MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

TODAY IN SPORTS

Get ready for this week's high school softball action.

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LEGEND PERFORMS

Country music legend Merle Haggard will perform tonight at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts center, but what's on his setlist? We can't say for sure, but there are a few songs we hope The Hag will play.

Page 1B

MISD mulls tax rate election, budget cuts

By Joseph Basco
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As part of an overall plan to address budgetary constraints in a downturn, Midland ISD and the board of trustees might seek voter approval this budget season if the district is to propose a maintenance and operations tax rate greater than $1.04 per $100 property valuation.

But alternate means of budget balancing also are on the table.

Superintendent Ryder Warren and the school board on Monday had a budget workshop, revealing the district's fiscal challenges when faced with a likely 11 percent decline in property valuations and a 3 percent decrease in enrolled students for 2015-16 because of the oil industry downturn. The 11 percent valuation decline might mean a $17.2 billion taxable base for the district, and the 3 percent enrollment decrease equates to about 700 students, Warren told board members. He said that 200 students already have left the district since the downturn began.

In addition, MISD still has to contend with the state's "Robin Hood" plan, which takes away a portion of district property tax revenue. Instead, that money goes to the state to be redistributed to school districts with low tax bases.

MISD could go ahead with a $1.04 per $100 valuation, which is the highest rate the district can approve while avoiding a tax ratification election (TRE). But this would put the district at a $34 million deficit compared to the revenue it is working with this current fiscal year.

If the proposed rate goes one penny above $1.04 per $100 evaluation, then the district will have to ask the community to support the higher tax rate via TRE. Doing so could decrease the $34 million deficit to $22 million with a voter approved $1.17 per $100 valuation rate.

A chart revealed at Monday's budget workshop showed what the deficits could look like with different voter-approved tax rates, ranging from $1.05 per $100 valuation to $1.17 per $100 valuation.

The district and school board might have another option at its disposal in order to close the revenue gap: cutting the budget in

Please see **BUDGET**/2A

More MISD news

The school district announced the hiring of Randy Rowe as its new executive director of athletics. Rowe, who comes to Midland from Livingston ISD in East Texas, is a former athletic director and football coach at Livingston High School. Learn more about Rowe and the challenges he'll face in Sports.

Page 1C

ROOM RATES RECEDING?

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

The Value Place long stay motel off Loop 250 has lowered its weekly rates to $499.99 as of Monday, a $100 decrease. Is it a sign of things to come? Based on the most recent year-over-year hotel/motel numbers from the state comptroller's website, times are still very good in Midland.

In January, Midland hotels took in $10.6 million — which is $3 million more than January 2014 and more than double January 2012. Value Place made about 54 percent more in January of this year than January 2014. And while $499 a week is $100 less than this time last week, it is still much more than what Value Place is charging in Lubbock ($249), Metroplex ($289), Austin ($319), Denver ($339) and Houston ($349).

From staff reports

P&Z OKs change for Towneplace Suites

By Rye Druzin
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The way has been paved for a new Towneplace Suites by Marriott after the Planning and Zoning Commission on Monday approved a zone change for the hotel planned for the city's South Side.

The new four-story building would be located across from Wal-Mart near the intersection of Rankin Highway and Interstate 20. The hotel — for which platting has not started — would be built near the Holiday Inn Express and would be the second Towneplace Suites in the Tall City; there is one near Sam's Club off Loop 250.

The zone change modified the land from LR-2 Local Retail District to O-2 Office District.

The commission did not discuss possible traffic issues in an area already populated by a Starbucks, Wal-Mart and multiple fast food eateries, even though the city's city traffic engineer, Michael Pacelli, attended the meeting.

The necessity of planning for another hotel during an economic downturn was also not brought up by the commission.

Also at Monday's meeting:

■ The commission approved through consent a preliminary plat of land in the southwest corner of Midland International Air and Space Port.

Planning staff said that one of the lots is already being leased by XCOR Aerospace, the private space company that has pledged to moved its headquarters to the airport. The entire lot, which spans more than 50 acres, was being developed to allow for future leasing opportunities for the city and to add public improvements such as water and sewer lines and a new road.

■ The commission approved a residential replat for a development in northwest Midland.

The development would add at least 242 residential homes with three communal areas, according to Andrew Mellen of Maverick Engineering. The development will first focus on final plats for multi-family homes, and no timeline was given for the rest of the development.

Officials: West Texas, New Mexico oil workers underpaid

■ Investigators say Desta Drilling owes more than $317,000 in back wages because of overtime miscalculations

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Violations of fair labor standards have resulted in hundreds of oilfield workers in New Mexico and West Texas being underpaid by more than $1.3 million, according to a review by federal officials.

Most of the violations involved improper payments of overtime. In some cases, employees didn't receive an overtime premium because they were misclassified as independent contractors, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division.

There were also instances of employers not paying for time spent working off-the-clock.

The findings stem from an enforcement initiative launched by the division last year in the Southwest. It was similar to a two-year effort that reviewed companies operating in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In that case, the division recovered nearly $4.5 million for 5,310 workers.

"There is a misconception in the industry that because workers typically earn more than the minimum wage, they are being paid legally. That is not always the case," Cynthia Watson, an administrator for the division's Southwest region said in a statement Monday.

The U.S. has drastically cut imports and transformed itself into the world's biggest producer of oil and natural gas in recent years. In 2014, domestic production increased to nearly 9 million barrels per day, marking the largest increase in volume since record-keeping began more than a century ago, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said Monday.

Federal energy officials say most of the increase came from plays in North Dakota, Texas and New Mexico, where hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling have been used to tap shale formations.

In New Mexico, the boom has resulted in consistently lower unemployment rates in those areas that include the oil-rich Permian Basin.

The structure of the oil and gas industry is partly to blame for the wage violations, federal officials said.

David Weil, administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, said contracting and subcontracting in the industry has obscured the traditional relationship be-

Please see **UNDERPAID**/4A

Weather
Partly sunny
85/67
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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$48.69	▲ $0.19
WTI Posted	$46.50	▲ $0.25
WTG Posted	$41.10	▲ $0.25
Natural Gas	$2.644	▲ $0.005
Gasoline	$2.379	▼ $0.009

The big number
Each day, about
3.6 million
barrels of oil pass through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait. Page 8A

Around the Capitol
New ag commissioner under scrutiny. Page 3A

Coming Wednesday
Catch up with the latest in education news.

Vol. 87, No. 20
Daily $1, Sunday $2

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MISD to bring Wi-Fi to secondary schools by next year

By Joseph Basco
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Midland ISD is moving tech-forward at its secondary schools.

The board of trustees on Monday approved the vendor that will provide Wi-Fi equipment inside the classrooms and other areas of its eight secondary schools.

MISD chose Sigma Solutions Inc. of San Antonio to provide the Wi-Fi equipment at the two high schools, two freshman schools and four junior high schools. The cost of the equipment is expected to be $1.08 million.

But the district still will have to bid another portion of this project because Monday's approval was only for the Wi-Fi equipment. MISD had a vendor lined up for the project's cabling, but the vendor withdrew its bid weeks before Monday's meeting, according to a board meeting memo.

MISD will now re-bid for the cabling, as well as establish a new request for bids for the Wi-Fi infrastructure in the secondary schools' portable classrooms.

Winning bidders for the cabling and portable classroom Wi-Fi will be approved at an April board meeting.

And if all goes according to plan, Wi-Fi will be operation by the start of the 2015-16 school year.

Internet at the secondary schools is currently limited to wired connections.

"Every one of those kids have a phone that's more powerful than any computer I used to have on my desktop," said Superintendent Ryder Warren. "They have it in their hands, and they use it all the time in their lives. We're just not able to infuse it into their educational lives in Midland because we don't have the systems to support it."

MISD is expecting vendors to bid $276,000 for the cabling and $275,000 for the portable classroom Wi-Fi. When combined with the bid already approved, the total cost of the project is estimated to be $1.6 million.

MISD hopes $650,000 of the project's cost will come from the E-Rate Program, a federal funding source that helps schools and libraries obtain affordable broadband, according to the Federal Commissions Commission website. The E-Rate Program is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Co. under the direction of the FCC.

The Wi-Fi equipment and cabling installation is part of MISD's overall secondary technology upgrade plan.

Warren said one of the big components of the 2012 elementary schools bond was transforming classrooms into 21st century classrooms by providing the necessary tools.

"On the elementary level, we're good; we have 21st century classrooms," Warren said. "You get to seventh grade, and that stops."

So the district wants that technology transformation for grades sevens through 12, but, as Warren said on Monday, now is not a good time to call for a bond election.

"But we still need to think about how we are going to bring better academic services to kids," Warren said.

Associated Press

Members of the Montgomery County dive team search the West Fork San Jacinto River for the body of Librado Rubio on Monday in Conroe. According to witnesses, Rubio was thrown from a horse Sunday afternoon while trying to cross the river.

BUDGET

From 1A

three categories — business office, operations and teaching and learning. Reducing the number of portable classrooms, employee-matching annuity and incentive programs and a districtwide salary freeze could save MISD $6 million to $7 million. Slashing some operational expenses, such as custodial equipment and uniforms, could save $400,000. And programs such as language-teaching Rosetta Stone and literacy-improving Read 180 are also being scrutinized for reduction or elimination to save another $500,000.

"We don't have those programs out there that we just do not believe in," Warren said. "So, in all three of these categories, I'll tell you, any sort of cuts are going to hurt. I just wanted to give you (school board) examples."

It already has been determined that at least one executive-level position, director of literacy, will be cut.

Another revenue-saving tool at play is Texas Education Code 42.251, legislation that potentially could cap MISD's taxable base percent loss to just 4 percent as opposed to 11 percent. TEC 42.251 states that taxable value of property in a school district can be adjusted if the district experiences a rapid decline in the tax base greater than 4 percent. The problem, though, is that state funding relevant to this particular education code may not be available, Warren said.

The superintendent said he is going to Austin on Wednesday to meet with state Sen. Kel Seliger and state Rep. Tom Craddick to discuss the state code.

But even if TEC 42.2521 is applied to MISD's tax base, a $23 million deficit could occur with a $1.04 per $100 valuation tax rate.

The last tool MISD has to close the revenue deficit is to take money out of its $51 million fund balance. Warren showed board members how much smaller the deficit could be if $10 million from the fund balance were withdrawn.

In its most extreme example, with $10 million from the fund balance applied, TEC 42.2521 capping the taxable base loss at 4 percent and voters approving a $1.17 per $100 valuation tax rate, MISD's revenue deficit could be as little as $5,948.

Warren said an election was not proposed at Monday's meeting. Instead, the school board's options for addressing a likely deficit were just being presented.

"We're going to scrub our budget," Warren said. "We're going to look at programs first, staff ratios and all these different things. A TRE is just one tool to get us back into a balanced budget situation because of the (economic) situation we're in."

But when asked what the chances are of a tax ratification election happening, MISD board President Rick Davis said he predicts the board will support a maintenance and operations tax increase by some undetermined amount, community support may be asked, and the odds of the board seeking the increase are greater than 50 percent.

"I hope that, with the coverage that the (Midland Chamber of Commerce State of Education) panel received and the idea of investing more and the challenges we face, the community will consider this and we can have a dialogue with them," Davis said.

Davis said that it will be a challenge to convince voters about the TRE. However, he is encouraged that the community does not want the quality of teaching to be diminished and that residents will support the measure if asked to do so.

Other than the oil downturn affecting the tax base and reduced enrollment, Davis said another factor resulted in MISD's current financial situation. The taxable values that the Robin Hood recapture amount is based on is one year before when the invoice is due, leading to greater recapture values and less revenue to pay for it this year, he said.

"We've had a perfect storm of factors that have brought us to this point," Davis said.

Warren said he is in the process of visiting with 35 faculties to explain the 2015-16 school budget situation.

REGION&STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NEW MEXICO

Nuclear enrichment plant OK'd for expansion

EUNICE — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has given its approval for URENCO USA to expand it nuclear enrichment facility east of Eunice in southeastern New Mexico.

The Hobbs News-Sun reported that the panel gave the OK last week on URENCO's most recent license amendment application.

That means URENCO can double its capacity over the course of two more phases beyond the current three-phase $4 billion facility.

It also means the company can store more raw and depleted uranium on site and can re-feed uranium tails left over after the enrichment process back through their centrifuges to recover more enriched uranium for nuclear fuel.

The facility now has approval to double its productive capacity.

DALLAS

Police: Mom told daughter to hide in trash bin, then left

Dallas police say a woman was arrested after telling her 7-year-old daughter to hide in a trash bin outside a spa and then leaving her. The girl was found nearby 10 hours later after she spent the night in the dumpster.

Alicia Carroll of Garland was being held in the Dallas County jail Monday on charges of abandoning and endangering a child. Bond for the 28-year-old woman was set at $25,000. A message left with her attorney was not returned.

A Dallas police statement said Carroll had left a spa in northwest Dallas with her daughter about 10 p.m. Saturday. An arrest warrant affidavit says Carroll began to run, told her daughter the police were after them and to hide in the garbage bin. The girl fell asleep in the bin waiting for her mother to return but awakened, climbed out and walked back to the spa Sunday morning. There, officers found her hungry, thirsty, and with scrapes and cuts on her arms and legs.

Meanwhile, Carroll called 911 Sunday morning and reported that she had left her daughter with another person who now was refusing to return her. When confronted with her daughter, Carroll told officers that she had left the spa and drank two glasses of vodka in the parking lot. She then began to walk with her daughter but could remember nothing more until the next morning.

The girl was taken to a hospital for an examination and released to a family member. The case has been referred to Child Protective Services.

CARTHAGE

'Bernie' case prosecutor seeks recusal, says he's a witness

The Texas district attorney who was to prosecute for a second time the man whose murder conviction inspired the movie "Bernie" has asked to recuse himself on the eve of a pretrial hearing, saying he's become a witness.

In a motion filed Monday in state district court in Carthage, Danny Buck Davidson asked to recuse himself and other prosecutors in his Panola County District Attorney's Office from the Bernie Tiede case.

Tiede was convicted of killing wealthy widow Marjorie Nugent and storing her body in a freezer. He was released from prison after a judge agreed to reduce his sentence. Davidson agreed the former mortician was wrongly sentenced to life imprisonment.

Davidson did not specify how he was a witness. He asked that a special prosecutor be appointed.

COLLEGE STATION

Texas clerk who died after abduction remembered

More than 40 people gathered at a College Station convenience store to remember a clerk who died after being abducted from the store and beaten.

The Bryan-College Station Eagle reported that mourners gathered Saturday to remember 55-year-old Kevin Garcia, who worked the night shift at the store for 14 years.

Garcia was found in the bed of his pickup in a suburb of Fort Worth more than 10 hours after his March 17 kidnapping. He died March 20.

Garcia's sister, Denise Etherton, said Garcia didn't know he was loved by so many.

A tree now stands outside the store in Garcia's memory.

Nathaniel Tillery currently faces charges of kidnapping, assault and robbery. Police are investigating to determine if new charges are filed.

SAN ANTONIO

Man fatally shot after bus ride argument

San Antonio police say a homeless man accused of fatally shooting a man after an argument on a city bus has been arrested.

Police said 41-year-old Jose Rocha faces a murder charge in the death of Aaron Riedner, who died Saturday of a gunshot wound to the chest. Rocha, who was arrested Sunday evening, remained in jail Monday on $250,000 bond. Jail records don't list an attorney.

The San Antonio Express-News reported that a police report says Riedner got into an argument with Rocha's friend on a city bus. Police said Rocha then followed Riedner as he exited the bus and shot him.

Authorities haven't said what the argument was about.

Police said officers arrested Rocha after getting an anonymous call that he was hiding behind a tire shop.

HUDSON

Man dies in East Texas mobile home fire

A 73-year-old man has died in a mobile home fire in a small East Texas town.

Authorities pronounced Ed Clark dead at the scene of the early Monday fire in Hudson, located just west of Lufkin.

Hudson Fire Marshal Joe Burton told The Lufkin News that the fire remains under investigation. He says the point of origin though appears to be around a gas heater installed in the living room. He says the victim was known to wear oxygen and he feels that the oxygen tubing might have gotten around the heater's pilot lighting.

Next door neighbor Walter Ginn said neighbors tried to rescue Clark before firefighters arrived, but as they made the attempt after seeing him lying on the floor near the front door, something exploded

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The famous battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" is often attributed to Sam Houston but was actually coined by Texas general Sidney Sherman (1805-1873).
Texas was an independent nation from 1836 to 1845. When it was annexed in 1845, it retained the right to fly its flag at the same height as the national flag.

Ag commissioner's appointments under scrutiny

By Eric Dexheimer
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — Newly elected Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller appointed the wife of his longtime political consultant and business partner to one of the highest-paid positions in his agency, part of a restructuring that has added several expensive executive positions to the agency.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that Kellie Housewright-Smith was named a member of Miller's transition team on Nov. 17 at a pay rate of $13,750 per month, according to personnel records obtained under Texas open records laws. Her husband is Todd Smith, who has worked on all of Miller's state political campaigns.

Corporation filings at the Texas secretary of state's office also show that Miller and Smith have been partners in business together. Both men are listed as officers of PeerProf LLC, incorporated in 2010, and E Communication Advantage, a political phone bank company started in 2008.

Six weeks after hiring her, Miller promoted Housewright-Smith to assistant commissioner, a newly created executive position just below the elected commissioner. Her salary was $180,000 a year, records show — the third-highest in the agency, and considerably more than Miller's $137,500 annual paycheck.

Housewright-Smith left the agency March 13, soon after the American-Statesman began requesting documents about her appointment. Reached by phone, she said she quit her new job to attend to family medical concerns.

While there was nothing illegal about the arrangement, it is the latest episode raising questions about Miller's short tenure. Another of the commissioner's new high-level hires was sanctioned by the Federal Elections Commission in 2004 for improperly obscuring sources of campaign contributions.

Elected officials often install their own team of lieutenants to stamp the agency with their mark and ensure loyalty, and it's not uncommon for them to have political or personal ties to the new boss. State law on the appointment practice is murky, however.

The Texas Agriculture Code, for example, references only a single commissioner appointment, of a deputy who "must have practical knowledge of agriculture, horticulture, manufacturing, and related industries." Miller's deputy is Jason Fearneyhough, a former Wyoming agriculture commissioner.

Miller also created appointed assistant commissioner positions when he took office in January. Each pays $180,000, according to the Texas Tribune's database of state employees. In addition to Housewright-Smith, he tapped Dan Hunter, former director of the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University in Miller's Stephenville district; former Travis County sheriff and state representative Terry Keel, who also ran the Texas Facilities Commission; and Walt Roberts, a one-time Oklahoma representative and Texas lobbyist.

Housewright-Smith's credentials were perhaps the least obvious for an agricultural department.

Her husband is the principal of Todd Smith & Associates, a longtime political consulting and lobbying business. State election records show that Smith has billed Miller more than $1 million for his work on every state campaign Miller has run, starting with his first victory as a Republican state representative from Stephenville in 2000.

The billings include a half-million dollars in expenditures over three months in 2012 alone, when Miller was in a closely contested primary runoff that he ultimately lost, state records show. Smith also was a paid consultant on Miller's run for agriculture commissioner last fall, though he billed only about $20,000 in 2014, records show.

Court documents also show that Smith has struggled with financial problems.

Bryan Black, a Texas Department of Agriculture spokesman, said Miller was too busy last week to discuss Housewright-Smith's appointment.

Todd Smith said he played no role in getting his wife hired by Miller. "I was kind of surprised by that," he said. "It was done without my knowledge."

A press release issued by Miller's campaign in late December announced Housewright-Smith's appointment as assistant commissioner for operations of the $560 million-a-year agency (most of the money is federal). "Housewright-Smith will supervise Human Resources, Administration Services, Information Technology, Information Resources, and Financial operations at the TDA, as well as manage the department's massive Food and Nutrition program," the statement said.

Housewright-Smith, however, said that it was her understanding that she was hired primarily to lead the agency's rural health efforts. "I was honored when Commissioner Miller asked me to serve," she said.

As an appointee, Black said her position wasn't posted for competitive applications, and her personnel file contains no résumé or work history. Her LinkedIn page lists her work experience as co-ownership of Todd Smith & Associates.

Housewright-Smith, a registered nurse, said she had long experience working in health care fields, much of it in the 1980s and 1990s before she started a family. In addition to working as a provider relations specialist for Cigna Health Care in Fort Worth, she said she worked as an administrator for home health care agencies. Since then, she said, she has worked primarily as a consultant to health care companies, helping them meet federal accreditation standards, among other assistance.

She was appointed by former Gov. William Clements, and reappointed by then-Gov. Ann Richards, to the Maternal, Infant and Child Health Care Advisory Commission in the late 1980s and early 1990s. She also served on a health care task force for U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, whose district covers an area south of Dallas (a staffer for the GOP congressman confirmed her participation, but didn't recall the years she served).

"I was doing rural health care and health care consultation from the mid-1980s forward," she said.

"She is uniquely qualified," Smith added.

The arrangement is the latest incident in which Miller's performance as commissioner has raised eyebrows. Soon after he took office, Miller, the owner of a plant nursery, made news by making his first official act the declaration of a cupcake "amnesty" — a reference to a state rule prohibiting some junk foods in schools that actually had been repealed six months earlier. Miller said many people might not have heard the news of its repeal.

Miller also has ruffled feathers among his former colleagues in the Legislature by aggressively pushing for substantially more money for the Department of Agriculture, an agency whose budget he voted to slash when he was a representative, according to a recent Texas Tribune report. The report also revealed that Miller had been banned from parking in the secured driveway around the Capitol after he was caught parking there without permission.

Housewright-Smith hasn't been Miller's only high-level appointee drawn from the ranks of his political associates. The new assistant commissioner for government relations and external affairs, Walt Roberts, was a paid consultant to Miller's campaign for agriculture commissioner as well, records show.

Miller paid W.L Roberts and Associates $21,000 last year, $18,500 of that on Nov. 5, the day after Miller decisively won the general election over Democrat Jim Hogan. Ethics Commission records show Roberts' company had no other clients.

A decade ago, Roberts — who is also an actor, fiddle player and auctioneer — was sentenced by the Federal Elections Commission to two years on probation and 200 hours of community service for knowingly participating in a scheme to funnel excessive contributions into his 1998 campaign for an Oklahoma congressional seat.

CAPITOLALMANAC

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Contracts scandal

A state contracting scandal that dealt Republican Gov. Greg Abbott the first crisis of his administration escalated Monday with a scathing state report about Texas' health commissioner, who responded by giving no indication he would resign.

An outside investigation ordered by Abbott did not explicitly call for the removal of Health and Human Services Commissioner Kyle Janek, who was appointed by former Gov. Rick Perry in 2012 and makes $260,000 a year. But a two-month review of a $110 million no-bid contract awarded last year — which public corruption prosecutors in Austin are also now investigating — concluded that failures by Janek helped create an environment in the 56,000-person commission that enabled the deal.

The 92-page report urged changes at the top to fix deep problems in the agency that oversees the state's Medicaid program, welfare payments and access to women's health services. But in a letter to state leaders, Janek sounded like he did not intend to leave.

"My goal is to make HHSC a model for good government and ethical leadership," Janek wrote. His letter did not address criticism in the report about his performance, which included relying on a "bubble" of close advisers that bred tension within the agency.

"For the enterprise to succeed, he must succeed," the report said of Janek's office. "In our view, this simply isn't possible without significant changes either in management structure or in executive leadership."

In a statement, Abbott said he will use the report to determine "what additional actions must be taken," but made no mention of Janek or whether any other changes are forthcoming.

"The report's findings are deeply troubling. It is now more clear than ever that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has been riddled with operational, managerial, structural and procedural problems that go far beyond any individual or contract. That is unacceptable," Abbott said.

No sector of state government has been hammered more by lawmakers through Abbott's first legislative session than Janek's agency. Fallout over the lucrative contracts to Austin-based 21CT, a tech consulting company, to root out Medicaid fraud has already led to the resignation of top Janek deputies and put the brakes on other massive contracts as the state sought to put new controls in place.

School ratings

The Texas Senate has given preliminary approval to rating public schools statewide by letter grades A through F.

The proposal passed 20-10 Monday would issue grades based on student standardized test scores. A floor change, however, means the bill won't take effect until the 2017-18 academic year.

It now needs only a final, procedural vote before heading to the House.

Senate Republicans say grades are easy to understand and will spur parents to force changes at failing schools. Campuses are currently rated on a "met standards" or "needs improvement" pass-fail system.

Texas has already approved implementing a letter-grade system for school districts, but not individual campuses.

Democratic opponents worry that attending an F-graded school could stigmatize students and say poor school ratings more reflect inadequate classroom funding than education quality.

Nursing homes

The Texas Senate has approved a plan to revoke licenses of nursing homes authorities cite for resident abuse or neglect violations three times in a two-year period.

The so-called "3 strikes" proposal by Republican Sen. Charles Schwertner of Georgetown passed 30-0 Monday. It now heads to the House.

Schwertner drafted the bill after a state report found that the Department of Aging and Disability Services issued nearly 19,000 violations against nursing homes in fiscal year 2013 — but took only 11 enforcement actions.

His plan also would allow the Health and Human Services Commission to hire a nonprofit to adjudicate some disputes involving nursing homes that challenge state-issued violations.

That would allow for state staff cuts, which would offset higher costs associated with pulling more nursing homes' licenses.

On deck

The House opens its floor session at 10 a.m. today and will slog through hundreds of amendments as it debates its version of the state budget. Among the proposals that could be tacked onto the omnibus measure, a declaration that public funding should remain exclusively with public schools. The lower chamber approved a similar measure last session — effectively derailing a high-profile Senate push to pass school voucher plans that would have allowed parents to get state funding to remove children from struggling public schools and send them to private alternatives. Similar voucher proposals are advancing through the Senate this session, but could be thwarted if the House passes such an amendment again. Also today, the Senate reconvenes at 11 a.m.

Quote of the day

"The only thing we're doing is relabeling the problem without dealing with what the problem is." — Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, arguing against the bill authorizing letter grades for public schools statewide, which easily passed the Senate on Monday despite his objections.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-5932
A Hearst Newspaper
Published each morning by the Hearst Corporation, Midland Reporter-Telegram Division, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701. Periodicals postage paid at Midland, TX 79711. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Storytime for 2-6 years, 10:30 a.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

■ Merle Haggard, 8 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Support groups, club meetings today

■ Midland Optimist Club, noon, Abuelo's; 685-7486.

■ 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.

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

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

■ Permian Basin Dance Club, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church; cost is $5 for members, $6 for non-members; 520-4343.

■ 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.

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

90-degree days

The National Weather Service reported the high hit 91 degrees on Sunday. It was the first 90-degree day this year. The following are the first 90-degree days going back to 2011.

Year	Day	Temp
2011	March 17	91
2012	March 24	91
2013	March 16	91
2014	April 9	90
2015	March 29	91

Seismic testing in Midland

Dawson Geophysical acquired a permit from the Midland City Council in October 2014 to be able to place data boxes and small cables needed for seismic testing on city right of way. Their testing is underway so residents may see strange-looking contraptions around town.

Seismic testing is a way to obtain an image of rock formations below the Earth's surface. It uses reflective technology similar to that of sonar used in mapping the ocean floor, but in this case it maps rock formations.

Seismic surveying is not a city of Midland operation. For questions or concerns, call Dawson Geophysical at 684-3000.

Source: City of Midland

Community calendar

■ The city of Midland's Parks and Recreation Department will kick off the Midland RockHounds' upcoming season Wednesday with Major League Baseball's Pitch, Hit and Run skills competition.

Children between the ages of 7 and 14 are invited to the free event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Security Bank Ballpark, 5514 Champions Drive.

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 685-7355 or contact Recreation Superintendent Joey Jolly by email at jajolly@midlandtexas.gov.

■ West Texas Iris Society is to meet 7 p.m. Thursday at Community & Senior Services Center, 3301 Sinclair Ave. The program is on iris arrangements for shows.

In addition, there are two iris shows in April. The West Texas Iris Society's 37th annual show is April 18 at Midland Park Mall and the Permian Basin Iris Society's 27th annual show is April 25 at Music City Mall in Odessa. Public viewing for both shows is 12:30-4:30 p.m. The Midland show is outside JC Penney and the Odessa show is at the movie theater entrance.

For more information, call 352-5483.

■ Midland ISD is planning a free health fair 6-8 p.m. April 9 at Midland College's Chaparral Center. More than 25 vendors will be participating in the event.

The first 100 people to arrive will receive a free T-shirt. For more information, call 240-1580.

■ Bustin' for Badges Bustin' for Badges, a clay shoot tournament to benefit local law enforcement, is planned for April 30-May 1 at Windwalker Farms, at 2551 County Road 2801 in Stanton. Funds raised will be used for bullet proof vests and training equipment for officers.

For more information or to register, go to www.bustinforbadges.org/. The deadline to register is April 24.

Lottery

Pick 3 day: 7-9-6
Pick 3 night: 6-8-1
Pick 3 day: 1-8-3
Pick 3 night: 0-5-7
Daily 4 day: 8-2-1-2
Daily 4 night: 3-6-2-8
Daily 4 day: 3-0-4-0
Daily 4 night: 0-2-1-2
Cash Five: 19-24-25-30-35
Texas Two Step: 13-22-24-27 BB: 2
All or Nothing morning: 1-4-6-7-8-15-16-17-18-20-21-24
All or Nothing day: 2-7-8-9-12-13-14-15-18-19-20-22
All or Nothing evening: 1-2-4-5-8-9-11-13-18-19-21-23
All or Nothing night: 1-4-5-8-10-13-14-15-19-21-22-23

Today in history

In 1889, French engineer Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not seek re-election.

In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

BNSF adds new safety rules for crude oil trains

By Josh Funk
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — BNSF has started taking additional safety measures for crude oil shipments because of four recent high-profile derailments in the U.S. and Canada, the railroad said Monday.

Under the changes, BNSF is slowing down crude oil trains to 35 mph in cities with more than 100,000 people and increasing track inspections near waterways. The Fort Worth, Texas, based railroad also is stepping up efforts to find and repair defective wheels before they can cause derailments.

BNSF spokesman Michael Trevino said these additional safety efforts were imposed last week in response to the recent derailments, including one involving a BNSF train earlier this month near Galena, Illinois, and the Mississippi River.

"The recent incidents involving crude trains, including our own event in Galena, has led us to believe that we must take further action," Trevino said.

In February, a 100-car Canadian National Railway train hauling crude oil and petroleum distillates derailed in a remote part of Ontario, Canada. And less than two days later, a 109-car CSX oil train derailed and caught fire near Mount Carbon, West Virginia, leaking oil into a Kanawha River tributary and burning a house to its foundation.

The worst of these crude oil derailments happened July 6, 2013, and involved a runaway train that killed 47 people in the town of Lac-Megantic, Quebec, just across the U.S.-Canada border from Maine.

The number of rail accidents remains relatively small compared to total rail traffic, but fiery accidents involving crude oil are increasing because U.S. and Canadian oil production is booming.

Railroads hauled 493,126 tank cars of crude oil last year, up from 407,761 in 2013 and just 9,500 cars in 2008 before boom took off in the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana as well as in Canada.

BNSF, which is owned by Omaha-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc., hauls much of the oil produced in the Bakken region.

Trevino said the railroad had already doubled the frequency of track inspections near waterways; now it will inspect the track 2.5 times more often than regulations require.

BNSF, like the other major freight railroads, uses a system of trackside detectors to identify wheels and axles that are beginning to fail. Trevino said the railroad will begin removing flawed wheels sooner to help prevent derailments.

These new BNSF efforts go beyond the voluntary measures railroads agreed to last year when the industry pledged to slow crude oil trains to 40 mph in metropolitan areas and report route information to emergency responders.

"The freight rail industry shares the public's concern over recent high-profile incidents and we recognize, as part of a shared responsibility with shippers, more has to be done to further advance the safe movement of this product," said Ed Greenberg, spokesman for the Association of American Railroads trade group.

Federal regulators are finalizing new standards for the tank cars that carry crude oil and new rules for railroad operations that are expected to be released later this spring.

Associated Press

A police officer directs a vehicle to turn away at the National Security Agency on Monday in Fort Meade, Md. Earlier, a firefight erupted when two men dressed as women tried to ram a car into a gate, killing one of them and wounding the other, officials said.

NSA: Car smashes into police vehicle at Fort Meade; 1 dead

Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Md. — Two men dressed as women smashed a stolen car into a police vehicle after they disobeyed commands at the closely guarded gates of the National Security Agency on Monday, prompting police to open fire.

One of the men died, the other was injured and a police officer also was taken to a hospital. Details remained unclear hours later. Initial images from the scene showed emergency workers loading the uniformed officer into an ambulance. Nearby were a dark-colored SUV and an SUV emblazoned with "NSA Police," both heavily damaged.

It was not known why the men wound up at the gate at Fort Meade, a sprawling military post that houses the National Security Agency, or why they did not obey orders from NSA police. Fort Meade is just off Interstate 295 between Baltimore and Washington.

The men were dressed as women, said a senior defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss an ongoing case. It also was unclear exactly what the men were wearing.

The NSA said in a news release that investigators have not yet determined how the man in the vehicle died, and the conditions of the wounded man and officer were not disclosed.

An agency officer gave the driver "routine instructions for safely exiting the secure campus," but the driver disobeyed them, the release said. The driver then accelerated toward a police vehicle blocking the road, and police then opened fire.

An FBI spokeswoman said earlier in the day that the incident was not believed to be linked to terrorism. The NSA said the incident was contained to the perimeter of the secure campus.

The car that rammed the police vehicle had been stolen Monday morning from a hotel in Jessup, Maryland, said Mary Phelan, a spokeswoman for the Howard County Police Department. She declined to name the hotel, citing the ongoing investigation, or release any further details, referring all questions to the FBI.

A strip of hotels, motels and other businesses is less than 10 miles from Fort Meade in Jessup.

The FBI is investigating and working with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Maryland to determine if federal charges are warranted, FBI spokeswoman Amy J. Thoreson said in an email.

It's not the first time someone has disobeyed orders at an NSA gate. In July, a man failed to obey an NSA officer's command to stop as he approached a checkpoint. The man drove away, injuring an NSA officer and nearly striking a barricade. He was later arrested.

Earlier this month, police captured a man accused of firing at a building on the NSA campus. The man, who was also accused of shooting at vehicles, told police he heard voices.

Fort Meade also is home to the Defense Information Systems Agency and the U.S. Cyber Command. About 11,000 military personnel and about 29,000 civilian employees work on the property.

The NSA's presence is clearly visible in the area, with large satellite dishes and glass and steel buildings rising from the tree line. Chain link fences marked with restricted access signs and topped with barbed wire run along the perimeter of the campus.

Posted signs inform drivers of various exits for the NSA and Fort Meade, including one for deliveries, another for the visitors center and one designated only for employees.

Jon Reinach, owner of Fort Meade Auto Center, said people sometimes stop by his service center asking for directions. Truck drivers sometimes also have to drop off their assistants at his shop because they don't have proper identification to get past security.

"A lot of people come in here trying to find their way to Fort Meade," Reinach said, adding that he's heard of people going through the wrong security entrance, but "usually they'll pull over to a waiting area and they usually do check out."

Trevor Noah chosen to host 'The Daily Show'

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Trevor Noah, a 31-year-old comedian from South Africa who has contributed to "The Daily Show" a handful of times in recent months, will become Jon Stewart's replacement as host, Comedy Central announced Monday.

Noah was chosen a little more than a month after Stewart unexpectedly announced he was leaving "The Daily Show" following 16 years as the show's principal voice.

New Jersey native Stewart is being replaced by the son of a black South African mother and white European father. Noah has an international presence and hosted a late-night talk show in South Africa, "Tonight With Trevor Noah."

Noah, who has appeared on Jay Leno and David Letterman, was the subject of a 2011 documentary film by David Paul Meyer, "You Laugh but It's True," which followed his career in post-apartheid South Africa.

He will join Larry Wilmore, a writer-comedian who replaced Stephen Colbert in January in the half-hour slot following "The Daily Show."

When Noah takes over, Comedy Central will have completely remade the one-hour comedy block that gave the network critical acclaim and, arguably, its identity.

In an interview, Noah likened himself to Stewart, his soon-to-be-predecessor, as a fellow progressive.

"Obviously, where you're from may inform a lot of your decisions. But traveling the world, I learned that progressives, regardless of their locations, think in a global space," he said by phone from Dubai, where he is on a comedy tour.

"Although I'm a guy who happens to be not from the same place that Jon's from," he added, "I've lived in America for years before I went back out on the road, and I've learned to love the place."

He dismissed the notion that he'll be "taking over" the program.

"I'm joining the team," he said. "I get to be a part of that as the host and a face, sharing that space with my fellow correspondents."

Noah made his debut on "The Daily Show" last December with a segment that poked fun at cliched American images of his native Africa. With a reference to the "hands up" gesture that was a symbol of protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, Noah said, "I never thought I'd be more afraid of police here than in South Africa. It kind of made me nostalgic for the old days back home."

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN DIEGO

Pharmacists' group discourages providing execution drugs

A leading association for U.S. pharmacists adopted a policy Monday that discourages its members from providing drugs for use in lethal injections — a move that could make carrying out such executions even harder for states with the death penalty.

The declaration approved by American Pharmacists Association delegates at their annual meeting held in San Diego this year says the practice of providing lethal-injection drugs is contrary to the role of pharmacists as health care providers.

The association lacks legal authority to bar its members from selling execution drugs, but its policies set pharmacists' ethical standards.

Pharmacists now join doctors and anesthesiologists in having national associations with ethics codes that restrict credentialed members from participating in executions.

The American Pharmacists Association has more than 62,000 members.

Compounding pharmacies, which make drugs specifically for individual clients, only recently became involved in the execution-drug business.

Prison departments turned to made-to-order execution drugs from compounding pharmacies because pharmaceutical manufacturers refused to sell the drugs used for decades in lethal injections after coming under pressure from death penalty opponents.

But now the compounded version is also becoming difficult to come by, with most pharmacists reluctant to expose themselves to possible harassment by death-penalty opponents.

SWITZERLAND

Iran nuclear talks near deadline; differences remain

LAUSANNE — Negotiations over Iran's nuclear program reached a critical phase Monday with diplomats struggling to overcome substantial differences just a day before a deadline for the outline of an agreement.

With Tuesday's target date for a framework accord just hours away, the top diplomats from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany were meeting with Iran to try to bridge remaining gaps and hammer out an understanding that would serve as the basis for a final accord to be reached by the end of June.

"We are working late into the night and obviously into tomorrow," said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who has been meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif in Lausanne since Thursday in an intense effort to reach a political understanding on terms that would curb Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

Kerry and others at the table said the sides have made some progress, with Iran considering demands for further cuts to its uranium enrichment program but pushing back on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms. In addition to sticking points on research and development, differences remain on the timing and scope of sanctions removal, the officials said.

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tween employers and employees.

"The more layers between the primary corporation and its many subcontractors, the more likely there will be wage and other labor violations as businesses seek to lower labor costs and maximize profit margins," he said.

According to the division, investigators found more than $317,000 in back wages were owed to 449 employees of Midland-based Desta Drilling because of overtime miscalculations. The company did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Federal officials said they will continue reaching out to workers and employers — from drilling companies to trucking and other support businesses — to ensure the Fair Labor Standards Act is upheld.

No 'narsisstics' allowed: Music festivals ban fans' selfie sticks

AP file photo

On March 9, actors Richard Madden and Lily James take a selfie using a selfie stick while attending AOL's BUILD Speaker Series to discuss their new film "Cinderella" at AOL Studios in New York City. You can bring your beach towels and floral headbands, but forget that selfie stick if you're going to the Coachella or Lollapalooza music festivals. The sticks are banned this year at the events in Indio, Calif., and Chicago. Coachella dismissed them as "narsisstics" on a list of prohibited items.

By Christine Armario
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — You can bring your beach towels and floral headbands, but forget that selfie stick if you're planning to go to the Coachella or Lollapalooza music festivals.

The devices, which grasp cellphones to allow people to take pictures of themselves farther away from their faces, are banned at this summer's festivals in Indio, California, and Chicago. Coachella dismissed them as "narsisstics" (sic) on a list of prohibited items.

Selfie sticks have become a popular but polemical photo-taking tool: Avid picture takers like snapping their own shots in front of monuments and sunsets, but critics dismiss them as obnoxious and potentially dangerous to others around them.

A spokeswoman for Coachella would not comment on the restriction. Lollapalooza representatives did not return a request for comment but on the festival's Twitter account said the decision was being made "for safety, to speed security checks at the gate & to reduce the number of obstructions between the fans and the stage."

Coachella and Lollapalooza are among dozens of big events and landmarks taking a stand against the sticks.

In Europe, the Palace of Versailles outside Paris, Britain's National Gallery in London and the Colosseum in Rome have all banned selfie sticks, saying they need to protect exhibits on display and ensure the safety of visitors.

In the U.S., Ultra Music Festival in Miami, one of the world's largest electronic music festivals, also prohibited selfie sticks at last weekend's event.

"They will be turned away, and we'll probably make fun of you," Ultra said on its Twitter account earlier this month.

Wayne Fromm, creator of the Quik Pod and the first to patent the selfie stick more than a decade ago, said he understood the decision for museums and festivals to ban the stick and that the intention was never for the device to be fully extended in busy spaces.

