MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013 mrt★com *Delivering life ... every day*

WEST TEXAS LIVING

PBS will air One Square Mile in Texas this January.

Page 1B

TOP TV MOMENTS

From 'NCIS' to 'Breaking Bad,' 2013 was filled with memorable moments on the small screen. Go online to see what our top 20 moments on TV this year were.

mrt.com

Feds predict oil boom will level off by 2016

The peak will provide an abundance in energy before a predicted decline

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy
Hearst Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The current U.S. oil boom is set to peak in 2016, giving the nation a brief taste of much-touted energy abundance before production starts declining, according to a federal forecast released Monday.

The nation's crude output is expected to crest around 9.5 million barrels per day in 2016 — just shy of the United States' record-setting yield of 9.6 million barrels daily in 1970 — according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest annual outlook. But analysts at the Energy Department's statistical arm expect domestic oil production will then level off, eventually beginning to taper in 2020.

Even then, the U.S. will still be producing at least 7.5 million barrels of oil per day through 2040, the agency said — a big shift from a record-low harvest of 5 million barrels daily in 2008.

The otherwise mostly rosy forecast shows that despite advancements in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing that have helped reverse years of declining U.S. oil production, the trend may not continue indefinitely.

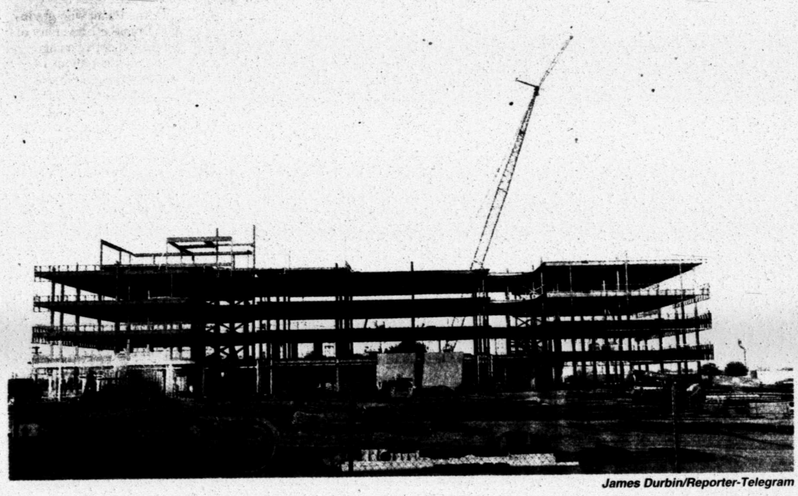
Industry leaders, who have a more bullish view, discounted the EIA's prediction of declines lurking just beyond a three-year horizon. The same kind of technological innovations that have been propelling U.S. oil and gas production could yield new discoveries and new methods for extracting the fossil fuels in the future, they said.

"A combination of price, technology and new areas has pushed away fears of shortage," said Daniel Yergin, vice chairman of the research group IHS. "It's not over. Technologies will continue to advance capabilities and widen opportunities."

Current oil drilling hotbeds include the Bakken and Three Forks formations in North Dakota and the Eagle Ford and Permian Basin in Texas, which yield some natural gas along with the crude. In the Marcellus Shale stretching across Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York,

Please see **OIL BOOM**/3A

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Construction of the $50 million Pioneer Complex on North Big Spring Street continues. It should be completed next year.

Pioneer's building could be finished by late 2014

From staff reports

Construction of Pioneer Natural Resources' new $50 million office building at ClayDesta Plaza remains on schedule, said Danny Barker, the company's director of facilities.

He reported that Pioneer's Midland employees will begin moving into the new six-story building in the third quarter of 2014 and all estimated employees will be settled into the new building by early in the fourth quarter of next year. The new building will house a cafeteria, daycare center and fitness center complete with locker rooms. A three-story parking garage will be constructed adjacent to the new office building.

Barker reported that the company has expanded its mobile home park on Midland's east side and has moved into a new pumping services building on County Road 307, near the Midland Tank Farm. The pumping services building houses the company's frac crews.

Eagle Ford's oil boom turns water into gold

By Jennifer Hiller
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — In the heart of South Texas, where the muted grayish green of live oak and the slender leaves of the thorny mesquite dominate a landscape burdened by drought, hydraulic fracturing used more than 14 billion gallons of water last year.

The number far outpaces estimates of what water use in the Eagle Ford Shale might have peaked at some time in the next decade, and represents one more way in which the meteoric development of the oil field has blown past expectations.

A widely cited University of Texas at Austin study, funded by the oil and gas industry, had predicted hydraulic fracturing in the Eagle Ford would use a maximum of around 35,000 acre-feet of water annually.

But the San Antonio Express-News looked at more than 23,000 Texas wells drilled from 2011 to 2013, including more than 6,100 in the Eagle Ford, and found that the oil field already is swallowing more water.

Operators reported using around 43,770 acre-feet last year in 3,522 Eagle Ford wells, the approximate annual usage for 153,000 San Antonio households.

"The oil and gas boom is requiring more water than we have," said Hugh Fitzsimons, a Dimmit County rancher and a director of the Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District. "Period."

Water always has been needed for oil and gas drilling, but not in this quantity. The relatively new ability to combine horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing has made it possible to drill in tight rock such as shale, which stores oil and gas but doesn't let go of them easily.

Hydraulic fracturing pumps a mix of water and chemicals at high pressure to break the shale. Then sand is added to the fluid in increasing amounts to hold open the fissures, letting oil and gas flow up the well to the surface.

Cleaning and recycling water so it can be used in multiple wells is on the rise in the region, but it's not standard practice.

Some portion of those 14 billion Eagle Ford gallons used for fracturing — likely around 21 percent, according to the UT study — would have come from nonfreshwater sources: brackish aquifers that can't be used for drinking, agriculture or livestock, or water that was recycled.

Fracturing each Eagle Ford well took around 3.8 million gallons of water this year, down from 4 million gallons in 2012.

But eight dozen wells used more than 10 million gallons of water — enough in each well to fill 15 Olympic-size swimming pools.

