, State District Judge Carl Ginsberg threw out a claim by Fan Expo LLC that the NFL intimidated players with threats of fines and suspensions if they participated in what the league called a gambling-related event.

Fan Expo attorney Julie Pettit said no decision has been made on an appeal. She also said Fan Expo's breach-of-contract claim against the NFL is still pending trial.

The Texas-based company claims the NFL initially approved the event by allowing some members of league-owned media outlets to participate. The subsequent NFL decision forced the cancellation of last July's convention in Las Vegas.

The Fan Expo created the National Fantasy Football Convention and used Romo as its headliner while getting commitments from Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant, New England tight end Rob Gronkowski and Pittsburgh running back Le'Veon Bell.

DeMarco Murray, Romo's former teammate and the NFL rushing leader who signed with Philadelphia in free agency, also was among the 60 players the lawsuit says had agreed to attend. The suit said there were another 35 players who were considering signing agreements.

NFL players bringing football overseas

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A spirited brainstorming session over some noodles, vegetables and rice.

That's how Breno Giacomini and Gary Barnidge — a couple of ambitious NFL players intent on making a difference beyond the field — and their buddy Ahmed Awadallah came up with their mission to take American football all over the world.

"We kind of just sat down at P.F. Chang's and started talking about what was going to be our next thing to help out the community," Giacomini recalled of that game-changing dinner in Kentucky in 2011. "We didn't know sitting at that table that it was going to get this big. Not even close."

The impassioned idea developed into American Football Without Barriers, a nonprofit organization that educates disadvantaged children in the United States and overseas about the sport.

Next stop: Egypt.

Giacomini, an offensive lineman for the New York Jets, and Barnidge, a tight end for the Cleveland Browns, are taking the field in the Middle East this week for AFWB's latest international trip after holding camps in China, Brazil and Turkey the previous three years.

"We want to build from the ground up," Barnidge said. "We don't want to be a viewer. We don't want people just watching. We want people playing the sport and enjoying it like we do."

Giacomini and Barnidge will be joined at German University in Cairo from Wednesday through Saturday by 10 other NFL players, including the recently retired Marshawn Lynch, Pittsburgh running back DeAngelo Williams, Houston offensive lineman Oday Aboushi and Miami tight end Jordan Cameron.

In conjunction with the Egyptian Federation of American Football, AFWB will have free camps — basic, junior and advanced levels — for players ages 14-25, as well as a coaching clinic led by Giacomini.

"The love of the game is definitely spreading throughout the world," Giacomini said, "and we're trying to be contributors to that wherever we go."

Barnidge and Giacomini were college teammates at the University of Louisville, and Awadallah, now a senior engineer at Yums Brand, was their classmate. All three enjoyed community work while in school and decided to take it to the next level when they established themselves in their careers.

Barnidge, selected for his first Pro Bowl, was the Browns' winner of the Walter Payton Man of the Year award this past season for his work with AFWB.

"Gary and I will be doing this for a very long time," the 30-year-old Giacomini said. "This is part of Plan B after football."

AFWB receives proposals every year from American football federations around the world to have the camp held in their country. The group sifts through the emails and discusses their needs — hotels, security and buses to transport the players — and then votes on a site.

Summer camps are also held in Malden, Massachusetts, where Giacomini was raised, and Middleburg, Florida, where Barnidge is from, and one is being added this year in Louisville, Kentucky.

The original plan hatched from that initial dinner meeting was to head to Egypt, where Awadallah was born and raised. He had a high school friend conducting basic football drills there, but the political turmoil in that country in 2013 steered the group to China instead.

"There's a lot more football in the world than people think," said Giacomini, the son of Brazilian immigrants. "In China, they started with cone drills and now they're up to maybe 15 padded teams. In Brazil, they started on the beach and they're up to like 45 padded teams now. Same thing with Istanbul."

The players teach the campers techniques to fine-tune their football skills. One of AFWB's goals is to get a player from another country on a football scholarship in the United States.

"We almost had one kid from China get a D-III (opportunity), but he chose to go to Stanford instead for academics," Giacomini said. "That's like, 'OK, you win.'"

Added Barnidge: "They don't recruit for football internationally. They do for basketball and baseball and other sports, but they don't for football. We are trying to break that trend."

CHEW

From 1C

players and club personnel for compliance with the regulations."

Smokeless tobacco isn't permitted throughout the minor leagues. There is no ban on dipping in the majors, and the issue is certain to be discussed in upcoming labor talks between MLB and the union on the contract that expires Dec. 1.

Going back more than a century, even before Bull Durham tobacco signs were plastered all over outfield walls, baseball was filled with pictures of players with a chaw in their cheek.

Buchholz did take a break, for a while.

"I stopped in the offseason and baseball, it goes along with the territory for me," he said. "It's not a good habit."

Over the years, in collective bargaining, MLB and the union have tried to lower that profile.

Players, managers and coaches now can't stick tobacco tins, cans or pouches in their pockets when they're on the field or in plain sight of fans. No wads stuck in the mouth during TV interviews, either.

In their letter, MLB and the union said it would provide "nicotine replacement therapy products to those players who wish to use them as substitutes. A shipment of various products including lozenges, gum, and patches will be sent to each club free of charge in spring training, and throughout the 2016 season."

The letter included a reminder that Dr. Michael Steinberg, director of the Rutgers University tobacco dependence program, had previously been hired as a consultant to help players develop a treatment plan, if they wanted.

Toronto Blue Jays manager John Gibbons applauded the effort to cut down on chaw. He quit a couple years ago after Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn — a career-long dipper — died at 54 of salivary gland cancer.

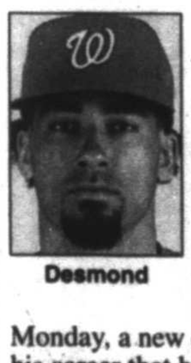
"I was a tobacco user for a lot of years. I'm not proud of that. I finally was able to quit. It's a dirty, filthy habit," he said.

"I wouldn't want my kids doing it. You hope in some way, they can eliminate it and wipe it out. I'm sure there will be some fights over that, especially in this election year. I'm sure that'll be brought up. But, hey, if you can get rid of it, I'm all for that," he said

Ian Desmond headed to Rangers outfield

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Ian Desmond started his transition from one-time All-Star shortstop to everyday left fielder with the Texas Rangers on Monday, a new chapter in his career that he is eagerly embracing.



Desmond

"This wasn't a desperation move," Desmond said. "This was me getting to free agency and deciding as a man that I was ready to make a change."

Desmond had played shortstop throughout his seven major league seasons, all with the Nationals, but became a free agent after turning down a $15.8 million qualifying offer from Washington. The 30-year-old Desmond was an All-Star in 2012 but has started only one of his 927 career games in the outfield.

When Desmond expressed his willingness to switch positions, Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said the $8 million, one-year deal came together quickly. Josh Hamilton, the 2010 AL MVP and five-time All-Star, will miss at least the first month of the season because of lingering issues with his left knee that was operated on twice last year.

"It was something that presented itself late in the process that we couldn't pass up," Daniels said. "This is a winning piece, a winning player, on a team that expects to win. To add that kind of piece here late in the process, it is a really great fit for us."

After Desmond passed a physical Sunday, the deal was completed and he was in camp Monday working with the rest of the outfielders.

"As far as swallowing my pride and moving to the outfield, that's not going to be a problem," Desmond said. "Learning the position, I'm obviously a little bit behind, about 7-10 days and in some cases years and years and years, because it's been a long time since I've done this. But I'm going to work as hard as I can."

In his only start as an outfielder for the Nationals, Desmond recorded three putouts in seven innings playing right field during a 2009 game. His only other outfield appearance since then was for one-third of an inning in 2010.

Desmond has a .264 career batting average with 110 home runs, 432 RBIs and three Silver Slugger awards. He struggled for much of last season, when he hit .233 with 19 homers and 62 RBIs and made an NL-high 27 errors.

Daniels, who spoke to Desmond several times before the deal was complete, said a review of past reports showed many scouts indicating that they bet he could play center field.

"It's a really natural fit for us as far as the kind of player we look for, elite athlete, tremendous makeup," Daniels said. "I don't think he's just going to be OK out there. I think he's going to be an asset."

The Rangers want Hamilton to get healthy, and Daniels expects him to be a strong contributor to the team when he gets back.

Texas will forfeit its first-round pick in the June amateur draft, No. 19 overall, because Desmond rejected the qualifying offer after last season.

Washington will get a compensatory pick after the first round since Desmond signed with another team. But Texas also has a compensatory pick in June since right-hander Yovani Gallardo signed with Baltimore on Thursday after turning down a qualifying offer after last season with the Rangers.

AP file photo

On Aug. 23, 2015, Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the second hole during the final round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C. Tiger Woods has posted a video of him swinging a 9-iron in a golf simulator. His agent says the video was posted to rebut rumors on social media that he had taken a turn for the worse following two back surgeries last fall. Mark Steinberg of Excel Sports Management on Feb. 22 said that the rumors were ridiculous.

Tiger Woods keeps everyone guessing

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Adam Scott knew the only way for him to remain relevant was to win golf tournaments.

Tiger Woods has it far easier. All he had to do was hit one shot in a simulator.

The Honda Classic did not lack for activity, even without the beer-drinking bozos leaning over the railing of grandstands on the 17th hole to shout at Sergio Garcia that the Spaniard should "go back to the European Tour" and at Adam Scott to put "two more (balls) in the water."

It started with Jack Nicklaus hosting nearly two dozen potential Ryder Cup players for dinner, a treat for anyone among the top 40 in the U.S. standings. He said he talked about how to prepare for big events, though it was not clear what else could be gleaned from the night except to hang out with golf's greatest champion.

"I can't imagine how them coming over to have dinner at an old man's house is going to help any," Nicklaus said.

It ended with Scott's first victory in 21 months. The affable Aussie lost a chance at one of the best rounds of his career when he made a quadruple bogey on the 15th hole Saturday and still shot 66. The next day, he became a footnote in PGA Tour history as the first player since 2009 to make a quadruple bogey and still win the tournament.

Through it all, what generated the most conversation across the spectrum was Woods.

In a span of five days, speculation ranged from Woods being unable to sit in a chair to Woods taking full swings with the driver. A rumor on social media suggested his back was so bad from two surgeries late last year that he had to recline his passenger's seat as someone else drove his car. On Wednesday, he posted a video on Twitter that showed him hitting a 9-iron in a golf simulator. A report followed the next day that he was swinging a driver.

Perhaps that's why Nicklaus was so hesitant to say anything on Sunday.

Woods is a Ryder Cup vice captain and was at the Nicklaus dinner, and the players said he looked to be doing well. So did Nicklaus.