"Intentionally or not, there is a danger to other people in crowded places," he told The Associated Press.

He added that he is at work on a new selfie-taking tool that will accomplish the same tasks without so many problems.

Another selfie-stick entrepreneur, Jacqueline Verdier, CEO of Selfie on a Stick, said the festivals were going too far and that the sticks can be used safely.

"I think it's really doing a bit of disservice to the attendees," Verdier said. "They're not going to be able to capture the same memories."

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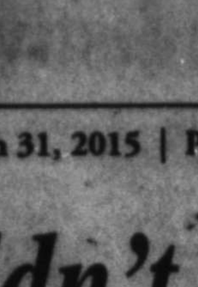

KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

The apparently intentional downing of a Germanwings airliner by the co-pilot has us riveted, as commercial plane crashes usually do.

In each terrible instance, we put ourselves in the cabin, imagining what our last thoughts or actions would be. Would we close our eyes and pray? Would we scream? Would we seize the person next to us, desperately grasping at one last human connection?

What is it like to realize your plane is out of control and there's nothing to be done? Or that, inconceivably, your pilot or, in this case, your co-pilot, is out of control?

Such dark thoughts capture our imaginations briefly before we shove them back into some remote recess of the mind never again, we hope, to be retrieved. This conscious act of self-defense protects us from the horrifying possibility that someday we, too, might find ourselves strapped into a missile on a suicidal mission.

Unthinkable is the word for it.

We remind ourselves that these are, indeed, rare events. And though this is not the first apparent suicide crash, we might hope it's the last. After all, as we've heard countless times, you're more likely to die in a car crash than a plane crash. And the most convincing rationale for flying without fear is the eye-rolling reminder that no one talks about all the safe landings every day.

We do, however, remark when a pilot makes a heroic landing, bringing his mammoth flying machine to a safe halt — in a river, no less. Nearly every American knows about Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and his "Miracle on the Hudson." We love the lifesavers and worship the heroes whose awesome competence reassures us that the end is not yet here.

Sully was John Wayne of the skies — a good man, solid and true, reliable, brave and cool under fire. Contrast him to the Germanwings co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz, who is every bit the monster the terrorist is. Perhaps worse.

The latter-day, knife-wielding infidel-slayer kills an innocent in a brutal, hands-on act of extreme human interaction. The co-pilot bars himself from the people he intends to destroy, methodically resetting the jet's autopilot to an altitude that will ensure death to 149 strangers.

Rod Serling's gremlin on the wing, ripping out the guts of one of the plane's engines, is a bedtime story compared to the cool detachment of the co-pilot apparently flipping a switch to lock out all others and begin his self-imposed descent into smithereens.

Did he enjoy the agony of the pilot flailing hopelessly against the locked door? Did the screaming of passengers moments before death bring him satisfaction?

According to French investigators, the last words the pilot uttered to his 27-year-old co-pilot as he stepped out of the cockpit, apparently for a restroom break, were: "You are in control." In fiction, these now-chilling words would be a not-so-subtle foreshadowing of doom. For the passengers and crew, they were a death sentence.

Alone in the cockpit for the eight minutes it took to crash, Lubitz's breathing was captured on the voice recorder. Breathing in, out, in, out, in, out. What a vile soundtrack, what evil commentary on the soon-to-be breathless.

His poor parents. But not, please, poor Andreas Lubitz. He may have been depressed, they tell us. He may have broken up with his girlfriend. Oh, too bad. He seems to have suffered an "illness" on the very day he flew, according to torn up "medical leave" notes found in his home.

All. Too. Bad.

It wasn't enough that air travel has become near torturous. Squished in seats too small for the petite, passengers try to retract their fleshy edifices into cocoons of personal space, praying for an uneventful journey and a slender seatmate. To such discomforts, we've now added the possibility that the pilot might have had a bad day.

Most are familiar with the old fatalist saw: *Hey, when it's your time, it's your time. May as well have a drink and enjoy the ride*, says the jovial frequent flyer, his breath a mix of whiskey and weariness.

In his bravado, we find consolation — and pray for contagion. *Yes, of course, bring on the Fates!* But we also know the end of the joke: *Yeah, but what if it's the pilot's time?*

Thanks to Lubitz, travelers will give this question more serious consideration. With a second glance into the cockpit as they board, passengers are bound to wonder: Who, really, is in control?

GUEST VIEW

Final open-carry measure must have basic safeguards

Beaumont Enterprise

Just as everyone expected, open-carry legislation is sailing through the state House and Senate this session. Yet before the final bill reaches Gov. Greg Abbott's desk, it must include some basic safeguards to address potential problems that are obvious to all but the most enthusiastic gun supporters in the state.

Two of them are linking the open carrying of handguns to the concealed carry license process and banning open carry on college campuses. Fortunately, both are part of the successful legislation at this point.

Unlicensed open carry would be a bad idea, even though it's legal in five mostly rural states — Alaska, Arizona, Vermont and Wyoming and outside of cities in Montana, which is most of the state.

The Texas concealed carry law ensures that residents carrying a handgun have passed a background check and a brief course on gun safety and conflict resolution. Those common-sense provisions should apply to the open carrying of handguns, too.

The Senate also approved an amendment that exempts college campuses from the open carry measure, and this too needs to be in the final version. Most college officials strongly believe that students shouldn't have holstered guns in classrooms, and their concerns must be respected.

Another key point is that businesses, churches, hospitals, etc. must have the ability to opt out of open carry by posting signs at their entrances, just as some do now for concealed carry permit holders. Just because something is legal, whether it's guns or cigarettes or alcohol, doesn't mean that it has to accepted everywhere.

The conservatives who are pushing open carry must remember that they also revere private property rights and local control of school districts.

As much as possible, the final decision on openly carried handguns should be made by people in charge at the local level, not someone in Austin.

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Obama trying to break out of insularity

■ President finally put the right person in a key role

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

In the early days of the Obama administration, my Washington Post colleague Shailagh Murray and I used to trade tales of the arrogance of White House officials more interested in their insular club and the prestige of their positions than in the responsibility they had.

"They think they're in the movie of their job," she liked to say, and she was right: They acted as if they were playing themselves in "The West Wing."

So it was with delight that I learned while vacationing this week that Murray had been named to the very highest level of officialdom in the White House. President Obama appointed her senior adviser to the president, filling a position held over the past decade by Karl Rove, David Axelrod, David Plouffe and, most recently, Dan Pfeiffer.

It's enjoyable to see a friend in such an exalted role, but Murray's appointment is more than that: It gives hope that Obama is finally trying to break out of the insufferable insularity that has choked progress in his White House — and that he is at long last ready to reach out to Capitol Hill and to the media to make his case.

For far too long, this president has surrounded himself with yes men, living in a self-congratulatory world of affirmation. It's late in his presidency, but it's not too late to be administered a dose of reality.

I met Murray 20 years ago when she and her husband, Neil King, now deputy Washington bureau chief of The Wall Street Journal, wrote for the Journal from Prague and I was a Journal correspondent in London. I later helped bring her to the Post. Along the way, we hosted a dance party on Capitol Hill ironically claiming to benefit the Robert Blake Legal Defense Fund and, at a 2008 debate between Obama and John McCain, we played a beer-drinking game of buzzword bingo in the filing center.

Murray joined the Obama administration in 2011 after Vice President Biden, whom she had covered for years in the Senate, asked her to be his communications director. She liked Biden — most of us who covered him on the Hill do — and she took the job even though she had no interest in being in the movie of her job. She doesn't tweet or post on Facebook. When she was introduced at this year's Gridiron dinner, she didn't stand up. And she declined invites to next month's White House Correspondents' Association dinner — the incestuous "prom" for reporters and their White House and celebrity guests.

Naturally, she had no interest in being interviewed for this column.

Murray is, in other words, admirably detached from the world of Washington egos. She is an outsider in temperament and is not ideological in the least. She used to work in a record store and a nightclub; she frequents D.C.'s 9:30 Club with her daughters, both products of Washington Catholic schools. Her Southern roots have left her with a strong interest in seeing that the first African-American president is a success, but Biden recruited Murray not because of her ideology or loyalty but because of her knowledge of the Hill and of the press.

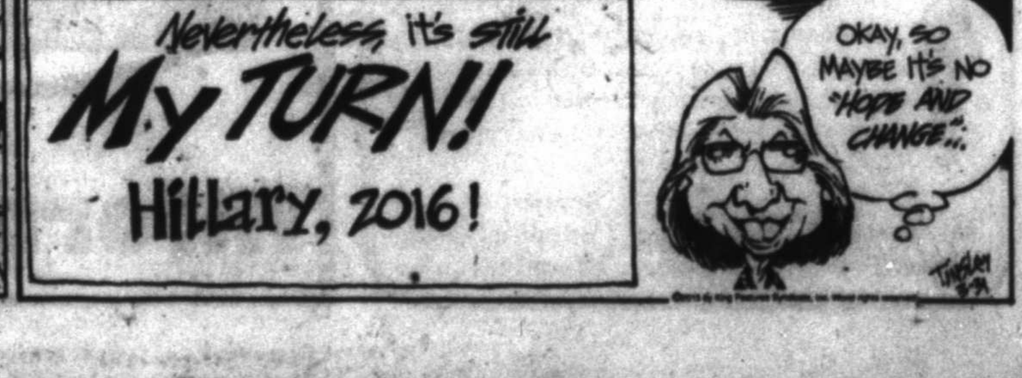
Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama loyalist, had been cautious in the job, causing grumbling among colleagues because his risk aversion bottled up ideas and projects. He trashed and tried to circumvent the mainstream media, and he had little to do with lawmakers. But he fit well in a White House where top officials — Denis McDonough, Valerie Jarrett, Susan Rice — had been with Obama since his first presidential campaign or earlier.

Murray, 49, is a much-needed antidote to all this. She takes risks, she has Capitol Hill wired (she was a longtime congressional reporter), and she recognizes that seeking new ways to get Obama's message out does not mean shunning journalists. Her mandate is to use the next 22 months to cement Obama's legacy so that his policies — Obamacare, particularly — endure beyond his presidency. She'll also be helping to end this administration's maddening pattern of having the president give a speech, then letting the issue drop while momentum is lost. And Murray is not about to join Obama's coterie of sycophants; she has spent her career around the powerful and she won't hesitate to tell him when he's screwing up.

Obama likely would have achieved more if he had been surrounded earlier by more Shailagh Murrays and fewer aides who thought they were in the movie of their job. But better late than never.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Indiana lawmakers try to quiet firestorm over new law

By Tom Davies
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Gov. Mike Pence called off public appearances Monday and sports officials planned an "Indy Welcomes All" campaign ahead of this weekend's NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis as lawmakers scrambled to quiet the firestorm over a new law that has much of the country portraying Indiana as a state of intolerance.

Republican legislative leaders said they are working on adding language to the religious-objections law to make it clear that the measure does not allow discrimination against gays and lesbians. As signed by Pence last week, the measure prohibits state laws that "substantially burden" a person's ability to follow his or her religious beliefs. The definition of "person" includes religious institutions, businesses and associations.

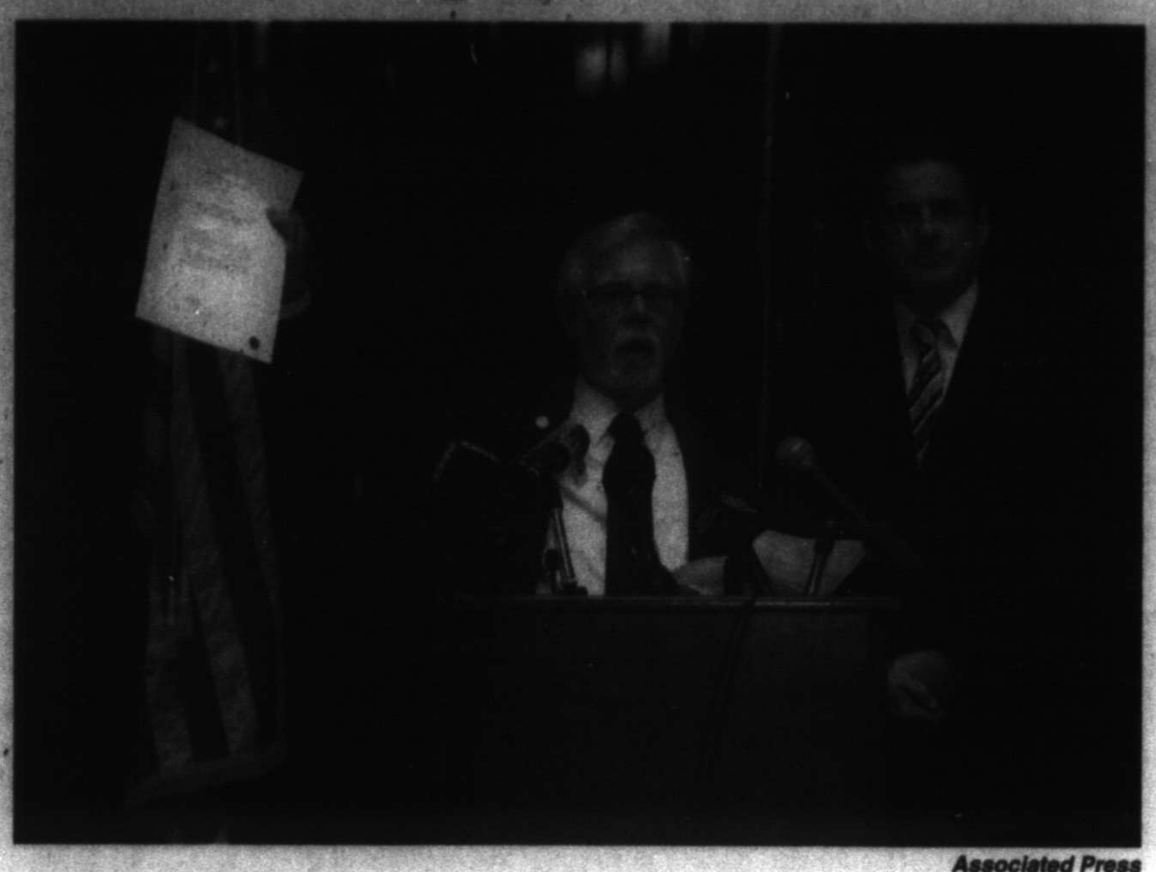
"What we had hoped for with the bill was a message of inclusion, inclusion of all religious beliefs," Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma said. "What instead has come out is a message of exclusion, and that was not the intent."

The efforts fell flat with Democrats, who called for a repeal, and even some Republicans.

"They're scrambling to put a good face on a bad issue. What puzzles me is how this effort came to the top of the legislative agenda when clearly the business community doesn't support it," said Bill Oesterle, an aide to Republican former Gov. Mitch Daniels and CEO of consumer reporting agency Angie's List, which canceled expansion plans in Indianapolis because of the law.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, a Republican, said the law threatens to undermine the city's economic growth and reputation as a convention and tourism destination and called for lawmakers to add protections for sexual orientation and gender identity to Indiana civil-rights laws.

"I call upon Governor Pence and the Indiana Legislature to fix this law. Either repeal it or pass a law that protects all who live, work and visit Indiana. And do so immediately. Indianapolis will not be defined by this," Ballard said.



Associated Press

Indiana Senate Democratic Leader Tim Lanane, left, D-Anderson, and Indiana House Democratic Leader Scott Pelath, D-Michigan City, call for the repeal of the Indiana Religious Freedom Restoration Act during a news conference at the Statehouse in Indianapolis on Monday. Republican legislative leaders say they are working on adding language to a new state law to make it clear that it doesn't allow discrimination against gays and lesbians.

After a two-hour private meeting of House Republicans, Bosma said Monday that repealing the law isn't "a realistic goal at this point."

"I'm looking for a surgical solution, and I think the least intrusive surgery is to clarify that (the law) cannot be used to support the denial of goods, facilities or services to any member of the public," he said.

Pence, who defended the law during a television appearance Sunday, canceled scheduled appearances Monday night and Tuesday, in part because of planned protests.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem David Long stressed that the new law is based on the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, which has been upheld by courts.

"This law does not and will not be allowed to discriminate against anyone," Long said.

But the Human Rights Campaign said it's disingenuous to compare the two laws.

The campaign's legal director, Sarah Warbelow, said the federal law was designed to ensure religious minorities were protected from laws passed by the federal government that might not have been intended to discriminate but had that effect.

The Indiana law, she said, allows individuals to invoke government action even when the government is not a party to a lawsuit. It also allows all businesses to assert religious beliefs regardless of whether they are actually religious organizations.

Reactions

Governor signs order barring state-funded travel to Indiana

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed an executive order on Monday barring state spending on travel to Indiana and any other state enacting legislation that protects religious freedoms but ultimately discriminates against gays and others groups.

Malloy, the incoming chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, called Indiana's new religious objections law "disturbing, disgraceful and outright discriminatory."

"We cannot sit idly by and do nothing while laws are enacted that will turn back the clock," Malloy said, adding how he "won't allow any of our citizens in Connecticut to face discrimination in other states, at least without a fight."

Malloy's one-page order directs all state agencies, departments, boards and commissions, UConn and the Board of Regents to immediately review all requests for state-funded or state-sponsored travel to states that "create the grounds for such discrimination." Such travel would be barred unless it's necessary to enforce state law, meet contractual obligations or protect public health.

Apple's Cook calls 'religious objection' laws dangerous

NEW YORK — Apple CEO Tim Cook said that so-called "religious objection" legislation being introduced in a number of states is dangerous and bad for business.

The bills, like the one enacted last week in Indiana, create a legal framework for individuals, mostly business owners, to claim that a law or regulation mandated by the government infringes on their religious beliefs.

In an op-ed piece for The Washington Post, the leader of the nation's largest corporation said that the bills under consideration "have the potential to undo decades of progress toward greater equality."

He cited actions taken by lawmakers in Texas, Indiana and Arkansas but said that a "wave of legislation" has been introduced in more than two dozen states.

Associated Press

Hutchinson, lawmaker not seeking changes to religion bill

By Andrew DeMillo
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Opponents of an Arkansas "religious freedom" measure that they say will allow widespread discrimination against gays and lesbians filled the state Capitol on Monday to protest the bill as it neared a final vote.

The protests, however, showed no signs of slowing the momentum of the bill, endorsed by a House committee Monday, that prevents state and local governments from infringing upon someone's religious beliefs without a "compelling" interest. Despite efforts to clarify a similar measure enacted in Indiana, Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson and the lawmaker behind the proposal said they're not seeking any more changes to Arkansas' bill.

The House, which had supported an initial version of the bill, could take up the proposal as early as this afternoon.

Protesters held an early-morning rally outside the governor's mansion, but the main event drew more than 500 people outside the entrance to the state House chamber Monday.

Outside the committee room, protesters held signs that read "Discrimination is not a Christian Value" and "Discrimination is a Disease"; they chanted "Shame on You" at the sponsor of the measure.

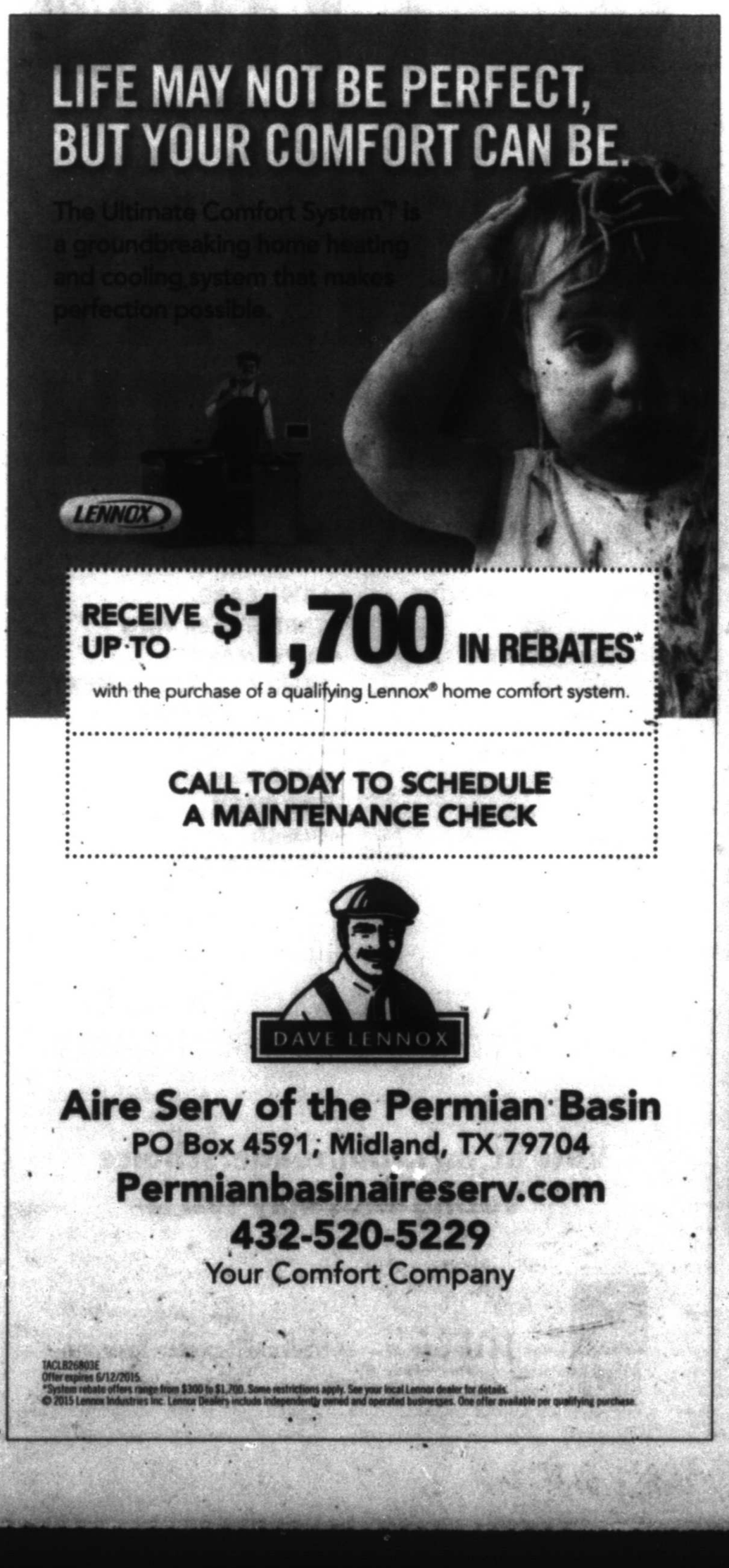
"This is not nearly as exciting a law change as what I think a lot of people think it is," Republican Rep. Bob Ballinger of Hindsville told the House Judiciary Committee before the vote. "However, what it does is create a situation where we can protect people's religious practices, let people believe what they want to believe."

If enacted, Arkansas would become the second state to adopt such a law change this year.

Similar proposals have been introduced in more than a dozen states, patterned after the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

Nineteen other states have similar laws on the books.

Hutchinson last week said he'd sign the measure into law, and his office said Monday his position hadn't changed. Hutchinson had expressed reservations about unintended consequences about an earlier version of the bill, but said changes have addressed those concerns.



Saudi-led forces strike Yemen rebels, blockade ports

By Ahmed Al-Haj
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Saudi-led naval forces imposed a blockade on Yemen's ports as coalition airstrikes on Monday repelled an advance on the southern port city of Aden by Shiite rebels and forces loyal to a former president, in what appeared to be the most intense day of fighting since the air campaign began five days ago.

The move to block ports appeared aimed at preventing the rebels, known as Houthis, from rearming, and comes after the coalition achieved full control of the skies and bombed a number of rebel-held airports. The rebels are supported by Iran, but both Iran and the Houthis deny Tehran has armed them.

As night fell, intense explosions could be heard throughout the rebel-held capital Sanaa, where warplanes had carried out strikes since the early morning. Military officials from both sides of the conflict said that airstrikes were targeting areas east and south of the third largest city of Taiz, as well as its airport, while naval artillery and airstrikes hit coastal areas east of Aden.

"It's like an earthquake," Sanaa resident Ammar Ahmed said by telephone. "Never in my life have I heard such explosions or heard such raids."

He said he could hear missiles whistling through the air and see flames rising from a military area in the southern neighborhood of Faj Attan, where Scud missiles are believed to be stored.

Civil war in Yemen impacts West Texas

Air strikes by Saudi Arabia and increasing involvement against a rebellion by ethnic Houthis in Yemen sparked a brief rally in oil prices last week. The bombings sent prices for West Texas Intermediate above the $50 mark and offered a glimmer of hope to those in America's oil industry. But the price of oil adjusted the next day and settled in the high $40s, despite the increased intensity of the Saudis and surrounding Gulf States' involvement in the Yemeni conflict.

So how do events in an oil-poor country impact the global oil industry, including prices in Midland? The chronic instability is a major threat to Saudi Arabia — Yemen's large and oil-rich neighbor to the north — which pumps in excess of 11 million barrels of oil a day into the global energy market. Al-Qaida operates one of its most effective branches, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, out of Yemen, and the group allegedly has tried to assassinate Saudi officials in the past, according to the Huffington Post. The recent unrest has many people worried that AQAP's influence might increase in the Arabian Peninsula.

On the southern tip of Yemen is the strategic Bab-el-Mandeb strait, which is about 20 miles wide and separates Yemen from the African country of Djibouti. The strait controls access to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal in Egypt and the transportation of an estimated 3.8 million barrels of oil a day, according to 2013 estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

There is a concern that the civil war in Yemen threatens this oil, which accounts for about 4 percent of the world's supply. The involvement of Saudi Arabia heightened that tension and spread the risk of a widening of the conflict to the oil-rich kingdoms that surround Yemen.

Rye Druzin
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Saudi Brig. Gen. Ahmed Asiri, the coalition spokesman, told reporters in Riyadh that naval forces are blocking the movement of ships to prevent weapons and fighters from entering or leaving Yemen. He said they had not yet intercepted anything.

The airstrikes have targeted at least nine of Yemen's 21 provinces and have prevented the Houthis from reaching Aden, the former capital of the once-independent south, where President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi declared a temporary capital after fleeing rebel-controlled Sanaa.

Hadi, who was a close U.S. ally against a powerful local al-Qaida affiliate, fled the country last week, but remains Yemen's internationally recognized leader. The U.S. has provided support to the Saudi-led coalition but is not carrying out direct military action.

The conflict marks a major escalation in the regional struggle for influence between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which also back rival sides in Syria's civil war. Arab leaders unveiled plans Sunday to form a joint military intervention force, which could raise tensions further.

Asiri said much of the airstrikes on Sunday and Monday focused on slowing the Houthi advance on Aden. He said the Houthis tried to fire ballistic missiles on Monday but that they malfunctioned. Warplanes then struck the force that had tried to launch them, he said, without providing further details.

The Houthis' TV network said the coalition bombed a displaced persons camp in the northern rebel stronghold of Saada, killing 40 people. Doctors Without Borders tweeted that 29 people from a displaced persons camp were dead on arrival at a hospital it supports and that it treated two dozen injured, among them women and children.

However, witnesses told The Associated Press that the camp — used to house people displaced by an earlier conflict that ended five years ago — is now occupied by Houthi forces and that most of those killed were fighters.

When asked about the allegations, Asiri said the Houthi fighters operate among civilians. It was not immediately possible to resolve the conflicting accounts.

The Houthis and security forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh had earlier launched a fresh offensive against Aden, shelling it and battling local militias, but were pushed back by at least two airstrikes, security officials said. Saleh stepped down following a 2011 Arab Spring uprising, but has maintained wide influence through loyalists in the security forces.

Yemeni security officials say the combined force of Houthis and Saleh loyalists is positioned about 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Aden, near the southern city of Zinjibar. The rebels have used artillery to target pro-Hadi militias known as the Popular Committees. Battles are also underway near the airport. Fighting in the area continued late into the night.

Reached by telephone, Aden resident Shakib Rajah said that the toughest fighting was taking place near the city's northern Dar Saad neighborhood, where heavy weapons including tanks were being used.

The account of the fighting was confirmed by four military and security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Emboldened by the airstrikes, the Popular Committees have largely held their ground in Aden province and still control most of the city.

The death toll from the ground fighting in Aden since Thursday has reached at least 86, with some 600 people wounded, according to Abdel-Nasser al-Wali, head of a local medical center.

The strikes in Sanaa have targeted militants, jets, air defense systems and Scud missile launch pads that could threaten Saudi Arabia.

Officials said aircraft struck areas near the presidential palace in Sanaa and several other sites across the city, sending fireballs rising into the sky, shattering windows and shaking houses. The thunder of rockets, artillery and tank rounds echoed through the streets.

US university, chidren's foundation invested in frozen Chinese stocks

By Jeff Horowitz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The University of Michigan, defense contractor Lockheed Martin Corp. and a foundation helping Appalachian children all own stakes in an overseas investment fund backing two major Chinese companies, which recently froze their stocks and missed financial reporting deadlines.

The American organizations invested in the $1.4 billion fund — managed by New York banking giant Morgan Stanley — for their endowments or retirement funds, parts of which could be at risk amid news that auditors have yet to sign off on the Chinese companies' books.

Those delays sometimes mean accounting troubles are ahead, which could put the investments in jeopardy. But the companies declined to explain the reasons for the unusual delays and would say only that the auditors' work wasn't finished.

"This is not something an auditing firm would do lightly," said Paul Gillis, a former partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers in China who teaches accounting at Peking University. "There are only two reasonable explanations for being late: One is management incompetence. Two is they're fighting with the auditors."

"And neither one of those is good," he said.

The millions of dollars the American investors have placed in the fund account for only a small part of their financial portfolios, so the potential risk is small. But as U.S. investors increasingly consider Chinese stocks, they are reliant on banks like Morgan Stanley to guide their decisions and keep troubled companies from reaching the market.

The twin filing delays also raise new questions for Morgan Stanley, which picked the companies from obscurity and then promoted them as multibillion-dollar growth stories.

The publicly traded Chinese companies, Tianhe Chemicals Group Ltd. and Sihuan Pharmaceutical Holdings Group Ltd., separately announced late last week that they would be unable to meet Hong Kong Stock Exchange deadlines. Both companies pledged to cooperate with the auditors.

Tianhe and Sihuan are valued at $3.7 billion and $6 billion, respectively. They are among 16 companies that comprise a private equity fund managed by Morgan Stanley, known as Morgan Stanley Private Equity Asia III. An Australian and an Indian company owned by that fund have already failed amid criminal and civil fraud allegations.

A spokesman for Morgan Stanley, Nick Footitt, declined to comment on this story. A Tianhe spokeswoman also declined to comment. Sihuan responded to some questions in an emailed statement, saying only that the auditors needed more time and that the company was operating as usual.

The University of Michigan invested about $20 million in the fund for its $9.7 billion endowment. The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, which supports education and development in Appalachia, holds a $2.8 million stake as part of a $375 million endowment. Lockheed Martin's pension fund is also an investor, according to Bloomberg data, but the size of its stake is unclear.

Farmers take action amid bird flu outbreak

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Poultry producers in the nation's top turkey state are taking extra steps to protect their flocks after a devastating strain of bird flu was confirmed at two Minnesota farms in as many days last week.

Most producers in the state's $750 million industry were already strict about day-to-day biosecurity to try to ensure that no bird flu enters or leaves their barns, but they're redoubling their efforts. The confirmation Saturday of the highly pathogenic H5N2 strain of avian influenza at a turkey farm in Stearns County, the third outbreak at a Minnesota farm this month, raised the stakes because it's one of the top poultry producing counties in the state. The first two farms were relatively isolated.

Poultry farms are now scrubbing down truck tires with disinfectant on their way on and off farms, and some operators are using dedicated employees and equipment for each individual barn on their property to cut the chances of spreading the flu from building to building, said Steve Olson, executive director of both the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and the Chicken and Egg Association of Minnesota. If a barn needs service such as electrical work, he said, owners may wait until things settle down.

Holy Week 2015

St. Ann's Catholic Church Midland, TX

Palm Sunday
Saturday, March 28
Mass at 5:00 pm
Sunday, March 29
Masses at 8:30 am, 10:45 am, 1:00 pm(Spanish), and 5:00 pm

Lenten Penance Service
Tuesday, March 31
Confessions beginning at 7:00 pm
(visiting priests available)

Holy Thursday
Thursday, April 2
Mass at 7:00 pm
Washing of Feet
Presentation of Sacred Oils
The Lord's Supper and Adoration

Good Friday
Friday, April 3
Stations of the Cross at 12:00 pm
Good Friday Liturgy at 7:00 pm
Liturgy of the Word
Veneration of the Cross
Holy Communion

Holy Saturday
Saturday, April 4
Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm
First Mass of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 5
Masses at 8:30 am, 10:45 am, 1:00 pm(Spanish), and 5:00 pm

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- PIZZA
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- ICE CREAM
- BBQ
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- DOCTOR
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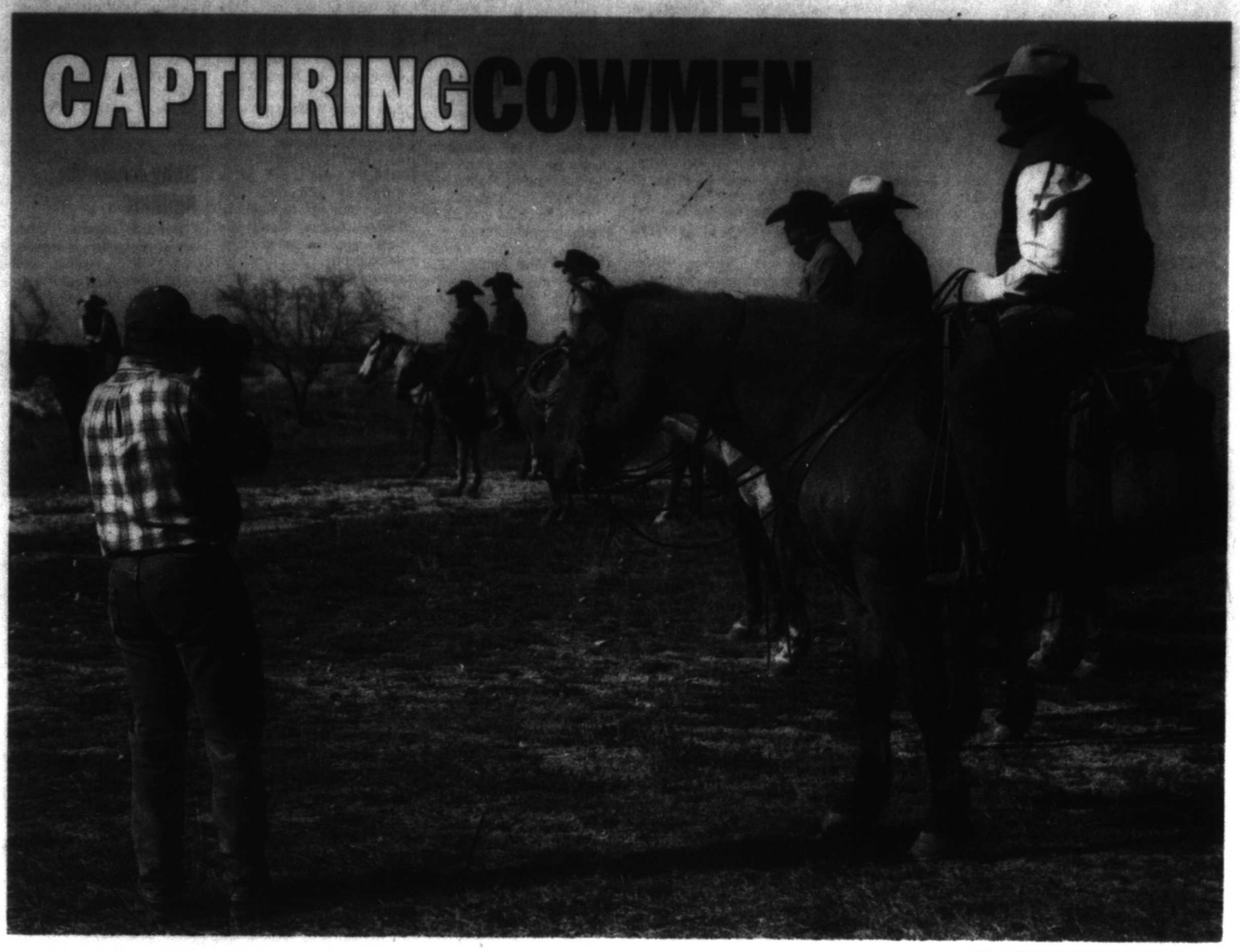

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Jon Lindgren, filmmaker and former Midlander, was back in town Thursday working on a project documentary on the the Texas founding ranching families in the area. Lindgren was filming a traditional calf branding at the North Curtis Ranch north of Midland. Lindgren is currently looking for any home videos made in the 1950s or earlier. He's specifically interested in footage of the Scharbauer Hotel and West Texas events. For more information, go to texascowmen.com. The "Cowmen" documentary is expected to be completed in July. Look for more information in an upcoming Culture section.

National quilt judge part of local guild

By Megan Lea Buck
mbuck@mrt.com

While "Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)" took the Academy Award for best picture this year, the 1969 winner, "Midnight Cowboy," made a comeback at the Midland Quilters Guild "Oscar Challenge." Twenty-one guild members entered the competition that required participants to create quilts inspired by best picture winners. Titles such as "Gigi," "Out of Africa" and "In the Heat of the Night" were drawn from a hat last May. Pam Thompson won with "Midnight Cowboy." The quilts were judged earlier this month by Nell Smith, a guild member and certified national quilt judge.

"Some were easier to depict than others, and some of them were back when movies were black and white," Smith said. "They were just amazingly clever and creative."

Smith, who has been quilting since the 1980s, earned her certification as a judge in 1992 from the National Quilting Association.

Already a judge through the Embroiderer's Guild of America, she decided a certification specific to quilting would complement her work.

"Quilting is a part of the Embroiderer's Guild . I found that I was judging a lot of quilt shows, but my certification was through the Embroiderer's Guild, so I decided I needed a certification that said 'quilt judge,'" she said.

The process to become a certified quilt judge takes three to four years and includes written work and a practical test.

Students are required to work on the judging floor at the National Quilting Association's annual Quilt Show, held in different cities around the nation. Smith traveled to South Carolina to complete that part of the certification.

"That requires quite a bit of time and expense to do that," she said. "It's an investment of time and money."

For Smith, that investment has been worth her effort. She has judged shows around Texas, in all of the surrounding states and beyond.

"Through the process I've been able to travel to a lot of interesting places and made a lot of friends," she said.

She finds satisfaction in the opportunity to help quilters.

"What you're doing is trying to encourage quilters to see what they've done well and what they could do better," she said.

Quilts are judged based on appearance, techniques, skill and finishing.

Smith sees quilters of all ages and backgrounds.

"Today there's a lot of original pieces that are what we refer to as 'art quilts' — they are original designs made in fabric," she said. "They are made for the wall, not the bed."

She also sees the more traditional patterns.

"There's a lot of things being done today that have not been done historically in quilting, but there's still a lot of the old patterns being done," she said.

In addition to judging, Smith also appraises quilts.

The value of new quilts is based on the quilter's artistic talent and how much money the quilter has invested into the piece. Antique quilts are valued on what it would cost to replace it in today's market.

"A lot of times when I go to judge at a show I will stay an extra few days and appraise quilts that people bring in," she said. "Some of them are very beautiful, very unique; however, today I find that I appraise more newly made quilts than old quilts."

Smith encourages quilters to enter their work into shows and competitions. Midland Quilters Guild, which boasts about 150 members, will host a show in October. When they're not participating in competitions, members make quilts that are then donated to local nonprofits such as Hospice Midland, Allison Cancer Center, Child Protective Services and The Genesis Center.

Courtesy photo

Pam Thompson's "Midnight Cowboy" won first place in the Midland Quilters Guild "Oscar Challenge." Local competition called on members to depict Oscar-winning films.

Songs we hope Merle Haggard will play tonight

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Full disclosure: There's a bit of cheating in this article. While preparing this list of tracks and deep cuts we'd like country music icon Merle Haggard to sing at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center tonight, we've also peeked at his set list from previous concerts this year. So we have an idea already of what he'll be playing.

At 77, Haggard is hardly slowing down with both a busy calendar of tour dates and working on new material. Rolling Stone magazine reported in August 2014 that Haggard has been busy writing new tunes that will roll out on four new albums. His last release of new material was 2011's "Working in Tennessee."

His legendary career has contributed heavily to the lexicon of country music. "Okie From Muskogee," "Working Man Blues" and "Mama Tried" only hint at the many Haggard songs that have become classics.

And a couple of those likely will be performed tonight, but here's wishing he'll take requests.

"I'm Gonna Break Every Heart I Can" ("Strangers," 1965)

Going way back to Haggard's first album, he was displaying his rebellious nature already with this feisty track. Haggard isn't going to suffer heartbreak but instead dole it out. The bluegrass tones hint at later tones he explored. And here, fans learned early on of Haggard's unapologetic nature.

"My Past is Present" ("Sing Me Back Home," 1968)

Just shy of two minutes, Haggard taps into some deep meta pain here. Upon seeing the woman he just broke up with, Haggard's hope is heartfelt. The song is almost a cliffhanger with no resolve, but his yearning voice makes it easy to cheer for him and her to get back together.