Please see **WATER**/4A

Another fatal on 1788 increases death toll to 41

From staff reports

The number of people who have died on roads inside Midland County rose this past weekend.

According to the Midland Police Department, Katlin Gaddy, 27, of Odessa, died in a two-vehicle accident Sunday morning at the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 1788 and North Loop 40 near Midland International Airport.

According to Reporter-Telegram records, Gaddy is the 41st person to die on roads inside Midland County. He is also, according to Reporter-Telegram records, the ninth person to die in seven fatal accidents on FM 1788 this year.

Midland police and fire departments responded to the two-vehicle accident at approximately 6:29 a.m.

Investigators found that Gaddy had been traveling northbound on FM 1788 near North Loop 40 in a Dodge Avenger when his vehicle veered into the path of a Ford F-350 pickup traveling southbound. Gaddy was the only occupant of the Dodge Avenger. The driver of the pickup received minor injuries and refused treatment, and a passenger in the pickup was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Last week, a Midland man died as a result of a three-vehicle crash on 1788. The man's vehicle veered into the northbound lanes and hit two tractor-trailers and their towed units, according to DPS.

MPD officer used nude pictures to blackmail woman

By Tyler White
twhite@mrt.com

A 25-year-old former Midland Police Department officer arrested Friday used a thumb drive with nude pictures of a woman as collateral against her after posting those photos on the Internet.

Jaren C. Speck's arrest affidavit states the alleged victim contacted MPD on Wednesday and said Speck posted seven nude, sexually explicit photographs of her on a website called myex.com. She said a friend notified her that the photos, as well as her name, age and location were present on that website. She said she tried to delete the photographs — stating Speck was the only person who had the photographs — but it cost $500 to do so.

She provided investigafors with an email dated Dec. 8, wherein Speck said he wanted to trade a thumb drive

Please see **BLACKMAIL**/4A

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Energy prices

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WTI Posted	$94.00 ▲	$1.00
WTS Posted	$86.65 ▲	$1.00
Natural Gas	$4.279 ▼	$0.072
Gasoline	$3.003 ▼	$0.028

The big number
A school board member took **$176,000 in bribes** and has been sentenced to three years in prison. Page 3A.

Today in Sports
Garrett accepts blame for the Cowboys' loss. Page 1C

Today in Opinion
Should UTPB have football? Page 6A

Vol. 85, No. 281
Daily $1, Sunday $2

Index Business 6C | Classified 1D | Comics 6C | Dear Abby 5B | Lottery 4A | Obituaries 2B | Puzzles 5B | Sports 1C | TV 3B

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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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GUILTY PLEAS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Lonnie Dean Brent, 58, theft by repetition with two prior sequential felony convictions, four years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Brackston Teague Buck, 18, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, six years deferred and court cost.

Ashley Ann Cannon, 18, credit card abuse, three years deferred, fine and court cost.

Frederick Banard Cooks, 39, possession of a controlled substance, to-wit: Cocaine, 10 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Teofilo Cordova, Jr., 30, misdemeanor offense of failure to identify as a lesser included offense of forgery, 90 days in jail, suspended for 1 year community supervision, fine and court cost.

Jose Gutierrez, 52, felony driving while intoxicated, six years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; aggravated assault with a deadly weapon as a repeat offender, six years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; failure to stop and render aid, three years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Felix Losolla, 42, driving while intoxicated third or more as a repeat offender, 15 years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Jose Urquizo Lozano, 44, felony driving while intoxicated, two years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Raymond Wesley McDaniel, 58, aggravated assault, 10 years on probation and treatment program.

Jose Joel Navarez, 19, theft more than $1,500 but less than $20,000, three years on probation, pay $500 fine, and pay $1,570 restitution; theft more than $1,500 but less than $20,000, three years on probation, driver's license suspended 180 days.

Pedro Olmedo, Jr., 24, deadly conduct, four years on probation and treatment program.

Joe Ray Perales, 49, evading arrest in a motor vehicle as a repeat offender, five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; possession of a controlled substance, five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

James Edwin Robertson, 52, burglary of a building, two years in State Jail, suspended for three years on probation, pay $500 fine, and driver's license suspended 180 days.

Mario Salazar, 25, felony driving while intoxicated, five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Timothy Paul Samuels, 22, possession of a controlled substance, to-wit: Cocaine, five years community supervision, 120 days intensive supervision, submit to a mental health treatment center and pay restitution; tampering with physical evidence, five years community supervision, 120 days intensive supervision, submit to a mental health treatment center; possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, five years community supervision, pay $2,000 fine, 120 days intensive supervision, submit to a mental health treatment center, and pay restitution; possession of a controlled substance, to-wit: Cocaine, five years community supervision, pay $2,000 fine, 120 days intensive supervision, submit to a mental health treatment center, and pay restitution; tampering with physical evidence, five years community supervision, pay $2,000 fine, 120 days intensive supervision, submit to a mental health treatment center, and pay restitution.

Hollie Brianne Stallings, 34, theft more than $1,500, 12 months in jail, suspended for 24 months on probation, and pay $325 restitution.

Source: Midland County District Attorney's Office

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Antonio Diaz, 24, of Midland, was charged Saturday with driving while intoxicated with open alcohol container three or more times.

Thomas M. Slade, 22, of Rockport, was charged Saturday with failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Rodney L. Burditt, 56, of Midland, was charged Sunday with possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

John R. Caswell, 35, of Midland, was charged Sunday with manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance between 4 and 200 grams.

Osmel Chavez-Arzu, 23, of Midland, was charged Sunday with intoxication assault with a vehicle causing serious bodily injury.

Carrie A. McLeod, 34, of Ruidoso, N.M., was charged Sunday with failure to appear or bail jumping and forgery of a financial instrument.

Josue Rodriguez-Martinez, 26, of Camp Wood, was charged Sunday with evading arrest and detention with a vehicle.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

STATE BRIEF

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN ANTONIO

Komodo dragon dies in San Antonio Zoo fire

A Komodo dragon and five other reptiles died Monday morning in a fire at the city zoo that caused $100,000 in damage.