"He says he was feeling good ... and he was able to stand over a putt and chip now without having any leg pain and so forth," Nicklaus said. "We didn't really talk a whole lot about it. He doesn't have a timetable for returning or anything else.

"I think he was just ... he's pretty private about what his situation is, and I don't blame him," Nicklaus added. "Because every time he opens his mouth, there's nothing but articles written about speculation about Tiger. And I don't want to break his ... he likes it when we talk. We talk about different things. I just don't think it's my place to expound on Tiger's health and so forth."

What does it all mean?

No one can say for sure, except the golfing public seems to be in a bigger rush for Woods to return than he is.

The best guess is that if Woods has learned anything, he will return later rather than sooner. He came back too early from leg injuries in 2011, withdrew after 42 on the front nine at The Players Championship and sat out three months. He came back too soon from back surgery that knocked him out of the Masters and U.S. Open in 2014. He played 11 tournaments over the next year and was as irrelevant as he has ever been on the golf course.

That's what makes all the speculation about Woods so fascinating. He seems to be relevant as long as he's not playing. In place of his recent performance are memories of a player the likes of which has not been seen by any of the four players who have been No. 1 since Woods last won a tournament.

Nicklaus used to always say he thought Woods would break his record of 18 professional majors until one day Nicklaus was so tired of the same question that he asked the audience what kind of headlines he would make if he ever said differently.

It's not about records. It's about playing.

Nicklaus said he told Woods, "Nobody wants their records to be broken, but I don't want you not to have the ability to have that opportunity."

For now, the most trusted reports from those who were at the Nicklaus dinner. Phil Mickelson said he was fun, social, laughing. Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III used words like "fit" and "happy" to describe Woods.

Jimmy Walker brought the levity.

"I talked to him just a second," Walker said. "I said, 'Wow, you're standing up and you're not dead.' He said, 'I know. That's how everybody thinks I am now — dead.'"

Imagine what it will be like at the tournament where Woods returns to golf, whenever that might be. And then imagine how long before the fans realize he is a 40-year-old with four surgeries on his knee and three surgeries on his back.

Everyone wants to see Woods play again, as long as he plays like the Woods they once knew.

Meanwhile, Scott became relevant again. He is a PGA Tour winner again, even with a short putter, and moved back into the top 10 at No. 9 in the world.

Woods fell one spot to No. 446.

PRO GOLF STATISTICS

FedEx Cup leaders

Through Feb. 28

Rank Player	Points	Money
1. Brandt Snedeker	1,083	$2,320,421
2. Kevin Kisner	1,074	$2,362,171
3. Adam Scott	1,058	$2,507,218
4. Russell Knox	960	$2,157,976
5. Justin Thomas	926	$2,104,177
6. Kevin Na	860	$1,846,457
7. Graeme McDowell	842	$1,809,100
8. Smylie Kaufman	826	$1,639,208
9. Fabian Gomez	739	$1,439,252
10. Jason Dufner	727	$1,423,188
11. Hideki Matsuyama	722	$1,667,493
12. Bubba Watson	656	$1,565,300
13. Emiliano Grillo	644	$1,291,983
14. Jordan Spieth	634	$1,426,550
15. Jason Bohn	605	$1,273,246
16. Rickie Fowler	601	$1,321,807
17. Patrick Reed	561	$1,285,934
18. Phil Mickelson	542	$1,233,940
19. Vaughn Taylor	526	$1,301,359
20. K.J. Choi	503	$1,082,546
21. David Lingmerth	484	$1,005,878
22. Fredrik Jacobson	483	$1,001,503
23. William McGirt	483	$976,154
24. Peter Malnati	473	$1,127,515
25. Charles Howell III	447	$842,292
26. Alex Cejka	447	$831,782
27. Jason Kokrak	443	$890,892
28. Si Woo Kim	442	$777,039
29. Kevin Streelman	420	$814,710
30. Sergio Garcia	410	$826,567
31. Jamie Lovemark	403	$750,314
32. Brendan Steele	399	$732,776
33. Patton Kizzire	396	$788,846
34. Kevin Chappell	391	$730,068
35. Dustin Johnson	386	$852,666
36. Harris English	381	$656,399
37. John Huh	374	$692,639
38. Zac Blair	357	$633,845
39. Andrew Loupe	351	$686,967
40. J.B. Holmes	349	$786,985
41. Jonas Blixt	346	$755,359
42. Jimmy Walker	343	$688,996
43. Brooks Koepka	338	$669,516
44. Tyrone Van Aswegen	324	$577,597
45. Patrick Rodgers	310	$598,306
46. Brett Stegmaier	297	$572,335
47. Jon Curran	297	$525,932
48. Chez Reavie	297	$500,551
49. Ryan Moore	295	$649,639
50. Scott Piercy	287	$513,101
51. Danny Lee	286	$553,016
52. Spencer Levin	284	$430,800
53. Scott Brown	283	$521,933
54. Daniel Summerhays	281	$433,629
55. Colt Knost	277	$351,107
56. Chad Campbell	274	$490,047
57. Cameron Tringale	273	$612,287
58. James Hahn	270	$471,362
59. Harold Varner III	269	$431,627
60. Kyle Reifers	266	$354,853
61. Hudson Swafford	266	$455,054
62. Ryan Palmer	262	$349,206
63. Mark Hubbard	260	$309,613
64. Lucas Glover	260	$444,514
65. Jim Herman	259	$474,242
66. Brian Harman	259	$516,451
67. Will Wilcox	257	$468,536
68. Aaron Baddeley	257	$441,662
69. Adam Hadwin	256	$459,249
70. Derek Fathauer	256	$434,218
71. Marc Leishman	250	$448,515
72. Sean O'Hair	247	$303,284
73. Gary Woodland	245	$341,421
74. Martin Laird	243	$415,661
75. Bill Haas	243	$482,449
76. Jhonattan Vegas	242	$423,905
77. Roberto Castro	242	$468,611
78. Jeff Overton	241	$344,812
79. Boo Weekley	240	$493,093
80. Justin Rose	237	$542,900
81. Blayne Barber	236	$425,338
81. Sung Kang	236	$491,528
83. Greg Owen	232	$364,626
84. Ricky Barnes	232	$230,826
85. Luke List	231	$442,247
86. Kyle Stanley	226	$234,054
87. Tony Finau	222	$409,481
88. Ben Crane	217	$238,779
89. Bronson Burgoon	216	$317,557
90. Robert Streb	216	$269,799
91. Billy Horschel	216	$423,187
92. Russell Henley	213	$398,803
93. Padraig Harrington	211	$341,125
94. Stewart Cink	208	$278,079
95. Hiroshi Iwata	203	$459,125
96. Seung-yul Noh	201	$280,859
97. David Toms	200	$419,133
98. Matt Jones	199	$308,113
99. Brendon de Jonge	197	$261,531
100. Matt Kuchar	197	$349,924
101. Bryce Molder	189	$396,590
102. Shane Lowry	186	$408,006
103. David Hearn	186	$280,040
104. Anirban Lahiri	185	$238,583
105. Graham DeLaet	185	$285,945
106. Scott Stallings	181	$285,050
107. Camilo Villegas	179	$266,941
108. Zach Johnson	178	$356,621
109. John Senden	177	$292,980
110. Nick Taylor	175	$217,971
111. Michael Kim	172	$210,747
112. Webb Simpson	171	$284,773
113. Ben Martin	169	$222,289
114. Johnson Wagner	165	$293,563
115. Jerry Kelly	164	$252,010
116. Troy Merritt	163	$312,560
117. Branden Grace	163	$378,000
118. Vijay Singh	160	$261,389
119. Jason Gore	159	$206,059
120. Daniel Berger	158	$227,287
121. Tyler Aldridge	157	$248,117
122. Rory McIlroy	156	$225,133
123. Michael Thompson	154	$179,623
124. Luke Donald	151	$197,594
125. Morgan Hoffmann	150	$276,210
126. Keegan Bradley	147	$253,407
127. Paul Casey	147	$183,125
128. Charl Schwartzel	146	$276,309
129. Dawie Van Der Walt	142	$196,717
130. Brice Garnett	136	$336,176
131. Tom Hoge	131	$207,310
132. Chris Kirk	130	$220,272
133. Jason Day	126	$291,500
134. Steven Bowditch	123	$264,160
135. Erik Compton	121	$111,427
136. Luke Guthrie	116	$184,008
137. Carlos Ortiz	115	$109,270
138. Chris Stroud	112	$183,977
139. Hunter Mahan	112	$148,277
140. Scott Pinckney	110	$158,055
141. J.J. Henry	109	$157,123
142. Cameron Smith	106	$242,174
143. Davis Love III	105	$144,748
144. Tim Wilkinson	104	$97,127
145. Bud Cauley	100	$154,017
146. Nick Watney	99	$189,880
147. Justin Leonard	94	$158,720
148. Sam Saunders	94	$139,760
149. Shane Bertsch	91	$105,493
150. Stuart Appleby	90	$96,509

Ryder Cup points

At Hazeltine National Golf Club
Chaska, Minn.
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2016
Through Feb. 28

United States

1. Jordan Spieth	6,646.464
2. Dustin Johnson	3,110.782
3. Brandt Snedeker	2,820.162
4. Rickie Fowler	2,658.857
5. Zach Johnson	2,630.802
6. Bubba Watson	2,465.078
7. Phil Mickelson	2,417.637
8. Patrick Reed	1,612.234
9. Brooks Koepka	1,601.007
10. J.B. Holmes	1,520.451
11. Kevin Kisner	1,499.964
12. Jason Dufner	1,479.523
13. Vaughn Taylor	1,260.000
14. Bill Haas	1,077.945
15. Kevin Na	1,013.054

Europe

European Points

1. Rory McIlroy	1,744,926.07
2. Andy Sullivan	1,644,906.43
3. Danny Willett	1,554,984.16
4. Matthew Fitzpatrick	1,506,535.54
5. Victor Dubuisson	1,502,987.14
6. Chris Wood	1,378,872.90
7. Kristoffer Broberg	1,360,749.74
8. Henrik Stenson	1,319,491.58
9. Thorbjorn Olesen	1,215,547.93
10. Soren Kjeldsen	1,033,979.86

World Points

1. Henrik Stenson	152.76
2. Rory McIlroy	126.71
3. Justin Rose	105.27
4. Danny Willett	104.67
5. Andy Sullivan	93.82
6. Matthew Fitzpatrick	90.94
7. Thorbjorn Olesen	79.61
8. Thomas Pieters	72.86
9. Chris Wood	72.56
10. Kristoffer Broberg	66.18