"Huntsville" ("Someday We'll Look Back," 1971)

Maybe it's just Texas pride, but when Haggard mentions heading to this prison town, even if he is a bandit, there's a tinge of excitement. From his trial in Dallas to serving time in Huntsville, Haggard isn't intent on staying. And we can't help to wonder how he's going to do just that.

Any song from "Serving 190 Proof," 1979

In his 29th album, Haggard released this

Please see HAGGARD/2B

Obituaries

Francis Marvin (Frank) Singleton

Francis Marvin (Frank) Singleton passed away on Friday March 27, 2015 at home in Midland, Texas, at the age of 93.

He was born December 30, 1921 in Bartlett, Kansas to Harry Ambrose and Dolley Opal Singleton. He grew up in Shidler, Oklahoma, attending school through high school. He enrolled in college at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa, Oklahoma until 1941. He then enlisted in the United States Navy and graduated as a Naval Aviator in Pensacola, Florida in 1942 before being transferred to the Pacific Theater during World War II as a LT JG aviator.

After his service to the United States Navy, he returned to Oklahoma and married Anna Joy Butler in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 5, 1947 and continued his education at Tulsa University graduating in 1947 as a Geologist. After graduation, he worked for Sinclair Oil and Gas in various locations in Texas and New Mexico.

He retired from Atlantic Richfield in 1983 after 34 years of service as a Petroleum Engineer.

Frank was preceded in death by his father, Harry Ambrose Singleton; mother, Dolley Opal Singleton; brother, George Wesley Singleton; and sister, Lyla Lorene Singleton Brumley.

Frank is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Anna Joy Singleton; son, Glen and his wife, Margie Singleton, of Rowlett, Texas; daughter, Mary and her husband, Clint Hurst, of Midland, Texas; and son, Keith and his wife, Cindy Singleton, of Midland, Texas. He is also survived by five grandsons, 14 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Frank's pastime was filled with playing golf, traveling in the RV during his retirement, and fishing in Colorado for several summers. He tremendously enjoyed his time with his grandsons and great grandchildren. He was a devoted, long time member of the First Christian Church, serving in various capacities.

The funeral will be held at First Christian Church, 1301 W. Louisiana, Midland, Texas on April 1, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., officiated by Reverend Mike Hunter and Reverend Paula Brooks. A graveside service will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Visitation with the family will be March 31, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home at 3800 N. Big Spring, Midland, Texas.

The Singleton family expresses their appreciation to Kathreen Wiley, his caregiver these past seven months and Home Hospice for their excellent, compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be directed to the First Christian Church of Midland, Texas "In His Steps" ministry at 1301 W. Louisiana Midland, Texas 79701 or Home Hospice at 200 W. Illinois Ave, Ste 190, Midland, Texas 79701.

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

George William Coombes, Jr.

George William Coombes Jr. died in a local hospital March 16, 2015 after a brief illness. He was born March 8, 1924 to Major George William Coombes, US Army, and Marie Bartlett Coombes at Ft. Mills, Corregidor, the Philippine Islands, where his father was stationed.

He grew up in Southern California and graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1942. After graduation and a short stint at the University of California Los Angeles, Coombes went to work at Lockheed Aircraft in the drafting/lofting department. He was fond of saying his stellar achievement at Lockheed was designing the toilet seat for the Lockheed Constellation airliner.

George joined the United States Navy in 1943 as an aviation cadet. He received his Wings of Gold as a fighter pilot in August of 1944, and flew F6F Hellcats as a member of VF-15, the Navy's highest scoring fighter squadron. He married Alice Ann Collins on March 9, 1945 and they enjoyed sixty-four years of marriage. Two children, Bill Coombes, and Ann Adair Coombes were born in 1946 and 1963 respectively.

After World War II, Coombes attended and graduated from the University of Southern California in 1951. He joined Union Oil of California as a petroleum engineer and worked for that company from 1951-1986. After working at several places in Southern California, he was transferred to Midland, Texas from Santa Paula, California in 1957 and lived in Midland until his death.

George loved to travel, and with Alice, he achieved his goal of visiting every continent. He also visited every state in the United States. He enjoyed traveling with daughter Ann as she played championship golf in high school and college. He and Alice were also active members of the High Sky Wing of the Commemorative Air Force, and he and son Bill owned, flew and maintained a vintage SNJ aircraft.

He was a Mason, a Quiet Birdman, former President of Ranchland Hills Country Club and a longtime member of the Board of Directors for the Permian Basin Oil Show.

George was preceded in death by his parents, George William and Marie; a brother James Edward Coombes; and by his wife Alice.

He is survived by his son Bill (George William Coombes III) of Midland; his daughter Ann Adair Coombes Goodman of Bryan/College Station, Texas; a grandson Will Coombes (George William Coombes IV) of Austin; a granddaughter Allyson Adair Goodman, a freshman at Texas A & M University; and, two nieces, a nephew, and a sister-in-law of California. He is also survived by his loving daughters-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made in George's honor to the High Sky Wing of the CAF or the Coombes Endowed History Chair at Trinity School of Midland.

A 6 p.m. (brief) memorial service will be held Friday, April 3 at the outdoor chapel at the Commemorative Air Force followed by a "Celebration of Life" upstairs at the Commemorative Center at Midland International Air and Spaceport.

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

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

Geraldine "Jheri" Rutter

Mrs. Geraldine "Jheri" Rutter died peacefully in her home on Saturday, March 28, 2015 in Midland, Texas at the age of 74.

Jheri is survived by her husband, A.W. "Bill" Rutter, Jr.; children, John "Jack" James Fleet, III of Houston, Texas, Joe Chastain Fleet of Brussels, Belgium, and Geraldine "Dina" Fleet Berry of Bellingham, Washington; grandchildren, Leah Ingold, Tristan Ingold, Leo Chastain, Chloé Chastain, Lana Chastain, Liam Chastain, Pepper and Garcia Berry; and by her sister, Marthanelle Jones of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

She is preceded in death by her mother and father.

Mrs. Geraldine Francis Chastain Fleet Rutter, AKA "Salty," was born May 10, 1940 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Geraldine and Joe Chastain.

In her youth, 1944, she went with her family to Salta, Argentina before her family moved to Midland, Texas in 1946. At the age of 12, she illustrated her first book, Ku Chan, written by Mary Rea.

She graduated from Midland High School in 1957. She went to University of Oklahoma and William Woods University. She graduated from the University of Denver with degrees in Public Relations and Communications.

In 1960, she married John James Fleet, II of Dallas, Texas. They had three children.

Four years ago, she met the love of her life, Bill Rutter, Jr.

Jheri was accomplished at writing. As a speech writer, she wrote for international and national CEOs, politicians, and celebrities, including Corozan Aquino, President of the Philiipines. As a published writer, she was a member of the Authors Guild, Western Writers of American, Women's Writing Guild, Austin Writer's League, Tulsa Nightwriters and West Texas Writers. She authored more than 2000 national and regional articles, as well as six books. She created the National Magazine Editors' Conference which resulted in hundreds of magazine assignments for Texas writers.

She was also accomplished at strategy and tactics of public relations. She was passionate about the arts and civic non-profits. She served on the boards in Dallas, Denver, and Midland, including Dallas Junior Symphony, Opera Action of Dallas, Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Civic Ballet. She served on the board of governors of Colorado Symphony Orchestra. In Midland, she served on the board of Midland-Odessa Symphony and Orchestra.

She was a member of the Midland Mineral and Gem society. As a silver smith, she designed jewelry.

After training from the Proper Dog Training School, under the tutelage of Jeremy Burns, she was able to become involved in the Midland Dog Therapy Program that visits hospitals, nursing homes, and cancer treatment centers with her amazing Great Dane/Mastiff cross-breed, Duke.

A memorial is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Midland. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Hospice of Midland, University of Oklahoma or William Woods University. The family would like to thank Brenda, Christina, Terri of Hospice of Midland and for Maria Torres for their care. They would also like to thank the Philipe Garcia family for their care, dedication, love, and support.

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

Robert L. Stafford, M.D.

Robert L. Stafford, 84, of Midland, passed away of a lengthy illness, Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at Senior Care of Midland.

He was born November 10,1930 in Xenia, Ohio, to Vernon and Esta Stafford. He was a family practice and emergency room physician.

After graduating from the Silvercreek High School in Jamestown, Ohio, Bob worked for his father before enlisting in the United States Air Force and serving in Germany. Upon his honorable discharge, Bob went to Ohio State University and the University of Tennessee.

In order to secure more funds for an undergraduate degree, he traveled to the Marshall Islands in the Pacific and worked as a medical specialist and observed both the atomic and hydrogen bomb testing during the 1950's.

Bob returned to the United States and began an undergraduate degree at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles. He entered the University of California College of Medicine in 1962 and later interned at the Sacramento Medical Center in Sacramento, California.

He had family medical practices in Sacramento and Chico California as well as in Elko, Nevada and Hamlin, Texas. Bob then went into emergency room medicine and worked in multitude ER's in Texas from Harlingen to Littlefield.

Bob married Janet Morris of Visalia, California in 1963 and is survived by their two daughters, Dr. Stephanie Stafford of Dallas and Susan Jeffus, Esq. and husband, John, of Dallas; grandchildren, Alexa Jeffus of Dallas and Jared Jeffus of Malibu, California; brothers, Donald Stafford of Lacey, Washington, and Richard Stafford of Canyon, Texas.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Kenny Stafford; and inlaws, Margaret and Vernon Morris.

The family wishes to express its appreciation to Drs. John Mckenna, Michael Miller, and Scotty Ortega. Also, a special thank you is given to the staff at Senior Care of Midland for both their medical expertise and the sincere love and care given to Bob during his stay there.

A private family service will be conducted later at the Visalia, California Cemetery at the Morris family gravesite.

Baby Avelardo Aguilar

Avelardo Aguilar, infant son of Alexandria Hernandez and Avelardo Aguilar, went to be a little Angel in Heaven beside our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, March 29, 2015.

Avelardo is survived by his parents, Alexandria Hernandez and Avelardo Aguilar of Midland; his grandparents, Cecila and Avelardo Aguilar, and Jose Antonio and Rose Hernandez all of Midland; his great-grandparents, Jose and Eva Gomez of Midland, Petra Aldaco of Mexico, Angel and Anita Hernandez of Midland, and Lucila and Castulo Gonzalez of Mexico; and great-great grandparents, Bernarda Martinez of Mexico, Julian Hernandez, and Trinidad Galindo of Midland; numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, and cousins.

Graveside service will be this morning at 10:00 am at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Service is under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home and Chapel. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net or you can visit our website at *lewallengarciapipkinfh.com*

Death Notices

Royce Cox

Royce Cox, 71, of Midland died Sunday, March 29, 2015. Visitation with the family will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 2, 2015 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Midland.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 3, 2015 at Kelview Heights Baptist Church in Midland. Graveside services will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

To Submit Obituaries:

Contact

Direct: 432-682-6222

Fax: 432-682-6999

Email: obits@mrt.com

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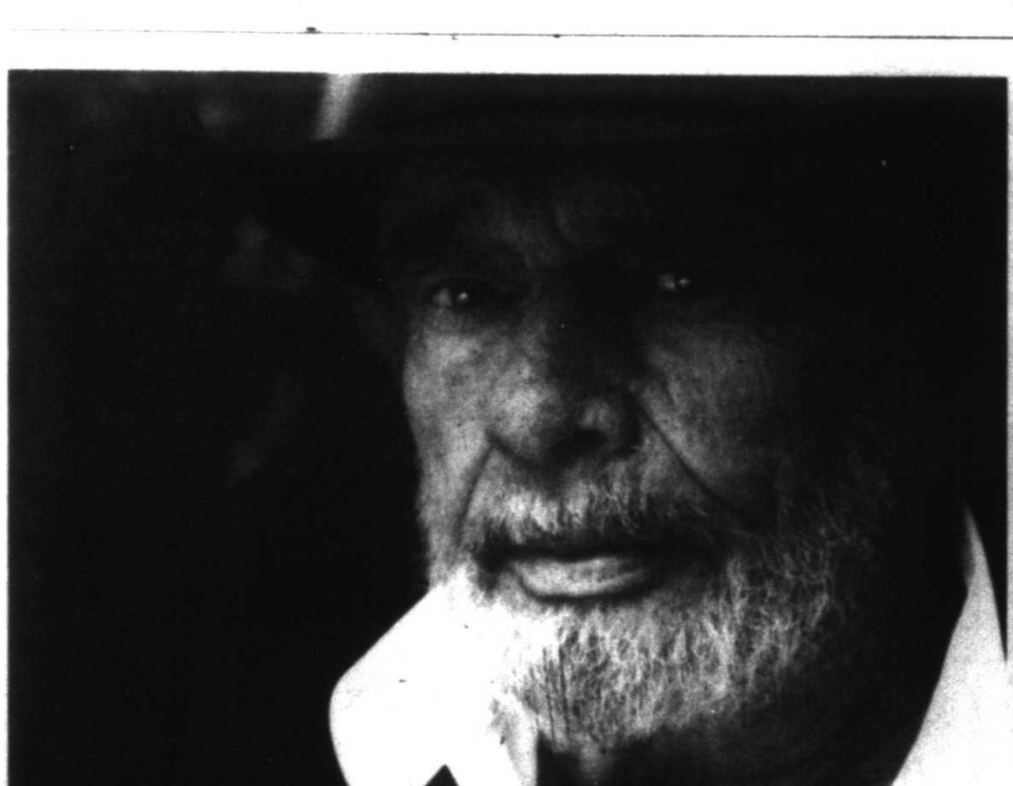
All Obituaries must be submited by 3:30 P.M. prior to next publication day.



HAGGARD

From 1B

glorious testament to his abilities as an artist. Often considered one of his best releases, he was also defiant to the sounds of country music at the time. "Urban Cowboy" was a big hit, but Haggard went the opposite direction in this languid masterpiece with signature songs "Footlights" and "Red Bandana," but for more Haggard heartbreak, "I Didn't Mean to Love You" fills the bill to no end.

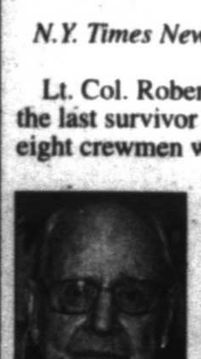
"Too Much Boogie Woogie" ("Working in Tennessee," 2011)

The singer doesn't mince words about his take on today's country music here. His voice is still wonderfully intact with spirit. When he sings "this stuff they're playing on the radio ought a be down at the bottom of abyss / there's too much boogie woogie and not enough Hank and Kris," it's clear the legend isn't too keen on where his genre has gone.

Merle Haggard is appearing tonight at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 North Farm-to-Market Road 1788. The show starts at 8 p.m. Ticket prices range from $60-$90. For more information, log on to Wagnernoel.com.

Robert L. Hite, survivor of Doolittle Raid and Japanese imprisonment, dies at 95

N.Y. Times News Service



Hite

Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite, the last survivor among eight crewmen who were captured by the Japanese when U.S. bombers brought World War II home to Japan in Jimmy Doolittle's daring air raid in 1942, died Sunday in Nashville, Tennessee. He was 95.

The cause was heart failure, his son Wallace said.

The raid led by Doolittle inflicted relatively light damage on military and industrial targets, but it delivered a moral victory to Americans, disconsolate since the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor less than five months earlier, and it was a stunning psychological blow to the Japanese, who had been led to believe that their homeland was inviolable.

The raid became the basis for the 1944 movie "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," adapted from the book of the same title by Capt. Ted W. Lawson, a pilot who took part in the attack.

Hite, the son of tenant cotton farmers from Texas, almost missed the mission. He had volunteered for it and was assigned to pilot one of its B-25 bombers, but was bumped from the roster when all the planes originally massed for the raid could not fit on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, which was to ferry them toward their target. At the last minute he replaced the co-pilot of another crew. He was 22.

Sixteen planes and 80 airmen took part in the mission, flown low to the ground in daylight by pilots who had never taken off from a carrier; the planes were designed for takeoff from land bases. They left the Hornet on April 18, 1942, their targets 800 miles away.

After completing their bombing runs, the planes were to land at airstrips in China that had not fallen to the Japanese; the Hornet's deck was too short to accommodate their return. But the planes encountered a storm and ran low on fuel, forcing crash landings and bailouts that killed three of the 80 crewmen.

Eight others were captured. Three, including the pilot and the gunner of Hite's plane, were shot by a firing squad. Another died from disease.

Hite was imprisoned for 40 months, 38 of them in solitary confinement. His weight had dropped to 76 pounds from 180 when the war ended.

With his death, only two Doolittle Raiders now survive: retired Lt. Col. Richard Cole and Staff Sgt. David Thatcher. The Raiders will be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal on April 15 in Washington.

Robert Lowell Hite was born in Odell on March 3, 1920, the son of Robert and Lena Hite. After three years at West Texas State Teachers College, he enlisted as an aviation cadet in 1940, flunked the physical, passed a do-over the next day and was certified an Army Air Corps pilot in 1941.

He was gung-ho to volunteer for the Doolittle mission and even more so once the target was identified.

"After I accepted to go with Bill," he recalled, referring to the pilot who chose him, Lt. William G. Farrow, "I had people offering me $500 for my place. I said, 'No way.'"

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — MARCH 31, 2015

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	Fresh Off the Boat (N)	Repeat After (N)	Agents of SHIELD "One Door Closes" (N)		Forever "Punk is Dead" (N)		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Cimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7 7 7 7 7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Patience" (N)		The Developers (TVS, Dra) Rachel Brosnahan, Cote De Pablo. (P) 1/2 cont'd April 1				CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5 14 5 14	M*A*S*H	MASH "As You Were"	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Twilight Zone	Taxi	Taxi "Jim & the Kid"	Carol Burnett	Perry Mason		Banacek
KPEJ FOX	8 5 5 8 3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Hell's Kitchen "14 Chefs Compete" (N)		New Girl (N)	Weird Loners (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11 11 12 11 11	Joe McGee	HaYesod	Update News	Mission: M25	Light of the Southwest				Exploring With the Scholars		Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9 9 9 9 9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Voice "The Road to the Live Shows" (N)		Undateable (N)	One Big Happy (N)	Chicago Fire "The Nuclear Option"		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13 13 13 8	PBS NewsHour		Twice Born: Stories (N)		Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies "The Blind Men and the Elephant" (N)				Charlie Rose (N)		Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4 4 4 16	La sombra del pasado		Amores con trampa		Hasta el fin del mundo		Que te perdone Dios... Yo no		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16 16 16	Fam.Feud	Million..	Law:CI "Malodictus"		Law & O: CI "Faith"		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
FLIX	340 65 165	(4:30)	Passion Fish	★★★ Dick Tracy Warren Beatty.						★★ Evita ('96, Mus) Madonna.		(:15)	★★ Jet Lag
HBO	300 68 14 14	(5:00)	Game Chan..	Into the Storm	Fight					★★★ We're the Millers Jason Sudeikis.		(:55) It's Me	Movie
HBO2	302 69 15 101 23	(4:30)	The Hobbit: An Unexpe..	Real Sports	LastWeek	Bill Maher				★★★ Walk of Shame			(:35) Fight
HBOS	304 70 16 102	(5:00)	Grudge Mat..	Vice		Neighbors Seth Rogen...		Making		★★ Dreamgirls ('06, Mus) Jamie Foxx.			Movie
MAX	310 71 17 120 24	(5:15)	Wedding Cr..	Rain		★★ That Awkward Moment				★★ Ender's Game Asa Butterfield.		(:55) Zane	Climax!
MAX2	312 72 18 122	(:55)	★★★ Lone Survivor Mark Wahlberg.			★★ Expend Flsh Sylvester Stallone.						(:55) Guide	(:25) Guide
PLEX	96	(5:10)	Mesmerized	★★★ Uncommon Sum..				(:35)	★★ The Mothman Prophecies			(:40)	★★ Cat's Eye
SHOW	320 66 19 140 25	(5:15)	The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dn Dn: Part 1			Shameless				Lies		★★★ Monster ('03, Bio) Charlize Theron.	
TMC	336 67 22 155 26	(5:00)	★★★ Sinister	Exorcismus Sophie Vavasseur.				(:10)	The Day Shawn Ashmore.			(:10)	Stag Night Kip Pardue. Movie
A&E	27 32 28 35 47	(5:00) Married 1stSight "Wedding Preparations"		Married at First Sight "The Weddings"		Married at First Sight		Surviving Marriage "Josh and Alethea" (N)		Neighbors Benef. "Not Hiding Anymore"		Married at First Sight "The Weddings"	
AMC	40 21 23 42 51	(3:30)	★★★ Titanic Leonardo DiCaprio.			★★ Finding Neverland Johnny Depp.						(:05)	★★ Fool's Gold
BET	58 26 40	(5:30)	★★ Why Did I Get Married Too? Janet Jackson.			KeyshiaC		Being Mary Jane (N)		Being Mary Jane (N)		Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65 63 41	Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills (N)		Newlyweds (N)		Beverly Hills		Southern Charm	
CNBC	46 45 39 72	Rich	Super Rich	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Rich (N)	Rich (N)	Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	43 24 51 30 56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Crisis Hotline		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		Crisis Hotline	
DISC.	50 20 31 24 42	Amish "False Prophets"		Amish Mafia (N)		Amish Mafia (F) (N)		Amish Mafia (N)		Amish Mafia		Amish Mafia	
DISNEY	56 27 36 25 36	KC Under	Girl	★★★ Hop Russell Brand.			StarWars	(:05) Austin	Liv/Mad	I Didn't	Dog Blog	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
ESPN	32 29 48 31 30	NCAA Basketball NIT Tournament (L)				NCAA Basketball NIT Tournament (L)					SportsCenter		
ESPN2	34 28 49 32 31	SportsCenter		Baseball Tonight (L)		FIFA Soccer International Friendly Par./Mex. (L)				SportsC.	College Gameday (L)	NBA	
FAMILY	53 54 34 42 33	(4:30)	The Goonies	★★★ Hook ('91, Fant) Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams.						The 700 Club		Boy MW	Boy MW
FNC	45 58 53 23 55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64 59 27 68 54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Chopped	
FSSW	37 43 50 45 29	Rangers Insider		NCAA Baseball Houston vs. Baylor (L)					Insider (N)	Championship Spot. "Boys' Basketball" (N)		WPT Poker Bounty Scramble	
FX	31 31 59 64 69	(5:30)	★★★ Transformers: Dark of the Moon Shia LaBeouf.					Justified (N)		Justified		Justified "Trust"	
HALLMARK	54 49 58 34	Waltons	"The Vigil"	The Waltons		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63 50 26 48 44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		H.Hunt	House	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
HISTORY	71 62 29 50 43	Counting	CountCars	Counting	Counting	Count. (N)	Count. (N)	Gangland Under. (N)		Gangland "Endgame"		Counting	Counting
LIFETIME	28 25 25 28 48	Dance Moms		Dance Moms (N)		Dance Moms (N)		Dance Mums UK (N)		Dance Moms		Dance Moms	
MSNBC	47 51 49 73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38 39	Mixed Martial Arts World Series of Fighting 4				MixedMartialArts World Series of Fighting 19				Iron Dog Champ		Mixed Martial Arts	
NICK	55 34 39 34 37	Movie	Bella	F.House	F.House	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	G. Lopez	(:35) Lopez	(:10) Lopez	(:50) Lopez
SPIKE	30 22 55 53 58	(4:30)	Con Air	★★ National Treasure: Book of Secrets ('07, Adv) Nicolas Cage.						★★★ Con Air ('97, Act) Nicolas Cage.			
SYFY	66 64 41 57 67	Face Off		Face Off		Face Off (N)		Haunting: Australia		Face Off		Haunting: Australia	
TBS	25 11 44 66 41	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	BigBang "Pilot"	Big Bang Theory	Cougar Town (N)	Conan Keith Urban, Ludacris (N)		Cougar Town	Conan
TCM	41 61 24 63 66	(5:45)	The Metro..	★★★ Zazie Dans Le Metro						★★★★ Au revoir les enfants			Lacombe, Lucien
TELE	20 8 10 20	Caso cerrado		La Biblia						Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo (:35) Titular.	Tierra de reyes
TLC	51 33 32 38 52	19 Kids: Recount "All About Jessa" (N)		19 Kids and Counting (N)		To Be Announced				Johnstons "Birds and Bees Make Babies" (N)		19 Kids and Counting (N)	
TNT	24 23 40 26 50	Castle "Time Will Tell"		NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Miami Heat Site: American Airlines Arena -- Miami, Fla. (L)						NBA Basketball Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)			
TVLAND	49 48 35 54 35	Walker, Texas Ranger		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Younger	Younger	Younger	Younger	Queens	Queens
USA	26 30 42 27 49	Modern Family	Modern "Fizbo"	Modern Family	Modern "My Hero"	Modern Family	Modern Family	Sirens (N)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Sirens	Sirens "Balls"
WGN	19 18	America's Funniest Home Videos		★★ Murder at 1600 (1997, Suspense) Diane Lane, Alan Alda, Wesley Snipes.				Outlaw Country "Eye For Eye" (N)		Outlaw Country "Eye For Eye"		Outlaw Country "Eye For Eye"	

Stamford man who worked in family store gives back to community

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Big Spring storyteller

I made a speech to a tourist group in Abilene a few years ago and, when it was over, a man from Stamford rushed up to me and asked me what I would charge to keynote his next Chamber of Commerce banquet. When I told him, he gave me the date of the banquet and told me I was hired to be the speaker. I thought at the time this must be a man who can get things done. I had no idea.

His name is Fareed Hassen. When he was 10 years old, he went to work in his father's store in Stamford. "We had a department store," he said. "I was the cashier and learned how to do the books. On Saturdays, my sister would go to the movies to see a double feature western, but I didn't care for movies, so I worked in the store."

His family also had a ladies' ready-to-wear store in Oklahoma, where he attended college. "I got a degree in architecture in 1955 from the University of Oklahoma. The famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright lectured to us a few times. He was a friend of the head of the department. Mr. Wright told us to be individuals and to be able to think for ourselves."

Fareed spent 50 years in his family's store in Stamford but found time to use some of his architectural training and ability. "I had an opportunity to design a few homes for friends here in Stamford, and in Dallas. I designed a restaurant and a few other things around town." I visited his home, which he designed. It is not your typical house. It is a showcase in Stamford with unique design elements.

Fareed has always been active in civic affairs and has won the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens. I asked him to mention a few, and he was reluctant to start his list, saying he doesn't like to brag on himself. But he did tell me a few things he has done.

"I was on the city council for six years, was on the school board for 15 years. I have been in Rotary over 55 years with perfect attendance and have arranged the weekly programs for several years," he said. He has been on the board of just about every worthwhile endeavor in and around Stamford. He served as Stamford's Chamber of Commerce executive for a few years and now heads up the city's economic development office.

He is proud of the accomplishments of graduates of Stamford High School. "We had some significant people who came from Stamford, including Robert Strauss, who was one of the most influential men in Washington for years. In 2005, I put together a computerized list of all the graduates along with their accomplishments," he said.

Fareed is 84. For 28 of those years, he has walked two miles a day every day. "I have walked everywhere. I walked in the airport in Paris, France, a couple of times. I walked in Lebanon, in the Caribbean, California, Florida, Mexico, and I've never missed a day. Sometimes it's 1 in the morning before I get out to do my walk, but I faithfully walk. Around here, I walk around the square late at night when it's quiet. I have a prayer list and always pray while I walk."

Tumbleweed Smith loves to listen to Texans tell their stories. Contact him at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.

Shirley Temple memorabilia goes on tour before auction

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Costumes, toys, photos and autographs from Shirley Temple's 1930s film career are coming to a city near you.

A spokeswoman for the late actress said Monday that a collection of keepsakes from Temple's time in Hollywood will be exhibited at museums across the country before being put up for auction in July.

Publicist Cheryl Kagan said the traveling exhibition will begin April 30 at the Strong Museum in Rochester, New York.

Among the items on view will be a baby grand piano inscribed by Theodore Steinway and a child-size race car that was a gift from Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, along with Temple's autograph collection and costumes.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

For each word or phrase below, rearrange the letters to spell two new words that are useful tools. For example: POLLED A SON can be rearranged to spell LADLE and SPOON.

CRISIS SALONS
S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ N

COMPOST SLAB
C _ _ _ _ _ _ B

EPIC LAWNS
P _ _ _ _ _ _ S

MEEKER TOY
R _ _ _ _ _ _ K

Yesterday's Answer: IVORY, LEAF; MARBLE, SILK; APPLE, GLASS; SKIN or SINK, WRAP

3.31

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NEIL SPERRY

Neil Sperry's "Plant Talk Texas" and "Texas Lawn and Garden Hour" can be heard on radio stations across the state. Email him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com.

Buttonweed harder to elimiate than some other weeds

Dear Neil: How can I control Virginia buttonweed? The spray I've used isn't working.

Answer: Even though it's a broadleafed weed, conventional herbicides are less than effective on buttonweed. Hand-digging when only a few clumps are involved will be your best solution, but be sure you are able to remove all of the pieces. If only a small piece of stem remains, the plant will quickly reestablish. You might also try broadleafed weedkiller sprays containing 2,4-D. Use a pump sprayer for the most precise application, and add one drop of liquid dishwashing detergent for each gallon of spray you apply. Good luck with it. You can win, but it won't be as easy as it is with other weeds.

Dear Neil: Something ate all the leaves off my newly planted Nellie R. Stevens hollies. Will they regrow, or should I replace them?

Answer: That's very hard to answer, because if the damage was done by wildlife, the animals will probably just return for the next course. I live in a rural area, however, and other than a few grasshoppers a time or two in the summer, nothing has ever really eaten at my own hollies. I wonder if it might be a combination of normal spring leaf drop that could have happened at the same time that the plants got slightly too dry. Without more clues, I can't get any closer, but the safe answer for you (and for me) is simply to wait another two or three weeks. The plants will tell you.

Dear Neil: Will mothballs or camphor keep squirrels from digging in my flowerbeds and vegetable gardens? Is there any other solution?

Answer: I have tried mothballs as a repellent for both squirrels and rabbits, but they never worked very well, and they didn't last very long. The commercial repellents, to put it in my own words, were a waste. Free-standing, large decorative pots that the animals can't climb or reach have worked well for me with my most prized annuals and foliage plants. I was amazed to see squirrels even eating the leaves of my tropical agave collection until I put them on pedestals and shelves that the squirrels couldn't access. In ground beds, squirrels don't care for roll-type mulches, so if you were able to plant through one of those products, that would deny them access to the soil. These are all imprecise answers. I just hope that one of them will give you a bit of help.

Dear Neil: I saw a new holly the other day. It's Scarlett's Peak yaupon holly. It looks much like two other vertical hollies I've seen, Will Fleming yaupon and sky pencil holly. How do the three plants differ? The nursery has all three. Which should I choose?

Answer: Scarlet's peak is a comparatively new form of our old standby native yaupon holly. So is Will Fleming, but people who have grown Will Fleming are familiar with how its branches eventually splay out away from the vertical. It becomes difficult to train. Sky pencil has been around for six or eight years. It's a selection from Ilex crenata, Japanese holly. It's well suited to acidic soils, so it's primarily for gardeners in East Texas. It struggles from I-45 west in Texas. Scarlet's peak is the newest of the three, and to my eye, it's by far the most appealing. It is female, so it does produce berries. It grows into a tight column, and its branches have enough strength to hold themselves upright. It's still a bit hard to find, but your nurseryman can order it in for you. Hopefully it will end up being as good as it's looking so far.

Note to my readers: My recent admonition that we Texans should stop the disfiguring practice of topping our crape myrtles brought a flurry of responses, some of them surprisingly harsh. This will probably be the final time I'll address it this year, because pruning season is over anyway.

I'm going to approach this from a slightly different angle. The fact remains that your crape myrtles are your own business. If you want to top them, that's certainly your right. But the fact that you do it does not make it a good horticultural practice. The fact that commercial landscapers are doing it doesn't make it anything others should imitate. They're usually just doing what their customers have hired them to do.

There's no point in sending more campaigns of unhappy mail. I'm normally quite willing to adjust my thinking when others have better facts than my own, but in this case, I'm very comfortable with my opinions. They haven't changed in 45 years of media horticulture, and they aren't going to change now. Topping is senseless. We don't top any other plants, and it's time we stopped topping crape myrtles.

I'm a friendly guy, and I want people to enjoy gardening. I'm just trying to guide horticultural practices gently toward better outcomes. Thanks for reading to the end of this. I'm done on this topic for this season.

Go easy on watering Jade plants and other succulents

LEE REICH

Associated Press gardening columnist

A friend phoned me a few weeks ago concerned about the sunken, blackened areas on the trunk of her jade plant. When I suggested that she might be overwatering, she replied that she watered only once a week.

That made me sure she was overwatering.

Jade plants are succulents, a group of plants linked not by any botanical kinship but by a physical kinship: They all have fleshy leaves and stems swollen with water. Cactuses are succulents, as are hens-and-chicks, aloe and purslane. Those water-filled stems and leaves tide the plants through dry periods.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS WITHOUT WATER LOSS

All plants lose water through tiny pores in their leaves, pores that are also avenues through which carbon dioxide enters and oxygen exits for photosynthesis. Such a setup puts most plants in a bind during dry times. Should they open their pores so that photosynthesis can give them energy, but risk drying out? Or should they close up their pores to conserve water, but suffer lack of energy?

Besides being able to store water in their stems and leaves, jade plants and other succulents have a couple other tricks for solving this conundrum. First, they have a more efficient way than most plants of concentrating carbon dioxide in their cells. Second, they work the night shift, opening their pores only in darkness, when little water is lost.

They latch onto carbon dioxide at night by incorporating it into organic acids. Come daylight, the leaf pores close up, conserving water, and the acids made the night before release the carbon dioxide within the plant to be used, with light, to make energy. You can actually taste this trick this summer by nibbling a purslane leaf at night and then another one in the afternoon. The leaves taste tart at night.

All of this means that my friend should water her jade plant much, much less. If there is ever a doubt about whether or not to water a succulent, not watering is the correct choice. These plants simply do not die from drying out.

I have an aloe plant that I water maybe once or twice a year. It looks fine.

Darwin studied the effect of gravity on plants by watching the response of another succulent, known as mother-in-law's-tongue, hung upside down for six months. He didn't have to bother watering it.

Too-frequent watering, or a soil through which water does not drain readily, will rot any succulent.

SUCCULENTS CAN HEAL

Even succulents with rot on them can usually survive or be revived. With less watering and/or better drainage, my friend's jade plant should overgrow its blackened areas with healthy tissue. And any part of these plants that touches the soil can eventually grow roots to make a healthy, new plant.

These abilities are most welcome in a jade plant, but are not always welcome in a succulent like purslane, usually considered a weed. During a wet summer, the roots might rot away but the tops will remain alive, lying on top of the ground, flowering and spreading seeds. Chop purslane with a hoe, and each piece can give rise to a whole new plant.

Then again, you can eat purslane, even tailoring its flavor according to whether you pick it during the day or at night. Purslane is often found in green salads at ritzy restaurants.

RE-LEAF BY DEBBIE FROST

Courtesy photo

Dandelions are a classic example of cool-season perennial weeds (weeds that live more than one growing season) that should be pulled.

The green lawn you are seeing maybe a counterfeit. Rescue grass is a common cool-season, annual grass that is considered a weed in lawns and landscapes. To complicate matters more, this winter nuisance has lots of other weedy friends.

Many of the weeds that are being whacked, whipped, mowed and sprayed right now are cool-season, annual weeds. Winter annuals are plants that live one growing season in the cool months of the year. Their seeds germinated last fall and have grown to the current stage of flowering and setting seed. Within three to five weeks, they will have died from heat. So, while it makes lots of sense to whack 'em with tools and machines, it really doesn't make sense to nuke 'em with herbicides.

Here are a few of the cool-season weeds you are most likely encountering right now.

- Rescuegrass (Bromus catharticus), is a common green, grassy plant that is just now forming a seed head. The seed head is long, slender and elliptically shaped. There is a chevron pattern of the seeds overlapping in the seed head.
- Henbit (Lamium amplexicaule) is a pretty little weed with square stems, scalloped leaves and purple flowers. It is a weak plant, easy to pull up, but it comes with a multitude of siblings.
- London rocket mustard (Sisymbrium irio) is the weed that is making the biggest impact right now. As it name implies, London rocket has shot up over the last few weeks giving the area a nice, green hue. Plant are topped with tiny, four-petal flowers and they are rapidly putting on seed pods.

There are many other annual cool-season weeds out there, but bottom line, chemical control is too late to be worth the effort, cost and good stewardship. Control these weeds by using good lawn and landscape management practices. This will create a healthy, vigorous lawn and landscape that will suppress weed seed germination. If need exists, consider using recommended pre-emergent herbicides in lawn areas in early September. Use 3-4 inches of mulch in beds, alleys and other weedy areas to suppress weed seed germination. At this point, mowing, string trimming and hand pulling are effective measures for treatment.

Cool-season perennial weeds (weeds that live more than one growing season) are another story. They should be pulled. Results are much better if the soil is moist before weeding. Herbicides can reduce some of these weeds, but control is much better in the fall when carbohydrates are moving from the leaves to the roots rather than from the roots to the shoots. Dandelions is a classic example.

Get re-leaf by avoiding herbicide use for winter weeds at this time. Mark your early September calendar for a better time to apply mulch or apply a herbicide if needed.

Debbie Frost is a local horticulturist specializing in regionally appropriate horticulture. Email her at garden.frost@gmail.com.

Presence of eggs sign of pecan nut casebearer damage

JEFF FLOYD

Jeff Floyd is a horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Email him at jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.

West Texas Pecan trees declare the arrival of spring by breaking buds around this time each year. Unfortunately, the tender little buds don't go unseen by the pecan nut's most destructive insect pest — the pecan nut casebearer.

The sneaky casebearers survive the winter as tiny larvae in protective cocoons. They construct their cocoons of silk near the base of dormant buds some place on the pecan tree. As temperatures warm in early spring, the larvae dig into the tender developing twigs and begin feeding.

Eventually, the larvae pupate into somewhat plain-looking moths that embark on a search for suitable mates. Male casebearers locate mates by using receptors on the end of their antennae to detect a unique scent. These scents, known as pheromones, are produced only by the female casebearer.

Although the pest may have up to four generations per year, it is the first two generations that cause the most damage to pecan nuts. Third and fourth generations often emerge too late in the season to cause much harm. The most effective method of controlling casebearers is a contact insecticide applied before they crawl into the protective husk of the pecan nut.

To know when to treat, scout the developing nutlets for the presence of eggs at damaging levels. The tiny, greenish eggs are usually found at the tip of the nutlet. The eggs are best spotted with a hand lens.

If you spot two or more nut clusters infested with eggs before you have inspected 310 nut clusters, then the population is large enough to cause damage to more than 5 percent of the harvest.

So, how do you know when to scout for eggs? The casebearer moth may be hard to spot unless you have the right tools. A commercially available trap treated with a scent identical to that produced by the casebearer female will make scouting much easier. Scout for eggs when the first moths are captured by the pheromone traps.

For homeowners, spinosid is one effective active ingredient for the control of pecan nut casebearer that has a reportedly low environmental impact. Whether to treat is also determined by the desired use of the tree. Casebearers don't injure tree health. If your pecan tree is grown only for shade, then nut production is less important and monitoring for casebearers may be unnecessary.

If you will be scouting for the casebearer this year, please contact the extension office when you begin to capture moths in your traps. If you spot nutlets infested with casebearer eggs, please share that with us at the extension office so we can get the word out to others.

To find out more about where to purchase pheromone traps, contact the county extension office at 432.498.4071 or email me at jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.

$8M in illegal honey seized in Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Almost $8 million in illegally imported honey from China has been seized by U.S. Customs and Homeland Security in Houston over the past two years.

The Houston Chronicle reported that since October 2014, 660 drums of Chinese honey that was smuggled through Latvia have been taken by authorities. China is the world's leading producer of honey.

Before the latest seizures, federal agents disrupted a network of honey importers who managed to evade $180 million in antidumping duties, which are penalties placed on imports that are priced at less than fair value. The penalty is imposed top provide relief to domestic industries that may be hurt by the low import values.

According to Richard Halverson, with Homeland Security's Houston investigations unit, the city has become a focal point for illegal honey imports, but officials are not sure why.

TODAY: Partly sunny	WEDNESDAY: Sunny	THURSDAY: Sunny	FRIDAY: Sunny	SATURDAY: Mostly cloudy	SUNDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 86 Low: 57	High: 86 Low: 54	High: 88 Low: 55	High: 77 Low: 46	High: 64 Low: 48	High: 76 Low: 55

Local forecast

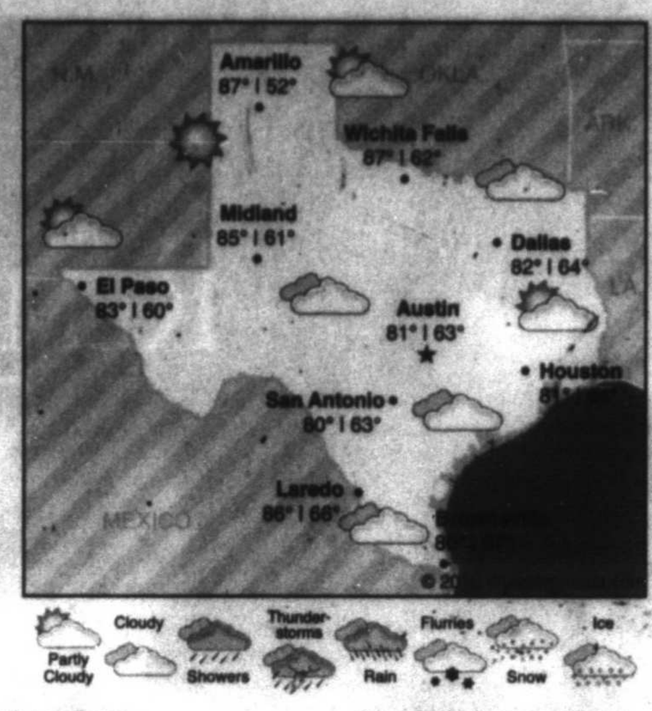
High and low temperatures around 10 degrees above normal for this time of year are expected through Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. There are also chances of rain in the next seven days — a 30 percent chance after 1 p.m. today and a slight chance of showers on Saturday.