San Antonio Zoo officials said an employee smelled smoke around 6 a.m. near the reptile area. Officials found that a 15-year-old Komodo dragon named Scatha had died. Two Amazon tree boas were among the other reptiles that died from smoke inhalation.

Another Komodo dragon — a 20-year-old male named Bubba — was saved, as were more than 90 other snakes and lizards that were moved by staff and firefighters into other holding areas.

According to National Geographic, Komodo dragons can grow to 10 feet long and more than 300 pounds, making them the heaviest known lizards. They are considered an endangered species.

"Our main challenge was heavy smoke that was in the enclosure, which used to be a giraffe house," fire Chief Charles Hood told KSAT-TV in San Antonio.

He said it was necessary for firefighters to assist with relocating the animals.

"When we were moving the snake it took the zookeepers to help us," Hood said. "We're not used to dealing with 22-foot snakes."

Zoo director Steve McCusker told the San Antonio Express-News the fire started when a hot mat shorted, likely because of a faulty fuse or breaker box.

Prosecutors: No appeal options in 'affluenza' case

Associated Press

DALLAS — Prosecutors said Monday that a North Texas teen's probation sentence for a drunken wreck that killed four pedestrians frustrates them, too, but they haven't found a way to seek a stiffer sentence.

The case of 16-year-old Ethan Couch has stirred outrage both in Texas and nationally, with both the presumptive Republican and Democratic nominees for Texas governor ripping the sentence in recent days. Couch was driving in June with a blood alcohol level of 0.24 percent — three times the legal limit for an adult — when he rammed his pickup truck into a crowd of pedestrians in rural Tarrant County, killing four people and severely injuring two others.

District Judge Jean Boyd gave Couch 10 years' probation last Tuesday after a sentencing hearing in which Couch's attorneys argued his wealthy parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility — an affliction one witness called "affluenza." Prosecutors had asked for a maximum prison sentence of 20 years.

Melody McDonald, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office in Tarrant County, which has been inundated with calls for action in the case, said Monday that prosecutors frustrated by the sentence could not find any roads to an appeal.

Instead, McDonald said, the district attorney's office has been in discussions with at least one lawmaker about ways to change the law for future cases.

"We are exploring all options, but we are not aware of an avenue for appeal," she said in an email. "However, we look forward to working with the next legislature to tighten up loopholes in the juvenile law."

While neither Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott nor Democratic Texas Sen. Wendy Davis ruled out the chance of an appeal, both candidates for governor indicated they would consider ways to change the state's laws to prevent such a sentence in the future.

"We're still reviewing options in this case," Abbott spokesman Jerry Strickland told The Associated Press on Monday. "However, in addition to that review, we are exploring any and all legislative changes that may address the penalties and punishment for such crimes."

Davis, who is also a practicing lawyer, told Dallas television station WFAA over the weekend that "most certainly from a legislative perspective, we've got to look at the fact that judges are able to make decisions like that and determine whether we need to make some adjustments in the law."

The Legislature's next regular session convenes in January 2015.

While defendants in Texas can typically appeal a judge's sentence, prosecutors typically cannot, said Jennifer Laurin, a professor at the University of Texas School of Law. Referring to the so-called "affluenza" defense, Laurin said: "Even if the judge relied on this kind of testimony, there's nothing in the law that makes it impermissible for the testimony to be heard or for it to be a factor in the sentencing."

Jessica Weaver, a professor at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law, confirmed that under Texas' family code for juvenile offenses, prosecutors were limited in what they could do.

"Technically, only the child has the right to appeal," Weaver said.

The teen's lead defense attorney, Scott Brown, has said Couch could have been freed after two years if he had drawn the 20-year sentence. Instead, the judge "fashioned a sentence that could have him under the thumb of the justice system for the next 10 years," Brown told the Star-Telegram.

First-year teacher numbers drop sharply

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The number of new teachers in Texas has dropped sharply during the last four years and education observers have identified several reasons for that decline.

Texas schools hired fewer than 15,000 first-year teachers last year, down from 25,000 in 2008, the Houston Chronicle reported. According to the Texas Education Agency, the 2011-12 school year was the first in recent history in which Texas public schools lost more teachers than they gained.

The Great Recession and major cuts to education funding passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011 hit many districts hard and contributed to a hiring slowdown.

The slowdown caused by the recession led some teachers to put off retirement and districts to hire fewer teachers — and, when they did hire, target more experienced teachers.

"Two or three years ago, we saw a definite dip" in the hiring of new graduates, said Melissa Pierson, associate dean of the University of Houston's education college. Pierson said recruiters did not make hiring visits during those years.

JoAnn Phan, who graduated from the University of Houston three years ago, said it took her about 18 months to find a job teaching kindergarten at a Houston elementary school.

"It was a bit of a shock," Phan said. "I did not know just how hard it was to find a teaching position."

But Pierson and the director of another teacher training program said she thought things were looking up now that the economy was recovering.