LPGA Money leaders

Through Feb. 28

	Trn	Money
1. Ha Na Jang	4	$335,668
2. Haru Nomura	4	$296,695
3. Lexi Thompson	3	$286,712
4. Hyo-Joo Kim	3	$226,534
5. Lydia Ko	2	$199,646
6. Sei-Young Kim	3	$182,628
7. Brooke Henderson	3	$176,666
8. Stacy Lewis	3	$122,558
9. Jessica Korda	3	$119,164
10. Anna Nordqvist	3	$118,555
11. Amy Yang	2	$107,645
12. Charley Hull	4	$103,711
13. Karrie Webb	2	$91,131
14. Hee Young Park	3	$87,692
15. Chella Choi	4	$82,546
16. Pornanong Phatlum	3	$82,301
17. In Gee Chun	2	$79,881
18. Min Seo Kwak	3	$78,238
19. Minjee Lee	4	$74,212
20. Paula Creamer	3	$68,450
21. Ilhee Lee	3	$62,576
22. Danielle Kang	3	$62,242
23. Austin Ernst	3	$55,417
24. Brittany Lincicome	3	$54,726
25. Xiyu Lin	3	$54,082
26. Candie Kung	3	$54,006
27. Suzann Pettersen	2	$49,442
28. Alison Lee	2	$49,358
29. Mo Martin	4	$48,974
30. Caroline Masson	4	$48,411
31. Carlota Ciganda	3	$47,593
32. Catriona Matthew	3	$46,202
33. Simin Feng	2	$46,201
34. Kim Kaufman	4	$45,008
35. Julie Yang	2	$43,652
36. Paula Reto	3	$43,058
37. Ryann O'Toole	3	$42,005
38. Angela Stanford	3	$40,720
39. Jenny Shin	3	$39,907
40. Mika Miyazato	4	$37,976
41. Lee-Anne Pace	3	$37,640
42. Lizette Salas	3	$33,684
43. Karine Icher	4	$32,632
44. Kelly Tan	3	$30,909
45. O Baek	1	$30,644
46. Sandra Gal	3	$29,833
47. Gaby Lopez	3	$29,778
48. Wei-Ling Hsu	3	$29,632
49. Pernilla Lindberg	4	$28,732
50. P.K. Kongkraphan	3	$27,799

Column: SHR move to Ford could mean tension with Hendrick

By Jenna Fryer
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A late caution at Atlanta Motor Speedway gave Kevin Harvick one futile, final chance to beat Jimmie Johnson.

The showdown went to Johnson and Hendrick Motorsports in the first of what could be a long season of battles between NASCAR's powerhouse team and Stewart-Haas Racing as the allies begin the yearlong dissolution of their partnership.

SHR stunned the industry 72 hours after the season-opening Daytona 500 by announcing it will leave Chevrolet and its alliance with Rick Hendrick at the end of this year. Tony Stewart and Gene Haas are defecting to Ford in a coup that very few saw coming. Even Hendrick admitted Sunday to reporters that SHR's move "kind of caught me by surprise."

SHR's move to Ford is surprising on several fronts:

■ Stewart is a General Motors guy, and has been for all but one of his 18 seasons as a NASCAR driver. He drove Toyotas for one season at Joe Gibbs Racing, his last before he bolted for a co-owner position at SHR.

■ Harvick, one of the four drivers in the SHR stable, has never driven anything but Chevrolets in his Cup career. He and Stewart both won Cup titles for Chevrolet at SHR.

■ Haas leaned on Rick Hendrick when he entered NASCAR, and it was Hendrick who helped broker the deal that brought Stewart into the race team.

■ As customers of Hendrick Motorsports, SHR bought chassis and engines from NASCAR's top team. A technical alliance was formed, and by the time Harvick won the 2014 title, the data sharing was flowing back and forth between the two organizations.

Alas, that's where the problems may very well have started.

Few would deny that SHR has outperformed Hendrick the last two seasons, which couldn't possibly sit well with the folks at Hendrick. How could Harvick and Kurt Busch be driving Hendrick equipment and beating Hendrick drivers each week?

And somewhere along the line the relationship between Johnson and Harvick that dates to their early racing careers in California became strained. It was Johnson who was in and out of Harvick's trailer during the 2014 season finale, where the six-time champion was an open book and gave Harvick any advice possible to aid Harvick's bid to win his first Cup title.

Fast-forward to last September when the two made contact in the opening race of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship at Chicago. Johnson immediately went to Harvick's motorhome after the race to defuse the situation, and Harvick exited his bus practically swinging. He had no time to hear Johnson out and no desire to smooth out the relationship.

Asked a few weeks later just what had soured between the two, Harvick smugly offered only, "Oh, there's not enough time to get into that."

It seemed puzzling last fall, but in light of the move to Ford, now may be an indicator to a fractured relationship between two of the top Chevrolet teams in NASCAR.

In announcing next year's move to Ford, Stewart explained that the manufacturer change gives SHR a chance to step out of the Hendrick shadows and become more self-sufficient. The team will get its engines next year from Doug Yates instead of Hendrick, and will slowly this season begin to build its own chassis and wean itself off of Hendrick support.

But Stewart also indicated, with little elaboration, that something had shifted in a partnership that began when Haas put his first Cup car on the track in 2002.

"I feel like our relationship with Hendrick has been changing a little bit over the last year," Stewart said during last week's Ford announcement. "The technical side of it has changed quite a bit going into this season, so we've kind of been working this direction."

AP's Derby Top 10: Unbeatens Nyquist, Mohaymen still 1-2

By Richard Rosenblatt
Associated Press

Let the campaigning begin.

The leading candidates for the Kentucky Derby are on schedule for a fight to the finish line on April 2 in Florida, racing at full throttle for 1 1/8 miles in the $1 million Florida Derby at Gulfstream Park.

It's a rare showdown of the top 3-year-olds in the land just five weeks before the Run for the Roses on May 7. And what a matchup: Nyquist, the best in the West with a 6-0 record, vs. Mohaymen, the best in the East with a 5-0 mark.

Toss in a $1 million bonus at stake, the role of Derby favorite on the line and a few other more-than-worthy opponents, and this Florida Derby packs one powerful punch.

"I'm pumped to have Nyquist face the best," trainer Doug O'Neill said from his West Coast base at Santa Anita. "Mohaymen is definitely a best, but so are we. If they both stay injury free, it will be a great race."

Kiaran McLaughlin, who trains Mohaymen, says "We're going to take one race at a time and we are looking at the Florida Derby in five weeks. He's a very talented horse and he keeps winning. We're all happy. That's all we can do."

Despite Mohaymen's comfortable win in the Fountain of Youth over the weekend at Gulfstream Park, Nyquist remains No. 1 in the AP's latest Run to the Roses Top 10 list of Derby contenders.

The two colts are way in front of the field — for now.

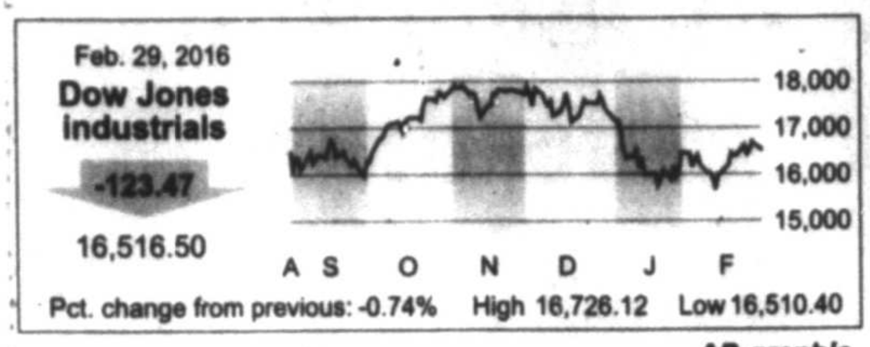
The only change in our Top 10 is Zulu moving in at No. 9 following his runner-up finish in the Fountain of Youth. Greenpointcrusader slips into the keep-an-eye-on group.

This weekend's Derby prep is the Gotham at Aqueduct Racetrack. Derby qualifying points are 50-20-10-5.

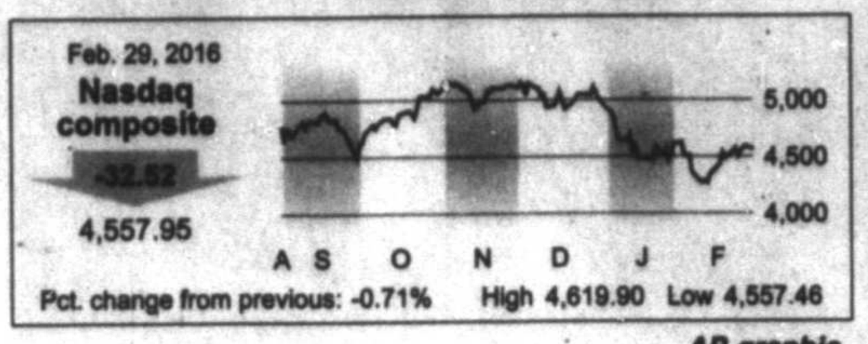
Withers winner Sunny Ridge looks to be the top contender. Probables include unbeaten Shagaf, Matt King Coal, Conquest Big E, Laoban and Adventist.