The high on Monday reached 79, while the low dropped to 50. The record high for March 30 is 94 set in 1946. The record low is 17 set in 1987.

Weather why

Q: For most of Texas, what is the average date of the last freeze each year?

Because Texas is so large, there is a lot of variation in the average last freeze date (LFD), said Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "In the Panhandle area, the average LFD is not until early April and it is not uncommon for Amarillo and other areas to receive snowfall as late as May," McRoberts said. "And in the Rio Grande Valley, it almost never freezes, so the average LFD is very early in January. Much of Central Texas and a large part of the state has an average LFD in the middle of March. But remember, these are average dates, and a freeze can certainly happen much later in some years."



Precipitation

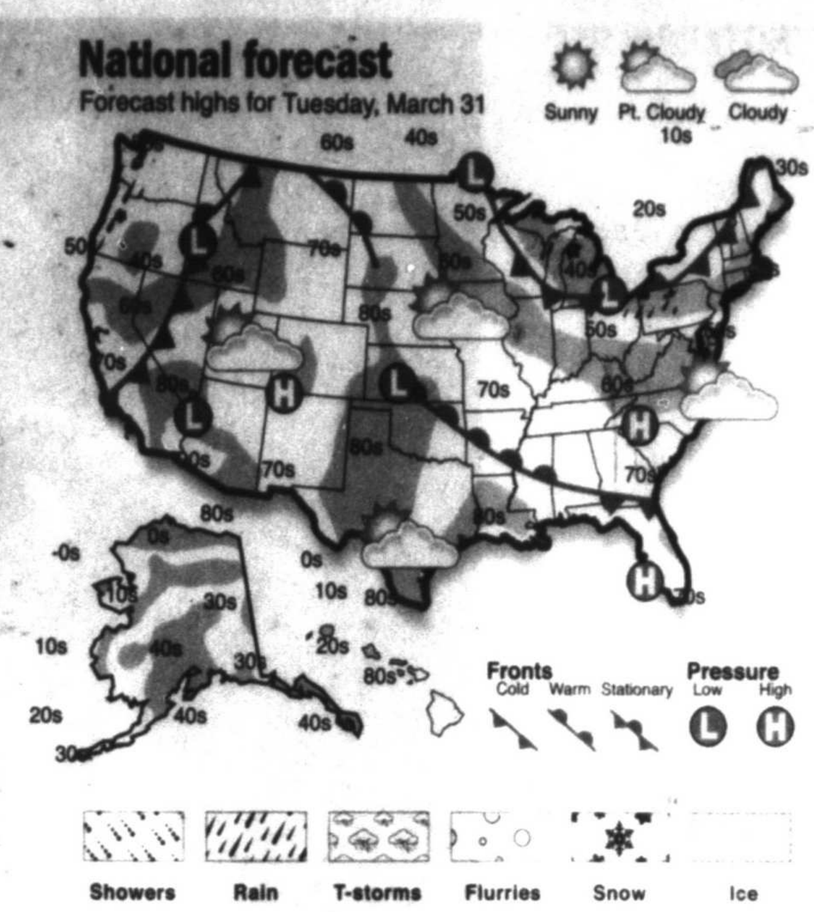
Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	1.65 in.
Year total	4.34 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.85 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	79
Low	50
Normal high	74
Normal low	44
Sunrise	7:39 a.m.
Sunset	8:08 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, March 31



Wife's donation of eggs is fertile ground for discussion

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: My husband and I were chatting recently, and the subject of sperm donation came up. He surprised me by saying he's vehemently against it, and then compared it to selling your body as in prostitution. He also mentioned he thinks it's disgusting because any kids we would potentially have might end up dating their half-siblings. We let the issue drop, but Abby, I have a secret.

In my early 20s, I participated in an egg donation program to support couples who were unable to get pregnant on their own. At the time, I didn't think much about it. I didn't want kids — and I doubt if I ever will — so I figured it was my contribution to the gene pool without having to raise little humans myself.

I never told my husband about it because it happened before we met. I do know that some of my eggs were successfully transplanted.

Should I tell my husband about my donations or keep quiet? We don't have kids, but are talking about trying in the near future. Would it be wrong for them to go out into the world not knowing about their half-siblings? — FERTILE MYRTLE

DEAR MYRTLE: The time to have spoken up was when your husband aired his feelings on the subject of sperm donation and infertility issues. You did a wonderful thing and with good reason. Your husband should be made aware of that, with no apologies.

If you do decide to start a family, considering that there are half-siblings out there, it would be wise to advise your children to have genetic testing done with their prospective spouses. (Because there are diseases caused by recessive genes, it's a good idea anyway.)

However, unless you are sure that you want to bring a child into this world, you shouldn't become a parent.

DEAR ABBY: I am 29 and on the fence about what to do. My 32-year-old boyfriend of a year and a half, "Aiden," proposed while we were in Europe last month. Aiden is a sweet guy who would do anything for me. I waffled and said I had to think about it. He bought a lovely engagement ring that he still has in his possession. We do not live together.

Aiden says he's certain he wants to spend his life with me. My problem is, I don't want to marry him. I am a professional, and Aiden is a tradesman with no money. Even though he kisses the ground I walk on, I don't think I'd be happy in the long term with him and would always wonder if I could have done better.

On the other hand, I am almost 30 and want children. It seems that nice guys who want to commit are in short supply. Should I settle for Aiden? Breaking up with him, as I did a few months ago for a couple of weeks, would crush him. But he has little social life and no hobbies — just me. — CONTEMPLATING IN ALBERTA, CANADA

DEAR CONTEMPLATING: Nice guys who want to commit may be in short supply, but please do THIS nice guy a favor and end the relationship before you hurt him any more than you already have. Tradesmen can be good providers, husbands and fathers, and Aiden has much to offer a woman who can appreciate him fully. Clearly, that's not you, so let him go.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

National slams

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 5 4 2
♡ Q 9 3
◇ Void
♣ K Q 9 7 4 3

WEST
♠ J 7 6
♡ 7 5
◇ K Q 9 8 7 5 4 3
♣ Void

EAST
♠ 9 8
♡ 10 8 2
◇ J 10 2
♣ J 10 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 3
♡ A K J 6 4
◇ A 6
♣ A 6

The bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	2♣	4	6♣
All pass			

Opening lead: King of ♡

There is an ongoing, friendly rivalry between Americans and Canadians in many activities, bridge among them. A few years ago, at a North American Championship held in Canada, the tournament's Daily Bulletin offered a definition, supplied by Canadians, of a "Canadian Slam" — 11 tricks with an American on lead. The Americans struck back. The next day's Bulletin featured a "Suggested Defense to a Canadian Slam" — cash your two aces, then sit back and wait for your trump trick.

Today's deal was played recently at a tournament in Ireland, featured in their bulletin as an "Irish Slam." West's pre-empt made it very difficult for North-South to find any of their available grand slams. North might have bid his hand differently, but he was concerned that East might be about to leap to six diamonds. North wanted South to know about his big club suit so that he might be able to raise to seven with a suitable hand.

South realized that the only danger to his contract was a 5-0 split of the outstanding trumps, so he ruffed the opening diamond lead in dummy and led a low trump from the table. When East carelessly played low, South inserted his six-spot! Had this lost to West, it would have been a simple matter to draw the remaining trumps and score up the slam. It was a lot more fun, at least for North-South, when the six held the trick.

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 31, 2015:

This year no one will question your efficiency or your strong drive. Ideas inspire you. You enjoy a good brainstorming session. You can be critical and snippy when you're in a bad mood. Your ability to detach will be tested, as you often seem to be too involved in the here and now to see the big picture. If you are single, romance could enter your life from out of the blue sometime before September. This person could prove to be very special to you in the long run. If you are attached, the two of you might disagree about vacations and where to go, but you are great at home, all nestled in and sharing a favorite pastime. VIRGO has a cold side.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Use the first half of the day for any matter that needs a creative solution. By the second half of the day, you will be in the mood to complete a project that has been on the back burner. Your energy should be focused on your long-term financial needs. Tonight: Be more fun-loving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You suddenly might have an energy boost. Choose how you want to direct this vitality. Perhaps you'll want to play with a child or loved one. Know that this drive isn't likely to go away for a while. Express your feelings in such a way that they can be heard. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Reach out to a key person in your life in the morning. Later on, you could be working on a project where you won't want to be bothered. Don't swallow your anger; instead, consider expressing your feelings. Tonight: Settle in for a cozy evening.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Speak your mind. If you encounter a financial snafu, don't hesitate to backtrack and see where it has come from. Conversations in the afternoon might be filled with a lot of information. A discussion will allow you to see the other side of an issue. Tonight: Meet up with a pal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Someone who has been laid-back is likely to do a sudden reversal. You might be dealing with someone you barely recognize, as he or she could be unusually upset. Getting communication flowing could be nearly impossible at the moment. Tonight: Vanish.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ You might be out of sorts in the morning, but by midafternoon, you'll feel more like your old self. A discussion with a partner or close associate will flow more easily. A one-on-one talk will bring results that please you. Tonight: Be your friendly self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ A last-minute detail could slow you down. A talk on an individual level is likely to ease some of the tension. You might note how unpredictable an associate has been and continues to be. You can count on some surprises from this person! Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You can continue to take the lead, if you so desire. An afternoon meeting will bring results that make you feel as though the effort was worth it. A loved one might let you know that it is time to spend some quality time together. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You might be letting go as much as you can. You are likely to encounter an obstacle in the afternoon with someone you must answer to. You could find this person to be fussy and difficult at the present moment. Do what you must. Tonight: In the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You will be tired of pushing so hard to achieve the results you want. A partner has been very supportive, yet you might decide to go on your own with a particular idea. You could be wondering what is going on in someone else's mind. Tonight: Look beyond the obvious.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You deal well with others. You'll be able to open up to the intricacies of someone else's thought process. Your listening skills seem to be improving as well, as you're able to read between the lines. Avoid untested assumptions. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Work on a project in the morning, and you'll be noticed in the afternoon. You might find that you are surrounded by people you never dreamt you would be in the same room with. Toss yourself in the middle of a conversation. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

BORN TODAY

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore (1948), civil rights activist Cesar Chavez (1927), actor Ewan McGregor (1971)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Dash gauge
5 Pawn at a shop
9 Vague shapes
14 Height: Pref.
15 Saintly glow
16 Sportscast rundown
17 *Pest-control device
19 Hersey's bell town
20 Like paradise
21 Go round and round
23 "Tao Te Ching" poet __-tzu
24 "Yummy!"
25 "Off-the-wall game?
27 Grant-granting gp.
29 Soul automaker
30 *Simple garment
36 Aerobic exercise aid
40 Woodlands mangoat
41 Campus URL suffix
42 Serious
43 Old Russian ruler
44 "One given to flights of fancy
46 Short-lived Egypt-Syr. alliance
48 Drunkard
49 *Hidden explosives activator
54 Overthrow
59 Farm female
60 "__ o' your throats": "Measure for Measure"
61 Phobic
62 "Alas and __!"
64 Figuratively, where some wild ideas come out of; literally, a hint to a word and its position when paired with the starts of the answers to starred clues
66 In need of a chill pill
67 Mystery writer Gardner
68 Colombian city
69 Beer holder
70 Ear piece?
71 __-slapper

DOWN

1 Got under control
2 Words after "crack" or "live by"
3 Pitiless
4 Mubarak of Egypt
5 Came out of one's shell?
6 "Days of __ Lives"
7 Attend uninvited
8 Letter after iota
9 Chastain of women's soccer
10 Guided
11 City NW of Orlando
12 Unoriginal
13 Thread dispenser
18 Ex-Disney CEO Michael
22 Printer cartridge contents
26 Iraqi port
28 Neighborhood
30 FDR's last vice president
31 Western defense gp.
32 Actress Hagen
33 IHOP condiment
34 Ice cream maker Joseph
35 Brewski
37 Bagpiper's topper
38 December 24 or 31
39 Each
42 Exit the bus
44 Tap concern
45 Went round and round
47 Greet the day
49 "__ Life" Sinatra hit
50 Rented again
51 Silly
52 Romeo and Juliet, e.g.
53 Apply, as pressure
55 Puncture with a pin
56 Song of praise
57 City in northern France
58 Comic Izzard
63 TV forensic drama
65 __ shot

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

T	O	O		L	E	O	N	A		T	W	E	A	K
I	C	U		O	N	S	E	T		M	A	M	M	A
P	A	T	R	O	L	C	A	R		C	Y	B	E	R
S	L	O	A	N		A	T	A	D		C	E	N	T
Y	A	N	G		C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	S
		B	O	R	A			L	E	O				
P	I	A	N	O	K	E	Y	S		E	L	R	O	Y
S	K	I		T	Y	L	E	N	O	L		A	V	E
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			A	R	M				A	D	O	S		
J	O	L	L	Y	R	O	G	E	R		R	E	S	T
O	P	A	L		I	B	E	X		O	C	C	U	R
N	A	T	C	H		O	R	C	A	W	H	A	L	E
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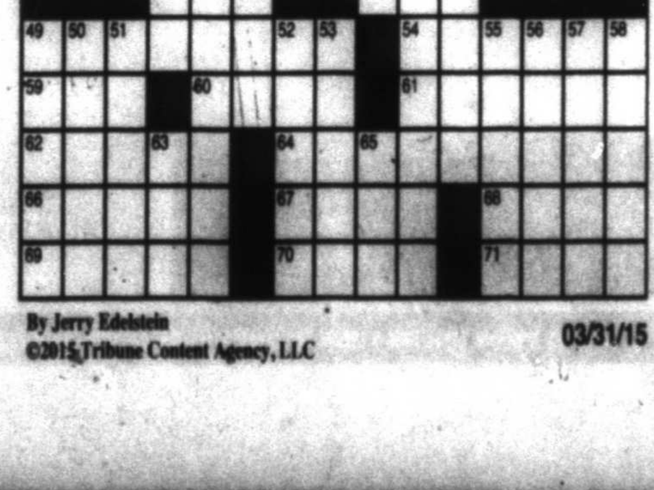
xwordeditor@aol.com 03/31/15



By Jerry Edelstein
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NOTEWORTHY
Music in the news

NEW YORK

Jay Z, Madonna, Minaj among owners of new streaming service

Madonna, Rihanna, Beyonce and Jay Z are among the A-List musicians who are co-owners of Tidal, a streaming service being billed as the first artist-owned platform for music and video.

The membership-based service — similar to subscription service Spotify — will provide music and video content that users can stream on computers, tablets and smartphones or listen to offline. It is being offered at two price points: $10 for standard sound quality and $20 for "lossless high fidelity sound quality."

Few other details were released about the streaming service.

Kanye West, Daft Punk, Alicia Keys, Jack White and Nicki Minaj also were among the artists who announced at a New York City event Monday that they are co-owners of the service that quietly launched in October. Keys said the artists hope Tidal will "forever change the course of music history" and ensure the viability of the industry.

The celebrities — who also included Jason Aldean, Usher, members of Arcade Fire and deadmau5 — stood in a line onstage as Keys spoke to the audience at Skylight at Moynihan Station in Manhattan. Most of them wore black as a sign of solidarity. Keys called the event "a graduation."

"So we come together before you on this day, March 30th, 2015, with one voice in unity in the hopes that today will be another one of those moments in time, a moment that will forever change the course of music history. For today we announce of Tidal, the first ever artist-owned, global music and entertainment platform," Keys said.

The venue for the event was transformed to display a walkway paying tribute to the different decades in music, starting with the 1950s.

Coldplay's Chris Martin and Calvin Harris, who both appeared via video, are also co-owners.

"Our mission goes beyond commerce; it goes beyond technology. Our intent is to preserve music's importance in our lives," Keys said. "Music is the language of love, of laughter, of heartbreak, of mystery. It's the world's true, true, without question, universal language."

Houston Chronicle file photo

Tejano music singer Selena performs Feb. 27, 1994, at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Selena's dad admits mixed feelings about fans marking Tejano star's death

By Enrique Lopetegui
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Twenty years after Selena's murder, the Latin world will remember "The Queen of Tejano" with concerts, lookalike contests, dances and a massive festival. But her father has mixed feelings about the celebrations.

"Of course I'm happy that, today, people remember Selena more than ever," Abraham Quintanilla III said via phone from his office in Corpus Christi. "But, as Jehovah's Witnesses, we don't celebrate deaths or birthdays, and we don't want people to think we're behind all the festivities."

"It's crazy. It grows every day with events everywhere, but we're not organizing them. Our family never got together every year on the day of her murder, because there's nothing to celebrate, and this year won't be the exception," he added. "We remember our daughter every single day. We don't need a special day to remember her."

Selena began performing as a child, singing in Los Dinos, a band formed by her father that featured her brother A.B. on bass and sister Suzette on drums. She won a Best Mexican-American Album Grammy for "Live," had several hits in the U.S. and was about to cross over to the English-language pop market when, on March 31, 1995, she was murdered by Yolanda Saldívar, the president of her fan club.

Her posthumous album, "Dreaming of You," which was mostly recorded in English, topped the Billboard 200 chart and stayed atop the Latin charts for nine months.

Saldívar is serving a life sentence in her death.

Despite his reservations, Quintanilla has given his blessing to one event — the Festival de la Flor, featuring A.B. Quintanilla and the Kumbia King All Starz; Selena's widower and former Los Dinos guitarist Chris Pérez; Little Joe & La Familia; Los Lobos and others. Corpus Christi's Conventions and Visitors Bureau will host the festival April 17-18. Selena was born on April 16, 1971.

Tickets will cost no more than $5 and the city expects attendance to hit 50,000.

"It will be the first edition of an annual festival that will grow every year," Quintanilla said.

In addition, Corpus Christi will host a Selena Tribute at Molina Veterans Park on March 31.

But Selena's celebrations don't stop there. The Historical Museum of Lake Jackson — the city where Selena lived until age 9 — is showing an exhibition of Frank Herring photographs of the star, through April 18.

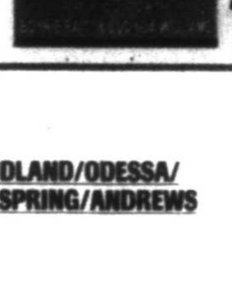
In San Antonio, where Selena won nine consecutive Tejano Music Awards, Selena's face graces the cover of the Current — a weekly English-language magazine. On Saturday, a public relations firm will shoot a tribute video featuring Selena lookalikes. And in April, the city will host a 5K "Bidi Bidi Fun Run" with all proceeds going to the Selena Foundation, which aims to help children in crisis. One of her hits was called, "Bidi Bidi Bom Bom."

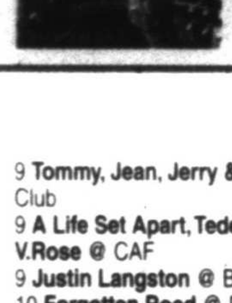
California, Arizona, New York, Illinois, Colorado, Nevada and other states will play host to a variety of Selena commemorations, including concerts, lookalike contests, an exhibition, karaoke nights and a drag tribute show. The two main Spanish-language TV networks in the U.S. will air special Selena programming this weekend.

A.B. Quintanilla insists Selena's music has not dated, citing the hit "Tecnocumbia."

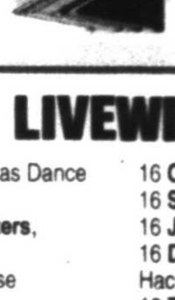
"If you play a Selena cumbia and compare it with any other record from today, it sounds as if it had been recorded yesterday," he said.

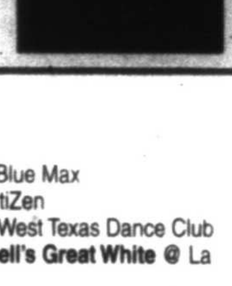
Today's releases

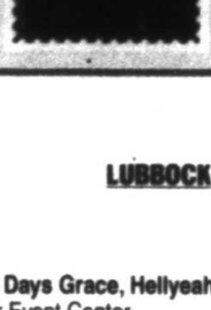

Boz Scaggs 'A Fool to Care'



Darius Rucker 'Southern Style'


Death Cab For Cutie 'Kintsugi'


Nightwish 'Endless Forms Most Beautiful'


Ringo Starr 'Postcards From Paradise'

LIVEWIRE

MIDLAND/ODESSA/ BIG SPRING/ANDREWS

MARCH

30 **James Hunnicutt and the Hangdog Hearts, Gil Christ** @ Blue Max
31 **Black Gold** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
31 **Merle Haggard** @ Wagner Noel

APRIL

2 **Johnny & Susie** @ West Texas Dance Club
2 **Cody Hodges** @ Lone Star Bar
2 **Justin Langston** @ Bottoms Up
2 **Rosco Bandana** @ Basin Burger House
3 **Bobby Champion** @ Detour
3-4 **CB Trickery** @ The Bar
3-4 **Twisted Texas** @ Your Place
4 **No Dry County** @ Lone Star Bar
4 **Mark McKinney** @ Big Spring Amphitheater
7 **Goodtimers** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
7 **Bob Wayne and the Outlaw Carnies** @ Blue Max
7 **Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons**@ Ector County Coliseum
7 **The Ghost Inside, Gideon, The Aracia Strain, In Hearts Wake** @ Far West Event Center
9 **Rodney Parker & 50 Peso Reward** @ Rockin Rodeo
9 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ West Texas Dance Club
9 **A Life Set Apart, Tedeshii, Moriah Peters, V.Rose** @ CAF
9 **Justin Langston** @ Basin Burger House
10 **Forgotten Road** @ Detour
10 **Granger Smith as Earl Dibbies Jr.** @ Graham Central Station
10 **Aaron Einhouse** @ Lone Star Bar
10 **Incite** @ Blue Max
10 **Andrew Peterson** @ ArtiZen
10 **Bellamy Brothers, Bo Phillips Band** @ :La Hacienda
10 **Gary Nix & West Texas** @ Your Place
10 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ Midland Senior Center
10 **Matthew Marcus McDaniel** @ 10 Sports Bar
10-11 **Remedy** @ The Bar
11 **Back Row Sinners** @ Your Place
11 **Mark McKinney, Chris Brazeal Band** @ Hops & Props
11 **Johnny Rogers** @ Ector Theatre
11 **Vince Gill** @ Horeshoe Pavillion
11 **Callahan Divide** @ Sugar's Bar
11 **Folk Family Revival** @ Basin Burger House
12 **Artillery, Striker, VX36, Potential Threat, Dalhmers Realm** @ Blue Max
12 **Goodtimers** @ Music City Mall
12 **"Mamma Mia!"** @ Wagner Noel
14 **Showdown** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
16 **Crobot, Convoy** @ Blue Max
16 **Staid Cleaves** @ ArtiZen
16 **Johnny & Susie** @ West Texas Dance Club
16 **Dokken, Jack Russell's Great White** @ La Hacienda
16 **Tessy Lou and the Shotgun Stars** @ Basin Burger House
16 **Chris Brazeal Band** @ Rockin Rodeo
17 **Flashback** @ Detour
17 **TJ Broscoff** @ Lone Star Bar
17-18 **Bobby Champion and the New Revolution Band** @ Your Place
17-18 **Electric Gypsies** @ The Bar
18 **Big Daddy Weave, Jason Gray, Citizen Way, Lauren Daigle** @ First Baptist Church of Odessa
18 **3 OG's** @ Basin Burger House
20 **Showdown** @ Andrews Senior Center
21 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ Permain Basin Dance Club
22 **Don Felder, Doobie Brothers** @ Wagner Noel
22 **Doyle, Ghetto Justice** @ Blue Max
23 **Troy Cartwright** @ Basin Burger House
23 **Goodtimers** @ West Texas Dance Club
23 **Josh Grider** @ Rockin Rodeo
24 **Who'z Drivin'** @ Your Place
24 **Road Kings** @ Detour
24-25 **Mister Happy** @ The Bar
25 **Bracken Hale** @ Lone Star Bar
25 **Kendra Leonard & The Funksters** @ Basin Burger House

LUBBOCK

APRIL

19 **Three Days Grace, Hellyeah** @ Amphitheatre at Lone Star Event Center

MAY

19 **Lady Antebellum, Hunter Hayes, Sam Hunt** @ United Supermarket Arena

NEW MEXICO

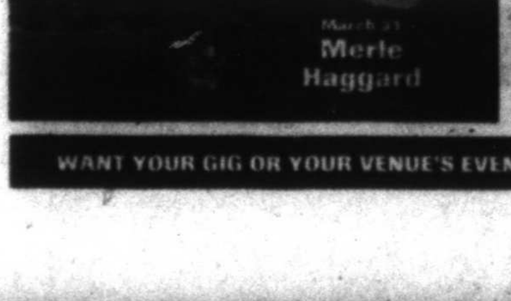
MAY

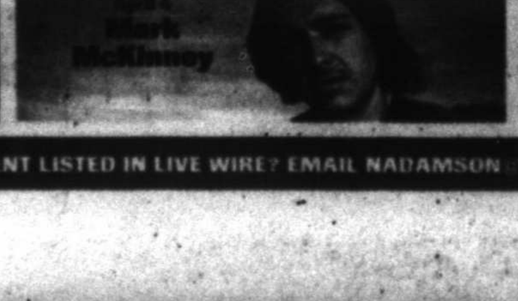
15 **Tom Keifer** @ Inn of the Mountain Gods

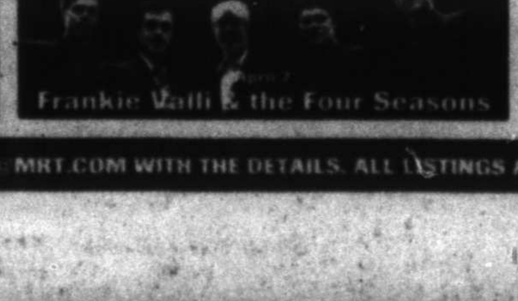
DALLAS-FORT WORTH AREA

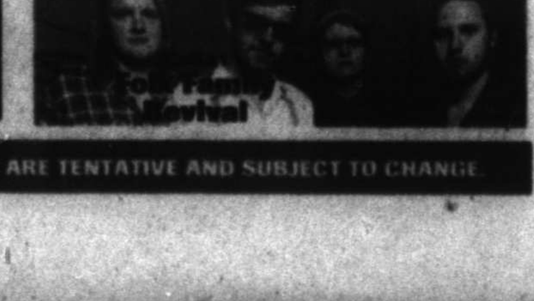
APRIL

1**Ariana Grande, Rixton, Cashmere Cat** @ American Airlines Center
2 **Of Montreal, Yip Deceiver** @ Trees
3 **Nickelback, Pop Evil** @ Gexa Energy Pavilion
4 **Bad Religion, Off!** @ House Of Blues
8 **Testament, Exodus, Shattered Sun** @ House Of Blues
9 **Dick Dale** @ Gas Monkey Bar & Grill









WANT YOUR GIG OR YOUR VENUE'S EVENT LISTED IN LIVE WIRE? EMAIL NADAMSON@MRT.COM WITH THE DETAILS. ALL LISTINGS ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

MISD tabs Rowe as new Executive Director of Athletics

By Oscar LeRoy
oleroy@mrt.com

Randy Rowe has never been one to back down from a challenge.

All one has to look at his high school coaching career and one could tell that he was never hesitant to take on a rebuilding program, like he did at his alma mater Livingston High School.

So when the job of Midland ISD Executive Director of Athletics opened up and he found about the passion that Midlanders had for athletics and the values they stood for, Rowe jumped at the chance to apply for the position.

During a special MISD board meeting, Rowe was unanimously approved as the new Executive Director of Athletics. He replaces Todd Howey, who was hired by San Antonio ISD in December to be its athletic director.

He will be making an annual salary of $130,000.

Rowe, 50, comes from Livingston ISD where he was the Director of Facilities and Construction. He also served as head football coach and athletic director of his alma mater for 10 years, and has 25 years of coaching experience to go with his experience as athletic director.

Rowe

"I have more and more of a conviction as I get older that's it's my job to help groom and grow coaches," Rowe said.

He said after talking to San Angelo ISD Superintendent Dr. Carol Ann Bonds — who hired him as head coach and athletic director at Livingston in 2004 — about the Midland job, he was sold that Midland would be the right place for him and his family.

"She bragged on an on about Midland being a conservative community and I want a place to raise my children to follow the same priorities I have," he said. "My priorities are my God, my family and impacting lives through athletics."

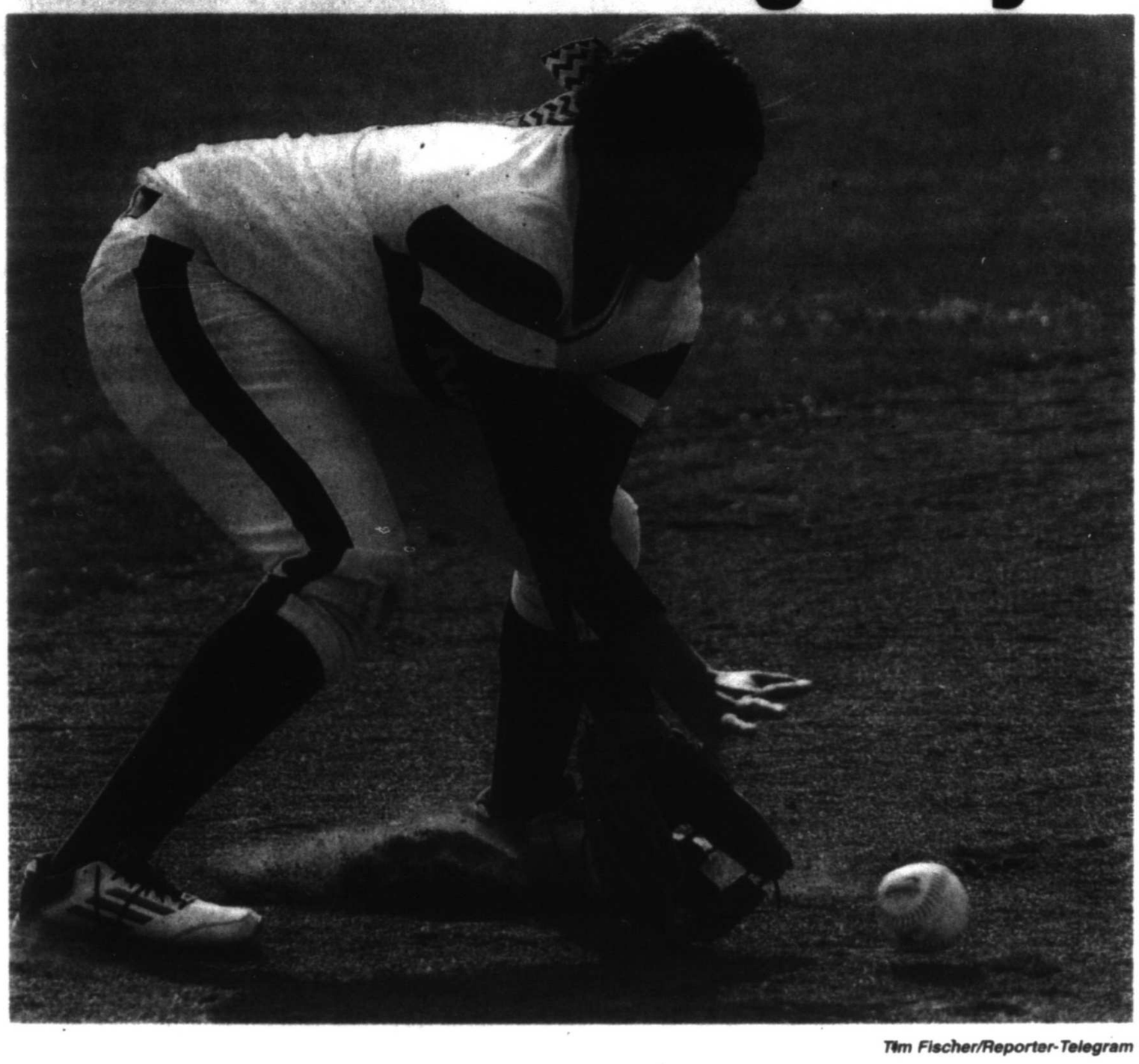
Rowe was one of more than 40 applicants for the job. Those applicants were cut down by a committee made up of administrators, coaches and parents to nine for face-to-face interviews. And then from those nine, three were brought in for personal interviews with MISD Superintendent Dr. Ryder Warren.

"Of the nine we did face-to-face interviews with, they all did a great job, but he rose to the top very quickly from the committee level," Warren said. "They were all phenomenal candidates but his passion, the ideas he already had, the visions he already had,

Please see **ROWE**/4C

HS SOFTBALL NOTEBOOK

No runs coming easy


Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Emily Nunez fields a hit up the middle during a March 10 game at Gene Smith Field. Defense has been a key asset for the Lady Rebels in a big week for Lee.

Defense a key asset in big week for Lady Rebels

By Christopher Hadorn
chadorn@mrt.com

At this point last week, the Lee softball team was in the doldrums of the District 3-6A standings with a 0-2 record.

Needing a big week, the Lady Rebels didn't bend under pressure, arising to the occasion with a 6-1 win over Abilene High on March 24 and a gritty 3-2 victory versus Midland High on Saturday.

Lee (5-7, 2-2 in District 3-6A) has now emerged as a postseason contender, sitting in a third-place tie with MHS.

The Lady Rebels were resilient in both wins over the past week.

Lee couldn't muster a base runner for the first three innings versus Abilene, while the Lady Eagles kept threatening with runners in scoring position. But starting pitcher Darby O'Grady kept making quality pitches and her Lady Rebels defense made terrific plays to get her out of jams.

Eventually, Lee broke the game open with a four-run outburst in the fourth inning.

On Saturday, Midland High pounced on Lee with two runs in the first frame and the Lady Rebels could only manage one base runner versus MHS ace Kendra Evans in the first three innings.

The Lady Bulldogs were relentless, putting runners in scoring position in the following six innings, but O'Grady and Lee didn't budge, keeping all of them stranded.

The Lady Rebs finally strung together three straight hits in the fourth inning en route to three runs and a one-run lead that would stand.

"They're just competitors," Lee head coach Wes Overton said. "You want to coach someone that is not going to give up and that is going to fight until the last out. We as coaches just had to get into their heads, letting them know they have the talent to win games. They just have to fight through the mental part of it."

Overton's Lady Rebs have fashioned themselves as an outfit that plays low-scoring affairs where a premium is placed on pitching and defense.

Lee's 11 runs allowed are the second-fewest total in district behind 3-6A leader and unbeaten Odessa Permian (10 runs).

The Lady Rebs infield of third baseman Cidney Martin, shortstop Emily Nunez, second baseman Brandi Kennedy and first baseman Rosie Marquez has backed O'Grady well.

Marquez is a steady presence at first, a four-year starter who has been occupying the position since her freshman season.

Lee has also received standout play from its outfield. Right fielder Tasha Lindenmuth recorded a key outfield assist, throwing out a runner at home for an inning-ending double play versus MHS.

"The defense is getting better as well,"

Please see **NOTEBOOK**/2C

Kaminsky, Okafor lead AP All-America team

By Jim O'Connell
Associated Press

Frank Kaminsky and Jahlil Okafor are as different as stories can be in college basketball. The two, however, have a lot in common — both are in the Final Four and both were the top selections on The Associated Press' 2014-15 All-America team.

Kaminsky, the 7-foot senior from Wisconsin, was a unanimous choice Monday. Okafor, the 6-11 freshman from Duke, received all but one first-team vote.

Notre Dame senior Jerian Grant, Kentucky junior Willie Cauley-Stein and Ohio State freshman D'Angelo Russell rounded out the first team.

Kaminsky worked his to the top by improving through four seasons in college. Okafor arrived with all the laurels out of high school and immediate talk about leaving for the NBA.

Okafor

Kaminsky

"Not to be overly patriotic, but we're an American story, that you can do that in this kind of a system," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said. "Sometimes where it looks like the privileged, the ones that are identified as being great players and can't-miss-type guys, where there can always come that guy from behind in the race and then cross the tape first.

"Frank is that guy who got a little bit later start as far as people noticing his abilities, but that's just a great accomplishment on his part. ... He took advantage of a chance and has made the most of it."

Kaminsky, projected as a top pick in the NBA draft, led the Badgers to their second straight Final Four berth, averaging 18.2 points and 8.0 rebounds while shooting 55.3 percent from the field, including 39.5 percent from 3-point range.

He is one of those big men who is as comfortable on the perimeter as in the lane and his outgoing personality has made him a media favorite.

"It's cool to be named first team All-American. It's something you dream of as a kid," Kaminsky said. "To finally be able to do so, it's a good thing and it shows how hard I've worked in my career. To be up there with Alando Tucker is a pretty cool thing."

Kaminsky is Wisconsin's second All-America joining Tucker in 2007. He is the second unanimous pick in as many years following Doug McDermott of Creighton.

Okafor is Duke's 16th first-team

Please see **ALL-AMERICAN**/3C

Camp Cal the latest innovation in team building at Kentucky

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

It could've easily been called the John Calipari Fantasy Camp.

The Kentucky coach invited NBA scouts and GMs to a first-of-its-kind workout before the start of the season, so they could get a look at what all these future pros can do. Calipari wanted to get feedback about his own players, as well.

Then, he shut the doors for the season on all the NBA folks and refocused his players on the task at hand.

The dividends have been flowing in ever since. The Wildcats are two wins away from the first perfect season since 1975-76. Three Kentucky players — Karl-Anthony Towns, Willie Cauley-Stein and Trey Lyles — are projected as top-20 draft picks should they go pro. Save Alex Poythress, whose season ended with a knee injury, everyone has thrived despite nobody averaging 26 minutes a game.

"Pretty much every guy that's in our first round right now from Kentucky has seen his stock rise from where the year started," said Jonathan Givony of Draft Express, a website that keeps close tabs on all the NBA prospects.

For all the criticism of Calipari as a "one-and-done" coach who cares little about the college experience, the camp was simply another example of him doing what the rules allow him to do: Working the system to make his own college program great and set up his players — not all of them freshmen, by the way — to make millions.

Since Calipari arrived at Kentucky in 2009, the Wildcats have won one national title, made four trips to the Final Four and had 19 players selected in the NBA draft.

Calipari's unique handling of his current team stands out, even for a man who has long pushed the boundaries of what a "student-athlete" playing big-time basketball really comes to college for.

The 58-year-old coach, in his fourth decade in the business, gave

Please see **CALIPARI**/3C

Mark Duncan/AP

Kentucky head coach John Calipari answers questions during his news conference at the NCAA Tournament Friday in Cleveland.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TODAY
WHAT'S ON TV
COLLEGE BASEBALL

Central Arkansas at Oklahoma, 6 p.m., FSSW+/FCSC

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at Texas, 6 p.m., LHN

Georgia Tech at Georgia, 6 p.m., SEC

Houston at Baylor, 6:30 p.m, FSSW/FCSA

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

McDonald's All-American Scrimmage, 2 p.m., ESPNU

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

NY Yankees vs. Minnesota, Noon, MLB

Oakland vs. LA Angels, 3 p.m., MLB

Kansas City vs. San Diego, 9 p.m., MLB

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NIT Semifinal: Temple vs. Miami (FL), 6 p.m., ESPN

CIT Semifinal: UT Martin at Evansville, 6 p.m., CBSSN

CIT Semifinal: NJIT at Northern Arizona, 8 p.m., CBSSN

NIT Semifinal: Stanford vs. Old Dominion, 8:30 p.m., ESPN

MEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Hawaii at UCLA, 9 p.m., P12/P12 LA

MEN'S SOCCER

Friendly: Estonia vs. Iceland, 10:45 a.m., beIN/beIN2

Friendly: Switzerland vs. USA, 11 a.m., FS1/UniMas/UDN

UEFA 2016 Qualifying: Israel vs. Belgium, 1:30 p.m., FS1/FOXDEP

Friendly: Netherlands vs. Spain, 1:30 p.m., beIN/beIN2

UEFA 2016 Qualifying: Italy vs. England, 1:40 p.m., ESPNDEP

Friendly: Peru vs. Venezuela, 6:45 p.m., beIN

Friendly: Argentina vs. Ecuador, 6:45 p.m., beIN2

Friendly: Mexico vs. Paraguay, 8 p.m., ESPN2/UniMas/UDN

NBA

San Antonio at Miami, 7 p.m., TNT

Golden State at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS

ATP & WTA: Miami Open, 10 a.m., TENNIS

WOMEN'S COLLEGE LACROSSE

Cornell at Stanford, 9 p.m., P12 BAY

WHAT'S ON DECK

TODAY
HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

TAPPS 1-4A Tournament, Abilene

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Colorado City at Midland Christian, 6 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Midland Christian at Lubbock Trinity, 6 p.m.