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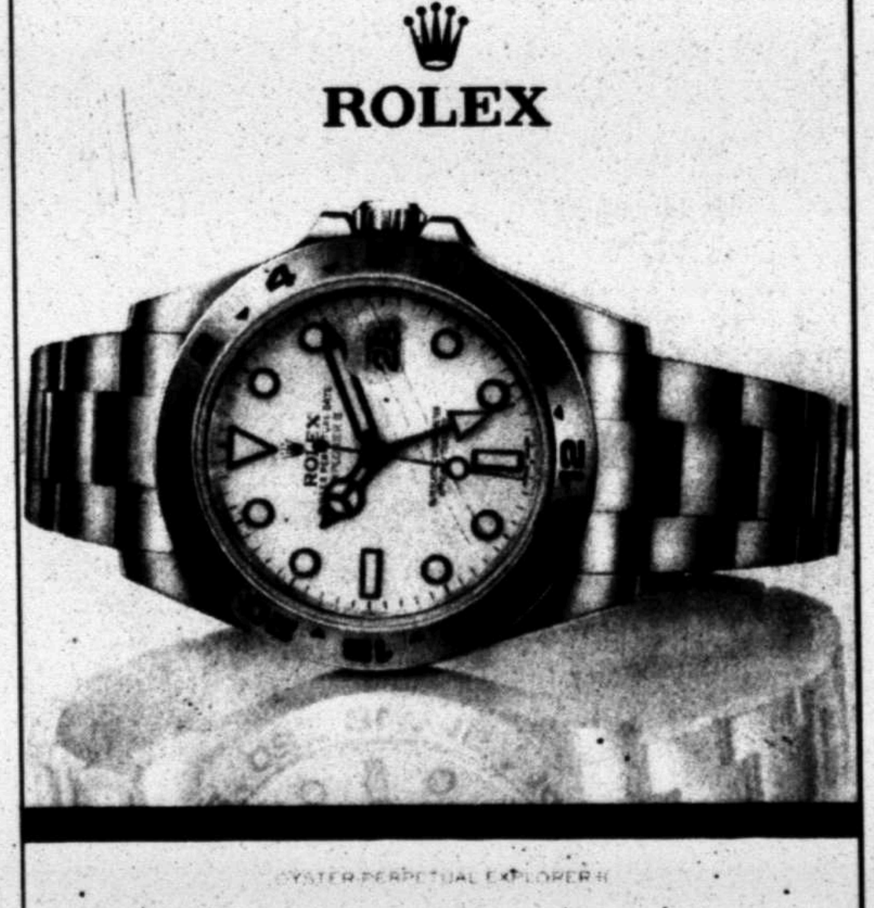
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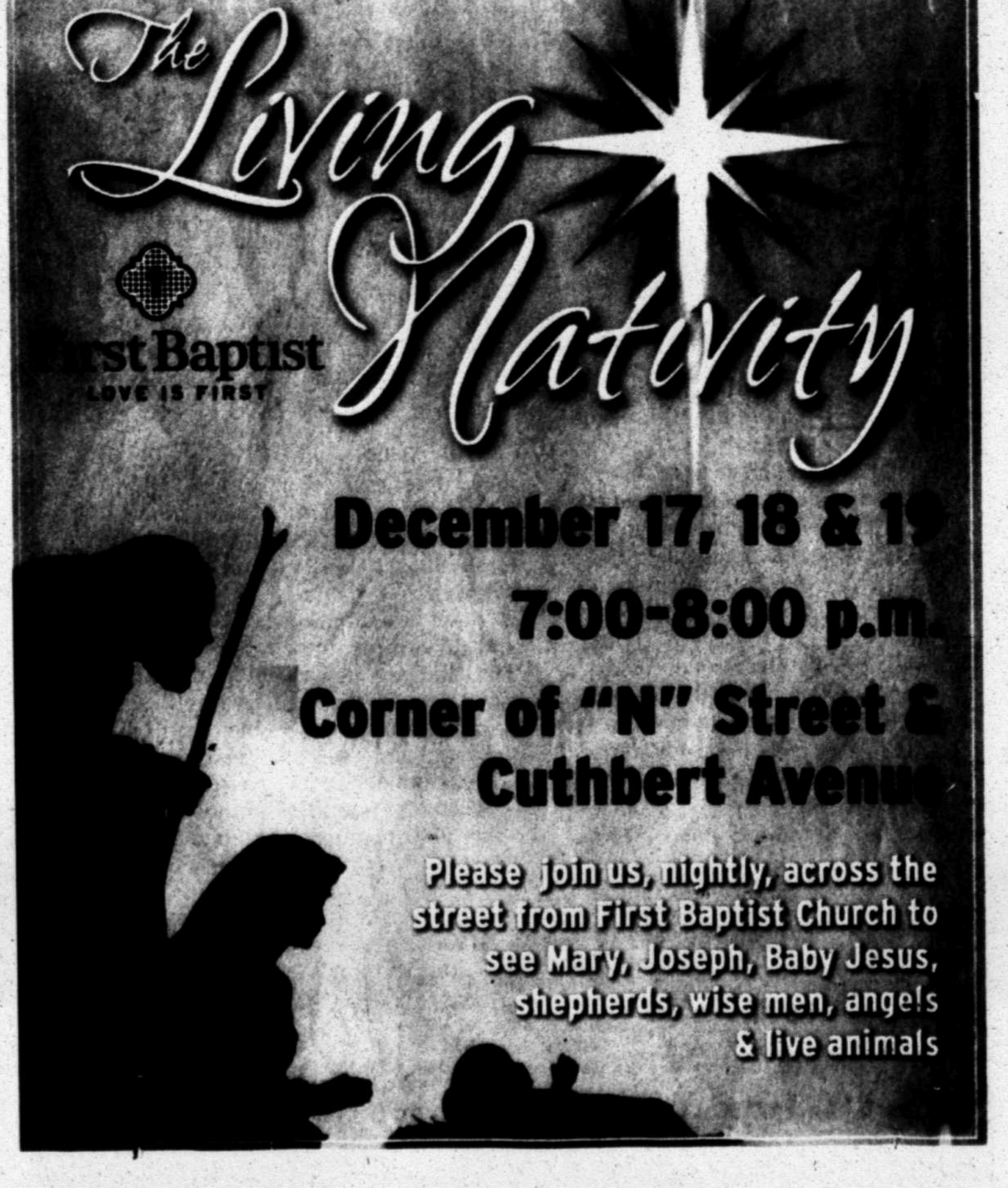

Many immigrants hesitate to seek health insurance

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Day after day, Adonias Arevalo tried to calm his parents' nerves, attempting to convince them it was safe for him to apply for government-subsidized health insurance through the nation's new coverage system.

Like many other immigrants, Arevalo's parents worried that personal information on their son's application could somehow draw immigration authorities' attention to the couple, who emigrated here illegally from El Salvador seven years ago.

After a week of discussion, the 22-year-old Houston man, who works at a community center and has temporary legal status, finally eased their fears. But other immigrant families remain leery, and some are so concerned that they would rather see loved ones go without coverage than risk giving personal information to a federal agency.