BUSINESS & OIL

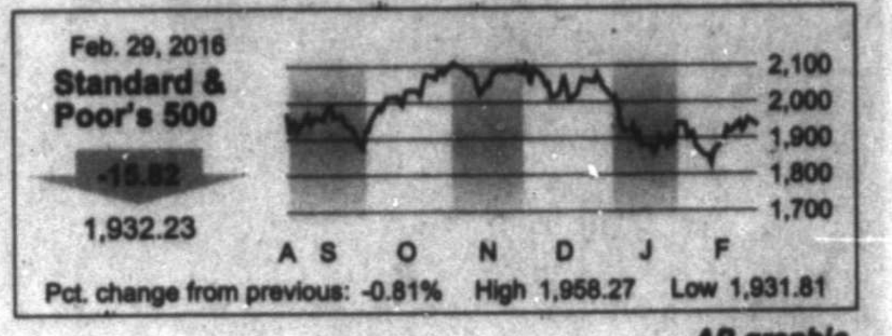
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

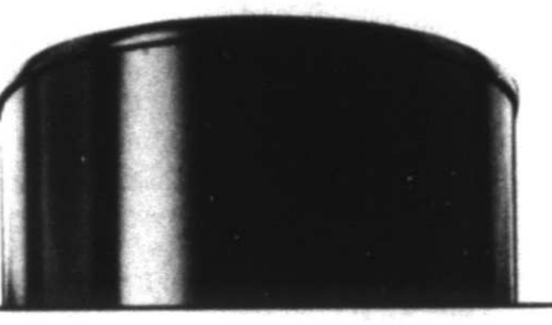
OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Monday: $33.75
Previous: $32.78

POSTED
Monday: $30.25
Previous: $29.25

WEST TEXAS SOUR
Monday: $27.05
Previous: $26.05

NATURAL GAS
Monday: $1.711
Previous: $1.791



NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CSVLgCrd rs	1189093	1.78	+.13
BkofAm	1186015	12.52	-.18
S&P500ETF	1062019	193.56	-1.53
MktVGold	661309	19.38	+.69
SunEdison	655869	1.98	-.28

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ScorpBlk rs	3.15	+.79	+33.5
ResoluteF	5.13	+1.10	+27.3
ClayEng	14.63	+2.41	+19.7
CliffsNRs	2.16	+.34	+18.7
SeadrillLtd	2.24	+.35	+18.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
OcwenFn	3.79	-2.36	-38.4
FedSignl	11.86	-3.26	-21.6
ValeantPh	65.80	-14.85	-18.4
PhilLD	38.69	-7.75	-16.7
WalterInv	7.50	-1.05	-12.3

DIARY

Advanced	1,626
Declined	1,474
Unchanged	84
Total issues	3,184
New Highs	43
New Lows	25
Volume	4,286,158,014

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Globalstar	74779	1.56	+.23
CheniereEn	43727	35.75	+.08
NwGold g	36042	3.39	+.23
SynergyRs	25974	6.25	-.09
BarcGSOil	23274	4.82	+.08

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SupDrillg	2.00	+.36	+22.0
AsteriasBio	4.29	+.65	+17.9
Electrmed	4.87	+.64	+15.1
OncoCyte n	3.84	+.49	+14.6
NthnO&G	3.34	+.37	+12.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ParPetrol	19.70	-3.92	-16.6
RetractTc	2.52	-.39	-13.4
TransEntx	3.21	-.28	-8.0
AmpioPhm	2.13	-.17	-7.4
XtantMed	3.04	-.19	-5.8

DIARY

Advanced	213
Declined	155
Unchanged	19
Total issues	387
New Highs	6
New Lows	3
Volume	75,953,577

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
SiriusXM	437515	3.72	+.03
Apple Inc	319240	96.69	-.22
Facebook	280416	106.92	-1.00
Microsoft	267570	50.88	-.42
PwShs QQQ	262407	102.50	-.93

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
FedMogul	7.26	+2.28	+45.8
AldeyraTh	4.90	+1.17	+31.3
TerraFm n	3.17	+.63	+24.8
Itus Cp rs	2.32	+.44	+23.4
Enphase	2.33	+.41	+21.4

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Altisrce n	26.76	-7.65	-22.2
UtdNtrlF	30.86	-8.39	-21.4
Endo Intl	41.81	-11.13	-21.0
HemTher h	15.88	-2.85	-15.2
XteraCm n	2.76	-.49	-15.1

DIARY

Advanced	1,279
Declined	1,527
Unchanged	162
Total issues	2,968
New Highs	36
New Lows	44
Volume	1,888,398,459

Mexico will defer exploration projects to slash spending

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The state-run oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, said Monday it will slash spending 22 percent and cut unprofitable production about 100,000 barrels a day as it struggles with liquidity problems and past-due payments to suppliers.

The company, known as Pemex, said it will cut $5.5 billion from its 2016 budget, delay deep-water exploration and decrease production of super-heavy crude because of low world oil prices.

Delaying production and exploration projects will account for about two-thirds of the $5.5 billion spending cut.

Pemex still faces a serious issue: It owes suppliers almost $7 billion, a debt the company acknowledges is a problem.

"Pemex is facing liquidity problems, but not one of solvency," said company general director Jose Antonio Gonzalez, who estimated daily production will fall about 4.5 percent from the current level of 2.23 million barrels a day to about 2.13 million by the end of the year.

He said Mexico's crude oil mix is selling for about half as much — $25 a barrel — as the $50 estimate included in last year's 2016 budget plan.

Gonzalez refused to say how many jobs might be cut. He said some of the delayed projects could be revived if partners were found who could lower production or exploration costs.

It was the latest in a series of blows for Pemex, which is widely viewed as overstaffed, inefficient and deeply indebted.

Mexico's government depends on Pemex for about one-third of its revenue. In a report Monday, Pemex said that after taxes and government fees, it lost $432 billion in 2015.

The company said crude production fell 6.7 percent in 2015 as older fields ran out. Revenue dropped 28.3 percent, mainly as a result of falling prices. Oil export revenue fell 35.4 percent. Accidents increased 25 percent from the previous year. Pemex also took a $154 billion exchange-rate loss as the peso plummeted against the dollar.

Pemex carries about $76 billion in debt.

As of late 2015, ratings companies said Pemex's pension liabilities amounted to about $90 billion, though the company recently signed an agreement that could lessen that burden by raising some retirement ages and starting individual retirement accounts for new hires.

Stocks fall

Late-day selling sent U.S. stocks to a loss Monday and erased nearly all of the market's gains for the month. Weak earnings for drug companies pushed health care stocks lower, and energy shares fell as natural gas plunged.

Investors lost enthusiasm for stocks after two straight weekly gains. Health care stocks fell furthest as drugmakers Endo International, Mylan and Mallinckrodt all slumped. Oil prices rose, but natural gas hit a 17-year low. Banks lost ground, partly because investors are worried about potential losses on loans to energy companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 123.47 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,516.50. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 15.82 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,932.23. The Nasdaq composite index fell 32.52 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,557.95.

John Manley, chief equity strategist for Wells Fargo Fund Management, said investors are nervous. "A lot of investors have fantastic profits from three or four years (of gains) and they also have terrible memories from seven or eight years ago," he said. "Why not sell first and ask questions later?"

Gold prices rise

The price of gold rose 1 percent Monday to $1,234.40 an ounce. Over the last two weeks gold has traded near it highest price in a year.

OPEC oil output slips from record in February, recent survey shows

Bloomberg

OPEC crude production slipped in February from the highest level in Bloomberg data going back 20 years.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries reduced production by 79,000 barrels to 33.06 million a day this month, according to a Bloomberg survey of oil companies, producers and analysts. Nigeria and Iraq led declines, while Iranian production climbed to the highest level in more than three years.

OPEC set aside its output target of 30 million barrels a day at its Dec. 4 meeting in Vienna. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude exporter, has led the group in fighting for market share against higher-cost producers such as shale drillers in the United States.

"I wouldn't read too much into the decline because Iraqi production is volatile, and the same goes for Nigeria," said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research in Winchester, Massachusetts.

Nigeria's production fell 139,000 barrels a day to 1.889 million, the biggest decline in the survey. Nigerian output is volatile because of political unrest and theft in the Niger River delta, the main oil-producing region.

Iraqi production dropped by 125,000 barrels a day to 4.385 million this month, according to the survey. OPEC's second-biggest producer pumped 4.51 million barrels a day in January, the highest level in monthly data compiled by Bloomberg going back to 1989.

Iranian output rose by 140,000 barrels a day to 3 million, the most since July 2012 when sanctions against the nation were strengthened. The Islamic republic is seeking to regain market share after sanctions were removed last month upon completion of an agreement limiting its nuclear program.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's top producer, pumped 10.2 million barrels a day for a second month, in anticipation of a deal with Russia and other producers to freeze output. Saudi Arabia, Russia, Venezuela and Qatar tentatively agreed on Feb. 16 to cap production at January levels.

The desert kingdom won't cut oil production as other countries would be unlikely to assist in restraining output, Petroleum Minister Ali Al-Naimi said at the IHS CERAWeek energy conference in Houston last week.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $14.63 Up 2.41

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $90.24 Down 1.69

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $3.41 Down 0.02

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $71.25 Down 1.35

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $0.68 Unchanged

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $2.37 Unchanged

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $18.06 Up 0.34

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $23.91 Up 0.89

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $4.18 Down 0.10

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $14.89 Up 0.23

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.92f	16	36.95	-.18	+7.4
Abraxas	...	5	.90	+.02	-15.1
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	11.88	-.07	-7.4
Alcoa	.12	15	8.93	+.06	-9.5
Alibaba	...	27	68.81	+1.90	-15.3
AlonUSA	.60	6	9.86	-.15	-33.6
Amgen	4.00f	15	142.28	-5.32	-12.4
Anadarko	.20m	...	37.95	-.07	-21.9
Apache	1.00	...	38.28	-1.19	-13.9
Apple Inc	2.08	10	96.69	-.22	-8.1
ApldMatl	.40	17	18.87	-.13	+1.1
Archrock	.75f	12	3.99	...	-46.9
ATMOS	1.68f	22	69.41	-.74	+10.1
AutoData	2.12	27	84.69	-.97	...
BP PLC	2.40a	...	29.09	+.09	-6.9
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	16.63	-.15	-3.6
BakrHu	.68	...	42.87	-1.21	-7.1
BkofAm	.20	9	12.52	-.18	-25.6
B iPVixST	...	...	24.88	+.38	+23.8
BarrickG	.08	48	13.89	+.36	+88.2
BasicEnSv	...	...	1.75	-.11	-34.7
BerkHa A	...	15	202555.03	+4364.51	+2.4
BlkHillsCp	1.68f	38	56.01	-.11	+20.6
BrMySq	1.52f	44	61.93	-.32	-10.0
BrownFA	1.36f	33	106.59	-2.39	-3.2
BrownFB	1.36f	30	98.47	-1.64	-.8
CVS Health	1.70f	20	97.17	-.49	-.6
CalifRescs	...	...	.56	+.07	-75.9
Cameron	...	18	65.56	-.54	+3.7
Caterpillar	3.08	13	67.70	+.83	-.4
Celestic g	...	12	10.27	+.11	-6.9
CntryLink	2.16	19	30.59	+.42	+21.6
ChesEng	...	...	2.61	-.09	-42.0
Chevron	4.28	34	83.44	-.91	-7.2
Chicos	.32f	55	12.76	+.16	+19.6
Cimarex	.32m	...	84.03	-1.55	-6.0
Cisco	1.04f	13	26.18	-.23	-2.8
Citigroup	.20	9	38.85	-.65	-24.9
ClayEng	...	...	14.63	+2.41	-50.5
CocaCola	1.40f	24	43.13	-.01	+.4
ColgPalm	1.52	24	65.64	-.64	-1.5
ConAgra	1.00	22	42.06	-.02	-.2
ConchoRes	...	...	90.24	-1.69	-2.8
ConocoPhil	1.00m	...	33.83	-.29	-27.5