Midland Classical vs. Trinity, 6 p.m., Christensen Stadium

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

MCS TENNIS TEAM SET FOR TAPPS 1-4A TOURNEY

The Midland Christian tennis team will compete in the TAPPS 1-4A Tournament today at the Rose Park Tennis Center in Abilene.

The following is the lineup for the the Mustangs.

LINEUP

Boys Singles — 1. Ryan Ramos; 2. Joshua Ramos

Girls Singles — 1. Madelyn Hammond; 2. Kristal Wight

Boys Doubles — 1. Tristan Tannich-Ryan Adams; 2. Bryan Brunson-Roy Bateman

Girls Doubles — 1. Mckenzie Stubbs-Ashley Hedrick; 2. Faith McKinney-Bailey Warpula

Mixed Doubles — 1. Preston Clements-Morgan Stubbs; 2. Martin Lilly-Faith Windham

COLLEGE BASEBALL

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL POLL

Rank Team	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Texas A&M	27-2	495	1
2. Texas Christian	21-4	493	4
3. Vanderbilt	22-6	491	3
4. UCLA	21-5	489	5
5. Louisiana St	23-5	487	2
6. Florida	23-6	485	6
7. Louisville	21-7	483	11
8. Florida St	22-7	482	7
9. Arizona St	18-7	479	9
10. Central Florida	22-7	477	8
11. Oklahoma St	19-8	474	12
12. California	20-7	470	14
13. Arizona	22-6	466	20
14. Houston	19-9	463	15
15. Southern California	22-6	461	16
16. Miami, Fla.	20-9	458	18
17. U.C. Santa Barbara	19-7	456	17
18. Oregon St.	21-7	454	19
19. Nebraska	21-7	450	30
20. Virginia	18-8	447	25
21. Georgia	18-11	445	NR
22. South Carolina	19-9	444	13
23. Texas	17-11	441	10
24. Iowa	17-6	439	NR
25. Illinois	19-6-1	438	22
26. Nevada	23-5	435	26
27. San Diego	16-9	433	29
28. Dallas Baptist	22-3	431	NR
29. Missouri	20-9	429	23
30. Coastal Carolina	20-7	427	NR

BASEBALL AMERICA TOP 25

Rank Team	Record	Prv
1. Vanderbilt	22-6	2
2. Texas A&M	27-2	3
3. LSU	23-5	1
4. Florida	23-6	4
5. Texas Christian	21-4	5
6. Central Florida	22-7	6
7. Louisville	21-7	7
8. Southern California	22-6	8
9. UCLA	21-5	9
10. Florida State	22-7	10
11. Arizona State	18-7	11
12. Miami	20-9	13
13. Dallas Baptist	22-3	15
14. Rice	19-11	14
15. UC Santa Barbara	19-7	16
16. Virginia	18-8	20
17. Oklahoma State	19-8	23
18. South Carolina	19-9	12
19. Texas Tech	18-10	18
20. Houston	19-9	17
21. California	20-7	21
22. Nebraska	21-7	NR
23. Coastal Carolina	20-7	NR
24. Illinois	19-6	25
25. San Diego	16-9	NR

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Reassigned C J.P. Arencibia to minor league camp.

BOSTON RED SOX — Placed C Christian Vazquez on the 60-day DL.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Reassigned RHP Chris Beck to minor league camp.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Optioned OF Tyler Holt to Columbus (IL). Released LHP Scott Downs from a minor league contract.

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned C Bryan Holaday and OF Tyler Collins to Toledo (IL). Assigned C Manny Pina, OFs Xavier Avery and Jason Krizan and INFs Jordan Lennerton, Jefry Marte and Aaron Westlake to minor league camp.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Released 2B Ryan Roberts.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Assigned RHP Stephen Pryor outright to Rochester (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Blaine Boyer from Rochester.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Named Tino Martinez minor league instructor.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Released RHP Kevin Correia. Named Christopher Ellis director of safety and security.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned LHP Matt Reynolds and RHPs Allen Webster and A.J. Schugel to Reno (PCL). Reassigned OF Nick Buss, INF Walter Ibarra and LHP Dan Runzler to minor league camp.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Optioned RHP Arodys Vizcaino to Gwinnett (IL). Reassigned RHP Michael Kohn to minor league camp.

CHICAGO CUBS — Selected the contract of LHP Phil Coke from Iowa (PCL). Optioned INF Javier Baez to Iowa. Assigned INFs Kris Bryant and Addison Russell to their minor league camp.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RHP Pedro Villarreal to Louisville (IL). Reassigned RHP Nate Adcock, INFs Ivan De Jesus Jr. and Irving Falu and C Kyle Skipworth to minor league camp. Released LHP Paul Maholm.

MIAMI MARLINS — Optioned RHP Preston Claiborne to New Orleans (PCL). Granted OF Reed Johnson his unconditional release.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Optioned RHP Brandon Kintzler to Colorado Springs (PCL). Released RHP Chris Perez.

NEW YORK METS — Traded OF Matt den Dekker to Washington for LHP Jerry Blevins.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Selected the contract of RHP Carlos Villanueva from Memphis (PCL). Placed LHP Jaime Garcia on the 15-day DL, retroactive to March 27.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Traded LHP Alex Torres to the N.Y. Mets for RHP Cory Mazzoni and a player to be named.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Optioned OFs Gary Brown and Juan Perez, C Andrew Susac, RHP Hunter Strickland and 1B Adam Duvall to Sacramento (PCL).

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Traded C Sandy Leon to Boston for cash. Agreed to terms with OF Reed Johnson on a minor league contract.

American Association

AMARILLO THUNDERHEADS — Released RHP Jake Feckley.

LAREDO LEMURS — Signed RHP Scott Garner.

WICHITA WINGNUTS — Traded INF Abel Nieves to Bridgeport for future considerations.

Frontier League

EVANSVILLE OTTERS: Signed OF Chris Sweeney to a contract extension. Signed LHP Jacob Raffaele.

JOLIET SLAMMERS: Signed RHP Navery Moore.

TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS: Signed RHP Chuck Ghysels to a contract extension. Signed INF Alex Tomasovich.

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS: Signed LHP Kevin Brandt and INF Jeury Valdez.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Recalled F-C Jarnell Stokes and G Russ Smith from Iowa (NBADL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed RB/KR Jordan Todman to a one-year contract.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Re-signed DL C.J. Wilson.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Signed RB Michael Hill.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Assigned C William Karlsson to Springfield (AHL).

MINNESOTA WILD — Agreed to terms with G Brody Hoffman and D Zach Palmquist on entry level contracts.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Named Adam Davis chief revenue officer. Reassigned LW Ben Johnson to Albany (AHL) from Orlando (ECHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Reassigned D Chris Summers to Hartford (AHL).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Assigned D Maxim Lamarche from Lehigh Valley (AHL) to Reading (ECHL).

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled D Luke Witkowski and F Jonathan Marchessault from Syracuse (AHL). Reassigned F Jonathan Marchessault to Syracuse.

ECHL

READING ROYALS — Released F Zac Frischmon.

LACROSSE
National Lacrosse League

MINNESOTA SWARM — Traded T Andrew Suitor to New England for T Joel White and a 2017 second-round draft pick.

SOCCER
North American Soccer League

NEW YORK COSMOS — Signed F Hap Wright.

TORONTO FC — Signed D Clement Simonin.

National Women's Soccer League

SEATTLE REIGN — Traded Fs Sydney Leroux and Amanda Frisbie to Western New York for the rights to F Abby Wambach, MF Amber Brooks and a 2016 first-round draft pick.

COLLEGE

ALABAMA — Dismissed DL Jonathan Taylor from the football team for a domestic violence arrest.

BUTLER — Signed men's basketball coach Chris Holtmann through the 2020-21 season.

CONCORDIA-AUSTIN — Named Daniel Whitehead men's and women's tennis coach.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE — Named Steve Forbes men's basketball coach.

FORDHAM — Named Jeff Neubauer men's basketball coach.

GEORGE MASON — Named Dave Paulsen men's basketball coach.

GEORGIA STATE — Announced G R.J. Hunter will enter the NBA draft.

NEBRASKA — Announced basketball F Walter Pitchford is giving up his final season of eligibility, but will remain at Nebraska to finish his undergraduate degree.

NORTH CAROLINA — Announced the resignation of graduate assistant football coach Gerald McRath.

NORTHWESTERN — Announced men's freshman basketball G Johnnie Vassar will transfer.

OKLAHOMA — Suspended RB Keith Ford indefinitely from the football team for academic and team rules violations.

PURDUE — Announced men's sophomore basketball G Bryson Scott will transfer.

THE CITADEL — Named Duggar Baucom men's basketball coach.

UTAH STATE — Named Tim Duryea men's basketball coach.

XAVIER — Announced men's sophomore basketball G Brandon Randolph will transfer.

PRO GOLF LEADERS

PGA Tour FedExCup Leaders
Through March 22

Rank Player	Points	YTD Money
1. Jimmy Walker	1,650	$3,469,349
2. Jordan Spieth	1,164	$2,577,396
3. Bubba Watson	1,088	$2,680,950
4. Patrick Reed	1,076	$2,168,233
5. Dustin Johnson	1,005	$2,656,117
6. Robert Streb	903	$1,791,267
7. Jason Day	900	$1,979,528
8. Brandt Snedeker	891	$1,986,007
9. Charley Hoffman	888	$1,823,107
10. Ryan Moore	877	$1,961,126
11. Sangmoon Bae	862	$1,863,411
12. Ben Martin	829	$1,682,452
13. Hideki Matsuyama	819	$1,756,046
14. Brooks Koepka	790	$1,693,981
15. James Hahn	736	$1,490,639
16. J.B. Holmes	733	$1,754,520
17. Bill Haas	708	$1,425,386
18. Shawn Stefani	693	$1,213,884
19. Harris English	681	$1,189,525
20. Daniel Berger	660	$1,306,530
21. Matt Every	639	$1,330,207
22. Matt Kuchar	628	$1,082,134
23. Kevin Na	617	$1,262,022
24. Scott Piercy	611	$1,066,069
25. Henrik Stenson	608	$1,402,100
26. Brendon de Jonge	589	$928,759
27. Nick Watney	584	$1,240,359
28. Brendan Steele	583	$987,888
29. Ryan Palmer	575	$1,137,858
30. Russell Knox	574	$1,087,744
Also		
108. Chad Campbell	237	$243,591

HS softball honors

PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Courtney Monk, So., Midland Christian — Monk pestered opposing pitchers, going 13-for-16 (.813) with three home runs, 11 RBI and two doubles, propelling the Lady Mustangs to a 5-0 record.

HONOR ROLL
Darby O'Grady, Jr., Lee — O'Grady was victorious in both Lady Rebels' district games, allowing only two earned runs and 10 hits in 14 innings.

Kassie Maddox, Sr., Greenwood — Maddox allowed only two earned runs and 14 hits over 19 innings, while leading the Rangerettes to their first two victories in District 4-4A. Maddox had four RBI in Greenwood's 11-1 run-rule win over Pecos on Friday.

Brittany Baggett, Sr., Midland High — Baggett doubled in each of the Lady Bulldogs' district games, and played impressive defense in center field.

Abby Escajeda, Jr., Midland Christian — The Lady Mustangs infielder went 9-for-18 with two home runs, two doubles and eight RBI in five games.

Cidney Martin, Sr., Lee — The Lady Rebs third baseman accounted for all three of her team's runs with two RBI and a run scored during their 3-2 win over MHS on Saturday. Martin has driven in six of Lee's 12 runs during district play.

Lauren Grizzard, Sr., Midland Christian — Grizzard posted a 5-0 record on the circle and added a home run at the plate.

Compiled by Christopher Hadorn

NOTEBOOK

From 1C

Overton said. "We needed time on the field. We lost a lot of innings that we couldn't play due to 13 weather cancellations. You can't duplicate that game-type pressure.

"We believe in ourselves. Hopefully, we've turned the corner and we are headed in the right direction, but we also know that we have a long way to go."

Lee visits San Angelo Central (1-3) at 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

BAGGETT SHINES FOR MIDLAND HIGH

Brittany Baggett has dazzled with her play in center field for Midland High (15-5, 2-2 in District 3-6A).

In Saturday's game versus Lee, Baggett showed impressive range. The senior glided effortlessly to the ball, turning flies and liners into easy outs.

District 3-6A softball

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa Permian	4	0	13	3
Odessa High	3	1	12	4
Lee	2	2	5	7
Midland High	2	2	15	5
San Angelo Central	1	3	7	12
Abilene High	0	4	7	7

Saturday's Scores
Lee 3, Midland High 2
Odessa High 13, Abilene 1 (6 innings)
Odessa Permian 6, San Angelo Central 3

Thursday's games
Lee at San Angelo Central, 4:30 p.m.
Abilene High at Midland High, 4:30 p.m.
Odessa Permian at Odessa High, 7 p.m.

Baggett also made a diving catch in the Lady Bulldogs' 9-5 loss to Odessa Permian on March 24.

"She is pretty quick," MHS head coach Shawnda Vines said. "She covers the gaps pretty well."

Baggett has served as a spark plug in the leadoff spot in Midland High's batting order.

Baggett has doubled for MHS in three consecutive games. Baggett scored three runs in Midland High's, 14-2, run-rule win over San Angelo Central on March 19.

"She leads with her play," Vines said. "She is someone that extremely competitive. She plays the game very, very hard."

FIRST-PLACE SHOWDOWN

District 3-6A front runner Odessa Permian (4-0) and second-place Odessa High (3-1) square off for first place at 7 p.m. Thursday. Overton said the game is much like the Lee-MHS rivalry where the records don't matter, either team can win.

Follow Christopher on Twitter: @chris_MRTsports

MCA sweeps TAPPS 1-3A district titles

From staff reports

ABILENE — In tennis, Midland Classical Academy proved Monday it's the class of TAPPS 1-3A.

The MCA boys and girls both claimed district titles at the TAPPS 1-3A District Tennis Tournament at Rose Park.

The MCA girls cruised to the championship with 25 points, easily outdistancing runner-up Amarillo San Jacinto (16 points).

MCA edged crosstown rival Trinity, 23-21, in the boys team standings to take its first district title since 2012.

Trailing by one point, MCA's Will Wineinger defeated Trinity's Pearce Wray, 6-0, 6-3, in the boys third-place match to put the Knights over the top.

Trinity's Ethan Samuels captured the boys singles title by defeating MCA's Sterling Armstrong, 6-0, 6-1, in the final.

Amarillo San Jacinto's Autumn Crossnoe, a former state champion, bested Trinity's Rhea Cholina, 6-0, 6-0, in the girls singles championship.

MCA boasted both doubles team champions.

In the boys doubles final, MCA's Max Sivalls and Marshall McCray beat a team from San Jacinto, 6-2, 6-2.

MCA's Beth Ann Holmes and Tracy Fu paired up to oust teammates Alissa Beattie and Elleri Haest, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, in the girls doubles title match.

TAPPS 1-3A will send Samuels, Armstrong, Wineinger and Ray in boys singles to the state tournament in Waco on April 15-16.

Crossnoe, Cholina, MCA's Kelsie Kennedy and MCA's Paige McAnnich are the district's state qualifiers in girls singles. Kennedy and McAnnich finished third and fourth.

Trinity's boys doubles pairs Anthony Fago and Evan Smith, and Justin Hofman and Dylan Hofman will join Sivalls and McCray in Waco. Fago and Smith defeated teammates Hofman and Hofman in the third-place match.

In girls doubles MCA's teams of Holmes and Fu and Beattie and Heast will be joined at the state tournament by Trinity's team of Grace Davis and Julie Nguyen, the fourth-place finishers.

MCA has 10 state qualifiers, while Trinity ranks just behind its district foe with nine.

HSTRACKROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ANDREWS' RIDGE SPEEDS TO RECORD AT TEXAS RELAYS

AUSTIN — Andrews senior Oceana Ridge stood out at the 88th Texas Relays with a third-place finish in the Division I 100 hurdles with a time of 14.23 seconds on Saturday.

Ridge's time bested the previous Division I meet record of 14.33, set by Olney's Fallon Carter in 2001. However, Ridge's time was wind-assisted by a 5.6 meter/second tailwind.

On the boys side, the Andrews 800 relay team of John Ives, Braden Grimsley, Le'Vaun Lewis and Robert Ridge finished second with a time of 1:29.51.

Midland Christian's top performance came from the boys 400 relay team of Brandon Nguyen, Garrett Eddison, Cody Wolfe and Zyan Burditt, who teamed up to place 10th (43.91).

Texas Relays
At Mike A. Myers Stadium, Austin
Friday and Saturday results
BOYS
Division I

400 relay: 10. Midland Christian (B. Nguyen, G. Eddison, C. Wolfe, Z. Burditt) 43.91

800 relay: 2. Andrews (John Ives, Braden Grimsley, Le'Vaun Lewis, Robert Ridge) 1:29.51; 12. Midland Christian (B. Nguyen, G. Eddison, C. Wolfe, Z. Burditt) 1:31.72

1,600 relay: 11. Andrews (Le'Vaun Lewis, Keegan Thompson, Braden Grimsley, John Ives) 3:29.61

GIRLS
Division I

100 hurdles: 3. Oceana Ridge, Andrews, 14.33

400 relay: 11. Midland Christian (S. Fender, K. Pullen, R. Hill, K. McGraw) 50.75

BIG SPRING BOYS WIN SAN ANGELO RELAYS

SAN ANGELO — The Big Spring boys track and field team captured first in the Division II portion of the San Angelo Relays with 135 points over the weekend.

Big Spring was aided by Ian Gonzales' first-place showing in the 400 meters with a time of 50.06 seconds and Jeremy Cervantes' win in the 800 with a time of 2:03.26.

The Big Spring girls placed second with 97.4 points in the Division IV team standings. Autumn Mintor won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.10 for Big Spring, while teammate Carly Roberts registered a first-place throw in the discus of 97 feet, 7 inches.

San Angelo Relays
Saturday results
BOYS
Division II

Team totals: 1. Big Spring 135; 2. Perryton 88; 3. Sonora 82; 4. Grape Creek 73; 5. Bangs 64; 6. Colorado City 51; 7. Brady 38; 8. Wall 26; 9. San Angelo Central 17; 10. Ozona 16; 11. Roscoe 14; 12. Verbest 8; 13. Bovina 5; 14. San Angelo Lake View 2; 15. Sterling City 1

Running events

100: 2. Jonathan Gonzalez, Big Spring, 11.18

400: 1. Ian Gonzales, Big Spring, 50.06; 2. Ryan Lopez, Big Spring, 50.07.

800: 1. Jeremy Cervantes, Big Spring, 2:03.26; 3. Eric Garza, Big Spring, 2:08.36

1,600: 2. Diego Rodriguez, Big Spring, 4:49.21

1,600 relay: 1. Big Spring, 3:25.88

Field events

Triple jump: 3. Jeremiah Rushin, Big Spring, 40-6.50

High jump: 3. Chase Williams, Big Spring, 5-8

Long jump: 3. Sebastian Loos, Big Spring, 20-8.50

GIRLS
Division IV

Team totals: 1. Wall 109; 2. Big Spring 97.4; 3. Bangs 73.2; 4. Ballinger 62.2; 5. Brady 59; T-6. Sonora 50; T-6. Perryton 50; 8. Colorado City 36; 9. Grape Creek 30; 10. Ozona 28; 11. Sterling City 10.2; 12. San Angelo Central 10; 13. San Angelo Lake View 3; 14. Roscoe 2

100: 1. Autumn Mintor, Big Spring, 12.10

400: 3. Kaitlyn Mathews, Big Spring, 1:01.44

800: 3. Samantha Solis, Big Spring, 2:33.38

100 hurdles: 2. Rebekah Pearson, Big Spring, 18.23

800 relay: 1. Big Spring, 1:47.31

1,600 relay: 1. Big Spring, 4:09.92

Field events

Discus: 1. Carly Roberts, Big Spring, 97-07; 3. Emily Crawford, Big Spring, 90-06

WEEKENDSPORTSROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ENERGY CITY HALF MARATHON 5K/10K RESULTS

Here are the top finishers from the Energy City Half Marathon 5K/10K held in Midland this weekend:

Half Marathon
Men

1. Bobby Zeller, age 22, 01:13:51.24
2. Keino Josephat, 32, 01:16:29.94
3. Jeff Dierdorf, 33, 01:23:19.75
4. Kaleb Neptune, 22, 01:25:34.40
5. Mark Traeger, 34, 01:27:43.20

Women

21. Cassy Garcia, 34, 1:37:56.97
23. Laura Balla, 32, 01:39:10.82
26. Taylor Wilson, 28, 01:41:03.14
28. Kelsey Grisham, 25, 01:41:17.31
31. JoBeth Huber-Willis, 40, 01:46:30.00

10K Leaderboard
Men

1. Jaron Boswell, 22, 40:39.72
2. Jacob Benavides, 19, 43:53.73
3. Manuel Pena, 35, 47:06.55
4. Ricky Celaya, 36, 47:18.81
5. Shaun Schottmiller, 40, 47:54.27

Women

8. Carrie Hawkins, 26, 49:47.19
9. Mary Thompson, 35, 50:50.51
11. Becca Schotmiller, 36, 51:58.24
17. Sara Torres, 17, 52:47.22
18. Lena Krendelchtchikova, 25, 53:44.61

5K Leaderboard
Men

1. Brandon Summers, 21, 16:46.03
2. Joe Thomason, 38, 17:05.90
3. Jonathan Mendoza, 20, 18:28.03
4. Joseph Flotte, 19, 18:50.12
5. Hayden Awtry, 13, 20:21.26

Women

7. Wheatley Gates, 25, 22:28.65
12. Melanie Robertson, 33, 23:59.61
14. Ashlee Dunn, 39, 24:26.60
15. Marissa Haskell, 42, 24:52.61
18. Michelle Awbrey, 36, 25:14.93

UTPB TENNIS HAS SUCCESS VS. HSU

The UTPB men's and women's tennis teams got wins over Hardin-Simmons University last weekend at the Bush Tennis Center.

The men defeated HSU, 6-3, and the women posted an 8-1 victory.

MEN
UTPB 6, HARDIN-SIMMONS 3

Singles — 1. Nathan Chavez (HSU) def. Justin Pena (UTPB) 4-6, 6-2, 1-0 (10-8); 2. Thomas Rice (UTPB) def. Ben Gutierrez (HSU) 7-6 (7-3), 6-1; 3. Devon Douglis (UTPBM) def. Frankie Sanchez (HSU) 6-4, 6-2; 4. Lao Luna (UTPB) def. BJ Farmakis (HSU) 6-0, 6-1; 5. Caio Aguiar (UTPB) def. Jordan Wilson (HSU) 6-0, 6-2; 6. Andrew Eurek (HSU) def. Mateus Munhoz (UTPB) 6-3, 6-4

Doubles — 1. Nathan Chavez/Andrew Eurek (HSU) def. Justin Pena/Adam Cheney (UTPB) 9-7; 2. Caio Aguiar/Thomas Rice (UTPB) def. Jordan Wilson/Frankie Sanchez (HSU) 8-6; 3. Josh Jones/Devon Douglis (UTPB) def. Chandler Livingston/BJ Farmakis (HSU) 9-8 (11-9)

WOMEN
UTPB 8, HARDIN-SIMMONS 1

Singles — 1. Lisa Roslanova (UTPB) def. Shayne Cook (HSU) 6-3, 1-6, 1-0 (10-3); 2. Shelby Greene (UTPB) def. Michaela Ellison (HSU) 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; 3. Andrea Villalobos (UTPB) def. Jenna Smith (HSU) 6-3, 6-0; 4. Hannah Smith (HSU) def. Olivia Baltazar (UTPB) 7-6, 1-6, 1-0 (10-6); 5. Krissy Chavez (UTPB) def. Jasmine Briant (HSU) 6-2, 6-1; 6. Sydney Holdampf (UTPB) def. Laura Weinheimer (HSU) 6-2, 6-1

Doubles — 1. Lisa Roslanova/Olivia Baltazar (UTPB) def. Shayne Cook/Jasmine Briant (HSU) 9-8 (7-4); 2. Shelby Greene/Sydney Holdampf (UTPB) def. Hannah Smith/Jenna Smith (HSU) 8-6; 3. Andrea Villalobos/Krissy Chavez (UTPB) def. Laura Weinheimer/Michaela Ellison (HSU) 9-7

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Sue Ogrocki/AP

Baylor forward Nina Davis, center, reacts with guard Alexis Prince, left, and forward Sune Agbuke during the second half of a NCAA Tournament regional final against Notre Dame Sunday in Oklahoma City.

Hurting Baylor women expect to be bigger, better next season

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

The immediate pain made it difficult for Nina Davis to think about Baylor's bright future.

For the second year in a row, the Lady Bears' season ended with a loss to Notre Dame in a regional final.

"We fell short, and we thought we had a great opportunity to get to the Final Four," said Davis, the sophomore who was the Big 12 player of the year. "But we had a great season."

And it could be even better next season — and the season after that, when the women's Final Four is in Dallas, only about 100 miles from their Waco campus.

Baylor's lone senior this season was 6-foot-4 center and law school student Sune Agbuke, who played a career-high 35 minutes Sunday in her final game. The Lady Bears (33-4) will add Duke transfer Alexis Jones to the mix after the guard sat out this season. They also have an incoming signing class with two McDonald's All-Americans who are both at least 6-4, along with another 6-4 post and two standout guards.

"I'm excited for them because next year they'll make it better, and that's just Baylor for you, and that's just the kind of program that coach (Kim) Mulkey has built here, that this year we made it to an Elite Eight and we're disappointed because we couldn't make it further," Agbuke said. "But next year, man, they're going to be so great."

Baylor will return its top six scorers, led by Davis' 21.1 points per game, and the national assists leader in Niya Johnson, whose 322 assists this season were a Big 12 record.

"It's just motivation and just will make us work harder in the offseason," said Johnson, who will be a senior next season.

Baylor has won 437 games and two national titles in Mulkey's 15 seasons. They Lady Bears have won at least 30 games in each of the last five seasons.

In their first season without either Brittney Griner or Odyssey Sims, both All-America picks for multiple seasons, the Lady Bears still won the Big 12 regular-season and conference titles for the fifth season in a row.

"It was a great journey, and I wouldn't trade anything in the world for this team or anybody. This is going to give us a lot of confidence," Davis said. "We have a great class coming in and we pretty much bring everybody back except for Sune, so this is going to give us a lot of confidence once we get over this right here, and we're going to be all right."

Texas freshman Myles Turner says he'll leave for NBA draft

Associated Press

Turner

AUSTIN — Texas freshman Myles Turner says he's leaving the Longhorns after one season to enter the NBA draft.

Turner announced the move Monday in a video posted on YouTube. The 6-foot-11 forward has long been projected as a potential lottery pick in the draft. The announcement came two days after Texas coach Rick Barnes was fired after 17 seasons.

Turner was one of the nation's most prized recruits out of high school. He averaged 10.1 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.6 blocks as the Longhorns went 24-10 and lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

But he started only seven games and averaged 22 minutes as Barnes often left him on the bench for long stretches.

Texas did not immediately comment.

Calipari

From 1C

NBA personnel full access to a camp featuring his 10 pro hopefuls in October.

It was essentially a Pro Day, the way they do it in college football — except it came before the season, not after. They played 5-on-5 with officials and ran through drills that showed their ability to work on pick-and-roll, post moves, isolations and other skills. Calipari personally called teams, then followed up with an invitation letter.

"When you leave our practice, you should walk away with every player's true measurements (height, reach, vertical, etc.), agility times, shooting numbers, skill sets and more. Our hope is for you to leave with a solid foundation to evaluate our players and get a head start on the upcoming season," he wrote.

Most teams sent three people from their personnel departments. Can't attend the workouts? No problem. Calipari had them televised on one of the ESPN networks — another shrewd move by a coach whose subtle message to high school players was, come to Kentucky, and people can watch your practices on TV.

"It showed us that he really wants what's best for us, he wants us to succeed and go live our dreams," freshman guard Tyler Ulis said.

Calipari repeats that mantra often.

Of the much-debated, much-criticized rules that allow players to play one year of college and leave, Calipari insists he's only going by the rules as written by the NBA. The coach is fond of saying the system sets up his players — many of them from poor, rough backgrounds — to be millionaires. Who is he to stand in the way?

Yet for all the hand-wringing over Calipari's supposed "one-and-done" way of doing business, six of the 10 players who averaged the most minutes on this year's Final Four team are not freshmen.

"They trust us enough with their careers to come back," Calipari said.

When they do, they're well-schooled on the idea that by playing well, sharing the minutes and the shots at Kentucky, the NBA will take care of itself.

"They have respect for each other and kind of knew that the minutes would kind of even out, as far as points per game and who the superstars were," said Joe B. Hall, the Kentucky coach from 1972 through 1985 and a frequent guest at Calipari's practices.

Seven different players have led the team in scoring since Christmas. Nobody averages more than 11 points a game. They pride themselves in defense — allowing 35.2 percent shooting from the floor, a mark no team has reached since Stanford in 1999-2000.

Calipari's deft handling of the NBA and all its issues comes in contrast to his one stint as a head coach in the league, when he was accused — among other things — of over-coaching his players and sometimes openly ridiculing them.

He posted a 72-112 record in two-plus seasons with the Nets.

In at least one way, his return to the NCAA at Memphis in 2000 ran a similar course as his stay at UMass that ran from 1988-96. Sanctions forced his teams to vacate Final Four appearances in both cases, though the coach was never directly implicated in either situation.

But with the NCAA investigation into Memphis still ongoing, Calipari knocked it out of the park during his 2009 interview with Kentucky president Lee Todd, who said the coach showed a genuine interest "in his players and what he's done as far as graduation rates."

After being hired at Kentucky, Calipari boasted that 19 of the last 22 players who reached their senior year at Memphis graduated.

Great stat, even though his best player at Memphis, Derrick Rose, was a one-and-doner whose SAT scores were the focus of the ensuing NCAA investigation.

That is part of Cal's past now, and the coach makes no apologies for recruiting great basketball players who don't put graduating college at the top of their list of goals.

"Cal told me when I got here, don't think of myself as a four-year player (or) I shouldn't be here," Ulis said.

For as long as they are around, Calipari tells them if they do it his way, the wins and the NBA will take care of themselves.

"You're going to be evaluated either way, it doesn't matter how many minutes you play," freshman Trey Lyles said. "They look a lot at winning, and that's what we're doing."

NCAA TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Women

ALBANY REGIONAL
UCONN 91
DAYTON 70

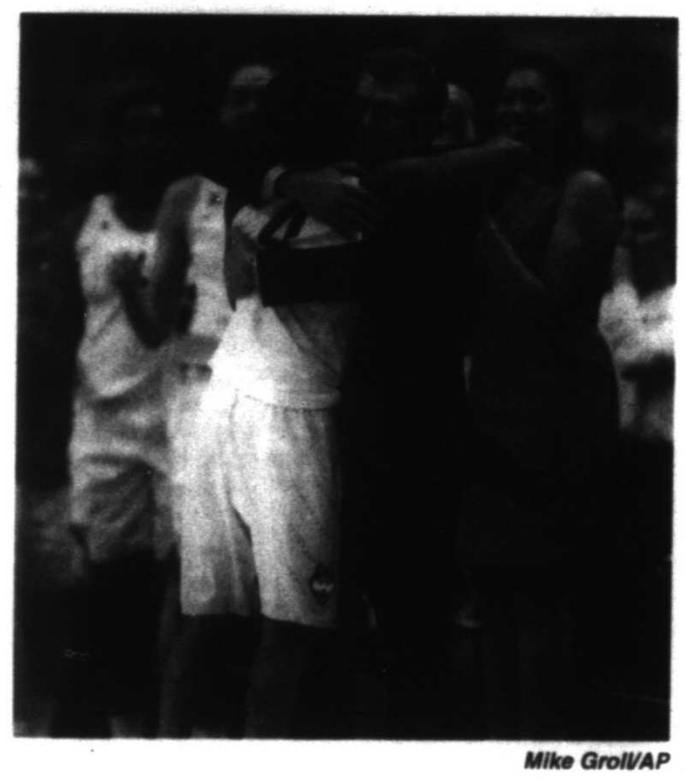
ALBANY, N.Y. — Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis scored 27 points to help UConn beat Dayton 91-70 on Monday night to advance to the Final Four for an eighth straight season.

Unlike the first three games of the tournament when UConn won by an average of nearly 48 points, the Huskies got all they could handle from the seventh-seeded Flyers, who weren't intimidated by the top seed, for the game's first 20 minutes.

Trailing at the half for the first time in two seasons, UConn scored the first nine points of the second half during a 15-3 run to take a 58-47 lead with 13:56 left.

A little more than a minute later, Mosqueda-Lewis hit her fifth 3-pointer of the game giving her 393 in her career to break the NCAA record for 3s. That made it 62-49.

Dayton couldn't get within seven the rest of the way.



Mike Groll/AP

Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma, right, guard Moriah Jefferson at the end of their 91-70 win over Dayton in a regional final game in the NCAA Tournament on Monday in Albany, N.Y.

SPOKANE REGIONAL
MARYLAND 58
TENNESSEE 48

SPOKANE, Wash. — Lexie Brown scored 13 of her 15 points in the second half, Brionna Jones added 14 points and nine rebounds and top-seeded Maryland advanced to its second straight Final Four with a 58-48 win over Tennessee on Monday in the Spokane Regional final.

Brown hit three 3-pointers in the second half as the Terrapins (34-2) overcame their lowest-scoring first half of the season to knock out Tennessee from the NCAAs for the second straight year.

It's the fifth Final Four appearance for the Terrapins and third under coach Brenda Frese.

Shatori Walker-Kimbrough added 12 points for the Terrapins, who held Tennessee to one field goal over the final 5 minutes. Maryland has won 28 straight games.

Ariel Massengale led Tennessee (30-6) with 16 points, but the Lady Vols missed their chance at reaching the Final Four for the first time since 2008.

All-American

From 1C

All-America and is the Blue Devils' second freshman in as many years, with Jabari Parker being chosen last season.

Okafor, who received 64 first-team votes, averaged 17.7 points and 9.0 rebounds while shooting 66.9 percent, second in the nation.

"His game has grown continuously and he's got a lot more growth ahead of him," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "The main thing for Jah is that he's gotten better as the season's gone along."

At Notre Dame, Grant's career was in jeopardy last season when he was suspended for the second semester for what he called an academic mistake. The son of former NBA player Harvey Grant star returned for his senior season and averaged 16.8 points and 6.6 assists while playing 36.6 minutes per game.

"I can't think of a better comeback story in college basketball the last couple years than Jerian," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "When I told him you need to come back because we have unfinished business, I didn't know it would be this good and I am thrilled that it is this good because I was nervous it wouldn't be this good. He came back for all the right reasons."

Grant, who received 53 first-team votes and is Notre Dame's first All-America since Troy Murphy repeated in 2001, said receiving an honor like this makes his decision to return that much sweeter.

"It's great, especially with where I was last year," he said. "The work I've put in, the guys having so much confidence in me to welcome me back like that."

Cauley-Stein and his teammates are chasing history with an undefeated season just two wins away. The 7-footer is the first first-team All-America to average less than 10 points per game. He averaged 9.3 points while grabbing 6.4 rebounds and shooting 58.8 percent. He anchors Kentucky's stifling defense.

"Coming in I felt like I was really overlooked and didn't know if I really belonged but just worked and worked and worked and eventually became a player that everybody looks at like 'Dude, you're a freak athlete, you're a beast,'" said Cauley-Stein, who received 45 first-team votes. "You can do so many things that I never imagined even happening and now it's coming together."

He is the 18th All-American from Kentucky and first since Anthony Davis in 2012.

Russell is another freshman who isn't expected to be back for a second season. He averaged 19.3 points, 5.6 rebounds and 5.1 assists and received 51 first-team votes. Russell is 15th All-American from Ohio State and the first since Jared Sullinger repeated in 2012.

"The level that he sustained was the most impressive thing," Buckeyes coach Thad Matta said. "The other thing that I loved was that the mistakes early, he learned from. He got better as the season went on. He became a more complete player. We knew he was going to be really good but just seeing his dedication to becoming a great player was very, very impressive."

Utah senior Delon Wright led the second team and was joined by Kentucky freshman Karl-Anthony Towns, Northern Iowa senior Sean Tuttle, Arkansas sophomore Bobby Portis and Virginia junior Malcolm Brogdon.

The third team was Gonzaga teammates Kyle Wiltjer and Kevin Pangos, Oklahoma junior Buddy Hield, Syracuse senior Rakeem Christmas and Iowa State junior Georges Niang.

The voting, by the same 65-member media panel that selects the weekly Top 25, was done before the NCAA Tournament.

NCAA TOURNAMENTS

Men

NCAA Tournament
EAST REGIONAL
At The Carrier Dome
Syracuse, N.Y.
Regional Semifinals
Friday
Louisville 75, N.C. State 65
Michigan State 62, Oklahoma 58
Regional Championship
Today
Michigan State 76, Louisville 70, OT

SOUTH REGIONAL
At NRG Stadium
Houston
Regional Semifinals
Friday
Gonzaga 74, UCLA 62
Duke 62, Utah 57
Regional Championship
Today
Duke 66, Gonzaga 52

MIDWEST REGIONAL
At Quicken Loans Arena
Cleveland
Regional Semifinals
Thursday, March 26
Notre Dame 81, Wichita State 70
Kentucky 78, West Virginia 39
Regional Championship
Saturday
Kentucky 68, Notre Dame 66

WEST REGIONAL
At The Staples Center
Los Angeles
Regional Semifinals
Thursday, March 26
Wisconsin 79, North Carolina 72
Arizona 68, Xavier 60
Regional Championship
Today
Wisconsin 85, Arizona 78
FINAL FOUR
At Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis
National Semifinals
Saturday
Michigan State (27-11) vs. Duke (33-4), 5:09 p.m.
Kentucky (38-0) vs. Wisconsin (35-3), 7:49 p.m.
National Championship
Monday, April 6
Semifinal winners

Women

NCAA Division I Tournament
ALBANY REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
At Albany, N.Y.
Saturday
UConn 105, Texas 54
Dayton 82, Louisville 66
Regional Championship
Monday
UConn 91, Dayton 70

SPOKANE REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
At Spokane, Wash.
Saturday
Maryland 65, Duke 55
Tennessee 73, Gonzaga 69, OT
Regional Championship
Monday
Maryland 58, Tennessee 48

OKLAHOMA CITY REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
At Oklahoma City
Friday
Baylor 81, Iowa 66
Notre Dame 81, Stanford 60
Regional Championship
Sunday
Notre Dame 77, Baylor 68

GREENSBORO REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
At Greensboro, N.C.
Friday
South Carolina 67, North Carolina 65
Florida State 66, Arizona State 65
Regional Championship
Sunday
South Carolina 80, Florida State 74

FINAL FOUR
At Tampa, Fla.
National Semifinals
Sunday
Notre Dame (35-2) vs. South Carolina (34-2), 5:30 p.m.
UConn (36-1) vs. Maryland (34-2), 7:30 p.m.
National Championship
Tuesday, April 7
Semifinal winners

OTHER TOURNAMENTS

Men

National Invitation Tournament
Semifinals
At Madison Square Garden
New York
Today
Miami (24-12) vs. Temple (26-10), 6 p.m.
Stanford (22-13) vs. Old Dominion (27-7), 8:30 p.m.
Championship
Thursday
Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

College Basketball Invitational
Championship Series
(Best-of-3)
Monday: Loyola of Chicago 65, Louisiana-Monroe 58
Wednesday: Loyola of Chicago vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
Friday: Loyola of Chicago vs. Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m., if necessary

CollegeInsider.com Tournament
Quarterfinals
Wednesday, March 25
UT-Martin 70, Eastern Kentucky 69
Thursday
Evansville 69, Louisiana-Lafayette 62
Friday
Northern Arizona 74, Kent State 73, OT
Saturday
NJIT 78, Canisius 73
Semifinals
Tuesday
UT-Martin (21-12) at Evansville (22-12), TBA
Northern Arizona (22-14) vs. NJIT (21-11), TBA

Women

National Invitation Tournament Glance
Quarterfinals
Sunday
West Virginia 75, Villanova 70, OT
Michigan 69, Southern Mississippi 60
Temple 68, Middle Tennessee 57
UCLA 82, Saint Mary's (Cal) 66
Semifinals
Wednesday
UCLA (17-16) at Michigan (20-14), 6 p.m.
Temple (20-16) at West Virginia (22-14), 8 p.m.
Saturday
Semifinal winners, 2 p.m.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

MISD board members unanimously approve the hiring of Randy Rowe as the new executive director of athletics on Monday.

Rowe

From 1C

the programs he's put in place stood out. He talks about the character of children and building good character as well as building good athletes and having programs that serve all children."

Warren added that in addition to the references Rowe provided, he talked to other people from around the state and they also had great things to say about him.

"Everybody I talked to had a lot of respect for Randy Rowe," Warren said.

Warren declined to disclose who those other top candidates were.

Livingston ISD, which is located 70 miles north of Houston, is in Class 5A and the school district has only one high school. Rowe said Midland is a different challenge than what he's used to but one he's ready to tackle.

"I think it's a challenge everywhere if you want to have an impact on life, and I do," he said. "I'm not a afraid of a challenge, I never have been.