"They are afraid," Arevalo said. "The majority of families, they know it's something they need to do. ... They're just afraid of putting themselves out like that."

Immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally cannot participate in the system. But many have eligible relatives who are citizens or legal residents.

Since the system debuted in October, immigrant advocates and the federal government have been working to reassure families that their information will not be shared with enforcement agencies. The effort has led to changes in the main health care website and a memo from immigration authorities promising not to go after anyone based on insurance paperwork.

Immigrant families are important to the success of the health care overhaul, especially in Texas, which has the nation's highest rate of uninsured people, many of whom are immigrants.

Of the nearly 40 million people living in the U.S. who were born elsewhere, about a third do not have health insurance, according to census data. And about 9 million people in the U.S. belong to immigrant families in which at least one child is a citizen, according to the Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project.

Those immigrant families, which tend to be younger and healthy, are attractive to the health care program because it relies on young participants to pay premiums to help fund coverage for older people who need more expensive care.

In Houston's Harris County, where more than a quarter of the 4 million residents are foreign-born, the group Enroll America is trying to soothe anxieties that signing up for insurance could mean risking deportation.

"It has pushed people away from wanting to apply online," said Mario Castillo, who leads the group's efforts in the Houston area. "They don't want to type that into a computer ... they want to put a paper application in."

Cheryl O'Donnell, state director of Enroll America in Arizona, said her staff is confronting similar concerns.

"There is a lot of fear, particularly if the noncitizen is applying for a citizen child," she said.

In mid-October, three weeks after enrollment opened, President Barack Obama's administration stepped in. Immigration and Customs Enforcement published a "clarification" designed to assuage fears. The memo explained that information obtained through health care registration would not be used to pursue immigration cases against anyone in the country illegally.

Jenny Rejeske, a health policy analyst at the National Immigration Law Center, said advocates had shared with the government concerns they heard from mixed-status families.

Advocates had sought that clarification for years, but it wasn't until federal officials "saw that this was going to be a deterrent for people applying that they decided to do something about it," Rejeske said.

Around the same time, a new page appeared on healthcare.gov titled "What do immigrant families need to know about the marketplace?" Under a heading for mixed-status families, it states: "Family members who aren't applying for health coverage for themselves won't be asked if they have eligible immigration status."

It also said that applying to the insurance marketplace, Medicaid or the children's program known as CHIP will not mean immigrants are considered a "public charge," addressing a long-held concern that accepting a government benefit could jeopardize their chance of getting legal status or becoming a naturalized citizen.

That guidance was also worked into training for "navigators" assigned to help people enroll in the marketplace.

Esmeralda Carreon, a Texas navigator working in communities near the border with Mexico, said she explains to families that while information will be shared with the immigration agency to verify eligibility, it will not bring agents to their door.

Already with Medicaid and CHIP "we have a lot of parents who are not legal," Carreon said.

Increasing participation in those other programs in recent years suggests mixed-status families could be overcoming some of their fears, said Genevieve Kenney, a principal research associate in the Health Policy Center of the Urban Institute.

Among the nation's uninsured children — regardless of immigration status — 65 percent are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP but are not enrolled.

Arevalo, who applied for insurance after talking to his parents, works as a community resources specialist at a community center run by Neighborhood Centers Inc. He moved to the U.S. from El Salvador when he was 14 and received permission in March to stay in the country for two years through a program offered by Obama to some immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children.

His new job puts him at an income too high to qualify for a tax subsidy in the health care marketplace, though he would also be ineligible due to his deferred immigration status. Instead, he will have to buy a basic insurance plan through his employer for about 20 percent of his monthly salary.

But to learn that, he first had to apply for coverage, and persuading his parents his application wouldn't jeopardize them was a significant hurdle.

STATE BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

EL PASO

Former schools official sentenced

A former El Paso school board member has been sentenced to three years in federal prison for accepting more than $176,000 in bribes.

The U.S. Attorney's office said that U.S. District Judge Frank Montalvo sentenced former El Paso Independent School District Trustee Salvador "Sal" Mena on Monday. The judge also ordered Mena to forfeit $176,455.

Mena had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud and deprivation of honest services. Mena accepted bribes from school district vendors in exchange for his support of their contracts. Mena told vendors to make contributions to his election campaigns.

The federal investigation into the school district has resulted in 39 convictions.

AUSTIN

State fetches $5K for Xmas ornament

The brightest star on one Texas Christmas tree won't be at the top.

State curators announced Monday that a commemorative 2013 Texas Capitol ornament has sold for $5,176 at auction. The undisclosed winner from Austin gets a one-of-a-kind, 24-karat gold-finished replica of the longtime best-seller in the Capitol gift shop.

The ornament features the Texas Star in the middle and was auctioned in celebration of what the State Perseveration Board says is 1 million sold since the first Capitol ornament in 1996.

Agency director John Sneed said the gift shop currently sells an average of 56,000 ornaments a year.

Civil rights group: Texas passive on voter turnout

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Civil rights activists accused Texas officials Monday of not enforcing laws designed to drive voter turnout, while records show that if the first elections under the state's new voter ID law angered or confused many people, they've not complained to the state in force.

A report from the Texas Civil Rights Project shifted the dispute over voting rights from whether people would be turned away on Election Day to whether residents are given enough opportunities to simply register to vote.

The Austin-based group said a survey of public schools showed districts failed to give eligible students voter registration forms at least twice a year as required by law. It also accuses the state of doing little to promote voter registration opportunities.

"It makes the point that the system in Texas is lackadaisical at best," said Jim Harrington, the group's executive director.

The report comes more a month after Texas held its first election under a voter ID law passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature in 2011. A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court this summer gave the state the go-ahead to finally implement the law. A challenge in federal court has been set for trial in September 2014.

Republicans have rebuffed criticism of the law's potential to disenfranchise by pointing to higher-than-typical turnout last month for an off-year election. Data from state elections officials indicate the state hasn't been inundated by complaints, either.