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
CrackerB	4.40a	21	148.05	-.08	+16.7
CSVLgNG rs	...	...	.76	-.13	-68.7
CSVLgCrd rs		...	...	1.78	+.13
-54.9					
CSVelIVST	...	...	18.84	-.37	-27.0
CSVixSh rs	...	...	8.77	+.26	+40.1
CrosTim	1.48e	9	14.59	+.38	+12.1
DCP Mid	3.12	10	19.41	+.99	-21.3
DTE	2.92f	18	84.12	-.17	+4.9
Dataram h	...	...	.68	-.01	+3.0
DevonE	.24m	...	19.68	-.61	-38.5
DirDGldBr	...	...	4.20	-.51	-74.6
Disney	1.42f	17	95.52	+.21	-9.1
DowChm	1.84f	12	48.61	-.13	-5.6
EOG Rescs	.67	...	64.74	-2.76	-8.5
EmpDist	1.04	25	32.72	-.04	+16.6
EnCana g	.06m	...	4.29	+.34	-15.7
Endo Intl	...	...	41.81	-11.13	-31.7
Energen	.08	...	26.48	-.29	-35.4
EngyTsfr	4.22f	83	26.67	+.05	-20.9
EnPro	.84f	...	51.88	...	+18.3
ENSCO	.60	...	8.67	+.26	-43.7
EntProdPt	1.56f	18	23.37	+.34	-8.6
Ericsson	.39e	...	9.18	-.03	-4.5
ExxonMbl	2.92	21	80.15	-1.60	+2.8
Facebook	...	70	106.92	-1.00	+2.2
FordM	.60a	7	12.51	+.04	-11.2
ForestCA	...	15	18.65	-.27	-15.0
FrptMcM	...	...	7.63	+.20	+12.7
FrontierCm	.42	...	5.41	-.02	+15.8
GATX	1.60f	8	43.01	+1.53	+1.1
GabMultT	.94e	...	7.02	+.02	-6.4
GAInv	1.15e	...	28.87	-.01	-9.6
GenElec	.92	...	29.14	-.26	-6.5
GtPlainEn	1.05f	21	29.34	+.52	+7.4
Groupon	...	...	4.78	+.29	+55.7
HalconRs rs	...	...	.58	+.09	-53.9
Hallibrtn	.72	...	32.28	-.35	-5.2
HorizPhm	...	...	17.16	-2.63	-20.8
ICICI Bk	.16e	...	5.67	+.36	-27.6
iShBrazil	1.03e	...	20.49	+.48	-.9
iShJapan	.13e	...	10.89	-.17	-10.1
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	30.28	-.14	-14.2
iShEMkts	.84e	...	30.32	+.26	-5.8

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iS Eafe	1.70e	...	53.63	-.32	-8.7
iShiBxHYB	5.09	...	80.08	+.85	-.6
iShR2K	1.73e	...	102.73	-.46	-8.8
Intel	1.04f	13	29.59	-.21	-14.1
InterDig	.80	15	49.73	-.45	+1.4
ItauUnibH	.45e	...	6.30	+.16	-3.1
JPMorgCh	1.76	10	56.30	-1.24	-14.2
JohnJn	3.00	17	105.21	-.57	+2.4
Keycorp	.30	10	10.55	-.17	-20.0
KimbClk	3.68f	37	130.30	-1.00	+2.4
KindMorg	.50m	27	18.09	+.33	+21.2
Kinross g	...	...	2.94	+.04	+61.5
LegacyRes	.60m	...	.68	...	-61.1
Lubys	...	...	4.95	+.19	+10.7
MarathnO	.20m	...	8.21	+.18	-34.8
MktVGold	.12e	...	19.38	+.69	+41.3
McDnlds	3.56f	24	117.19	+.13	-.8
Merck	1.84f	23	50.21	-.43	-4.9
MeritMed	...	35	18.81	+.19	+1.2
MexcoEn	...	...	...	...	-26.6
MicronT	...	6	10.63	-.07	-24.9
Microsoft	1.44	33	50.88	-.42	-8.3
Nabors	.24	...	7.16	-.14	-15.9
NatGrid	3.35e	...	67.28	-.37	-3.2
NOilVarco	1.84	11	29.27	+.46	-12.6
NokiaCp	.16e	...	6.03	-.06	-14.1
NvMAd	.79a	...	14.21	+.08	+2.6
NvPMI	.78a	...	14.10	+.08	+3.2
NuvPI	.82a	...	14.35	+.02	+1.8
NSTFI3	.55a	...	14.76	-.01	+1.5
NTXQI	.65	...	14.66	+.09	+1.6
OcciPet	3.00	52	68.82	-.98	+1.8
Oracle	.60	18	36.78	-.18	+1.1
ParTech	...	...	5.78	-.01	-14.1
ParkDrl	...	...	1.56	+.07	-14.3
PattUTI	.40	...	15.54	+.22	+3.1
PayPal n	...	...	38.14	+.65	+5.4
Penney	...	...	10.20	+.61	+53.2
PennaRE	.84	...	19.16	+.07	-12.4
Prmian	.35e	13	5.54	+.07	+9.5
Petrobras	...	...	3.60	+.22	-16.3
Pfizer	1.20f	18	29.67	-.56	-8.1
PioNtrl	.08	57	120.53	-2.84	-3.9
PlainsAAP	2.80	14	21.42	+.15	-7.3
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	102.50	-.93	-8.4

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Praxair	3.00f	19	101.79	-1.45	-.6
PrmEgy	...	23	49.56	...	-6.5
PUVixST rs	...	...	39.74	+1.13	+40.2
PrUCrude rs	...	...	7.91	+.40	-36.9
ProctGam	2.65	27	80.29	-.81	+1.1
QEP Res	.08	...	9.76	-1.00	-27.2
RangeRs	.08m	14	23.73	-.16	-3.6
RegionsFn	.24	11	7.52	-.23	-21.7
RepubAir	...	1	.63	-.29	-84.0
Rowan	.40	...	13.32	+.52	-21.4
RoyDShllA	3.76	69	45.48	-.05	-.7
SpdrDJIA	3.98e	...	164.96	-1.32	-5.2
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	193.56	-1.53	-5.1
SpdrLehHY	2.30	...	33.43	+.36	-1.4
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	24.60	-.11	-18.6
SabnR	2.81e	10	31.98	-.22	+21.8
SanderFm	.88a	10	91.26	+1.28	+17.7
Schlmbrg	2.00	21	71.72	-.75	+2.8
SeadrillLtd	...	...	2.24	+.35	-33.9
SiriusXM	...	37	3.72	+.03	-8.6
Smucker	2.68	34	127.57	-.10	+3.4
SwstnEngy	...	...	5.78	-.60	-18.7
Sprint	...	...	3.44	+.11	-5.0
SP Engy	2.04e	...	56.58	-.65	-6.2
SPDR Fncl	.46e	...	21.09	-.23	-11.5
SP Util	1.55e	...	46.30	+.13	+7.0

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
SunEdison	...	...	1.98	-.28	-61.1
SunocoLog	1.92f	...	24.64	+.25	-4.1
TelefEsp	1.03e	...	9.94	+.01	-10.1
Tesoro	2.00	6	80.68	+.33	-23.4
3M Co	4.44f	20	156.87	-1.40	+4.1
Torchmark	.54	13	51.22	-.95	-10.2
TriContl	.81e	...	18.77	-.02	-6.2
Twitter	...	...	18.12	+.18	-21.7
TylerTech	...	56	120.32	-1.06	-31.0
UBSI	1.32	18	35.04	-.50	-5.3
US NGas	...	...	6.02	-.34	-30.6
US OilFd	...	...	9.00	+.22	-18.2
USSteel	.20	...	9.12	+.81	+14.3
Vale SA	.29e	...	2.94	+.23	-10.6
ValeantPh	...	37	65.80	-14.85	-35.3
ValeroE	2.40f	7	60.06	+.42	-15.0
VulcanM	.80f	56	95.53	-.20	+3.7
WEC Engy	1.98f	21	56.35	-.09	+9.8
WalgBoots	1.44	23	78.94	-.63	-7.3
WellsFargo	1.50	11	46.92	-1.15	-13.7
WstnRefin	1.52f	5	26.67	+.04	-25.1
WhitingPet	...	...	4.01	+.13	-57.5
WmsCos	2.56	80	15.99	+.35	-37.8
XcelEngy	1.36f	20	39.54	+.27	+10.1
Xerox	.31f	20	9.61	-.05	-9.6
Yahoo	...	...	31.79	+.42	-4.4

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	16,516.50	-123.47	-.74	-5.21	-9.69
9,214.77	6,403.31	Dow Jones Transportation	7,345.03	-60.00	-.81	-2.18	-19.31
637.93	539.96	Dow Jones Utilities	620.70	+1.67	+.27	+7.42	+6.43
11,254.87	8,937.99	NYSE Composite	9,559.53	-60.26	-.63	-5.76	-13.90
5,231.94	4,209.76	Nasdaq Composite	4,557.95	-32.52	-.71	-8.98	-8.99
2,134.72	1,810.10	S&P 500	1,932.23	-15.82	-.81	-5.47	-8.74
1,551.28	1,215.14	S&P Midcap	1,334.20	-6.08	-.45	-4.60	-12.08
22,537.15	18,462.43	Wilshire 5000	19,864.02	-132.50	-.66	-6.16	-11.11
1,296.00	943.09	Russell 2000	1,033.90	-3.28	-.32	-8.98	-16.80

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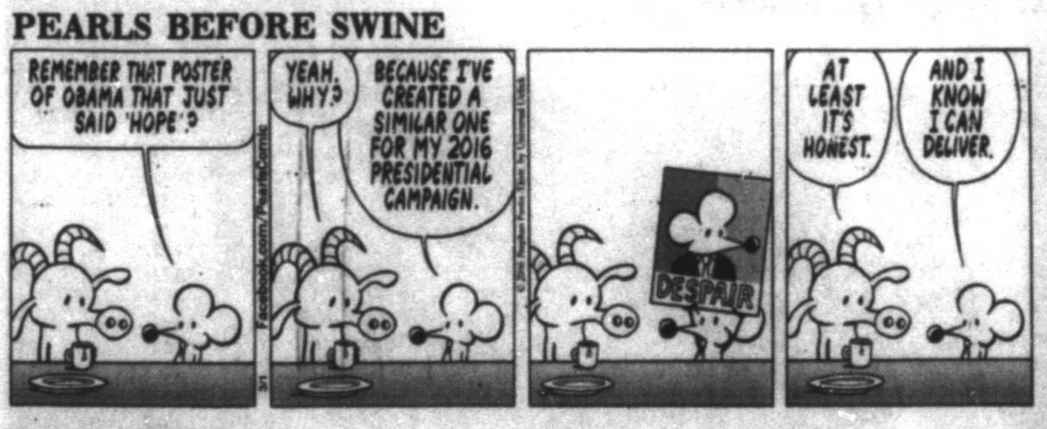