"I think the priority is to establish some relationships and get to the know the coaches, get to the know the kids, get to know the community. We represent our family, our school and each other when we take the field."

After playing football and graduating with a degree in Economics from Northwestern University, Rowe returned to Texas and began his football coaching career at Gregory-Portland in south Texas. Four years later, he got his first head coaching job at Class 2A Skidmore-Tynan. He also was the head coach at 3A Palestine Westwood and 4A Cleveland, before taking the AD position at DeSoto at age 33. After two years at DeSoto, Rowe got back into coaching at Aldine Nimitz. After leading Nimitz to a 10-3 record and to the regional championship round of the playoffs, he left to coach and serve as AD at Livingston, which had not had a winning record since he was in high school. His Livingston teams went from 1-8 his first year to a 10-3 record by his fourth season.

"That was my lifelong dream to try to go back to Livingston and turn it around, and I did that," said Rowe, whose dad Wilburn is a retired coach and athletic director in Livingston.

Now Rowe is ready for a new challenge and Midland ISD is it. He said he expects to start his new position sometime in mid to late April.

"I've lived on the shoulder of giants," he said. "I've had great coaches and great kids. I've got to get to know the coaches and kids here and how to serve them. I have high expectations of myself and anybody around me. I think it is more of a challenge. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Rowe will be joined by his wife Mari and their four children, Kaitlyn, 17, Troy, 8, David, 7, and Reagan, 5.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

Bryant sent to minors by Cubs; union threatens litigation

By Jason P. Skoda
Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Third baseman Kris Bryant was reassigned by the Chicago Cubs to their minor league camp on Monday despite an outstanding spring training at the plate, triggering a threat of litigation from the players' association.

Bryant hit .425 in the exhibition season with nine homers and 15 RBI in 40 at-bats. If the 23-year-old spends 12 or more days in the minor leagues, Chicago would delay him from becoming eligible for free agency by one year, until after the 2021 season, according to baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

"Today is a bad day for baseball," the Major League Baseball Players Association said in a statement. "I think we all know that even if Kris Bryant were a combination of the greatest players to play our game, and perhaps he will be before it's all said and done, the Cubs still would have made the decision they made today. This decision, and other similar decisions made by clubs will be addressed in litigation, bargaining or both."

Major League Baseball defended the Cubs' decision.

"In accordance with long established practice under the Basic Agreement, a club has an unfettered right to determine which players are part of its opening-day roster," MLB said in a statement. "This issue was discussed extensively in bargaining in 2011, and the principle was not changed. We do not believe that it is appropriate for the players' association to make the determination that Kris Bryant should be on the Cubs' 25-man roster while another player, who, unlike Bryant, is a member of its bargaining unit, should be cut or sent to the minor leagues."

Bryant, who is not on the 40-man roster, was slowed defensively in the middle of camp by right shoulder soreness.

"It's always difficult to send young players down because it is news they don't want to hear," Cubs President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein said. "We entered camp with the presumptive move of sending him to Triple-A, and it is always the presumptive move for us with young players who haven't played in the big leagues yet. You see how camp develops and how the roster shapes up to see if there is grounds for an exception to the rule."

Lenny Ignelzi/AP

In this March, 2015 photo, Chicago's Kris Bryant signs autographs before the start of a spring training game against the San Diego Padres in Peoria, Ariz. Bryant was reassigned by the Cubs to their minor league camp on Monday despite an outstanding spring training at the plate, triggering a threat of litigation from the players' association.

Bryant was not available to discuss the move. His agent, Scott Boras, called it "Ersatz Baseball."

"MLB is not the MLB without the best players," Boras said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Kris excelled at every level and earned the right of entry. The CBA is at the apogee of wrongs incentivizing clubs to create a product less than best. Bryant's situation is the badge for change to the CBA player service structure."

Preparing for their first season under manager Joe Maddon, the Cubs also optioned second baseman Javy Baez to Triple-A Iowa and shortstop Addison Russell was assigned to minor league camp.

The demotion of Bryant was expected.

"In this case it was the right thing to do," Epstein said. "His performance really mattered, and he made a great first impression on Joe. It demonstrated clearly to everybody that he is really close to not just being in the big leagues but an important role on the team."

Chicago is seeking its first World Series title since 1908.

"I'm not going to sit here and tell you that you wouldn't like to have him in your lineup," Maddon said. "He's also 23. I'm looking forward to working with this guy for the next 15 years. He's a brilliant talent. I'm not going to sit here and say things that are disingenuous. This guy is good. He's going to be really good."

Baez, 22, was competing for the starting second-base job. He entered Monday's game against San Francisco hitting .173 with 20 strikeouts in 52 at-bats

"He is so close to getting it figured out in the batter's box and we feel like Triple-A is the right venue for him to continue making those adjustments and get locked in," Epstein said. "He does everything else so well on the baseball field, he is a winning baseball player. He just has to take that same mindset in the batter's box."

Baez was originally in the lineup against the Giants at Sloan Park on Monday but was replaced by Jonathan Herrera at second base and No. 9 in the lineup shortly before first pitch.

One of things Maddon has praised Baez for is how he has stayed focused defensively and on the base paths despite the struggles with the bat.

"Whatever happens at the plate happens," Baez said Monday morning before learning his fate. "I don't take whatever happens at the plate to my defense because I have to play good defense for my pitcher and my whole team."

Russell, 21, was acquired from Oakland in the Jeff Samardzija trade on July 5. He hit .324 in 37 at-bats during spring training.

"I couldn't tell him what to work on," Maddon said. "He is that accomplished at that age. I asked to him keep doing what he is doing."

Epstein and Maddon both said there were heated debates on the decisions when it came to Baez and Bryant.

NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

RAPTORS 99
ROCKETS 96

TORONTO — DeMar DeRozan scored a career-high 42 points and tied his career high with 11 rebounds as the Toronto Raptors beat Houston 99-96 on Monday night, their eighth straight home victory over the Rockets.

DeRozan made a go-ahead turnaround bank shot with 1:27 left, then sealed it with a jumper over James Harden with 18 seconds to go. He made 14 of 27 attempts from the floor and hit 12 of 17 at the free throw line.

CELTICS 116
HORNETS 104

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Avery Bradley had 30 points and eight rebounds, and the Boston Celtics beat the Charlotte Hornets 116-104 on Monday night for an important Eastern Conference victory.

Evan Turner added 15 points, while Jae Crowder and Marcus Smart each had 14 as the Celtics won for the 10th time in the last 16 games.

HAWKS 101
BUCKS 88

ATLANTA — DeMarre Carroll scored 23 points and Kyle Korver put on quite a shooting display in the third quarter, carrying the Atlanta Hawks to a 101-88 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

Having clinched top seed in the Eastern Conference, the Hawks are trying to maintain their playing edge while staying healthy for the final two weeks of the regular season. This wasn't pretty — they put up five airballs — but it was enough to improve to 56-18, one win away from tying the franchise record.

LAKERS 113
76ERS 111, OT

PHILADELPHIA — Jordan Clarkson scored 26 points and made the tiebreaking basket with 0.7 seconds left in overtime to lift the Los Angeles Lakers past the Philadelphia 76ers, 113-111 on Monday night in a matchup of two of the NBA's worst teams.

JAZZ 104
TIMBERWOLVES 84

MINNEAPOLIS — Gordon Hayward scored 22 points, reserve Trey Burke had 19 and the Utah Jazz beat the short-handed Minnesota Timberwolves 104-84 on Monday night.

Trevor Booker had 17 points and 13 rebounds for Utah, which earned its second straight win after a four-game losing streak. Rudy Gobert finished with 15 points and 12 boards.

GRIZZLIES 97
KINGS 83

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Mike Conley scored 18 points, Jeff Green added 16 and the Memphis Grizzlies snapped their three-game losing streak with a 97-83 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night.

The Grizzlies moved back into the second spot in the Western Conference playoff race by a half-game over the Houston Rockets, who lost 99-96 at Toronto.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	44	30	.595	—
Boston	33	41	.446	11
Brooklyn	32	40	.444	11
Philadelphia	18	57	.240	26 1/2
New York	14	60	.189	30

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Atlanta	56	18	.757	—
x-Washington	41	33	.554	15
Miami	34	39	.466	21 1/2
Charlotte	31	42	.425	24 1/2
Orlando	22	52	.297	34

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Cleveland	48	27	.640	—
x-Chicago	45	29	.608	2 1/2
Milwaukee	36	38	.486	11 1/2
Indiana	32	41	.438	15
Detroit	28	45	.384	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Memphis	51	24	.680	—
x-Houston	50	24	.676	1/2
San Antonio	47	26	.644	3
Dallas	45	29	.608	5 1/2
New Orleans	39	34	.534	11

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	47	25	.653	—
Oklahoma City	42	32	.568	6
Utah	33	41	.446	15
Denver	28	46	.378	20
Minnesota	16	58	.216	32

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Golden State	60	13	.822	—
x-L.A. Clippers	49	25	.662	11 1/2
Phoenix	38	36	.514	22 1/2
Sacramento	26	47	.356	34
L.A. Lakers	20	53	.274	40

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Monday's Scores

L.A. Lakers 113, Philadelphia 111, OT
Boston 116, Charlotte 104
Atlanta 101, Milwaukee 88
Toronto 99, Houston 96
Memphis 97, Sacramento 83
Utah 104, Minnesota 84
Phoenix at Portland, late

Today's Games

Atlanta at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Indiana at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Miami, 7 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOXES

RAPTORS 99, ROCKETS 96

HOUSTON (96): Ariza 5-15 2-4 15, Smith 3-14 2-4 8, Dorsey 3-3 1-2 7, Terry 3-5 0-0 8, Harden 9-22 10-12 31, Capela 4-5 0-3 8, Prigioni 1-1 1-1 3, Brewer 6-16 1-4 13, N.Johnson 1-3 1-1 3. Totals 35-84 18-31 96.

TORONTO (99): Ross 2-6 0-0 5, A.Johnson 4-7 0-0 8, Valanciunas 5-9 5-5 15, Vasquez 1-10 0-0 3, DeRozan 14-27 12-17 42, Patterson 2-4 2-2 7, Williams 5-9 0-0 13, J.Johnson 2-6 2-3 6, Hansbrough 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-78 21-27 99.

Houston	27	25	24	20	—	96
Toronto	27	21	26	25	—	99

3-Point Goals—Houston 8-27 (Ariza 3-8, Harden 3-8, Terry 2-3, N.Johnson 0-1, Brewer 0-3, Smith 0-4), Toronto 8-22 (Williams 3-6, DeRozan 2-4, Ross 1-2, Patterson 1-2, Vasquez 1-6, J.Johnson 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 56 (Capela 9), Toronto 55 (A.Johnson 16). Assists—Houston 21 (Prigioni 7), Toronto 20 (Vasquez 7). Total Fouls—Houston 22, Toronto 26. Technicals—DeRozan. A—19,800 (19,800).

CELTICS 116, HORNETS 104

BOSTON (116): Turner 7-11 1-1 15, Bass 2-4 3-4 7, T.Zeller 4-9 0-0 8, Smart 5-9 3-4 14, Bradley 12-23 3-3 30, Thomas 3-9 2-2 10, Crowder 4-9 4-4 14, Wallace 2-3 0-4 4, Olynyk 5-10 0-0 11, Jerebko 1-2 1-1 3. Totals 45-89 17-23 116.

CHARLOTTE (104): Taylor 2-6 0-0 5, Ma.Williams 4-6 1-1 10, Jefferson 6-10 0-0 12, Walker 9-20 8-9 28, Henderson 7-15 2-2 17, Maxiell 3-5 0-0 6, Hairston 1-4 0-0 2, M.Williams 6-17 5-5 19, Biyombo 2-2 1-2 5, Roberts 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-85 17-19 104.

Boston	26	30	29	31	—	116
Charlotte	24	20	25	35	—	104

3-Point Goals—Boston 9-26 (Bradley 3-7, Crowder 2-4, Thomas 2-6, Smart 1-2, Olynyk 1-4, Turner 0-1, Bass 0-1, Jerebko 0-1), Charlotte 7-26 (Walker 2-8, M.Williams 2-8, Taylor 1-2, Ma.Williams 1-3, Henderson 1-3, Hairston 0-2). Fouled Out—Henderson. Rebounds—Boston 51 (Bradley 8), Charlotte 46 (Maxiell 8). Assists—Boston 28 (Thomas 7), Charlotte 20 (Walker 12). Total Fouls—Boston 21, Charlotte 17. Flagrant Fouls—Henderson. A—15,140 (19,077).

HAWKS 101, BUCKS 88

MILWAUKEE (88): Antetokounmpo 7-9 4-4 18, Ilyasova 4-13 2-4 12, Pachulia 8-10 1-3 17, Carter-Williams 1-6 2-2 4, Middleton 6-14 0-0 12, Bayless 4-8 4-5 14, Mayo 0-5 2-2 2, Henson 1-6 0-2 2, Plumlee 0-0 0-0 0, Ennis 0-0 0-0 0, O'Bryant 3-4 1-1 7. Totals 34-75 16-23 88.

ATLANTA (101): Carroll 9-13 3-5 23, Millsap 6-10 3-4 15, Horford 8-18 2-2 18, Teague 2-8 2-2 8, Korver 4-10 0-0 11, Antic 2-4 4-5 8, Bazemore 0-1 0-0 0, Schroder 0-2 4-4 4, Sefolosha 4-6 2-2 11, Muscala 1-4 0-0 3, Mack 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 36-79 20-24 101.

Milwaukee	20	19	25	24	—	88
Atlanta	25	21	26	29	—	101

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 4-17 (Ilyasova 2-4, Bayless 2-4, Carter-Williams 0-1, Mayo 0-3, Middleton 0-5), Atlanta 9-29 (Korver 3-9, Teague 2-2, Carroll 2-6, Sefolosha 1-1, Muscala 1-2, Antic 0-1, Bazemore 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Horford 0-2, Mack 0-2, Millsap 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 46 (Pachulia 13), Atlanta 49 (Millsap 9). Assists—Milwaukee 26 (Carter-Williams, Bayless 5), Atlanta 29 (Teague 9). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 22, Atlanta 20. Technicals—Teague. A—18,453 (18,729).

LAKERS 113, 76ERS 111, OT

L.A. LAKERS (113): Johnson 5-16 2-4 12, Kelly 5-9 3-3 16, Black 2-3 2-2 6, Clarkson 9-15 8-10 26, Ellington 7-15 2-2 20, Sacre 3-6 0-0 6, Brown 7-10 5-5 22, Hill 2-8 1-4 5. Totals 40-82 23-30 113.

PHILADELPHIA (111): Covington 4-13 1-2 12, Noel 7-18 5-10 19, Aldemir 3-4 2-4 8, Smith 8-20 0-0 17, Sampson 2-4 1-2 7, Canaan 4-9 7-7 18, Robinson III 3-8 1-4 8, Thompson 0-4 1-2 1, Robinson 4-7 5-7 13, Sims 4-9 0-0 8. Totals 39-96 23-38 111.

L.A. Lakers	17	34	25	26	11	—	113
Philadelphia	28	22	21	31	9	—	111

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 10-21 (Ellington 4-6, Brown 3-4, Kelly 3-6, Clarkson 0-2, Johnson 0-3), Philadelphia 10-30 (Canaan 3-7, Covington 3-10, Sampson 2-4, Smith 1-3, Robinson III 1-4, Sims 0-1, Thompson 0-1). Fouled Out—Black, Hill, Aldemir. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 51 (Johnson 11), Philadelphia 70 (Noel 14). Assists—L.A. Lakers 27 (Clarkson 11), Philadelphia 27 (Thompson 5). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 26, Philadelphia 24. A—13,501 (20,318).

JAZZ 104, TIMBERWOLVES 84

UTAH (104): Hayward 7-15 6-6 22, Booker 7-11 2-2 17, Gobert 4-7 7-9 15, Exum 1-6 0-0 3, Hood 3-5 0-0 7, Burke 8-17 1-1 19, Johnson 3-9 0-0 6, Ingles 3-4 0-0 8, Evans 2-4 0-0 4, Millsap 1-3 0-0 3, Cooley 0-1 0-0 0, Cotton 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-82 16-18 104.

MINNESOTA (84): Wiggins 5-15 7-9 17, Payne 0-7 0-0 0, Hamilton 3-6 5-5 11, Brown 3-7 0-0 7, LaVine 7-19 6-7 21, Budinger 5-11 2-4 14, Hummel 3-9 2-2 9, Bennett 2-2 0-0 5. Totals 28-76 22-27 84.

Utah	25	25	31	23	—	104
Minnesota	18	22	17	27	—	84

3-Point Goals—Utah 10-33 (Ingles 2-3, Hayward 2-5, Burke 2-5, Booker 1-2, Hood 1-2, Millsap 1-3, Exum 1-6, Evans 0-1, Johnson 0-6), Minnesota 6-16 (Budinger 2-4, Brown 1-1, Bennett 1-1, Hummel 1-4, LaVine 1-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 57 (Booker 13), Minnesota 41 (Budinger, Hummel 7). Assists—Utah 18 (Hayward 5), Minnesota 21 (Brown, LaVine 6). Total Fouls—Utah 22, Minnesota 17. Technicals—Ingles. A—12,229 (19,356).

GRIZZLIES 97, KINGS 83

SACRAMENTO (83): Gay 10-18 2-2 24, Thompson 2-8 0-0 4, Evans 3-4 1-2 7, McCallum 4-9 4-7 12, McLemore 3-9 1-1 8, Stauskas 1-3 1-2 4, Casspi 3-6 0-0 7, Miller 0-4 0-0 0, Williams 4-14 2-4 10, Hollins 0-0 0-0 0, Landry 3-6 1-2 7, Wear 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-81 12-20 83.

MEMPHIS (97): Je.Green 6-11 2-3 16, Randolph 5-12 5-6 15, Gasol 4-11 0-0 8, Conley 6-14 4-6 18, Lee 5-10 0-0 10, Koufos 3-8 2-2 8, Carter 3-8 0-0 9, Ja.Green 1-2 0-0 2, Udrih 3-6 0-0 7, Calathes 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 38-83 13-17 97.

Sacramento	20	23	21	19	—	83
Memphis	24	32	19	22	—	97

3-Point Goals—Sacramento 5-16 (Gay 2-3, Casspi 1-2, Stauskas 1-2, McLemore 1-4, McCallum 0-2, Williams 0-3), Memphis 8-23 (Carter 3-8, Je.Green 2-5, Conley 2-6, Udrih 1-1, Randolph 0-1, Lee 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 51 (Evans 7), Memphis 54 (Koufos 12). Assists—Sacramento 16 (Stauskas, McCallum 3), Memphis 23 (Gasol 6). Total Fouls—Sacramento 19, Memphis 21. Technicals—Randolph. A—17,218 (18,119).

SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
Oakland	19	9	.679
Kansas City	17	10	.630
Boston	14	10	.583
Toronto	16	12	.571
New York	15	12	.556
Los Angeles	13	12	.520
Houston	10	10	.500
Tampa Bay	11	11	.500
Cleveland	12	15	.444
Minnesota	11	14	.440
Seattle	11	15	.423
Baltimore	11	16	.407
Chicago	9	15	.375
Texas	9	15	.375
Detroit	10	17	.370

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	16	8	.667
New York	17	11	.607
Pittsburgh	14	10	.583
San Diego	15	11	.577
St. Louis	12	10	.545
Cincinnati	13	11	.542
Colorado	15	13	.536
Arizona	14	14	.500
Miami	12	12	.500
Atlanta	13	14	.481
Chicago	13	15	.464
Milwaukee	11	13	.458
Washington	10	13	.435
Philadelphia	11	15	.423
San Francisco	9	20	.310

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Monday's Scores

Tampa Bay 6, Baltimore 6, tie, 10 innings
St. Louis 6, Washington 2
Atlanta 4, Detroit 2
Pittsburgh 18, Philadelphia 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Miami 1
Chicago Cubs 8, San Francisco 5
Oakland 11, Colorado 2
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 3
Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 1
Kansas City 11, Texas 7
San Diego 6, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 4, Arizona 2
Toronto 7, Houston 4
Boston 14, Minnesota 2

Today's Games

Boston vs. Tampa Bay (ss) at Port Charlotte, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Miami vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (ss) vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., 12:07 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. Texas (ss) at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Seattle vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Texas (ss) vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Oakland vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 5:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

Flames' big 2nd period to top Stars

Associated Press

Flames	5
Stars	3

DALLAS — Jiri Hudler, Raphael Diaz and Johnny Gaudreau scored within a span of 6:49 of the second period, and the Calgary Flames held on for a 5-3 victory over the Dallas Stars on Monday night.

After that barrage, Dallas coach Lindy Ruff replaced goalie Kari Lehtonen with Jhonas Enroth. The third-place Flames moved three points ahead of Los Angeles in the Pacific Division.

Calgary led 4-2 after two periods. Jonas Hiller allowed a third-period goal to Dallas defenseman Jason Demers, but made 15 of his 36 saves in the final frame.

Dennis Wideman, Gaudreau and Hudler all had a goal and assist for Calgary, and Mikael Backlund added an empty-net goal with 7 seconds left.

Jason Spezza had a goal and an assist, and Lehtonen allowed four goals on 19 shots for Dallas. Enroth stopped all five shots he faced.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Montreal	77	47	22	8	102	203	174
x-Tampa Bay	77	47	23	7	101	249	201
Detroit	75	40	23	12	92	220	206
Boston	76	38	25	13	89	201	196
Ottawa	75	37	26	12	86	218	203
Florida	76	35	26	15	85	190	207
Toronto	76	28	42	6	62	198	244
Buffalo	75	20	47	8	48	144	254

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-N.Y. Rangers	75	47	21	7	101	228	177
Pittsburgh	76	42	23	11	95	210	190
N.Y. Islanders	77	45	27	5	95	235	215
Washington	76	41	25	10	92	223	188
Philadelphia	76	30	29	17	77	198	219
Columbus	75	36	35	4	76	207	232
New Jersey	76	31	33	12	74	168	194
Carolina	75	28	36	11	67	174	204

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Nashville	77	47	22	8	102	220	188
St. Louis	76	46	23	7	99	229	190
Chicago	76	46	24	6	98	217	176
Minnesota	76	44	25	7	95	219	186
Winnipeg	76	39	25	12	90	215	201
Dallas	77	37	30	10	84	239	248
Colorado	76	35	29	12	82	206	213

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Anaheim	78	49	22	7	105	227	216
Vancouver	76	44	27	5	93	219	204
Calgary	77	42	28	7	91	229	204
Los Angeles	76	37	25	14	88	201	192
San Jose	76	37	30	9	83	212	215
Edmonton	76	23	40	13	59	185	255
Arizona	76	23	45	8	54	160	252

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

x-clinched playoff spot

Monday's Scores

Tampa Bay 5, Montreal 3
Vancouver 4, St. Louis 1
Chicago 4, Los Angeles 1
Calgary 5, Dallas 3
Edmonton 4, Colorado 1
Buffalo at Arizona, late

Today's Games

Florida at Boston, 6 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at Columbus, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.

Montoya has swagger back, but also shows softer side

JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. —

There was a time when the edge to Juan Pablo Montoya was evident everywhere he went. His arrogance was on display as he walked through the paddock, his confidence in a race car clear with every fearless move he made.

But when the success stopped, the great JPM was no longer the intimidating force he had once been. His abrupt departure from Formula One, followed by seven subpar seasons in NASCAR, made him just another driver in a crowded field of also-rans.

Then he got a chance at a do-over. Offered a job to return to open wheel racing with Roger Penske, Montoya's career was given the fresh start he so badly needed.

Now, after his win in the IndyCar season opener Sunday through the streets of St. Petersburg, it was clear that the old Montoya was back — but with a twist. He's got his old swagger back, his drive and determination are at levels he's not had in years, but that callousness he used to carry everywhere has softened.

As fans crowded the fence near victory lane on Sunday chanting his name, waiving Colombian flags, desperately trying to get close to their hero, Montoya stopped what he was doing to sign autographs and pose for pictures.

That's a common courtesy for most top drivers, but not one a younger Montoya would have likely done.

Tony Kanaan, who raced against Montoya during his first stint in American open wheel, doesn't think Montoya has ever changed his personality. But age and three children may have softened Montoya a bit.

"We all grow up. We have kids, I think we kind of change a little bit in a way," Kanaan said. "Seeing Juan celebrating with the fans the way he did (Sunday), I can assure you that wouldn't have happened 15 years ago. But that was Juan back then. I think you go through experiences in life to learn.

"I think he got probably a pretty big wake-up call when he moved to the other side, to NASCAR, and he was just one more, right? Then when he came back here, he was a little bit of a different person."

Montoya doesn't speak poorly of his time in NASCAR. He notes he's the only driver in Chip Ganassi Racing history to qualify for the championship playoffs, and thinks his struggles in a stock car had more to do with an underperforming organization than with his talent level.

And he freely admits his move to IndyCar last season with Team Penske was a struggle, and his inability to get any comfort level on the road or street courses left him embarrassed at times.

But when it comes to talking about himself, about any differences there may be in him emotionally, Montoya appears uncomfortable.

He dances around the question, finding ways to address everything but the personal growth he's had since he showed up in 1999 as a brash 23-year-old who ripped off seven wins, the CART championship and followed it up the next season with a dominating victory in the Indianapolis 500.

"Maybe a little, but ... I don't know," Montoya squirmed when asked if he's changed at all.

"I've never been a big believer in what people say about me. As long as I feel I'm doing a really good job, I'm driving the wheels off the car, the people I drive for are happy, that's all that really matters. Do I pay maybe a little more attention to the fans? Yeah, I would say I do. When you're out there (on the track), I'm still the same, if you want to call it (jerk), whatever you want to call it, it's good."

This hybrid version of the old Montoya is exactly what IndyCar needs right now.

Hugely popular in Latin America, Montoya boasts one of the biggest Twitter followings of any driver in an American racing series. He's beloved by fans in his native Colombia, loathed by others who believe he's nothing but an on-track bully and an off-track prima donna.

Montoya is the driver who can move the needle.

Give him a good car and a strong team, and his confidence will soar. It's evident when he struts into a room that Montoya once again believes he's the baddest thing on wheels.

Alas, it's early in this second season with Penske, and he now finds himself on a powerhouse lineup that includes reigning IndyCar champion Will Power, three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves and newcomer Simon Pagenaud.

After one weekend, it sure looks as if all four Penske drivers will compete against each other for the championship this season. How that plays out in team meetings, on the race track, and in dealings with each other remains to be seen.

Maybe Montoya will practice some give and take. Maybe he'll only take.

Power, who led 75 laps Sunday only to lose the lead to Montoya during pit stops, tried once to regain the lead from his teammate. Montoya closed the door, the two cars made contact, and Power's front wing was damaged.

It was just racing, Power later shrugged, and downplayed any potential drama developing with Montoya.

"Juan has been known to be a tough teammate. You hear rumors," Power said. "But he's pretty honest. He'll tell you straight up. I don't think he beats around the bush, tries to play games or anything. I've enjoyed working with him. I've learned stuff off of him. He's a very tough competitor, tough racer.

"You know if he's behind you or you're racing with him, he's very difficult to keep behind. So, yeah, you know, that's him, right?"

Chris O'Meara/AP

Juan Pablo Montoya, right wearing hat, celebrates with crew members after winning the IndyCar Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg auto race Sunday, March 29, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

AUTO RACING LEADERS

NASCAR Sprint Cup Leaders
Through March 29
Points

1. Kevin Harvick, 263. 2. Joey Logano, 239. 3. Martin Truex Jr., 231. 4. Brad Keselowski, 206. 5. Kasey Kahne, 193. 6. Ryan Newman, 180. 7. Paul Menard, 175. 8. Denny Hamlin, 172. 9. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 172. 10. Aric Almirola, 170.

11. Jimmie Johnson, 168. 12. Matt Kenseth, 168. 13. David Ragan, 163. 14. Casey Mears, 161. 15. Jamie McMurray, 154. 16. Danica Patrick, 148. 17. Jeff Gordon, 148. 18. Carl Edwards, 148. 19. Clint Bowyer, 146. 20. AJ Allmendinger, 138. Money

1. Kevin Harvick, $2,596,355. 2. Joey Logano, $2,455,703. 3. Dale Earnhardt Jr., $1,553,050. 4. Jimmie Johnson, $1,504,522. 5. Denny Hamlin, $1,345,518. 6. Jeff Gordon, $1,332,751. 7. Brad Keselowski, $1,332,131. 8. Martin Truex Jr., $1,284,123. 9. Matt Kenseth, $1,278,056. 10. Ryan Newman, $1,165,048.

11. Casey Mears, $1,093,653. 12. Clint Bowyer, $1,093,228. 13. Jamie McMurray, $1,066,656. 14. Aric Almirola, $1,064,021. 15. Greg Biffle, $1,033,166. 16. David Ragan, $1,020,893. 17. Trevor Bayne, $1,017,550. 18. Austin Dillon, $1,011,639. 19. Kasey Kahne, $991,400. 20. AJ Allmendinger, $952,482.

NASCAR XFINITY Points Leaders
Through March 21

1. Ty Dillon	187
2. Chris Buescher	182
3. Chase Elliott	172
4. Ryan Reed	168
5. Darrell Wallace Jr.	165
6. Brendan Gaughan	164
7. Regan Smith	157
8. Elliott Sadler	148
9. David Starr	136
10. Brian Scott	134
11. Daniel Suarez	134
12. Ross Chastain	125
13. Jeremy Clements	123
14. J.J. Yeley	112
15. Dakoda Armstrong	105
16. Ryan Sieg	101
17. Blake Koch	99
18. Landon Cassill	94
19. Cale Conley	92
20. Eric McClure	89
21. Joey Gase	70
22. Harrison Rhodes	68
23. Mike Bliss	66
24. Matt Mills	64
25. Mike Harmon	58
26. Jeffrey Earnhardt	57
27. Brennan Poole	54
28. Derek White	54
29. Ryan Blaney	43
30. Dennis Cope	43
31. Chris Cockrum	38
32. Jamie Dick	36
33. Carl Long	30
34. Josh Reaume	27
35. Dylan Lupton	25
36. Peyton Sellers	23
37. Charles Lewandoski	14
38. Stanton Barrett	12
39. Jeff Green	12
40. Jimmy Weller	11
41. Morgan Shepherd	11
42. Justin Marks	10
43. Enrique Contreras	10
44. Scott Lagasse Jr.	7
45. Dexter Bean	4

NASCAR Camping World Truck Money Leaders
Through March 28

1. Tyler Reddick	$128,969
2. Erik Jones	$100,657
3. Matt Crafton	$99,710
4. Daniel Suarez	$58,621
5. Ben Kennedy	$57,883
6. Johnny Sauter	$56,823
7. Ray Black Jr.	$56,659
8. Joey Logano	$51,336
9. Korbin Forrister	$50,118
10. John Wes Townley	$50,047
11. Tyler Young	$49,794
12. Spencer Gallagher	$49,703
13. Cameron Hayley	$49,640
14. Bryan Silas	$49,227
15. Timothy Peters	$48,094
16. Daniel Hemric	$47,288
17. Justin Boston	$46,909
18. Ty Dillon	$46,630
19. Jennifer Jo Cobb	$45,667
20. James Buescher	$44,239
21. Scott Lagasse Jr.	$42,138
22. Norm Benning	$41,490
23. Joe Nemechek	$35,597
24. David Gilliland	$34,899
25. Matt Tifft	$34,758
26. Austin Theriault	$32,221
27. Travis Kvapil	$26,852
28. Caleb Holman	$26,048
29. Cody Ware	$25,067
30. Mason Mingus	$24,844
31. Ryan Ellis	$16,798
32. Brandon Jones	$16,252
33. Cole Custer	$15,769
34. Chris Fontaine	$15,650
35. Todd Peck	$15,241
36. Garrett Smithley	$14,919
37. Tommy Regan	$14,197
38. Austin Hill	$14,050
39. Gray Gaulding	$13,683
40. Brad Keselowski	$13,657
41. Ryan Sieg	$13,446
42. Jake Griffin	$12,992
43. John Hunter Nemechek	$12,660
44. Donnie Neuenberger	$12,550
45. Jordan Anderson	$12,085
46. Wendell Chavous	$12,002
47. Morgan Shepherd	$11,891
48. Brandon Brown	$11,600
49. Justin Marks	$11,550
50. Paige Decker	$0
50. Charles Buchanan Jr.	$0
50. Clay Greenfield	$0
50. Justin Jennings	$0

IndyCar Points Leaders
Through March 29

1. Juan Pablo Montoya	51
2. Will Power	44
3. Tony Kanaan	35
4. Helio Castroneves	33
5. Simon Pagenaud	31
6. Sebastien Bourdais	28
7. Ryan Hunter-Reay	26
8. Jack Hawksworth	25
9. Luca Filippi	22
10. Marco Andretti	20
11. Graham Rahal	19
12. Josef Newgarden	18
13. Takuma Sato	17
14. Carlos Munoz	16
15. Scott Dixon	15
16. James Hinchcliffe	14
17. Gabby Chaves	13
18. Simona de Silvestro	12
19. Sage Karam	11
20. Stefano Coletti	10
21. Charlie Kimball	9
22. James Jakes	8
23. Francesco Dracone	7
24. Carlos Huertas	6

Formula One Points Leaders
Through March 29

1. Lewis Hamilton	43
2. Sebastian Vettel	40
3. Nico Rosberg	33
4. Felipe Massa	20
5. Kimi Raikkonen	12
6. Felipe Nasr	10
7. Valtteri Bottas	10
8. Daniel Ricciardo	9
9. Max Verstappen	6
10. Nico Hulkenberg	6
11. Carlos Sainz Jr.	6
12. Marcus Ericsson	4
13. Pastor Maldonado	2
14. Sergio Perez	1

QB Jameis Winston working to leave behind off-field problems

By Fred Goodall
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Jameis Winston has spent much of the past two months crisscrossing the nation, sharpening his quarterback skills and trying to convince NFL teams he's learned from mistakes made off the field and ready to become the face of a franchise.

Winston

A lot of his effort was geared toward the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who have the first pick this year's NFL draft.

Heading into Winston's pro day at Florida State on Tuesday, by all accounts the 2013 Heisman winner has made a strong impression.

All the Bucs' decision-makers, coach Lovie Smith, general manager Jason Licht, and — maybe even more importantly — the Glazer family, which owns the team, appear to be comfortable with Winston's history of off-the-field issues.

"I realize he has made some mistakes, gotten himself in some situations he would like to do over, but we don't see anything that we can't help him with," Smith said during last week's NFL spring meetings in Phoenix, Arizona.

"We think that's behind him, and that's why we feel comfortable," the coach added. "You can't indict young people for some stupid things that they do. We all clean up."

Winston made it a point to show he's capable of doing just that, despite his checkered past.

He faced a sexual assault allegation, but was never charged in the alleged incident. He walked out of a supermarket without paying for $32 worth of crab legs and suspended three baseball games, then missed a football game after climbing on a table in the FSU student union and shouting an "offensive and vulgar" comment about women.

Winston hasn't shied away from questions about his past.

In addition to being interviewed by Tampa Bay and other teams during the NFL Combine in Indianapolis, Indiana, the 20-year-old visited and toured the Bucs headquarters in March, meeting with Smith, Licht and the three Glazer brothers who run the team.

Winston also requested — and received — a meeting this month with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell in New York.

The young quarterback is represented by The Legacy Agency, whose high-profile football clients include running backs DeMarco Murray and Reggie Bush.

He has said he does not plan to attend the draft in Chicago, instead choosing to stay home in Alabama to enjoy the occasion with family and friends.

Bucs co-chairman Joel Glazer told the Tampa Tribune and Tampa Bay Times during the meetings in Phoenix that — based on extensive research Tampa Bay has done — the owners would be comfortable with using the No. 1 pick on either Winston or 2014 Heisman winner Marcus Mariota, the draft's other top quarterback prospect.

Smith reiterated his belief that Winston's off-field missteps have been more the result of the quarterback making immature choices than Winston being a bad kid.

"We are saying that he's done some things that are not OK, and we don't feel like in the future he would make those same type of decisions," the coach said. "You have to look in the eye and feel comfortable with the answers you're getting. He's admitted the mistakes he's made, and I'm one who believes in second chances."

With everyone signing off on any character questions, that would make it simply a football decision.

Winston has worked this winter in San Diego, California, with private quarterbacks tutor George Whitfield, spent time in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with former San Francisco 49ers and current Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, and also showcased his arm and athletic ability at the NFL Combine last month.

Teams will get their next close-up view Tuesday, when Winston will throw to some of his college teammates during Florida State's pro day in Tallahassee, Florida.

There seems to be no debate, however, over Winston's potential. He's a quarterback who completed 66 percent of his passes for nearly 8,000 yards and 65 touchdowns in two college seasons.

And Tampa Bay, which hasn't made the playoffs since 2007, absolutely needs a quarterback.

The Bucs, coming off a season in which they went 2-14 and ranked 30th in total offense, haven't had the first overall pick in the draft since 1987, when they took Vinny Testaverde. He had a long, successful career that didn't really take off until after the team gave up on him becoming the franchise QB they've never had.

Winston was 26-1 as a starter in college, leading Florida State to a national championship as a redshirt freshman and helping the Seminoles earn a spot in the inaugural College Football Playoffs last season.

Setting the stage for the possible selection of Winston or Mariota, who also visited One Buc Place this month, Tampa Bay released incumbent starter Josh McCown with a year left on the contract he signed as a free agent in 2014.

Venus Williams reaches Miami Open quarters

By Steven Wine
Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Basking in her latest victory Monday, a beaming Venus Williams stood near her changeover chair launching autographed balls into the stands, steering her shots with body English and applauding the fans who scrambled for the souvenirs.

For Williams, tennis is still fun. She's 34 but on the rise in the rankings, and she beat former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 7-6 (1) Monday to reach the Miami Open quarterfinals.

Williams is a three-time Key Biscayne champion, but her most recent title came in 2001. Seeded 16th, she's into the quarterfinals at the tournament for the first time since 2012.

"Tennis has always been a blast," Williams said. "But, you know, I'm feeling good out there."

She could meet her sister Serena in the final. Serena, who has won the tournament a record seven times, advanced by beating 2006 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-3.

In men's third-round play, No. 4 Kei Nishikori beat No. 32 Viktor Troicki 6-2, 6-2.

While Serena, 33, has been ranked No. 1 for the past two years, Venus' fortunes are only lately on the upswing after health issues caused a long slump that stirred retirement speculation. In January at the Australian Open, she reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal in five years before losing, and with the victory over Wozniacki, she's 4-0 in 2015 against top-10 players.

Venus skipped Indian Wells, where Serena recently ended a 14-year family boycott after being booed there as a teenager. Venus said it was wonderful to see the warm reception her sister received there this month, but was noncommittal regarding whether she'll return.

Given the way she's playing lately, she might have several chances. Williams credits her persistence and optimistic nature for her recent resurgence, which comes more than three years after she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that can cause joint pain and sap energy.

"I don't give up, and I believe in myself no matter what the odds are and what you may experience," she said. "I have always seen it as something to overcome, and not something that could stop me."

Unlike her sister, she has never tired of tennis, a problem for some top players even before their skills decline.

"I never get bored, actually," Venus said. "Tennis is definitely not pushing paper. I mean, when you get out there you have no idea what's going to happen in the point. You can try to plan it the best you can, but it's all up in the air. You have to improvise every single time. That never gets boring."

Williams won Monday with her familiar high-wire approach, swinging aggressively from the baseline. Sometimes she missed badly, but she hit 40 winners to nine for Wozniacki.

"Today I played similar to how young V would have played, either knocking a winner or knocking an error," she said, with a grin. "It's fun to just hit out, though. It feels good."

She moved forward more often than in the past, winning 14 points at the net, and used her long strides to chase down balls in the corners and extend rallies.

The stadium crowd loved it. So did former top-10 player Brad Gilbert, now an ESPN analyst.

"I am surprised — but I guess I shouldn't be — about how good Venus is playing at almost 35," Gilbert said. "I'm just blown away watching her today, how good she's still moving. With what she's been through and her age, it's just incredible to see."

NFL BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

FALCONS FINED, LOSE DRAFT PICK FOR PUMPING IN FAKE NOISE: At New York, the NFL has fined the Atlanta Falcons, stripped the organization of a draft pick and suspended team president Rich McKay from the league's competition committee beginning Wednesday following the team's use of fake noise at home games.

In statement released Monday, the league announced that the Falcons have been fined $350,000 and will forfeit their fifth-round selection in the 2016 draft, if the Falcons have multiple picks in that round, the highest selection will be forfeited.

The NFL noted the Falcons violated league rules throughout the 2013 season and into the 2014 season. The league also said the team's former director of event marketing was directly responsible for the violation and would have been suspended without pay for the first eight weeks of the 2015 regular season had he still been with the club.

NFL SUSPENDS BROWNS GM 4 GAMES FOR TEXTING: At Cleveland, the NFL has suspended Browns general manager Ray Farmer for four games for sending text messages to the sideline last season during games.

Farmer has acknowledged sending the messages, which is prohibited under league rules.