For the November election, 14 voters submitted complaints to the Texas secretary of state's office that required a written response from a state attorney, according to figures obtained by The Associated Press. That's just one more complaint more than the last off-year election in 2011, though twice as many as in 2009.

State figures also show elections attorneys logging 10 "informal" complaints this year, less than half of the 24 logged in 2011.

Alicia Pierce, spokeswoman for the secretary of state's office, said the agency had not yet reviewed the report released Monday.

OIL BOOM

From 1A

natural gas and natural gas liquids are the focus.

Other promising shales in California and New York have yet to be aggressively tapped, noted Chris Faulkner, CEO of Irving-based Breitling Energy.

"As these new plays are discovered, they have cycles of 10 years or more. You're not going to drill all this stuff out by the end of a decade," Faulkner said. "Things happen quickly, but not that quickly that we're going to drain all these reserves and be beyond a peak and be coming back down."

The EIA anticipates natural gas production in the U.S. will climb for decades helped both by geologic fundamentals and the relatively lower cost of extracting the fossil fuel. Gas production is forecast to reach 37.6 trillion cubic feet annually by 2040, up from roughly 29.5 trillion cubic feet last year.

The EIA's predictions are sure to drive two big policy debates in the nation's capital, where lawmakers and the Obama administration are grappling with thorny questions about how much of the United States' oil and gas bounty should be sold overseas.

The oil industry has been stepping up its calls for the U.S. to reverse a three-decade-old ban on crude exports, in light of the new domestic production.

The Energy Department has already granted five licenses to export liquefied natural gas to countries that do not have free trade agreements with the United States. But the new EIA predictions could color the department's decisions on nearly two dozen more pending export applications.

Critics in Congress and the manufacturing sector want the Obama administration to slow down on natural gas exports and consider the new data before granting any more, lest the foreign demand hike domestic prices.

Energy Department officials have said they will use new market data to reassess their assumptions about exports, including possibly revisiting a 2012 study's conclusion that the U.S. will claim big economic gains from the foreign sales. In a research note to clients, Washington, D.C. analysis firm ClearView Energy said because natural gas price predictions have now been revised upward, the forecast could be used to support a pause in permitting while the Energy Department reviews the issue.

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Attention Readers
In observance of
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The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2013

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 25th	Tues., Dec. 24th, NOON
Thurs., Dec. 26th	Tues., Dec. 24th, 2 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 25th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Thurs., Dec. 26th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Fri., Dec. 27th	Tues., Dec. 24th, NOON

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 25th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Thurs., Dec. 26th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Sun., Dec. 29th (Oil Report/West Texas Living, Arts & Ent.)	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Fri., Dec. 27th	Tues., Dec. 24th, Noon

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken
Wednesday, December 25th from 7 AM-11 AM only.
We will re-open Thursday, Dec. 26th for regular business hours.
Midland Reporter-Telegram

TODAY IN MIDLAND

Thing to do

An-Oh So Acoustic Christmas at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. www.wagnernoel.com.

Meetings

City Council
10 a.m. today
Council Chambers City Hall
300 N. Loraine St.

County Commissioners
9 a.m. Thursday
Midland County Courthouse

Online today

Go to MRT.com to vote for your favorite "Bad Santa" photo.

Support group, club meetings today

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ Midland Optimist Club, noon, Abuelo's, 4610 N. Garfield St.; 685-7486.

■ Sons of Confederate Veterans, Dunn-Holt-Mid-kiff Camp No. 1441, 7 p.m., Fairmont Park Church of Christ Activities Annex; Tom Owens, tmowens44@juno.com or 697-6955.

■ American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 19, 6:30 p.m., 501 Veterans Airpark Lane; 682-5511.

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

■ National Active & Retired Federal Employees meet 6 p.m., Jack E. Brown Dining Hall at Midland College. For information, call 634-7826.

PBAF to award grants

The Permian Basin Area Foundation will announce grants of $618,300 to 25 nonprofit organizations serving the region.

Grants from the PBAF are anticipated to reach $10 million in 2013, according to the foundation.

Source: Permian Basin Area Foundation

Flu Vaccines

Midland Health & Senior Services is offering flu shots to adults and children 3 years of age or older. The price will range from $20 to $35. Medicare and Medicaid will be accepted as payment. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 681-7613.

Midland Health & Senior Services is located at 3303 W. Illinois Ave. in space 22 of the Kingsway Mall. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon Friday.

Water usage

Friday's total: 11,816,000 gallons (CRMWD 9,358,000, Paul Davis fields 2,458,000)

Saturday's total: 12,344,000 gallons (CRMWD 10,016,000, Paul Davis fields 2,328,000)

Sunday's total: 11,745,000 gallons (CRMWD 9,402,000, Paul Davis fields 2,343,000)

Dec. 8: 11,771,000 gallons (CRMWD 9,306,000, Paul Davis fields 2,465,000)

Current total storage by CRMWD in its lakes is 102,489 acre-feet. (1 acre-foot is approximately 325,800 gallons). Total storage last year at the same time was 161,108 acre-feet.

Source: City of Midland

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 7-7-2
Pick 3 day: 2-5-1
Pick 3 evening: 9-4-9
Pick 3 night: 1-4-9
Daily 4 morning: 5-9-8-4
Daily 4 day: 6-9-9-6
Daily 4 evening: 5-8-1-0
Daily 4 night: 0-6-7-3
Cash Five: 5-20-33-35-36
Texas Two Step: 10-13-14-30 BB: 2
All or Nothing morning: 1-3-4-7-11-13-15-17-18-21-22-24
All or Nothing day: 1-2-4-5-7-8-12-13-14-17-19-20
All or Nothing evening: 3-5-6-8-9-14-17-18-20-21-22-23
All or Nothing night: 1-3-5-8-10-13-14-15-16-20-22-23

Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2013. There are 14 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

Five years ago: Pro Football Hall of Famer Sammy Baugh died in Rotan at age 94.

Today's birthdays: Pope Francis is 77. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 68.

Commissioners name Hood interim tax assessor and collector

From staff reports

Midland County Commissioners named former Tax Office employee Karen Hood the interim tax assessor and collector at a special meeting Monday morning.