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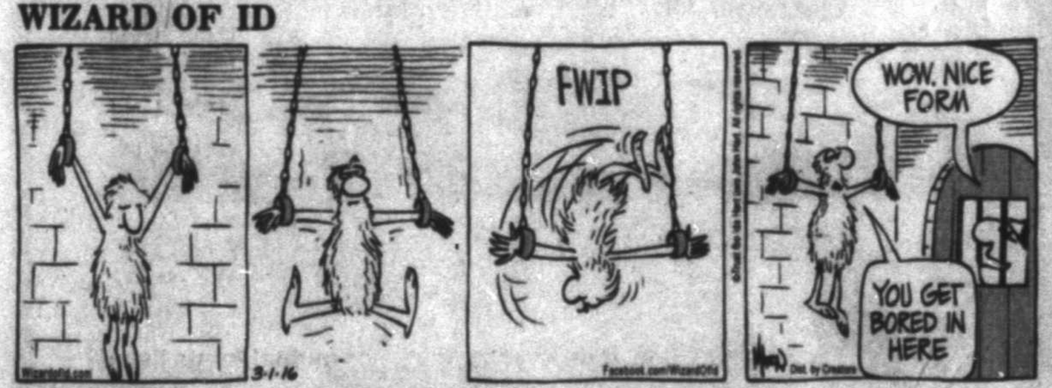

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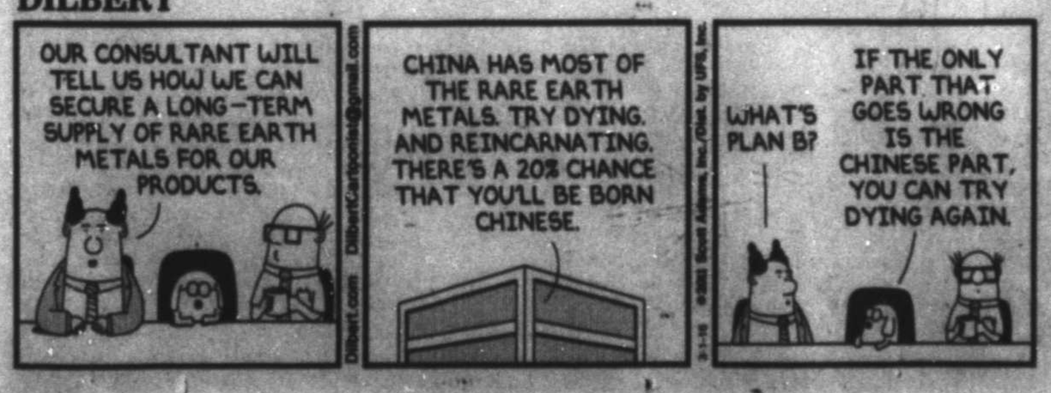


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

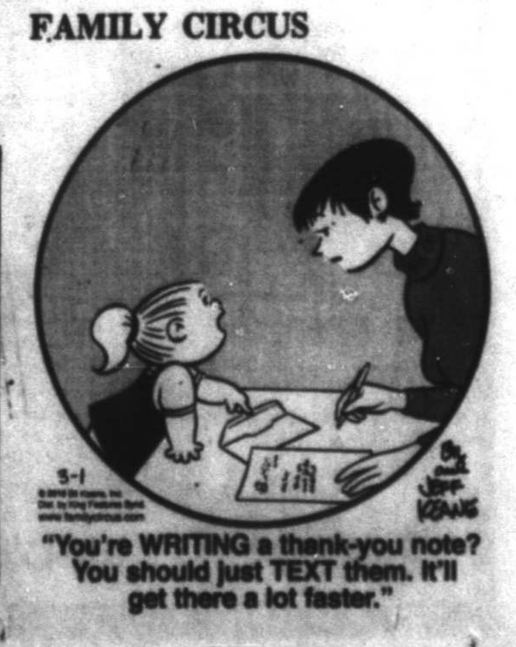
"He was electrocuted while smoking an e-cigarette in the rain."

DENNIS THE MENACE

LOCKHORNS

"LEROY HAS GONE FROM HUSBAND TO HAS-BEEN."

FAMILY CIRCUS



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CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Industrial Civil Construction Company Seeking:

Superintendents (Minimum 5 years' experience), Safety Supervisor/Coordinator, Survey man/Lay-out man, Forming Carpenters, Reinforcing Iron Workers, Concrete Finishers, Laborers
Must be able to pass drug test and background check, Must be able to read and write English, Must have minimum of 3 job related references
Excellent pay with per diem included.
Please email resumes to: jobs@gllesinc.net

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Program Manager and a Program Coordinator

West Texas Food Bank is a nonprofit organization working to address hunger in Odessa, Midland and surrounding rural areas. We serve as a clearinghouse to solicit, store, inspect and repack food for distribution to our 80 partners in 19 counties of West Texas.
WTFB has 2 job openings:
Program Manager: plans, manages, and coordinates programe in accordance with federal, state, and local government regulations and performance standards. Work includes program planning and development; contract compliance; management of program budgets, personnel and activities. Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in business administration, public administration, social services or related field is required; Master's preferred. Minimum of 2 years experience in managing programs, one of which includes supervisory experience.

Program Coordinator: coordinates the WTFB Client Choice Pantry, as well as participates in the coordination of other program activities. The Client Choice Pantry is a food distribution program for clients who walk in to the Odessa Distribution Facility, which periodically allows them to select food commodities of their choice in a small grocery store setting. Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in business administration, public administration, social services or related field is preferred; may be replaced with comparable experience.
Send job inquiries to the attention of: **Libby Campbell, Executive Director, West Texas Food Bank, P.O. Box 4242, Odessa, TX 79760**
No phone calls, please.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Journeyman Lineman

Needed for the Artesia, NM area. Class A CDL required. 401K, health insurance & paid time off. 575-365-6801 or arcpowerline@yahoo.com

Vacuum & Tank Truck Drivers

Permian Petroleum Services, Inc. Need Class A CDL Vacuum and Tank Truck Drivers with tank endorsement and clean driving records. Must be experienced. Offering competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision insurance available. Apply at 4601 S. Rankin Hwy., Midland, Texas: mail resume to P.O. Box 3663, Midland, Texas 79702; fax to 432-687-1643; call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434 or email rvmaskell@gmail.com

HEALTHCARE

Midland Surgical Associates, P.A.

is seeking an experienced.

LVN / OFFICE NURSE

to join our team. Candidate must be aable to work independently and possess excellent communication and patient skills. Sterile technique, surgical assistant skills, wound care experience and Greenway computer knowledge desired.
Full Time N-F 8:30-5:30

Benefit package includes Medical, Life & ALAC Insurance Coverage, PTO and 401-K Retirement Plan.

Send resumé to joann@midland-surgical.com

MANUFACTURING & OPERATIONS

Plant Operator

Plant Operator Needed Immediately: Experience preferred but not required. Location near Stanton, TX. Email resume to employment@westtexasgas.com or mail to Martin County Gas Plant, 2718 CR 2500, Stanton, TX. 79782

OTHER JOBS

Caretaker

Caretaker for small ranch and animals/dogs, horses. Salary and housing provided. Non-smokers and no drinking. References required. Call **432-686-2784**

CDL Driver / Heavy Equipment Operator

Both jobs are in Midland. Local hauls only for drivers. Apply online at www.jplot.com or call 205-345-5678

Crew Members

Needed for oil field corrosion control company. Class A CDL required, construction equipment experience beneficial. Overtime and benefits. Drug test required. Call (432) 563-5045.

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **jhouston@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

Rock Crusher Superintendent/ Foreman

Established company seeks to hire an experienced rock crusher superintendent/ Foreman for its operations in the Midland area. Candidates must include a resume and salary history with their initial response. Interested candidates may reply to: M- 41 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, Texas 79701
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

QA & QUALITY CONTROL

Manager- Safety & Compliance

An industry-leading provider of bulk fuels and lubricants is looking for a Safety professional in the Permian Basin. This individual will be responsible for ensuring the safety and compliance of the employees and resources of the Division. Some travel will be required. Applicants with DOT experience are preferred. Apply in confidence by providing your resume in MS Word format to mealeyjobs@amoilcil.com

OTHER JOBS

NOW HIRING EXTRA! EXTRA!

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME NIGHT ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work 7 nights a week between 11pm-5 am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. 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

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

RETAIL JOBS

Receptionist/Customer Service Associate

Requires the ability to communicate effectively with customers and other team members, multi-task, prioritize, and problem solving skills. Will be responsible for answering phones, order taking, order processing, order inquiries, and problem resolution. Bilingual in English/Spanish is a plus. F/T Mon-Fri. Email Angie@susiessouthforty.com

SALES JOBS

Outside Sales Rep

Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram is looking for someone with excellent communication skills to provide outstanding customer service to our Retail Advertising customers. Responsibilities include prospecting new clients, working closely with new and existing clients to develop multi-media advertising campaigns that provide outstanding results, tracking sales activity, and meeting/exceeding established monthly sales goals.

Qualified candidates must be a self-starter and possess excellent communication and organizational skills, be detail oriented and assertive, excel in spelling/grammar/punctuation, excel in time management, and possess a positive attitude.

We are willing to train and offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, a cell phone allowance and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you want to join a **GREAT TEAM** and are ready to **SUCCEED**, please send a resume to:

Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701 or **jhouston@mrt.com**. No phone calls please.

SKILLED LABOR

CNC Operator wanted

United Casing, Inc.
Experienced CNC operator needed for pipe threading facility in Midland. Must understand G-Code programming and keep up with established production rates on a daily basis. 3 years experience preferred. Email resume to cpatterson@unitedcasing.com. **Qualified candidates only.**

Diesel Mechanic

Local company seeks diesel mechanic with in frame experience, knowledge of cummins and CAT motors. Apply in person at 3913 FM 715, 79706.

PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an immediate opening in its Production Department for the position of: PRESSMAN/ PRESSMAN TRAINEE for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses.

This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires: night shift/weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE.

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701. E-mail: jmadcox@hearstnp.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst Corporation.
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Drivers

Local Midland Company is seeking experienced CDL driver for excellent opportunities. Please contact Tom Landry at 432-349-7576.