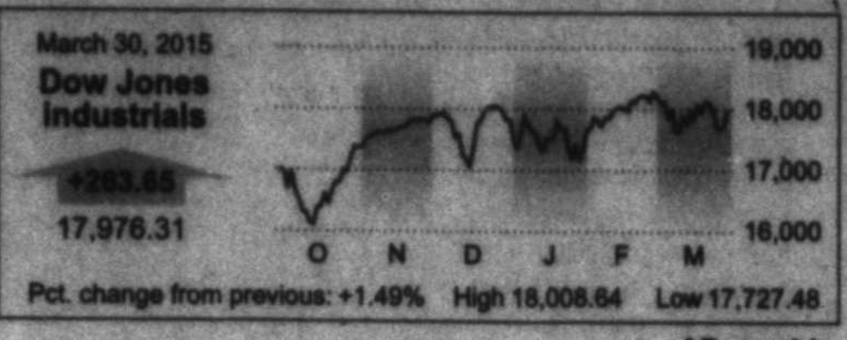
The league's punishment handed down on Monday includes a $250,000 fine on the Browns. But the league spared stripping the team of any draft picks.

NFL executive Troy Vincent said there's no evidence that Browns ownership or other team executives knew about the texts. He says the team changed its procedures to prevent future violations.

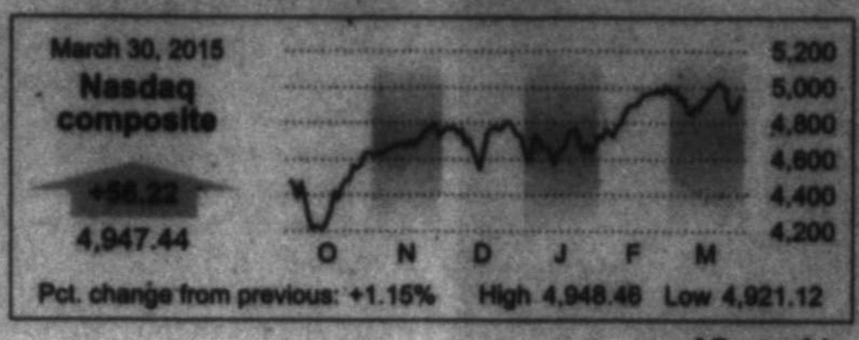
Browns owner Jimmy Haslam has remained supportive of Farmer, who was promoted to general manager in February 2014.

Business & Oil

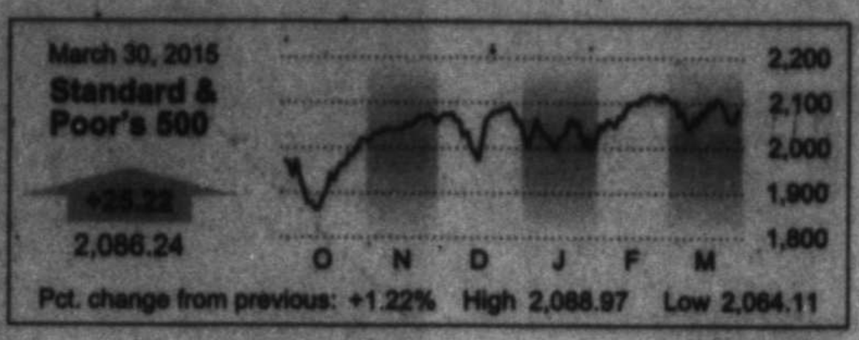
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Monday: $48.68
Previous: $48.87

POSTED
Monday: $45.50
Previous: $45.25

WEST TEXAS SOUR
Monday: $41.10
Previous: $40.85

NATURAL GAS
Monday: $2.644
Previous: $2.590

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	791180	208.25	+2.51
BkofAm	694932	15.52	+.21
iShJapan	513875	12.78	+.05
CSVLgCrde	488289	2.34	+.03
iShEMkts	474387	40.22	+.76

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Norcraft	25.67	+2.77	+12.1
Dynegy wt	4.20	+.44	+11.7
PumaBiotc	239.76	+23.76	+11.0
SinopcShg	37.84	+3.72	+10.9
NamTai	3.98	+.39	+10.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CypressEn	13.71	-3.23	-19.1
WldW Ent	14.09	-2.43	-14.7
DrxRsaBear	11.68	-1.52	-11.5
DrxChiBear	8.55	-1.06	-11.0
TCP Intl n	2.10	-.25	-10.6

DIARY

Advanced	2,331
Declined	813
Unchanged	99
Total issues	3,243
New Highs	153
New Lows	16
Volume	2,853,402,322

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BarcGSOil	31888	10.27	+.02
Can-Fite	30165	2.20	-3.34
NwGold g	28100	3.44	-.16
Organovo	25657	3.37	-.29
ChenierEn	19713	78.90	+.87

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
BovieMed	2.50	+.30	+13.6
MexcoEn	5.65	+.60	+11.9
CorMed wt	5.13	+.47	+10.1
Inuvo	2.04	+.18	+9.7
TellnstEl	6.55	+.58	+9.7

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Can-Fite	2.20	-3.34	-60.3
NewConcEn	2.14	-.48	-18.3
HillmCT pf	26.55	-2.94	-10.0
Reeds	5.65	-.60	-9.6
Barnwell	2.45	-.24	-8.9

DIARY

Advanced	186
Declined	214
Unchanged	30
Total issues	430
New Highs	6
New Lows	8
Volume	80,314,038

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Intel	503189	31.46	-.54
Apple Inc s	461444	126.37	+3.12
Catamaran	354905	59.83	+11.51
Microsoft	342902	40.96	-.01
AlteraCp lf	340696	42.82	-1.57

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
CellulDyn	16.42	+8.48	+106.8
AuspexPh	100.36	+29.45	+41.5
GeneticT rs	4.94	+1.24	+33.5
RschFrnt	6.53	+1.34	+25.8
Catamaran	59.83	+11.51	+23.8

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AdamisPh	3.83	-1.56	-28.9
BioDlvry lf	10.51	-3.38	-24.3
IRSA Prop	30.00	-7.50	-20.0
Resonant n	7.54	-1.14	-13.1
OvaScience	38.18	-5.29	-12.2

DIARY

Advanced	1,852
Declined	874
Unchanged	176
Total issues	2,902
New Highs	108
New Lows	48
Volume	1,720,483,208

Small investors blame bad advice from brokers for big losses

By Bernard Condon
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Susan Bernardo trusted her stockbroker. She wound up losing a fortune.

Her broker, David Harris, advised her to sell $400,000 worth of relatively safe municipal bonds, she says, and sink the proceeds into real estate and energy partnerships in hopes of earning more income. She had received the money from a settlement after her husband died in an accident and needed it to raise her small son.

More than six years later, those investments are in trouble. The stream of interest payments she used for living expenses has mostly dried up and the value of her portfolio is half of what it was, according to a financial planner who helped her file a claim against the broker.

Bernardo said Harris never told her how risky the new investments were, or about the fat 5 percent commission that brokers typically get selling them. Harris hasn't returned calls seeking comment.

That her broker might not have acted in her best interest never occurred to her, until recently.

"I thought, 'OK, someone is watching over me,'" said Bernardo, now 57, of Wantagh, New York. "Maybe I was naive."

The Obama administration thinks too many brokers aren't looking out for their clients, and instead pushing risky and costly investments in a rush for big commissions. The White House is backing a proposed rule it hopes will help end the practice. The new rule would require brokers handling retirement accounts to put the interest of their clients ahead of their own, a so-called fiduciary standard long required of lawyers, doctors and some financial professionals like registered investment advisers.

Under the current rule, brokers must limit their recommendations to what is "suitable" for clients based on their financial situation and appetite for risk. That's too weak, critics say. Brokers don't have to offer cheaper alternatives or keep an eye on the investments. Critics say this current rule has allowed brokers to invest too much of their clients' money in high-fee mutual funds that erode returns over the years, or put it in risky products that can wallop them with losses.

In announcing its support for stricter standards, the White House cited a report from its Council of Economic Advisers that estimates brokers with conflicts of interest are cutting returns in individual retirement accounts by 1 percent a year, or about $17 billion.

And if brokers were held to the same standard as doctors or lawyers, critics say, fewer would be cleared of wrongdoing by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, an industry-funded group that oversees arbitrations and can impose fines and other penalties. More than six of 10 FINRA arbitrations last year resulted in no award for investors, though many cases were withdrawn or settled before a ruling.

"When they give bad, conflicted advice, they should be held liable, and they're not," said Mercer Bullard, a law professor at the University of Mississippi. "Unless they're a fiduciary, it's very difficult to win that case."

Details of the proposed rule haven't been hammered out, but lobbying for and against it is already intense.

A lobby group for the securities industry, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, or SIFMA, is trying to kill the rule, which was proposed by the Labor Department. It fears officials there lack expertise about the brokerage industry and will write the rule in a way that will make it too costly for brokers to help clients with small accounts, and force them to stop advising them. It would rather the Securities and Exchange Commission, the main agency overseeing Wall Street, take the lead.

In a speech earlier this month, the head of the SEC, Mary Jo White, said the agency is exploring the idea of a rule of its own. She wants all brokers giving advice to be held to the higher standard, not just those handling retirement money.

William Percy wishes he'd been more careful with his broker. He said Sharon Kearney convinced him to hand over $330,000 from 34 years of laying and repairing telephone lines at Pacific Bell. Kearney put that money into a variable annuity. It's a complicated product, and has drawn fire from regulators for its high costs and hidden risks. Percy said his annuity is now worth $100,000.

"She was getting paid to get us into this," said Percy, 66, of Broomfield, Colorado. "That was her mission. She wasn't looking out for my benefit."

Percy is suing Kearney and her firm, SagePoint Financial, in California state court, as are four other former Kearney clients. Her lawyer and SagePoint say they can't comment on the case, but note that Percy lost in arbitration before FINRA.

Critics of the current "suitability" rule, written in 1975, consider it dated and ineffective. Many brokers then filled their days taking orders to buy and sell stocks and bonds, not giving investment advice to ordinary workers. Workers generally didn't need advice because many had pension plans that guaranteed income after they retired. Back then, 401(k) accounts didn't exist.

Now most companies don't offer guaranteed pensions and, with 65 percent of retirement savings in 401(k) plans and IRAs, brokers have taken on the role of adviser.

Brokers are especially busy dispensing advice when people change jobs or retire and have the option of rolling over 401(k) accounts into IRAs, products that the Labor Department oversees.

Stocks gain

Encouraging U.S. economic data and a batch of corporate deals put investors in a buying mood Monday, sending stocks sharply higher.

The broad rally nudged the Dow Jones industrial average back into positive territory for the year after a rough stretch for the market most of last week.

Traders welcomed a government report showing that consumer spending and incomes rose in February. Another report hinted at strong start to the spring buying season.

Energy stocks were among the biggest gainers, bucking a slide in the price of crude oil. Several drugmakers soared on merger news.

"You had all the elements today for a positive market," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial.

The Dow rose 263.65 points, or 1.5 percent, to 17,976.31. The 30-company index was up as much as 295 points. It's now up 0.9 percent for the year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 25.22 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,086.24, while the Nasdaq composite gained 56.22 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,947.44. Both indexes are also up for the year.

Investors have their eye on economic data as they look ahead to the next round of corporate earnings, beginning next week. While a clutch of weaker-than-expected data sent the market lower much of last week, positive economic news got Monday's rally going early.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $50.17 Up 0.56

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $114.99 Up 2.15

Dawson Operating (DWSN)
Closing Price $4.42 Up 0.03

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $77.63 Up 2.46

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $10.23 Down 0.23

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $5.65 Up 0.60

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $18.94 Down 0.10

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $26.01 Up 0.21

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $10.44 Up 0.03

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $18.82 Up 0.69

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.88	28	32.97	+.22	-1.8
Abraxas	...	5	3.19	-.07	+8.5
AdamsEx	1.18e	...	14.03	+.15	+2.6
Alcoa	.12	68	12.96	+.26	-17.9
AlonUSA	.40a	29	15.98	+1.25	+26.1
AlteraCp lf	.72	33	42.82	-1.57	+15.9
Amgen	3.16	25	164.31	+1.72	+3.1
Anadarko	1.08	...	83.85	+1.66	+1.6
Apache	1.00	...	60.83	+1.42	-2.9
Apple Inc s	1.88	17	126.37	+3.12	+14.5
ApldMatl	.40	24	22.77	-.06	-8.6
ATMOS	1.56	18	55.38	+.77	-.6
AutoData	1.96	29	85.89	+1.26	+3.0
BP PLC	2.40	33	39.84	+.23	+4.5
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	15.46	-.16	-2.7
BakrHu	.68	15	63.48	+.69	+13.2
BkofAm	.20	44	15.52	+.21	-13.2
B iPVixST	...	...	24.96	-.78	-20.8
BasicEnSv	...	...	6.90	+.01	-1.6
BerkHa A	...		217219700.00	+2700.00	-2.8
BlkHillsCp	1.62f	18	50.63	+.58	-4.5
BlackBerry	...	...	8.80	-.66	-19.9
BrMySq	1.48	55	65.76	+.50	+11.4
BrownFA	1.26	29	90.85	+.85	+3.5
BrownFB	1.26	29	90.80	+1.38	+3.4
CVS Health	1.40	26	103.83	+1.33	+7.8
Cameron	...	12	45.81	+.76	-8.3
Catamaran	...	35	59.83	+11.51	+15.6
Caterpillar	2.80	14	81.37	+1.70	-11.1
Celestic g	...	12	11.11	-.01	-5.4
CntryLink	2.16	25	34.06	-.04	-13.9
ChesEng	.35	7	13.97	-.06	-28.6
Chevron	4.28	11	106.90	+2.62	-4.7
Chicos	.31f	...	17.55	-.16	+8.3
Cimarex	.64	20	115.52	+3.02	+9.0
Cisco	.84f	17	27.65	+.52	+.1
Citigroup	.04	23	51.64	+.64	-4.6
ClayEng	...	14	50.17	+.56	-21.4
CocaCola	1.32f	25	40.51	+.43	-4.1
ColgPalm	1.52f	29	69.29	+.54	+.1
Comcast	1.00f	18	56.61	+.92	-2.4
ConAgra	1.00	...	36.90	+.14	+1.7
ConchoRes	...	24	114.99	+2.15	+15.3
ConocoPhil	2.92	12	64.00	+1.07	-7.3

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
CrackerB	4.00	25	152.79	+1.71	+8.5
CSVLgNGs	...	...	2.27	-.02	-43.0
CSVLgCrde	...	...	2.34	+.03	-52.1
CSVixSht	...	...	1.62	-.10	-41.3
CrosTim	2.52e	7	19.45	-.79	+12.3
DCP Mid	3.12f	14	37.43	+.14	-17.6
DTE	2.76	15	80.73	+.57	-6.5
Dataram h	...	...	2.23	-.01	+31.2
DBXEafeEq	1.37e	...	30.40	+.27	+12.6
DevonE	.96	16	60.71	+1.56	-.8
DxGldBull	...	...	9.79	-.59	-12.3
Disney	1.15f	23	106.12	+.64	+12.7
DowChm	1.68	17	48.68	+.92	+6.7
EMC Cp	.46	19	25.52	+.47	-14.2
EOG Res s	.67	17	92.14	+1.58	+.1
EmpDist	1.04	16	24.87	+.13	-16.4
Energen	.08	28	66.23	+1.18	+3.9
EngyTsfr	3.98f	34	56.43	+.46	-13.2
EnPro	.80	78	66.47	+.79	+5.9
EntPrdPt s	1.48f	22	32.91	+.51	-8.9
Ericsson	.46e	...	12.70	+.01	+5.0
ExterranH	.60	24	33.60	+.71	+3.1
ExxonMbl	2.76	11	85.63	+2.05	-7.4
Facebook	...	76	83.20	-.11	+6.6
FordM	.60f	20	16.16	+.18	+4.3
FrptMcM	.20m	...	19.38	+.58	-17.0
GATX	1.52f	13	59.01	+1.13	+2.6
GabMultT	1.06e	...	9.35	+.05	-6.6
GAInv	3.50e	...	35.15	+.15	+.4
GenElec	.92	17	25.12	+.26	-.6
GeneticT rs	...	...	4.94	+1.24	+156.6
GtPlainEn	.98	17	26.48	+.35	-6.8
Groupon	...	...	7.43	-.18	-10.0
HalconRes	...	...	1.58	-.07	-11.2
Hallibrtn	.72	10	43.82	+.56	+11.4
HewlettP	.64	12	31.57	+.08	-21.3
HorizPhm	...	...	25.78	+3.97	+100.0
iShBrazil	1.38e	...	31.09	+.80	-15.0
iShJapan	.15e	...	12.78	+.05	+13.7
iSTaiwn	.29e	...	15.77	+.13	+4.4
iShChinaLC	1.04e	...	44.74	+1.64	+7.5
iShEMkts	.88e	...	40.22	+.76	+2.4
iS Eafe	2.26e	...	65.18	+.04	+7.1
iShR2K	1.59e	...	124.77	+1.67	+4.3

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShREst	2.70e	...	79.90	+.89	+4.0
iShUSEngy	1.01e	...	43.95	+.89	-1.9
IntegrysE	2.72	21	72.10	+.15	-7.4
Intel	.96	14	31.46	-.54	-13.3
InterDig	.80	...	51.26	+.70	-3.1
ItauUnibH	.41e	...	10.78	+.32	-17.1
JPMorgCh	1.60	12	60.96	+1.41	-2.0
JohnJn	2.80	18	101.55	+1.21	-2.9
KimbClk	3.52f	27	107.74	+1.37	-6.8
KindMorg	1.80f	43	42.07	+.80	-.6
KraftFGp	2.20	53	90.61	+1.51	+44.6
LegacyRes	2.44	...	10.23	-.23	-10.5
Lubys	...	...	5.05	+.14	+11.0
MGM Rsts	...	...	21.27	-.03	-.5
MVJrGold	...	...	22.82	-.76	-4.6
MktVGold	.12e	...	18.47	-.37	+.5
McDnlds	3.40	20	97.88	+.92	+4.5
Merck	1.80	14	58.34	+.59	+2.7
MeritMed	...	36	19.25	+.35	+11.1
MexcoEn	...	...	5.65	+.60	+4.1
MicronT	...	9	26.68	+.01	-23.8
Microsoft	1.24	17	40.96	-.01	-11.8
Mondelez	.60	29	36.50	+.95	+.5
Nabors	.24	11	13.64	+.34	+5.1
NatGrid	3.48e	...	65.72	-.09	-7.0
NOilVarco	1.84	8	49.84	+.59	-23.9
NokiaCp	.51e	...	7.73	+.03	-1.7
NvMAd	.79a	...	13.72	-.10	+.4
NvPMI	.82a	...	13.83	+.07	-1.0
NuvPI	.82a	...	13.93	-.02	+.5
NSTFI3	.59a	...	14.79	+.04	+3.9
NTXQI	.65a	...	14.28	+.13	-1.2
OcciPet	2.88	13	73.98	+1.26	-8.2
OnSmcnd	...	28	12.13	+.33	+19.7
Oracle	.60f	18	43.44	+.80	-3.4
ParTech	...	...	4.22	+.08	-31.4
ParkDrl	...	10	3.41	+.13	+11.1
PattUTI	.40	17	18.92	-.04	+14.0
PennaRE	.84f	...	23.38	+.27	-.3
Prmian	.87e	8	8.19	+.05	-14.2
Petrobras	.46e	...	5.93	+.23	-18.8
Pfizer	1.12f	25	35.00	+.47	+12.4
PioNtrl	.08	26	166.50	+2.89	+11.9
PlainsAAP	2.70f	21	48.70	+.67	-6.1
PwShs QQQ	1.49e	...	106.73	+1.21	+3.4

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Praxair	2.86f	22	121.52	+1.36	-6.2
PrmEgy	...	6	52.59	-.01	-27.7
PUltVixST	...	...	14.31	-.93	-43.1
PrUltCrude	...	...	7.12	+.05	-31.3
ProctGam	2.57	25	82.72	+.41	-9.2
Qualcom	1.92f	15	68.88	+1.86	-7.3
RangeRs	.16	21	51.71	+.10	-3.3
RegionsFn	.20	12	9.34	+.11	-11.6
RiteAid	...	27	8.76	+.19	+16.5
Rowan	.40	...	17.58	+.17	-24.6
RoyDShllA	3.76	12	60.93	+.45	-9.0
SpdrDJIA	3.55e	...	179.39	+2.58	+.8
S&P500ETF	3.94e	...	208.25	+2.51	+1.3
SabnR	4.26e	10	40.43	+1.02	+13.0
SanderFm	.88a	6	78.17	-1.38	-7.0
SandRdge	...	4	1.83	+.05	+.5
Schlmbrg	2.00f	20	84.48	+1.17	-1.1
SigmaAld	.92	33	138.41	+.20	+.8
SiriusXM	...	43	3.87	+.02	+10.6
Smucker	2.56	21	117.13	+1.12	+16.0
SouFun s	1.20e	11	6.35	+.39	-14.1
SP CnSt	1.25e	...	49.20	+.49	+1.5
SP Engy	1.94e	...	78.04	+1.64	-1.4
SPDR Fncl	.41e	...	24.28	+.35	-1.8
SunocoL s	1.60f	75	41.72	-.05	-.1
TaiwSemi	.50e	...	23.25	+.31	+3.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TeckRes g	.90	...	15.27	+1.41	+12.0
TelefEsp	.97e	...	14.48	-.11	+1.9
Tesoro	1.70f	14	91.15	+1.25	+22.6
3M Co	4.10f	22	166.05	+2.55	+1.1
Torchmrk s	.54f	13	55.22	+.55	+1.9
TriContl	.78e	...	21.80	+.21	+1.8
Twitter	...	...	49.89	-.12	+39.1
TylerTech	...	69	122.68	+3.40	+12.1
UBWV	1.28	20	37.60	+.51	+.4
US OilFd	...	...	17.23	+.09	-15.4
Vale SA	.60e	...	5.79	+.12	-29.2
Vale SA pf	.60e	...	4.99	+.06	-31.3
ValeroE	1.60f	9	63.78	+1.69	+28.8
VerizonCm	2.20	20	49.12	+.56	+5.0
VulcanM	.40f	53	85.39	+1.22	+29.9
WalgBoots	1.35	40	85.99	+.70	+12.8
WellsFargo	1.40	13	54.77	+.65	-.1
WstnRefin	1.20	10	49.75	+2.07	+31.7
WhitingPet	...	8	30.72	+.22	-6.9
WmsCos	2.32f	77	50.64	+1.36	+12.7
Windstrm	1.00	...	7.49	+.05	-9.2
XcelEngy	1.28f	17	34.74	+.35	-3.3
Xerox	.28f	15	12.84	+.25	-7.4
Xilinx	1.24f	18	42.68	+.36	-1.4
Ziopharm	...	...	11.61	+.17	+129.0

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
18,288.63	15,855.12	Dow Jones Industrials	17,976.31	+263.65	+1.49	+.86	+9.23
9,310.22	7,346.24	Dow Jones Transportation	8,788.06	+87.72	+1.01	-3.85	+18.01
657.17	519.56	Dow Jones Utilities	588.14	+7.63	+1.31	-4.84	+10.53
11,142.56	9,886.08	NYSE Composite	10,989.16	+114.02	+1.05	+1.38	+4.38
5,042.14	3,946.03	Nasdaq Composite	4,947.44	+56.22	+1.15	+4.46	+17.82
2,119.59	1,814.36	S&P 500	2,086.24	+25.22	+1.22	+1.33	+11.42
1,542.16	1,269.45	S&P Midcap	1,529.74	+21.23	+1.41	+5.32	+10.97
22,388.10	19,160.13	Wilshire 5000	22,114.56	+267.77	+1.23	+2.05	+10.59
1,268.16	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,257.80	+17.39	+1.40	+4.41	+7.23

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!!!

The wiseman built his house on a rock
Then he hired Hartman to roof it!!!
All Types of Roof and Roof repair • Free Estimates
Commercial • Residential
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Mention this ad. and receive $300.00 off a full roofing job or $50.00 off any repair of $200.00 or more

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

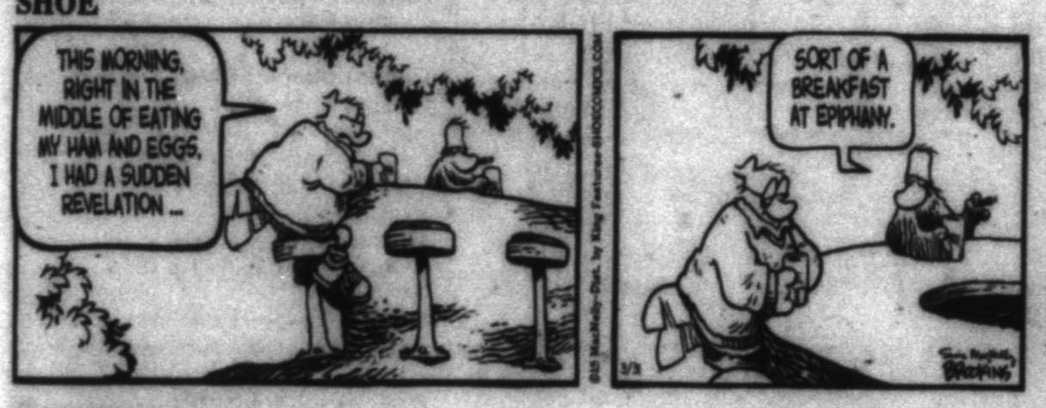
FUNKY WINKERBEAN

BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE



GARFIELD

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

"We'd been in the house for a year before we found out it was built on a tortoise nesting site."

DENNIS THE MENACE

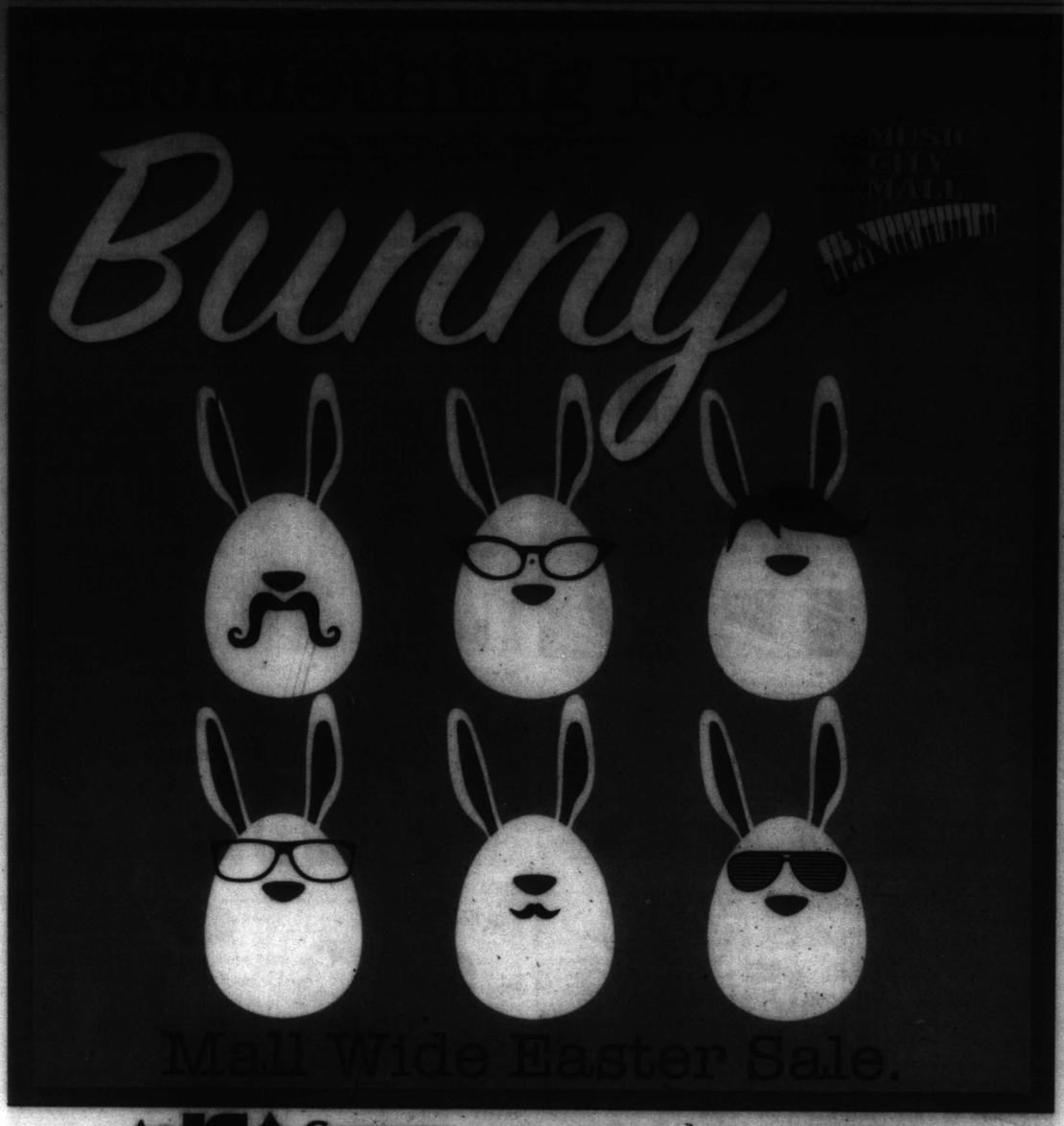
"I THINK THE BEST WAY TO FIX CARROTS IS TO THROW THEM AWAY AND ORDER PIZZA!"

LOCKHORNS

"NOT ME... THE LAST TIME I HIT THE SLOPES, THE SLOPES HIT BACK."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"As soon as he's done singing, he'll want us to clap for him."



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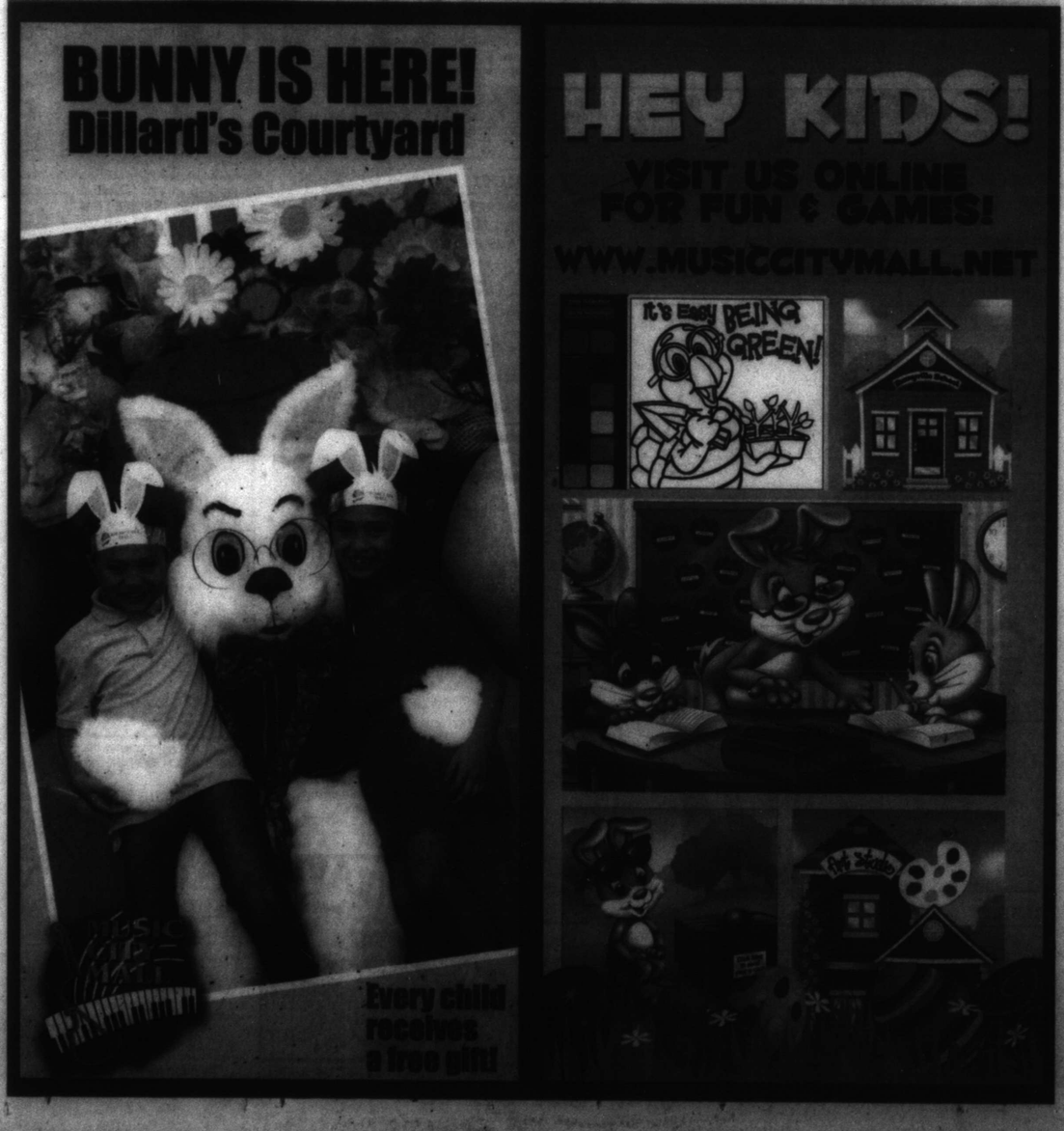

OFFICE JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person.

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting 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
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

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.

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting 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
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

SALES JOBS

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram

YOU can have a rewarding career in ADVERTISING!

Do you have excellent communication skills?
Are you detail oriented?
Do you have an assertive, positive attitude?
Are you a self-starter?
Do you excel in time management and organization?
If so, then we will train you to SUCCEED!

The MRT Media Group, a Hearst Corporation company, is looking for full-time Inside and Outside Sales Multi-Media Account Executive. Duties will include selling print and digital advertising into the Midland Reporter-Telegram, mrt.com, MRT Weekly, and a variety of custom publications.

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest, diversified communications companies, with major interests in magazine, newspaper and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet businesses and more. As an associate of the MRT Media Group, you will join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package guaranteed commission for three months, mileage and cell phone allowances, 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 are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to:
Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager
MRT Media Group
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701
jhouston@mrt.com
Equal Opportunity Employer

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Program Assistant
Texas A & M AgriLife Extension is hiring a Program Assistant to conduct nutrition education programs. Application must be completed at https://greatjobs.tamu.edu (search NOV 084130. Contact Candace Carter at 432-685-4700 for additional information.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Natural Gas Compressor Mechanic
Natural Gas Compressor Mechanic position open at natural gas processing plant NW of Stanton, TX. Excellent benefits. Salery DOE. Mail resume to Admin., 2873 FM 829, Stanton, TX. 79782 or FAX 432-458-3423 or email vmcomack@wtggas.com

Oil & Gas Operational Accounting Manager

Atlantic Resources Company, LLC, a Midland based independent oil and gas operator, has an immediate opening for a detail-oriented person to manage its monthly oil and gas accounting functions.

Requirements:

- Accounting Degree
- JIB, Revenue Distribution, and basic oil and gas accounting experience
- Working knowledge of Excel and Word
- Wolfepak software is not required but a plus

Qualified individuals must submit a resume, references, and salary history to:
Atlantic Resources Company, LLC
Attn: Accounting P.O. Box 3759
Midland TX. 79702
or email careers@arcoperating.com.

HEALTHCARE

Medical Assistant or LVN
Full Time position available at Permian Gastroenterology, P.A. Please fax resume to 432-687-0000, ATTN: S. Patel or bring to 4214 Andrews Hwy, Ste. 509 Midland, TX 79703-4861.

Part Time Registered Nurse
Nurses Unlimited Private Duty Department, located in Midland Texas, is currently seeking a part-time/PRN RN with a minimum of 3-5 years' experience, with at least one year of full time supervisory or administrative experience in the last 3 years, and current CPR. Duties will include supervision and coordination of care and services for private pay clients, provide case orientation, supervision, and evaluation of Certified Nurses Aides, Sitters and Homemakers, and perform other duties as assigned. Apply in person at 1020 E Andrews Highway or fax resume to 432-522-5094 or email to motorcle@nursesunlimited.com

Physician
Physician needed for Addiction Medicine Clinic. Odessa or Midland positions available. 2-3 days per week 8:30am-5:30pm. Paid by hourly cotfract rate. Physical exams, medication adjustments, assist counseling staff with treatment planning. Any medical specialty acceptable, will train. No hospital association, no insurance billing. Texas licensure must be in good standing. Fax cover letter and CV to Dr. Garcia, 214-732-1622

Representatives
Now Hiring - Full Time and Part Time Representatives. Year round positions available with Frontline Promotions in the Midland area.

$10 per hour guaranteed, plus commissions. Frontline Reps earn up to $30 per hour. Paid weekly. Previous sales experience is good, but not necessary. Flexible schedule! Good people! GREAT pay! Must have reliable transportation to work.

Call Andy at (432) 242-7151 for an immediate opportunity.

Sales & Events Manager
Insignia Hospitality Group is now hiring full time Sales & Events Manager. Send resumes to rachel@insigniamgmt.com

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY DRIVER
Griffin Oil, Midland Position. Class A, CDL/Hazmat, 1 year experience, good MVR, full benefit package. Position includes warehouse duties and truck deliveries. Call 806-744-2067. Ask for the Transportation Dept. Fax 806-785-4182

WAREHOUSE WORKER
Griffin Oil Company, 3910 S. FM 1788, Midland, TX. 79706. Duties include pulling orders, stocking, taking inventory, and making local deliveries. Must have forklift experience and Class C license with good driving record. Excellent Pay & Full Benefits package. Applications can be completed on site. For additional information or directions, call 432-563-9991 or 866-350-4897.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Social Worker
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is seeking a Child/Family Specialist (Social Worker) in Midland. Bachelor's degree with some experience. Apply online at: http://texas.pchss.org/employment/ or call 210-558-4770.

Tubular Coordinator/Assistant
Master Tubulars, Inc. is now accepting resumes for a Tubular Coordinator. The ideal candidate for this position should have tubular experience and be a motivated self-starter.

Summary of Duties:
- Provide excellent customer service by taking inside sales orders
- Create material releases and update shipment information by organizing files, both manually and electronically
- Initiate and maintain contact with vendors and customers to ensure timely delivery of goods and services
- Assist customers with inquiries
- Interact with third party logistics service providers by tracking and expediting the purchase and delivery process
- Ensure accuracy of all inventories
- Coordinate logistics and maintain documentation, both manually and electronically, for well returns
- Audit freight cost and documentation
- Reconcile and document tallies
- Other duties as assigned by management.

Summary of Desired Qualifications:
- College degree preferred but not required
- 2 years OCTG experience
- Computer skills, including Excel, Word, Outlook

Interested candidates should email their resume to humanresources@mastertubulars.com.
Please include your salary expectations.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

General Manager, Cook, Dishwashers & Servers
Lori's Cafe hiring Full Time • General Manager,Cooks Dishwashers & Servers. Starting $11 hour. Apply in person at 2201 W. Wall, Midland

SKILLED LABOR

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.

$1,000 Sign On Bonus
(payable after 90-day probation period)

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:jmaddox@hearstnp.com
Midland Reporter-Telegram is part of Hearst Corporation.
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE
Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Restaurant Positions
Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT
Pay range from $15-$20 an hour, depending on position. Now hiring Hibachi Chefs, Managers, Assistant manager w/experience, Waitresses, Hostesses, Cashiers, Bartenders, Bus Help, Dishwashers & Kitchen Help. Please apply in person: 1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79706

SALES JOBS

Energetic Sales Person Wanted for Our Team!
Local floor covering company is seeking energetic, detail oriented sales person to join our team. We believe that this is not just a sales job but a rewarding career. Must have ability to:
Build and maintain strong relationships with current and new customers.
Understand customer's flooring requirements, review job site conditions and provide estimates to customers.
Floor covering industry experience preferred. Commission plus benefits.
Email name and phone number to gacbecky@cablegane.net

Yard Technicians
Purity Oilfield Services, LLC. is now hiring Yard Technicians to assist with the yard inventory. Duties will include but are not limited to rental equipment staging, prep, and make-ready. Please contact 432-563-1374 for more information or email mailer@purityoilfieldservices.com. Offering competitive wages and excellent benefits. EOE

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Laboratory Technician
Growing oilfield company looking for a laboratory technician. Laboratory experience preferred. Experience with high temperature/pressure viscometers a plus. Send resumes to: justin.dieney@catalystoilfield.com.

SKILLED LABOR

2- Journeyman Plumbers
2-Journeyman Plumbers needed for new commercial. Join our growing company. Please call Superior Plumbing 432-687-8905 License # M39721

Experienced Dozer Operator Wanted
Need experienced dozer operator-(CDL preferred but not required) for independent oil and gas company in Big Spring. Work close to home, competitive pay and benefits. Please call 432-813-7376 or send resume to PO Box 1888, Big Spring, TX 79721.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION

PT Collectors for Drug and Alcohol Testing
No Experience Necessary Wayne Wicks & Associates, Inc. is looking for responsible, process-oriented individuals to perform drug & alcohol tests as needed for local, Midland-area companies; usually 2 - 3 days per week. Travel time and expenses are paid, if applicable, transportation to job sites and all training is provided. Minimum requirements include a High School Diploma or equivalent, must be able to pass a criminal background check, and pass a drug test. Travel/Standby Time: $11 p/h. Testing Time: $18 p/h. If interested, call 713-439-1886 or e-mail resume to info@wwicks.com.