Long-time tax assessor and collector Kathy Reeves announced her resignation Nov. 26 and on Dec. 9, filed papers to run for the county judge seat against incumbent Mike Bradford.

Hood, a former assistant chief deputy, worked 10 years part time in the tax office and is running against current Assistant Chief Deputy Manny Natividad for the permanent position of tax assessor and collector in the March 4 Republican primary.

Commissioners looked to appoint a neutral party to the position in the interim, but that could not be accomplished, as all qualified parties are involved in the election.

Commissioner Luis Sanchez made a motion to keep Reeves in her position until the March 4 election, but the motion died after failing to receive a second.

Hood was elected in a three-to-one vote, with Sanchez dissenting.

County Judge Mike Bradford did not participate in the discussion and abstained from all votes.

Hood said her time working in the tax office familiarized herself with the day-to-day operations of the office, according to Reporter-Telegram archives.

"I feel like she (Reeves) taught me a lot about what was going on in the tax office," said Hood, who has not worked at the tax office for 18 months.

Natividad has worked full-time in the tax office for the past 13 years, according to Reporter-Telegram archives.

"I have my complete staff's trust and loyalty to my endeavor of running so that the office can continue to run efficiently, effectively and by the law," Natividad said.

Reeves said she she was shocked by the commissioners' decision to choose "the least qualified candidate for the job."

"If they were basing their decision on qualifications, Ms. Hood is absent of that," Reeves said. "I'm really concerned they would choose one candidate to be a supervisor over another candidate."

The commissioners next regular meeting is at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Midland County Courthouse.

WATER

From 1A

Water, though, is a complex issue.

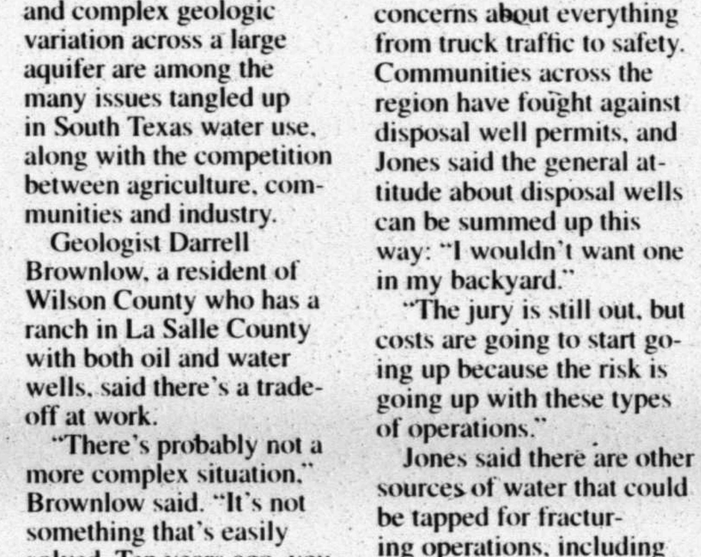
Irrigation takes the lion's share of the state's water — about 61 percent of the state's water demand, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

By comparison, water use for mining operations, including hydraulic fracturing, is a small slice of the state's water use — around 1 percent, less than is used to keep yards green.

"A study released earlier this year showed that Texans use about 18 times as much fresh water watering their lawns as the highest estimates of the volumes of water used by the oil and gas industry in the state," industry spokesman David Blackmon said.

And there are riches in selling fresh water.

"Water for sale" signs are commonplace in South Texas, along with reports of landowners who have become millionaires not from owning mineral rights, but from selling access to their water wells. A common provision in South Texas oil and gas leases requires that operators purchase water from the rancher.



William Luther/San Antonio-Express News

A water retention pond is seen in an aerial picture taken in the Eagle Ford Shale region between Karnes City and Falls City.

The trade-off

The Express-News looked at data from the nonprofit SkyTruth, which compiled reports from FracFocus, the national registry where oil and gas operators report the chemicals and water used in every well hydraulically fractured in the U.S.

The data is not perfect. It's likely incomplete, and there's a lag between the time when a well is fractured and when the data gets reported.

However, it's the best set of publicly available information about water use for hydraulic fracturing, and gives some insight into the shale drilling boom. (Because of changes to the FracFocus website, SkyTruth has not been able to scrape data since May.) No state agency tallies the well-by-well amount of water used in oil and gas operations.

The UT paper noted the Eagle Ford was a particularly difficult field to predict, and its lead author, Jean-Philippe Nicot, a research scientist at UT's Bureau of Economic Geology, said he now thinks the actual use in the Eagle Ford is around 40,000 acre-feet annually.

He's working on a paper that will be peer-reviewed and looks specifically at South Texas, but said the proximity to Gulf Coast refineries and oil prices staying near $100 a barrel have accelerated the field's development.

It's barely five years from discovery, but the Eagle Ford is expected to cross the 1 million-barrel-per-day mark for crude oil production sometime next year.

Three Eagle Ford counties — Karnes, La Salle and Gonzales — are the top crude oil producers in Texas. And the jobs and wealth added to the region have been unprecedented, even for a region already familiar with the booms-and-bust cycle of oil and gas.

Private property rights, economics on an overwhelming magnitude, regulatory issues, drought and complex geologic variation across a large aquifer are among the many issues tangled up in South Texas water use, along with the competition between agriculture, communities and industry.

Geologist Darrell Brownlow, a resident of Wilson County who has a ranch in La Salle County with both oil and water wells, said there's a trade-off at work.

"There's probably not a more complex situation," Brownlow said. "It's not something that's easily solved. Ten years ago, you could have bought all the land you wanted in South Texas. It wasn't worth anything." Few made enough cattle ranching or through deer hunts to even pay property taxes. Now there's less water, but much of the land can't be bought at any price.

"If somebody were to say, 'Look, you can have 10 oil wells on your property and in trade it will lower your water table by 50 feet,' what would you say?"

Recycling

Texas Railroad Commission has made it easier to recycle water in the oil patch, eliminating the need for companies to get a permit if they recycle on their own lease or on a third party's property.