CDL Drivers

We are currently looking for CDL Drivers with a Clean Driving Record Drivers for Belly Dumps & Water Trucks. You can come by our office to fill out an application at 11309 WCR 61, Midland, Texas 79707
432-640-9664 ask for Judy

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Legal & Public Notices

Sealed bids addressed to Jill Hallmark, Director of School Plant Service, 801 South Moran, Midland, TX 79701, for **Chain Link Fencing Construction for MISD Schools**, located in Midland, TX, will be received at the above address no later than 2:00 PM, on Tuesday, March 29, 2016. The bid forms and specifications may be obtained at 801 South Moran, Building #1 Midland, TX or by calling 432-240-1600.

Legal & Public Notices

Competitive sealed proposals addressed to Ms. Jill Hallmark, Director of School Plant Services Midland Independent School District, 801 S. Moran, for roofing and repairs for areas at Midland High School, will be received at the above address no later than 1:30 P.M., on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

A Walk-Through Conference will be held at 1:30 P.M, on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at Midland High School 906 W. Illinois Street Midland TX, 79701. The Proposal forms and specifications may be obtained at the Walk-Through Conference.

Legal & Public Notices

Midland Independent School District

Procurement Services Department

Midland, Texas

Notice to Vendors

The Midland Independent School District invites qualified vendors to submit a sealed bid for RFP #06-003 Bulk Fuel through the MISD electronic bid system. Proposals will be publicly opened and read in the office of Rebecca Mull, Director of Procurement Services, at 615 W. Missouri Avenue, Suite 707-C, Midland, Texas at **3:00 PM C.S.T. on March 22, 2016.** Request for Proposal documents may be obtained by registering as a supplier at www.midlandisd.com/domain/44. For any questions, contact MISD Procurement Services department at (432) 240-1960.

Legal & Public Notices

Notice of PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that Metro Self Storage Midland will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a landlord's lien (pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Statutes - Property Code). The sale will take place at 315 N. Midland Dr. Midland, Texas 79703 on March 11, 2016 at 10:00am. The sale will be conducted by Legacy Auction Services LLC (#16850) on behalf of the facility's management. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10% buyers premium will be charged. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. No one under the age of 16 years old is permitted. The property to be sold is described as "general household items" unless otherwise noted. Property includes the storage unit contents belonging to the following tenants:

A012-Nathanel R. Machado (tool box & misc.)
B013-Darrell A. Clark (love seat & misc.)
E006-Josephene Valdez (kids car & misc.)
H001-Perla Robledo (Hutch & misc.)
L004-Ivy Brice (couch & misc.)
N005-Justin Gay (misc.)
T018-Laura Long (misc.)
T024-Derrick Counts (tv & misc.)
V008-Orlando Martinez (end tables & misc.)
Y04-Julio Armando Reyes (end tables & misc.)

General Announcements

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Lost & Found

FOUND GERMAN Shepherd by Blue Max Bar area. Call 432-664-1982

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

DODGE 2015 HELLCAT Charger, 1,100 miles, bright red, loaded. $68,000. 432-853-7663.

FORD FLEX Limited , 2012 with EcoBoost for sale. Seats 7 people using automatic 3rd seat. 67,300 miles, leather seats, heated front seats, sun roofs. Asking $22,000 OBO. 432-528-1191.

INFINITY G25X, 2011. 35K miles. Two-toned leather interior, heated seats, moon roof, handles great! Priced below book for a quick sale 17K. 432-853-9080. Unavailable for calls March 7-14.

KIA SORENTO 2011 LX, exterior maroon, AWD, all power, automatic 4-cylinder. Includes all standard equipment + hitch w/ ball & receiver. 99,700 miles. $8,750 OBO. Also, vehicle has a lien, will require sending payment to bank to obtain title. Call or text 563-940-0578.

Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2008 F150, Limited, 4X4, 109,000 miles, good condition asking $17,500 KBB valued at $17,905. Call 432-413-2796

FORD F250, 2013 for sale. pickup. 6.7 Diesel, automatic. XL Lariat. Excellent condition. 29,000 original miles. Ford warranty bumper to bumper. $46,000. 432-967-0129.

4WD & SUV

GMC 1983 pickup V i n # 1GTGC24J9DJS1041 6. Price $2,500. 432-250-5504.

4WD & SUV

FORD EXPEDITION EL, 2008. Limited 2wd, Leather, 4 bucket seats, DVD player, 123,000 miles, white. $13,500 OBO Call 432-686 8915.

MERCEDES 1999 430 ML, $3,995 OBO. 432-349-0209

Specialty Vehicles

TWO 1999 Jugaer XK8. Conv. V8, automatic. CD changer. New tires. One red with tan leather, one white with tan leather. $11K. Contact Burt, work 699-0604/ cell 405-823-2624.

RVs

2011 NUWA Hitchhiker Champagne 38 CKRD and 1998 Intl FL 4700 Weir conversion and new air ride hitch. $75,000 for both. Call for more detail and pics (760) 375-2256 (physically in El Paso, TX)

RV PARK spaces between Midland & Stanton: quiet, clean, & safe. Adults only please. 432-238-3937.

Watercraft

NITRO 2013 Z9, Mercuury 250hp, duel console, power pole, low rance select. $32,0000. 432-631-9868.

Recreational Vehicles

PARK MODEL 2014 40' Travel trailer. 2 slide outs, 2 A/C's, electric awning, washer & dryer, hide-a-bed sofa & chair. $26,200. 817-408-0376

TAHOE Q 6 2008 excellent like new condition. Lake ready. $19,000. for more information call 432-634-4618

Merchandise

Appliances

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Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!

Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Miscellaneous for Sale

FOR SALE-Resthaven Memorial Park, Lot 53-Space 3, lower & upper, $6,295 OBO. 210-317-9632

PRICE REDUCED $2,800. EACH. Resthaven Memorial Garden of Whispering Pines. Lot 263 spaces 1-2-3. retail $3,700 sell for $3,200 each 432-553-5334.

TWO PLOTS in Resthaven Cemetery, Gethsemane 93 #'s 3 & 4, $2,500 each. Email if interested danosh5@aol.com

Animals & Pets

Pets

2 male AKC REGISTERED German Shephard puppies. Ready to go! Please call 432-634-4618.

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Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Furnished

2901 W ILLINOIS, 1600sft 2BD/2BA Remodeled Executive Patio apartment with garage. $1,250 monthly. Call 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

DUPLEX FOR LEASE. 3304 B Moss Court. 3bed, 2 bath,2 car garage, fireplace Appx 1600 sf. $1650 per month, $1000 deposit 432-557-5557.

★ Classified **CAN** 682-6222

Legal & Public Notices

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 1, 2016
City of Midland, Texas
PO Box 1152
Midland, Texas 79702
432-685-7408

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 18, 2016 the City of Midland, Texas (City) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following:

Environmental Assessment

1. Greenwood Housing Development Program to include land acquisition and infrastructure such as street paving/sidewalks; and water and sewer mains. [$408,000].
2. Park Heights Housing Development Program to include land acquisition and infrastructure such as street paving/sidewalks; and water and sewer mains. [$562,502].

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR)on file at the City Community Development Office, Room 410, City Hall, 300 N. Loraine and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City's Community Development Office. All comments received by March 16, 2016 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenter should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

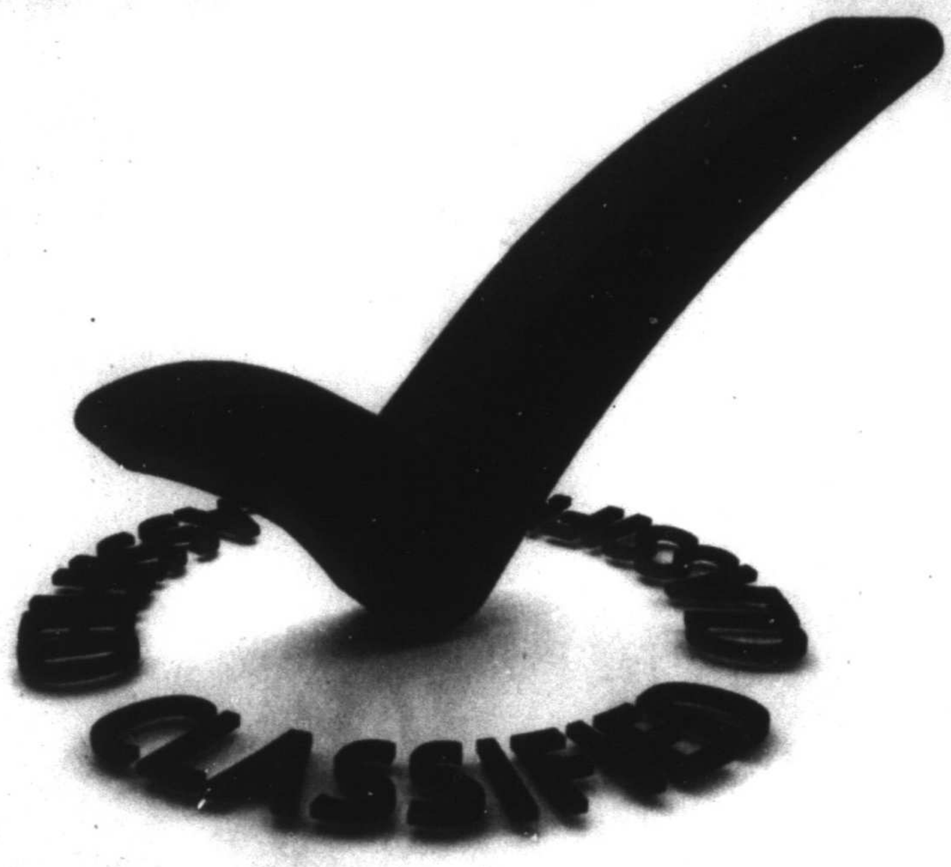
RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City certifies to HUD that Jerry F. Morales, in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City certification received by April 4, 2016 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City approved by HUD; (b) the (RE) has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD at 801 Cherry St., Unit #45, Ste. 2500, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Jerry F. Morales
Mayor



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Lawn & Garden

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Lawn & Garden

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WILL TRIM, prune or uproot just about any tree, very reasonable prices. Call Norman 432-296-1424.