Place your classified ad CLASSIFIED 682-6222

Fax Your Classified Ad in Today! 682-6000

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

PART TIME DATA ENTRY

IMMEDIATE OPENING! Heavy data Entry, light phones, verifying insurance information. 9am-2:30pm, Mon.-Wed., 9am-3:30pm Thurs. Part time temp to hire. Email resumes to resume@igotthejobs.com

Staffing Resources
694-9527

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Commercial/Residential Carpenter

Immediate opening at Barbed Cross Construction. Commercial/ Residential Carpenter. Great pay and benefit package. Call 432-262-4405 and fax resume to 432-262-4403.

Dirt Construction

Robert McHam Construction, LTD is looking for an experienced Foreman, Secretary (exp in Quickbooks & Excel) and Mechanic (must have OWN tools) for the Midland location. All positions will offer BCBS insurance, retirement plan. Interested parties call Justin at 806-241-7274

HEALTHCARE

Dental Front Desk Receptionist

Thomas Campagna, DMD

We are looking for an exceptional, experienced, reliable, **Dental Front Desk Receptionist**, experience with Eaglesoft required, Spanish a plus, to join our team, at Midland's premier dental practice. Please email: **info@smilemidland.com**, fax: **(432) 520-0720** or bring resume to: **3722 W. Loop 250 North, Midland, TX**

Registered Dental Hygienist

Thomas Campagna, DMD **PT**

We are looking for an exceptional, experienced, **Registered Dental Hygienist**, full/ part time to join our team, at Midland's premier dental practice. Recent graduates encouraged to apply. Please email: **info@smilemidland.com**, fax: **(432) 520-0720** or bring resume to: **3722 W. Loop 250 North, Midland, TX.**

OTHER JOBS

Stable Hand

Need part-time help cleaning horse stables. Flexible hours, preferrably 10am-12noon. $12/hour. Call 432-413-4682

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Lead Cook

Lead Cook - Corporate Dining Aramark (Midland) Compensation: Circa $15.00 $17.00 based on experience. Great culinary skills, organized, Monday - Thursday daytime hours, 40 hours per week, new kitchen, lunch only, great customers, first class equipment, EEO, background checked. Please apply in person: Aramark @ Pioneer Natural Resources. 3617 N. Big Spring St. Midland, TX. 79705

SALES JOBS

Salesperson

Basin Engine and Pump

Experienced pump salesperson needed. Excellent compensation and benefit plans provided. Email resume to Todd@basinengine.com.

SKILLED LABOR

Experienced Trackhoe Operator Wanted

Need experienced trackhoe operator (CDL preferred but not required) for independent oil and gas company in Big Spring. Work close to home, competitive pay and benefits. Please call 432-813-7375 or send resume to PO Box 1888, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Finish Blade Operator

Heavy highway & TXDOT experience preferred, valid driver's license required. Comprehensive benefit package. Competitive salary EOE. Allen Butler Construction, Lubbock, TX. 806-745-7498

Landscape Help Needed

Starting Pay $12. per hour. Must pass drug & background screening. Apply in person at Hunter's Ridge Apartments 4201 Andrews Hwy Midland, TX 79703

Licensed Plumber

Need licensed Plumber for new construction work. Please call Charles @ 432-425-7256

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Route Drivers

Now hiring route drivers for fast growing full line vending company. Must be 21 with valid drivers license, clean mvr & background, and pass drug screen. Pay DOE & benefits available. Send resume to info@n2gvending.com or call 432-704-5174

Septic Hauler

Septic Haulers needed. Good starting pay with Benefits. No CDL required. Please apply in Person at 2201 S Midkiff, Midland TX or send resumes to permianseptic@gmail.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER ROUTE/CORNER SALES

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners (avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)

MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD SUNDAYS ONLY IF INTERESTED CALL TOMMY 967-2267

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??

Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Mechanic

Reliant Transportation Ltd. currently seeking qualified light and heavy truck mechanic for immediate openings. Own tools required and CDL preferred but not required. Overtime pay and weekend work. We offer full-time positions, great 401k plan, medical, dental, and vision benefits. Call Bobby Arvello @ 432-617-3689 for more information.

Mechanic/Shop Manager

Wanted: Experienced Mechanic Shop Manager and Diesel Mechanic for Oilfield Service Company. Must have Experience with Caterpillar & Cumins Diesel Engines-John Deere Diesel Experience is a plus. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact #432-400-2250

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Truck Drivers

Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: medical, life and dental insurance, and paid vacation. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call 432-563-1535 for interview or online @ www.rockwaterenergy.com

Logistics Assistant/Dispatcher

Master Tubulars, Inc. is now accepting resumes for a Logistics Assistant/Dispatcher. The ideal candidate for this position should have tubular experience and be a motivated self-starter.

Summary of Duties:
- Provide excellent customer service by taking inside sales orders
- Create material releases and update shipment information by organizing files, both manually and electronically
- Initiate and maintain contact with vendors and customers to ensure timely delivery of goods and services
- Assist customers with inquiries
- Interact with third party logistics service providers by tracking and expediting the purchase and delivery process
- Ensure accuracy of all inventories
- Coordinate logistics and maintain documentation, both manually and electronically, for well returns
- Audit freight cost and documentation
- Reconcile and document tallies
- Other duties as assigned by management.

Summary of Desired Qualifications:
- College degree preferred but not required
- 2 years OCTG experience
- Computer skills, including Excel, Word, Outlook

Interested candidates should email their resume to humanresources@mastertubulars.com. Please include your salary expectations.

Rolloff Truck Driver

Rolloff truck driver, Class B CDL required. Competitive Pay. Call 432-582-2955 for interview or apply in person at 2201 S. Midkiff, Midland.

The Bottom Line

As household income, education levels and job responsibility increases, so does readership.

Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

Midland Reporter-Telegram
mrt.com
201 EAST ILLINOIS AVENUE MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701 432-682-5311

Coming Soon!

Big Hole Fair

2015

April 11

Midland County Horseshoe Pavillion

Featured Entertainment...

Vince Gill

A Country Music Icon!

Call NOW to reserve a table! Jean at MARC (695-9901) or by email at jjones@marctexas.org

mrt classifieds

432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Events and Notices

General Announcements

BETTER READ
Mark Berryhill.com
Ministering for Christ.

Lost & Found

FOUND SMALL male dog on Sweeetbriar Drive 3-23-15. No tags. Cynthia 432-349-4709.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Legal & Public Notices

Notice of Sale of Personal Property to satisfy landlord's lien. Per Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, contents of unit(s): Unit #52 - Teena Wilson, at Greenwood Self Storage, located at 2118 SCR 1083, Midland, TX 79706 on April 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. by silent auction.

Legal & Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Midland Independent School District will receive sealed proposals for Cable Plant (CP) infrastructure for 9 schools.

Cable Plant - RFP No: 2015-006T.CP, opening Monday, March 30, 2015

See www.midlandisd.net/techrfp for further information.

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Lost & Found

KEY FOB for a Chrysler vehicle, found in the Abuelo's parking lot on 3/24.
Found ring at carwash behind Hobby Lobby on 3/36. Call 432-352-3357 to identify.

Legal & Public Notices

ORDINANCE NO. 9412
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR LOT 3, BLOCK 2, WESTRIDGE PARK ADDITION, SECTION 4, CITY AND COUNTY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS (GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH LOOP 250 WEST AND ANDREWS HIGHWAY), BY PERMITTING A BUILDING TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT LIMIT; CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OR FINE OF TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS ($2,000.00); ORDERING RECORDATION BY THE CITY SECRETARY IN THE DEED RECORDS OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS; AND ORDERING PUBLICATION

CITY OF MIDLAND
Amy M. Turner, MMC
City Secretary

Classified CAN 682-6222

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE IS hereby given that pursuant to the State's Self-Storage Facility Lien Law, on April 7, 2015 at 10:00 AM. CubeSmart General Managers, state that the following property is being sold to satisfy the landlord's lien and will sell at www.storagetreasures.com.
3111 Caldera Blvd, Midland, TX 79705
Marcella Lott: Golf Clubs, car ramps, car seat, plastic totes, misc. boxes and clothing
Jose Diaz: 2 dvd players, futon, television stand, vacuum, bag of shampoo samples, commercial shelving, counters and serving cooler.
Marsha Sue Hodges: China Cabinet, 2 dressers, armoire, several misc. boxes and totes.
Spencer Jackson: Large metal safe, fishing poles, cleaning supplies, loveseat, recliner, desk, mattress and boxspring, microwave, blender, 7 plus boxes.
Carolina Losoya: Bed frame, boxspring and mattress, bookcase, books, boxes, clothing, washer & dryer, couch, kitchen table and chairs, dresser, loveseat, charcoal grill, tools, 3 lamps, end tables, coffee tablemicrowave, camping chairs.
Joseph Ramses: Mattress, desk, dresser, loveseat, sofa, 2 end tables, ironing board, television, misc. bags and boxes.
2504 N Loop 250 W, Midland,TX 79707
Thomas Marsh: Suitcases, lamp, boxes, clothes & toys
Syterra Nykole Thomas: Toys, clothes, DVD player and DVD's, totes and boxes
Robert Hunt: Beds, books,boxes, totes, clothes, dressers, tools, fishing poles.
Angela Louise Lopez: Bikes, fans, crib, misc. boxes and bags, and household items.
Aztlan Torres: Transmission
5306 N Grandview Ave, Odessa, TX 79762
Shelly Burton: Desk, crib,mattress & boxspring, headboard, sofa, night table, microwave, dishes, boxes and misc.
Troy Perason: Bedframe, boxes, computer equipment, dresser, waterhose, photography equipment, chair and misc.
Carolyn Relyea: Refrigerator and microwave
Tammy Young: Bookcase, plastic totes, home décor, pet bed, picture frames, Vacuum box, keurig box, 3 drawer plastic table, boxes & bags.
Leroy Rodriguez: Front loading washer and dryer, tool boxes , tools, & chairs.
Addie Black: Suitcase, duffle bag, bags and misc.
Amanda Register: Bed frame, mattresses, small & large boxes, end table, Ironing board, vacuum, toys, home décor
Josh Dziedzic: Baby crib, strollers, small & large boxes, kitchen table and chairs, sofa & love seat, desk, toys and misc.
3125 Kermit Hwy, Odessa, TX 79764
Lisa Llanez: Bags, bed frame, boxspring, headboard, mattress, kitchen table and chairs, pictures, totes & misc.
Lisa Llanez: Baskets, mattress, large boxes, clothing, pictures, totes & tool boxes.
Andrew Ruiz: Baskets, floor lamp, microwave, dining table, household items and misc.
Erik Cazares: Misc. toys and bags
Chance Marichalar: Love seat, stools, mattress & washing machine

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

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

3/31/15
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Business Center

Business Opportunity

92 SPACE Mobile Home Park, Midland, Tx. 48 park owned homes. On-site office and workshop. Professionally managed. High occupancy. $1,300,000. Sale is subject to the US Bankruptcy court. Call 575-527-4833, georgewthomas@yahoo.com

BILL SEARS, former Athletic Coach at MHS, is active as a Petroleum Land Man in the Mountain Area. Contact him by mail: Bill Sears, PO Box 6331, Longmont, CO 80501, email sears37@msn.com or 720-494-7626 fax

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

FORD 2003 Taurus light gray, low mileage, rebuilt transmission installed. Must see! Asking $5,000. Comes with warranty. 432-349-0041

FORD 2010 Mustang Coupe, V6, 43K miles, leather & power seats, super clean, $15,900 OBO. Call Kevin @ 432-631-2510

LINCOLN, 2004 ,Towncar Signature. Silver, one owner, extremely clean, very well maintained, used mainly in town, excellent car. Asking below bluebook value at $7000. 92K miles. 432-238-8598.

MERCEDES CLASSIC 1975 Benz 450SL. Best Offer. 303-818-0923

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

CHEVY 1993 Silverado, shortbed, new motor & tires. $3,000. 432-413-1076.

GMC 2008 Sierra SLT, 4 dr. Z71, red w/black leather, 81k miles. Garage kept. Reduced price. No owner finance. 432-557-7386.

4WD & SUV

NEW TODAY!
TOYOTA 2002 Sequoia, good condition V8, 127K miles, leather interior, sunroof. Well maintained. Asking $9,000 OBO. 432-853-5305

RVs

2004 CHAPPARAL 27' 5TH WHEEL, 1-SLIDE, 1/2 TON TOWABLE, ALC, MICROWAVE, CENTRAL AIR $8,995+TTL KEN'S RV 432-697-6447

2004 GULFSTREAM ULTRA LITE, 26' BUMPER PULL, ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION, SUPER LITE 1/2 TON OR SUV TOWABLE $8,995+TTL KEN'S RV 432-697-6447

2008 NEW HORIZONS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL TRAILER, WHEELCHAIR LIFT W/REMOTE, SUPER QUALITY TRAILER, BUMPER PULL, 3 AXLE, 1-SLIDE, ALL OAK CABINETS $18,995+TTL KEN'S RV 432-697-6447

2012 KEYSTONE/ Outback 27ft bumper pull trailer. 2 slides, one person part-time use. Trailer located in South Midland. Contact Bill at 214-755-7804

2014 34' Wilderness. Fiberglass, superslide out. 2 Bedroom, electric awning, AC, microwave, fully self-contained. 4 Season. More Options. Like New. View local $23,700 OBO 406-231-5683

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Appliances

We buy broken appliances w/ free removal. Also we repair appliances. 432-570-8278

Miscellaneous for Sale

KEN'S RV SALES
LARGEST SELECTION OF USED TRAILERS IN THE BASIN
TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK
TOY HAULERS GO RVing BUMPER PULLS
FIFTH WHEEL MOTORHOMES
8:30-5:30 Mon.-Fri. • 9-3 Sat

RVs

2014 40' travel trailer 2 slides, 2 bedrooms, 2 air conditions, washer & dryer, fully self contained, many extras, too many to list. Must sell. $26,000 OBO. Please call 254-383-1469.

$21,500 OBO. 36' Bumper pull Travel Trailer. 2 ACs, W/D, super slide, rear bed queen. Park model, house-size fridge. 2 doors. Includes delivery. 682-465-6584

NEW TODAY!
42ft 5th wheel, 2bed, 3 slide outs, sleeps 8, 2 A/Cs, washer, dryer, many extras, like new. $30,700. Locally located 806-429-2399

Recreational Vehicles

2012 KEYSTONE Cougar bumper pull RV like brand new,. Pop out hardly ever used. Asking $22,000 price negotiable. Call 432-301-5827 or 432-301-5337.

KAWASAKI 2006 Vulcan 1600 Classic. Warm weather is almost here! This bike is a must see! Beautiful red/ black, 1 female owner, very low mileage at 10,092. Genuine Kawasaki OEM tall windshield w/lower, hard leather saddle bags, Utopia backrest, new engine guards no yet installed. Perfect condition, meticulously maintained, garage kept. Runs perfect. Call Midland 432-250-4524. $5,825.

KEYSTONE, 2008, Cougar RLS. Great condition. 3U2X8, 2 slides, asking $11,000. One owner, nonsmoker, no pets, low milage. Numerous features. For pics or more info, call or message 325-513-6998.

NITRO 2004 fish/ski boat, 115HP motor, $6000 OBO. Call Phil 432-349-7372

REDUCED!
HONDA 2011 Big Red ATV, $6,500. Call Mike 432-638-3378.

Merchandise

Antiques

RV SPACES for rent, Northeast Midland, quiet & clean area, $500 monthly. Utilities furnished, 50 amp hookup, 432-894-8234

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Free Stuff

Free kittens. Call 432-638-4240, ask for Jenny.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Furniture

Child size Aerobed, 3 barstools, loveseat w/ottoman, Malibu Pilates chair. Call or text- 432-352-3584.

Miscellaneous for Sale

FAST TREES grow 8ft-10ft yearly, $17-$22 delivered. View brochure online at www.fasttrees.com or call 509-447-4181.

Sporting Goods

TROPHY BASS Leases Seven Trophy Bass Lakes on the Historic Comanche Star Ranch located just an hour east of Abilene. Lifetime memories available on each cast. www.trophybasscsr.com 817.907.9240

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Pets

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs. www.pooleslabs.com. Call (806) 633-4364.

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

FOR SENIORS 55 & up. Very nice 2 bed, covered parking, W/D connections, $1,100 month. No pets. Call 432-694-9853.

GREAT DEALS on one and two bedroom and some efficiency apartments in a clean and quite community. Near downtown with unique floor plans and two tone paint and abundant closet space. Some are all bills paid. Please call: 432-218-8728

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Residential Rentals

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4403 CROCKETT B 3/2 $1500
1 bedroom 1 bath apt $850
Call Ali 432-689-7770

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ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations of discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1800-669-9777

Residential Rentals

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LETS MAKE A DEAL rent starting at $850. Call for daily specials. 432-520-0998 or 432-352-2248

NEED SOMEONE to take over 1 year lease with 6 months remaining at the Bradford apartments. Please call for further information. 325-201-7213. Ask for Joel.

NEW MANAGEMENT Spacious 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments. Call 432-687-4514.

SPACIOUS 1600 + - sq ft, Patio apartment. 2 bedroom 2 bath, garage.. $1695 monthly. No pets. 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

Houses for Rent Furnished

NICE NEW totally furnished apartment. washer, dryer, cable, ice, RO water, $1250/mo. $1,000 deposit. 432-631-8100

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH house in Greenwood - $1000.00/month, $1000.00 deposit. 697-3778, 528-9918.

4320 COUNTRY Club Dr. in Midland, TX. House for rent! 3 BR 2B, aprrox. 1800 sq. ft. One car garage. $2000 deposit / $2000 rent. Call 432-894-3073.

5104 A Rainbow 3BD/2BA/2 Car, garage Available April 1st. . No pets, non smoking. $2000 monthly. 432-620-9222 or 432-425-2739

BIG COUNTRY house, 3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath, fenced yard, carport, $1400 rent, $500 deposit. 432-770-7054 or 432-634-0978.

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom 2 bath, 4511 B LaSalle. Must provide current credit report. $1,750 rent, $1,750 deposit. Available April 15th. 432-940-0920 or 432-631-5553.

NICE 3BD/1BA Carport. $1250/mo $1250 deposit. 432-694-9853

UNIQUE LUXURY duplex, 1650 sq. ft. 2 bedroom 2 bath, many immensities. 2509 B Haynes. Just remodeled. 432-553-3248 or 432-683-7679

Rooms for Rent

FURNISHED ROOM for Rent, with TV. Lots of amenities, no kids, no pets. 432-683-2614

Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

BY OWNER - Wallace Townhouse 1000 Neely, 3BR, 2.5BA, 2379sf, $265K. Call 432-528-6466 or 432-967-4049.
Open house every Sat 1-3pm until sold.

Homes for Sale

1407 W. Golf Course Road, 3BD/2BA Townhome with pool, complete remodel, move-in ready, $365,000 no realtors. 432-687-5952

Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

3230 ELMA Dr. 3/2.5/1L/2G, 1653 sq. ft, 2-story Townhome, low-maint., move-in ready, $192,000 432-556-4777. Text your email address for pics.

3307 MA MAR
$469.5K Fabulous custom home, over 4800 sf. 6 bd/ 4.5 ba/ 3 living, 2 pools. Open Sat. 1p-3p
UP Group 889-2934

4105 ST. ANDREWS 4/3/2/2, $269,500. IN-LAW SUITE. OPEN SATURDAY 11AM-12:30PM. **UP GROUP 889-2934**

4904 LOS Alamitos Drive. FSBO. IMMACULATE. 4/3/2 in Saddle Club south updated!! Wood/tile/ carpet flooring, Plantation shutters. 3083 sq. ft. $397,000. Call 432-686-8896 or 432-553-9786

BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom 2 bath completely remodeled. 2 car shop, large deck, new A/C, n/out roof, double pane windows, blown installation. Same owner last 19 years. $208,000. 432-269-1903.

FSBO. IMMACULATE 4/2/2. Built in 2009. Open floor plan. Sequestered master suite. Garden tub. Dual vanity. Large backyard. Auto sprinklers. Great school zone. $239,000. 1326 E. Dormard, Midland. Call 432-556-8830.

IN NW Midland, Brick 3BR/2B/2CG, ceramic & carpet, water sofenter, RO system, yard sprinkler system, corner lot, large storage building, security system. $179,000. Call 432-557-9378

Lake Coleman waterfront, brick home 5 bedroom, 3 bath with dock $239,000 325-382-4453

WE BUY HOMES, LAND & BLDGS! Fair prices, quick cash! Call 432-266-1212, 432-631-8100.

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Residential Sales

Vacation & Resort Property

BEAUTIFUL 4 bedroom/ 2.5 bath home on Lake Nasworthy in San Angelo, TX. 1926 sq. ft.; sold fully furnished, landscaped and boat dock. $495,000!! Contact Leslie Lasater - Van Winkle & Womack Real Estate 325-656-5409.

LAKE BROWNWOOD, King's Point Cove Phase 2, corner lot # 788. Bay Breeze Drive. Assume loan or purchase with no equity. All improvements paid up to date; all owner amenities, golf, etc. 432-210-8155

Lots & Land

Acreage

4516 CARDINAL LN.
2 acres, horses.
Greathouse, Abell.
$200,000.
UP GROUP 889-2934

LAND FOR SALE, northeast Midland. 11 acres, residential, good water, electricity, septic, well. Live in the country close to town. $110,000 email: arcil247@yahoo.com 620-482-2530 or 620-309-1999

ONE ACRE on 3310 SCR 1212 - $30,000.
ONE ACRE on 407 E Montgomery, no mobile home allowed. - $30,000. Call 432-683-2243

STORAGE YARD 5 acres, caliched and fenced. Water and electric available. Located at 4013 FM715. 1.5 miles south of I-20 Call 432-413-5918

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PREMIER TURNKEY Hunting Ranch for Sale. 6000sft lodge, 200 inch B&C Deer, Quail, Equipment, Blinds, Feeders, Furniture, Minerals and very strong underground water. 2 hours from Midland Area. Call Anthony Simpson LREB 210-854-6365

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Acreage

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Reduced for Quick Sale
Private Wooded Homesite $19,900
Only $180/mo!
18-hole golf course, lake, resort style pool, new clubhouse. EZ Terms.
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NMLS #1228042

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WWW.READY-RANCH.COM
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  - *11,155 ac. n. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. mtn., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
- Nolan County
  - *646 ac. over 1 mile SOLD d creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oaks $3,550/ac
  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $3,550/ac
- Howard County
  - *842 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyo SOLD anks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, jav $895/ac
- Martin County
  - *135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal stora $1,150/ac

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Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!
Owner Financing Available

Lots & Land

Acreage

18.36 AC. SW OF EDEN IN CONCHO COUNTY. LIVE OAK, MESQUITE, CEDAR COVER, ABUNDANT NATIVE & EXOTIC GAME. $3,121 DOWN, $568/MO. 800-876-9720 FREE ranchenterprisesltd.com

HILL COUNTRY LIVING. 4.11 AC. N. OF KERRVILLE JUST OUTSIDE OF HARPER. PAVED ROADS, ELECTRICITY, LIVE OAK TREES. NEWER MANUFACTURED HOMES ALLOWED. $790 DOWN, $366/MONTH. 800-876-9720 FREE ranchenterprisesltd.com

Lots & Land

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51.43 AC. N. OF COMSTOCK, MINUTES FROM LAKE AMISTAD. GOOD BRUSH COVER. DEER, TURKEY, HOGS, JAVELINA, QUAIL. $2,560 DOWN, $466/MO. 800-876-9720 FREE ranchenterprisesltd.com

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REPAIR SERVICES and Parts for Refrigerators, Freezers, Stoves, Washers & Dryers. Free Service Call with Repair. Full Warranty, Very Affordable Prices. M&M Appliances 1007 N. Midkiff, Midland. Call 432-570-8278

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I CLEAN HOUSES! Lifetime of experience. Dependable and very honest. Reasonable rates references available. Call Nelfa 432-813-1616

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WANTED: OFFICES. in Midland or Odessa, 5 rooms & 2 bathrooms $50 each time. Will also clean houses, and Mobile Homes Reasonable prices. Lang's Cleaning Service. 432-352-6610

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CLEARAWAY FOR all your REMOVAL needs and light construction, trash, & tree limbs, residential & commercial cleanout. Tired of higher prices? Give us a call for affordable prices. 432-235-9999

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B.G. - Clean Tile • new and old tile • scrub, strip & wax, • window & Shampoo also available for businesses or home • windows. Over 10 years experience. Call 432-556-1742

Contractors & Builders

"Complete swimming pool remodel" Decks, stone, coping, tile, plaster, lights, rock decor, waterfall, grade, The sky is the limit . By native Midlander. Artist Manny Ribera Class of 74-76 MHS. Free Estimates All Major Credit Cards accepted www.mRiberaConstruction.com 432-570-1955 cell 432-967-3710

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Electrical

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call GAS Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0659. TECL # 22541

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FRANK D'S FENCE BUILDING AND REMOVAL. CALL 432-238-2060

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A TO Z Christian Handyman to all my customer's I'm the Pecos Cantaloupes man. Doing general repairs. I also do Interior/ exterior painting, light fixtures, faucets, minor repairs, ceiling fans. We do it all. Call Jimmy 432-312-6854 or 432-210-4858

Heating & Air Conditioning

At your service actionairplumbing.com (432) 620-8900

ELLIS & SONS Plumbing & Air Conditioning Sales & Service. Service all brands. 683-2679. TACLB005482.

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A & B PAINTING & REMODELING. Interior & Exterior. References Available. Free Estimates. Call Reed @ 432-528-3253 Bonded & Insured.

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NOW accepting new clients for weekly pool cleaning and maintenance, in-ground chlorine and saltwater pools. Limited space available. Call 432-889-1316.

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TOTAL HANDYMAN services, repairs, total remodel, garage enclosures by Manny Ribera, Midlander, est. 1981 MHS class of 74'. Visa / MC accepted mriberaconstruction.com. 432-570-1955

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J&J ROOFING All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Fence Repairs. 25 years experience.Free Estimates Call Juan, 432-631-6861

REYES ROOFING NEW roofs, replace, leaks. Free estimates. 432-686-7113 leave message, 432-238-4254

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Lawn & Garden

♦A-1 Expert Tree Removal/Trimming 30 years exp. Stump grinding & storm damage. *References. Insured. Save money, get MAX results. Serving the Permian Basin for 23yrs! Call Chris 432-254-1339.

A & D LAWN SERVICES Business & Residential Trimming, yard cleanup, mowing & maintenance. Very professional. Dependable service. 432-853-6897

MOWING, Tree/Bush Trimming Call Emilio 432-488-6520 or Arnold 432-978-1524.

Concrete Work

DOUBLE TT PAINTING Interior and Exterior Texture, tape & bed Senior Citizen discount. 432-268-7849 or 352-4633.

FEMALE PAINTER: Interior/exterior, texturing, TerraNeo, Venetian plaster, very professional, takes pride in her work, very dependable & affordable. FREE Estimates. 432-250-4543

Interior/Exterior Painting Proudly Using Sherwin-Williams Paint For Free Estimates, call Bill Temple Painting 432-349-1563

K & J Painting - Midlands Readers' Choice Gold Winner! Interior & exterior painting, drywall repair, tile. Top Quality Work. Free estimates. Kevin Ison, 432-563-3178 or 432-349-6110.

NEED PAINTING? Call Tony. Texture, painting interior & exterior. Reasonable rates. Call 432-222-4033

YANACEK PAINTING, Frank Jr. Commercial & Residential Painting. All Types of Wall Finishes and Pressure Washing. 683-7500

Plumbing

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Septic Installation actionairplumbing.com 432-620-8900

Landscape & Tree Maintenance

Lawn & Garden

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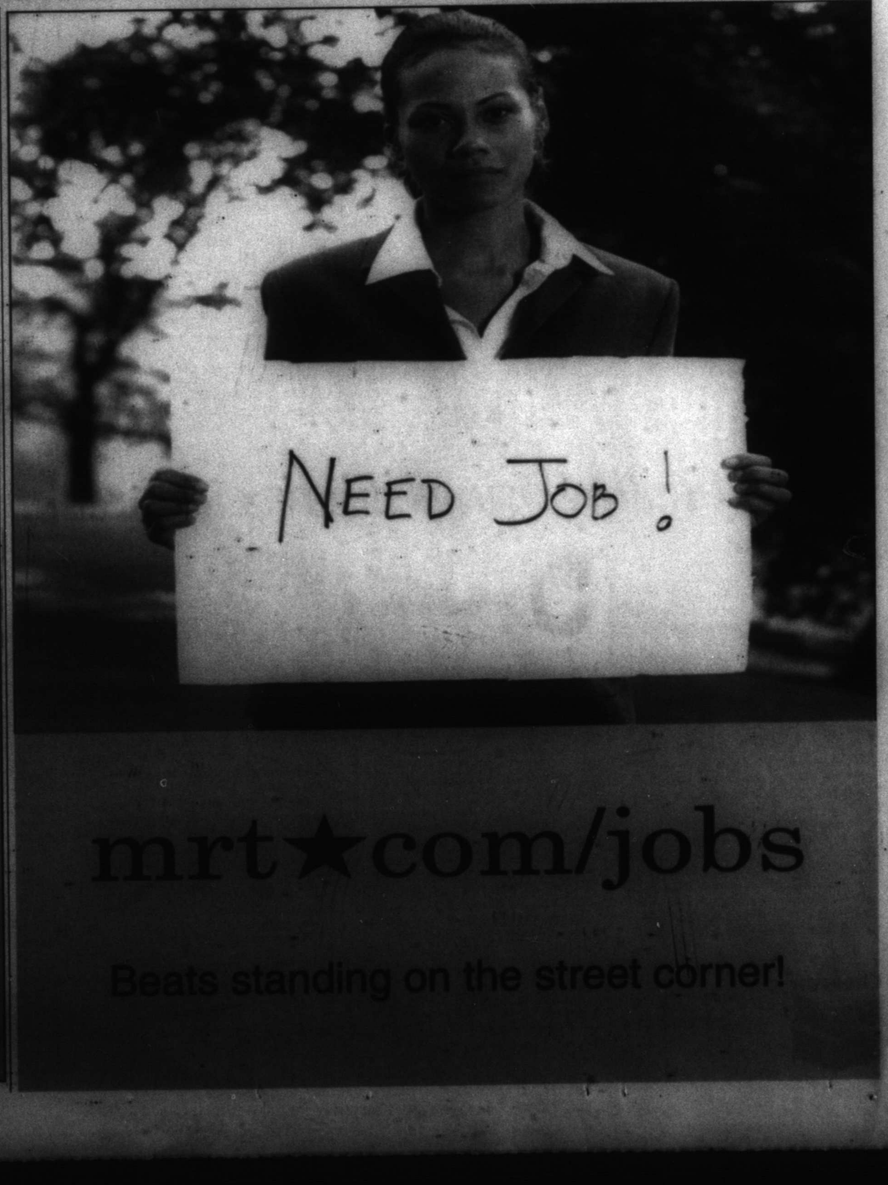

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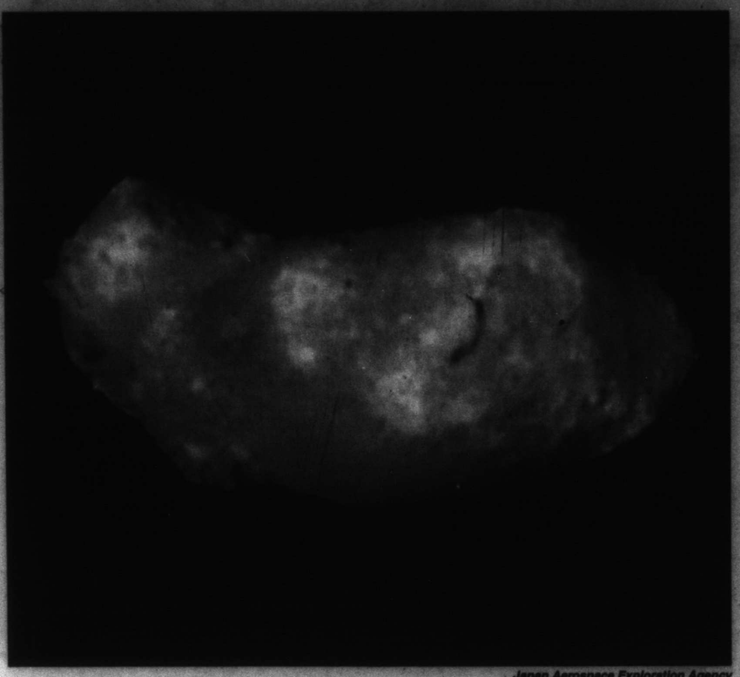

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

This 2005 photo provided by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency shows an asteroid named Itokawa photographed by the Hayabusa probe. On March 25, NASA announced it is aiming to launch a rocket to an asteroid in five years and grab a boulder off of it — a stepping stone and training mission for an eventual trip sending humans to Mars. Itokawa, 2006 EV5 and Bennu are the candidates for the mission.

NASA details plans to pluck rock off asteroid, explore it

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — NASA is aiming to launch a rocket to an asteroid in five years and grab a boulder off of it — a stepping stone and training mission for an eventual trip sending humans to Mars.

The space agency Wednesday unveiled details of the $1.25 billion plan to launch a solar-powered unmanned spaceship to an asteroid in December 2020. The ship would spend about a year circling the large space rock and pluck a 13-foot boulder off its surface using robotic arms. It would have three to five opportunities to grab the rock, said Robert Lightfoot, NASA's associate administrator.

The smaller rock would be hauled near the moon and parked in orbit around the moon. Using a giant rocket ship and the Orion crew capsule that are still being developed, two astronauts would fly to the smaller rock in 2025 and start exploring. Astronauts aboard Orion would dock with the robotic ship, make spacewalks, climbing around the mini-asteroid to inspect and document, and even grab a piece to return to Earth.

The smaller rock might not even be big enough for the two astronauts to stand on; it would have fit in the cargo bay of the now-retired space shuttles.

The mission will "demonstrate the capabilities we're going to need for further future human missions beyond low Earth orbit and then ultimately to Mars," Lightfoot said.

Lightfoot also identified the leading target. It's a 1,300-foot wide space rock discovered in 2008 called 2008 EV5, making it somewhat larger than most of the asteroids that circle the sun near Earth. Two other space rocks are being considered, called Itokawa and Bennu.

NASA managers chose this option over another plan that would lasso or use a giant bag to grab an entire asteroid and haul it near the moon. The selected plan is about $100 million more expensive but it was picked by managers in a meeting Tuesday because it would test technologies and techniques "we're going to need when we go to another planetary body," Lightfoot said during a telephone press conference. Those include "soft landing" and grabbing technologies, he said.

A few years ago, the administration proposed sending astronauts to an asteroid and landing on it, but later changed that to bringing the asteroid closer to Earth.

The $1.25 billion price does not include the larger costs of the rockets launching the spaceships to the asteroid and the smaller boulder.

The entire project called ARM for Asteroid Redirect Mission would also test new spacesuits for deep space, as opposed to Earth orbit, and may even help companies look at the idea of mining asteroids for precious metals, said NASA spokesman David Steitz.

Steitz said by getting closer to the large asteroid, the mission will help with "planetary defense" techniques, learning how to nudge a threatening space rock out of harm's way.

Scott Pace, space policy director at George Washington University and a NASA associate administrator in the George W. Bush administration, said the concept in some ways makes sense in terms of training, engineering and cost, but "it still leaves the larger questions: What this leads to and why?"

Fish oil claims not supported by research

By Anahad O'Connor
New York Times News Service

Fish oil is now the third most widely used dietary supplement in the United States, after vitamins and minerals, according to a recent report from the National Institutes of Health. At least 10 percent of Americans take fish oil regularly, most believing that the omega-3 fatty acids in the supplements will protect their cardiovascular health.

But there is one big problem: The vast majority of clinical trials involving fish oil have found no evidence that it lowers the risk of heart attack and stroke.

From 2005 to 2012, at least two dozen rigorous studies of fish oil were published in leading medical journals, most of which looked at whether fish oil could prevent cardiovascular events in high-risk populations. These were people who had a history of heart disease or strong risk factors for it, like high cholesterol, hypertension or Type 2 diabetes.

All but two of these studies found that compared with a placebo, fish oil showed no benefit.

And yet during this time, sales of fish oil more than doubled, not just in the United States but worldwide, said Andrew Grey, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Auckland in New Zealand and the author of a 2014 study on fish oil in JAMA Internal Medicine.

"There's a major disconnect," Grey said. "The sales are going up despite the progressive accumulation of trials that show no effect."

In theory at least, there are good reasons that fish oil should improve cardiovascular health. Most fish oil supplements are rich in two omega-3 fatty acids — eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) — that can have a blood-thinning effect, much like aspirin, that may reduce the likelihood of clots. Omega-3s can also reduce inflammation, which plays a role in atherosclerosis. And the Food and Drug Administration has approved at least three prescription types of fish oil — Vascepa, Lovaza and a generic form — for the treatment of very high triglycerides, a risk factor for heart disease.

But these properties of omega-3 fatty acids have not translated into notable benefits in most large clinical trials.

Some of the earliest enthusiasm for fish oil goes back to research carried out in the 1970s by the Danish scientists Dr. Hans Olaf Bang and Dr. Jorn Dyerberg, who determined that Inuits living in northern Greenland had remarkably low rates of cardiovascular disease, which they attributed to an omega-3-rich diet consisting mainly of fish, seal and whale blubber. Dr. George Fodor, a cardiologist at the University of Ottawa, outlined flaws in much of this early research, and he concluded that the rate of heart disease among the Inuit was vastly underestimated. But the halo effect around fish oils persists.

The case for fish oil was bolstered by several studies from the 1990s, including an Italian study that found that heart attack survivors who were treated with a gram of fish oil daily had a drop in mortality, compared with patients taking vitamin E. These findings prompted groups like the American Heart Association to endorse fish oil about a decade ago as a way for heart patients to get more omega-3s in their diets.

"But since then, there has been a spate of studies showing no benefit," said Dr. James Stein, the director of preventive cardiology at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. Among them was a clinical trial of 12,000 people, published in The New England Journal of Medicine in 2013, that found that a gram of fish oil daily did not reduce the rate of death from heart attacks and strokes in people with evidence of atherosclerosis.

"I think that the era of fish oil as medication could be considered over now," said the study's lead author, Dr. Gianni Tognoni of the Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan.

Stein said the early fish oil studies took place in an era when cardiovascular disease was treated very differently than it is today, with far less use of statins, beta blockers, blood thinners and other intensive therapies. So the effect of fish oil, even if it were minor, he said, would have been more noticeable.

Crowdfunding brings dreams into realm of reality

Dear PropellerHeads: I consider myself an Idea Man with literally…I mean literally millions of ideas for products and services that would better mankind. The problem is my bankroll is more of a bank fiver wadded up in my pocket. Any suggestions?

A: The American dream can at times feel daunting if you don't have deep pockets. Especially if you think the word "literally" means "figuratively", it can really cloud your vision when assessing situations … literally.

That being said, as an Idea Man, you don't necessarily have to be your own backer or have a sugar mama to make your ideas a reality these days. Enter crowdfunding.

You used to need a good elevator speech, a list of connections, feet on the street, and a certain, as the French say, "I don't know what" to find investors to make your dreams come true. With the advent of crowdfunding, you can take your idea to the masses via the Internet and collect from investors big and small, with

little more than a video or well written statement, a list of rewards, and a goal.

Sites like Kickstarter (kickstarter.com) and Indiegogo (indiegogo.com) allow you to put your ideas and inventions on display and solicit investment from backers. You have something personal you want to achieve that only benefits you? Gofundme (gofundme.com) is a good option as it doesn't require creativity or an invention to start a campaign. Many a band have found gas money for the van this way.

Many campaigns will take donations for as little as a $1.00 up to the full amount of the goal. In return, the organizers offer "rewards" for your donations. It could be a thank you call or note, it could be the actual product or prototype sent to your home, it could be a walk-on part in a movie, or a hand-made potholder.

The flexibility of this type of funding has birthed all types of campaigns on these platforms. Movies have been funded, new gadgets, games, and tech has been invented and rolled out. Take a look here for a summarized list of some of the most successful campaigns ever — bit.ly/1kClsBJ.

Not only is the sheer amount of money raised interesting and the wide array of products/services, but make sure you take a look at how quickly this money was raised. Many of the most successful ideas reach or surpass their goals in days or even hours.

Take the case of one man's need to make a side dish. He was looking for $10.00, some potatoes, mayo, and love — kck.st/1t2WICF. He raised over $50,000.00. Holy Guacamole! Mmmm … next idea.

If you have a very specific idea there are also sites out there to help you reach your niche market.

Crowdfunder (crowdfunder.com) is currently working around the provisions in the still pending JOBS Act to offer investment and equity based fundraising, as opposed to the rewards-based fundraising of its counterparts.

Teespring (teespring.com) allows you to create and sell your own t-shirt designs, without the start-up costs associated with creating a t-shirt empire. Meet a minimum number of pre-orders and Teespring will create and ship your products while you keep the profits. If you are looking for some new gear — bit.ly/1BiqmLV.

If you are looking to do something charitable, you can give and raise funds for your favorite non-profits and causes on sites like PlanG (myplang.com), Crowdrise (crowdrise.com), and Causes (causes.com). You can explore organizations and campaigns by subject or start your own campaign for your favorite charity.

So organize your ideas, make your pitch, collect some awesome rewards for your backers, and make some cheddar. I literally cannot wait one more second.

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