Miscellaneous Services

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Landscape & Tree Maintenance

Lawn & Garden

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And all your yard needs. Shrubs, beds, mow, weed eat, edge, blow, & trash haul off available. 432-599-2930

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Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

1501 COLLEGE Ave recently remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath, laundry room, new stainless steel appliances, large yard w/ sprinkler system, separate 2 car garage newly fenced. $1,800 per month plus deposit. Call to set appointment. 281-797-7855

1 BEDROOM house for rent. $800/month, deposit plus first and last month. All appliances, W/D connections. 432-528-9808.

6304 CHICKASAW remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath. 2000 sq. ft. across from Midland Country Club. Not pets non smoking. $1,600 month plus deposit. 432-683-2243

BEAUTIFUL EXECUTIVE townhome in Old Midland. Large 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath, 2200 Western. 432-553-3248 or 432-683-7679

DUPLEX 1202 College Lovely, 2 bdrm/1 bath for lease. Vaulted ceilings, fireplace, private courtyard, garage. $1,200 mo, $1,200 dep. Call 432-222-1831.

FOR LEASE: 2608 Delano Ave. 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, fenced, refrigerator, stove, background/ credit check, verification of employment, $925 security deposit $925/ month, $500 pet deposit, (restrictions apply). Available now. 432-222-0794.

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

FOR LEASE - 2800 South County Road 1220, roomy 4 or 5bdrm home, 3 full baths, refrigerator, stove, large backyard with 2-car attached garage. Background / credit check, verification of employment, $1900/month, $1900 security deposit, $500 pet deposit (restrictions apply). Call 432-222-0794.

FOR SALE or lease: Very nice 2 & 3 bedrooms. $1,100/month and up. Good credit required. 432-694-9853.

NEWLY REMODELED, 3 BEDROOM 2 bath, 1 car garage. A real show place. 432-214-5424.

UNIQUE CUSTOM built luxury duplex large 2 bedroom 2 bath, bonus room, 2509 A Haynes. 432-553-3248 or 432-683-7679

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

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3608 SINCLAIR 2939sf. 4BD/3BA., fireplace. Water well, Remodeled. $249,000 Call 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

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The Bottom Line

76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.

Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

7				9				3
		3		4				
	6		8			9	7	
4	2						3	
			9	1				
	8						9	4
	3	5			1		4	
				3		7		
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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 MONDAY'S PUZZLE

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

3/1/16

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Brian Battaile/U.S. Geological Survey via AP

A polar bear dries off after taking a swim in the Chukchi Sea in Alaska. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service followed the law when it designated more than 187,000 square miles, an area larger than California, as critical habitat for threatened polar bears in Alaska marine waters and its northern coast, an appeals court ruled Monday. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeal reversed a 2013 lower court decision that the designation was too extensive and not specific.

Appeals court upholds US polar bear habitat designation

By Dan Joling
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service followed the law when it designated more than 187,000 square miles — an area larger than California — as critical habitat for threatened polar bears in Alaska marine waters and its northern coast, an appeals court ruled Monday.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeal reversed a 2013 lower court decision that the designation was too extensive and not specific.

A spokesman for the Center for Biological Diversity, which petitioned to designate polar bears as a threatened species, called it a victory for the marine mammal.

"The polar bear gets the full protection of critical habitat to which it's entitled, it deserves and it truly needs," Brendan Cummings said.

The federal government in 2008 declared polar bears threatened under the Endangered Species Act, citing melting sea ice. Polar bears need ice for hunting, breeding and migrating.

The move made the polar bear the first species to be designated as threatened under the act because of global warming.

A designation of critical habitat is required as part of a recovery plan. The Fish and Wildlife Service set aside acreage along Alaska's northern coast but 95 percent is in the ocean waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.

The Alaska Oil and Gas Association, the state of Alaska, a coalition of Alaska Native groups and other oil and gas interests sued, calling the designation an overreach.

Former Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell said the critical habitat designation included areas that account for almost half of Alaska's oil production, and petroleum exploration and production would be delayed or restricted.

U.S. District Court Judge Ralph Beistline ruled that the Fish and Wildlife Service's designation of sea ice as critical habitat was valid. However, he ruled the agency had not shown that areas on land and barrier islands had features making them appropriate for polar bear dens and he rejected the entire plan.

Appeals court judges said the lower court decision appeared to consider denning habitat but not the need by bears to have undisturbed access to and from sea ice.

The appeals court judges agreed that the agency did not have to prove that existing polar bears actually used certain designated areas, only that those areas were critical to the conservation of the species. They said the agency drew rational conclusions from the best scientific evidence available.

Cummings said specificity in designating habitat is impossible given the dynamic nature of the Arctic, where polar bears move by walking or merely resting on shifting sea ice. Polar bears, he said, are not like salmon that return to the same streams every year to spawn.

"You can't say the bear will take this specific path to its denning area, and therefore, let's only protect that narrow corridor," he said. "You need to protect on the scale of the ecosystem, which is what Fish and Wildlife did."

Alaska Attorney General's Office spokeswoman Cori Mills called the decision disappointing. State attorneys are reviewing options for further judicial review, she said by email.

"Alaska originally brought this case because of the overly broad designation of more than 187,000 square miles as critical habitat without a real connection between the area designated and the survival or recovery of polar bears," Mills said.

Alaska Oil and Gas Association President Kara Moriarty said the critical habitat designation will dramatically increase costs associated with Alaska North Slope projects probably jeopardize future projects.

"Each project will have to undergo an additional level of federal scrutiny that is impossible to predict," she said.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had not seen the decision.

Arctic warming makes New England storms, study finds

By Yereth Rosen
Alaska Dispatch News, Anchorage

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — What does loss of Arctic sea ice have to do with snowfall and rain in New England? Plenty, according to chemical evidence amassed by a team of scientists and described in a soon-to-be published study.

A research project analyzing precipitation in New Hampshire, part of the general U.S. Northeast region that has been blasted in recent years by episodes of the "polar vortex," links weather there to the warming Arctic.

The link comes from analysis of water isotopes in precipitation samples collected since 1968 at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in New Hampshire. The water isotopes — the varying atomic structure of the hydrogen and oxygen that make up the water — identify the precipitation that falls there during fall and winter as originating in the warming Arctic. Isotope analysis was done at University of Alaska Anchorage's Stable Isotope Lab.

Isotopes in water molecules act like a "chemical fingerprint," said Jeff Welker, a UAA biology professor involved in the project. Analysis by Welker, UAA postdoctoral fellow Eric Klein and their research partners at the State University of New York and other institutions parsed out the isotopes associated with the Arctic and matched them to the heavy precipitation at the New Hampshire location.

The analysis also tracked increasing incidences of Arctic-marked rain and snowfall over time with reduced Arctic sea ice —and with polar vortexes like the one that warmed Alaska but chilled the U.S. East Coast in the winter of 2013-14.

The chemical evidence backs the theory that the rapid warming of the Arctic is slowing the jet stream, causing a wavy pattern that brings warm weather to the far north and cold weather to the middle latitudes, Welker and Klein said.

"I don't think it's a smoking gun. But I think it's adding another brick to the wall supporting it," Klein said.

The Arctic-originating water molecules could not reach New Hampshire unless they were pulled by a manipulated jet stream, he said. "In order for the colder, drier source to reach this location, it necessitates some bends of the jet stream," he said.

The Arctic has been warming at twice the global rate, and a large part of that is driven by reduction in summer and fall sea ice — a phenomenon that's a self-fulfilling cycle, because reduced ice absorbs more solar warmth that reduces ice levels further.

According to an emerging theory developed by Rutgers University research professor Jennifer Francis and several other climate scientists, the amplified Arctic warming is significantly altering weather patterns much farther south. With temperature differences between north and south smaller than in the past, and with more open water and more cloud cover sending and holding moisture in the Arctic atmosphere, weather systems are more frequently distorting the normally west-to-east jet stream into meandering loops, causing more stationary patterns and more frequent extreme events well south of the Arctic, according to the theory.

Francis, who was not involved in the isotope study, said it adds some weight to the theory. "It's certainly a completely independent type of evidence," she said.

This winter — with its extremely warm temperatures persisting in the Arctic and a strong El Nino that is behaving differently from past El Ninos — is likely to be material for future study into Arctic-lower latitude links, Francis said.

"I don't see how you can have an Arctic that is 10 to 15 degrees warmer than normal in winter and not have it have an effect on the jet stream and weather farther south," she said.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

This week's buzzwords are responsive design

Dear PropellerHeads: Last week, my minions declared that our website needed to be responsive. I just got them new servers, what more do they want?

A: May I call you Gru? (I mean, spouting out minion and all.) Yes? Light bulb!

Before you start handing out pink slips, what your underlings were talking about is the Web buzzword not going anywhere: Responsive Design. Responsive design is the not so new thing every website must have.

Most recently, it was mobile. Before that: social media. Before that: Web 2.0. Before that: database-driven. Before that … well, you get the picture. Next year: probably something about disconnected.

Responsive design has nothing to do with how fast a website is (though that certainly doesn't hurt), but rather how responsive a web page is to different platforms and varying viewport dimensions. In point of fact, this is nothing new. I've known about this for years but it was called fluid layout.

Actually, this provides a very interesting commentary. As monitors got larger, web pages got wider. And even though fluid layout was proposed to handle all monitor sizes, nobody cared about those poor suckers who couldn't afford larger monitors.

Now we are going backwards and with all the yuppies buying up smartphones, we must create websites that function optimally on smaller viewports. So only when the wealthy want it do we get it? Just saying.

But actually I think it is the lazy web developers (like me), who are driving this. We hate maintaining separate websites for desktop and mobile platforms more than everyone else. So by applying some judicious CSS (that stuff that controls the appearance of a website), we can make one site to rule them all! Or at least until the next thing that nobody saw coming comes along.

The basic principle is that as the browser window gets smaller, the font starts to get smaller, icons and other images start to get smaller and eventually, things will start wrapping so that a three column layout becomes a two column layout and then a one column layout. Less important bits of information may get abbreviated or disappear entirely. Instead of working in absolute terms like pixels, we work in relative terms like percentages.

To get your lackeys started tell them to look for a responsive framework. Perhaps the most well-known is Bootstrap (getbootstrap.com) and in fact this is the one I've used the most. The next one I hear about the most is Foundation (foundation.zurb.com). Another that I've seen mentioned a few times is YAML (yaml.de). There are several others… just search for "responsive frameworks" to find them all.

There are two things to keep in mind with responsive frameworks. Does is require a JavaScript framework (we web developers do love our frameworks)? Both Bootstrap and Foundation offer up a bunch of gizmos built upon jQuery (jquery.com) while YAML is just CSS without JavaScript requirements. Other responsive frameworks may be built upon other JavaScript frameworks so pick the one that works best for you.

The other factor to consider is what browsers the framework supports. In many cases older browsers (re Internet Explorer 8) are not supported. For example, Bootstrap 2 does support IE8, but Bootstrap 3 does not.

So Gru, be despicable, get that whip cracking and have your yellow pill-shaped minions make a responsive site by the end of the week!

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@asktheropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Directions, Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.asktheropellerheads.com.

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