But even as the state lowers barriers for recycling, some hurdles go beyond cost.

Kim Jones, director of Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment, called the lack of water reuse a "dirty little secret" at a recent presentation.

"It's not all that complicated why the business doesn't recycle more water," Jones said. "It's not cost effective. It's cheaper to pay $1 a barrel to get rid of that stuff. I'm going to say it's time to change. The industry is responding."

Jones used to work as an operator in East Texas.

"I never asked where that water came from. It wasn't any concern to me," he said. Soon, he was "off to the next frac job."

"You have to understand the perspective of the oil business. These guys have been doing this a long time. This is going to take some work. We've got to think differently than we used to."

The cost of water sourcing and disposal is rising, though, and there are concerns about everything from truck traffic to safety. Communities across the region have fought against disposal well permits, and Jones said the general attitude about disposal wells can be summed up this way: "I wouldn't want one in my backyard."

"The jury is still out, but costs are going to start going up because the risk is going up with these types of operations."

Jones said there are other sources of water that could be tapped for fracturing operations, including municipal wastewater or industrial water discharge. And there are several examples in the industry of creative water sourcing.

Bryan-based Alpha Reclaim Technologies LLC sells effluent water, which it purchases from a network of cities from Laredo to East Texas. The company recently reached an agreement to provide water from its Karnes City facility to exploration and production companies, and is working on two new deals.

Haley Curry, director of external affairs for the industry group South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable, said that some companies in the region are reporting using 30 percent less water in South Texas, due to the use of brackish water and recycling.

Apache Corp. uses no fresh water at all in its Permian Basin operations. And the service giant Halliburton markets its ability to fracture with water the salinity of the ocean.

For the drought-beset Wintergarden district, recycling of water from fracturing wouldn't solve the problem -- only about 20 percent of the water used during hydraulic fracturing in the Eagle Ford returns to the surface. The rest remains in the formation. But recycling and any other efforts would help, Fitzsimons said.

"Every boom has got to bust sooner or later," he said. "When water comes down, life goes with it."

"The salad days of artesian wells and picnics at the old Carrizo Springs swimming hole have been gone for a long time. The question is: Will there be a viable water supply in the district for its citizens when the last 18-wheeler rolls up or down I-35 to the next boom?"

CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Man arrested on intoxication assault charge

A Midland man was arrested Sunday for being intoxicated during a head-on collision that left one person with serious injuries, according to court documents.

Arzu

Osmel Chavez-Arzu, 23, was being held Monday on a $50,000 bond for a third-degree felony charge of intoxication assault with a vehicle causing serious bodily injury.

A Midland police officer responded to an accident with injuries at about 12:36 a.m. Sunday in the 5200 block of Andrews Highway.

At the scene, the officer contacted Chavez-Arzu, who said he was the reason for the accident. Chavez-Arzu also said he was driving when his vehicle sustained a flat tire, causing him to lose control, according to the affidavit. He claimed he had consumed two alcoholic beverages prior to getting behind the wheel.

Further investigation indicated that Chavez-Arzu was traveling west in the eastbound lanes of Andrews Highway and struck a vehicle head-on. The officer said the victim in the crash sustained serious bodily injuries, including a concussion, contusions and a severe ankle sprain. That victim also had an infant passenger inside of the vehicle, who was not injured, according to the affidavit.

If convicted, Chavez-Arzu faces up to 10 years in prison for the third-degree felony charge.

Woman drunkenly crashes SUV; five kids are passengers

A Midland woman was arrested Friday after she drunkenly crashed her SUV while five child passengers were inside of the vehicle, according to court documents.

Brandy L. Morris, 34, was being held on a $25,000 bond for a state jail felony charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under 15 years of age. She posted bond and was released on Saturday.

Midland police officers responded to a crash Friday night at the intersection of Carrizo Street and Texas Avenue.

A witness told dispatch that several kids were screaming and crying as they got out of the vehicle involved in the crash.

Morris

The officers arrived at the scene and saw that the front driver's side tire was flat with a bent rim. The driver, Morris, smelled of alcohol and had slurred speech and bloodshot eyes. There were five children — ranging from ages 6 to 12 — who were passengers in the vehicle, according to the arrest affidavit.

The oldest child, according to the affidavit, said Morris had been drinking vodka at home and that he was scared for the other children getting in the vehicle. Officers said there were no child seats in the vehicle for the younger children.

Morris refused to perform any field sobriety tests and was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital. She provided a blood sample before being arrested on the felony DWI charge, according to the affidavit.

The arresting officer said the children were released to Morris' boyfriend when he arrived at the crash scene.

If convicted, Morris faces up to two years in prison.

Mega Millions jackpot climbs to $586 million

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Mega Millions jackpot inched toward a U.S. lottery record Monday as it soared to $586 million amid a frenzy of ticket purchases, raising the possibility that the prize could pass the once-unthinkable $1 billion mark by Christmas Eve should nobody win before then.

Paula Otto, executive director of the Virginia Lottery and lead director for Mega Millions, said ticket sales are ahead of projections for today's drawing, increasing the likelihood it could shatter the current record of $656 million, set in a March 2012 Mega Millions drawing.

That was enough for Drew Gentsch to buy one ticket Monday morning. The attorney from Des Moines never plays, but the ballooning jackpot was too good to pass up.

"I think it's ridiculous but you have to dream big," he said. "The odds of winning are so low, there's no real reason to play. But it's fun to do so once in a while."

The large Mega Millions prize is the product of a major game revamp in October that dramatically lowered the odds of winning the jackpot. If a winner isn't selected tonight and it rolls over past the next drawing scheduled Friday night, Otto predicts the jackpot will reach $1 billion — an unheard of amount for Mega Millions or Powerball, the nation's two main lottery games.

"We had predicted last week that if we are still on the same roll on Christmas Eve, we'll definitely be over a billion," she said.

BLACKMAIL

From 1A

containing the pictures for a letter "saying he did not owe her anything." Speck also requested that letter on Dec. 2 via text message, stating that if she did not send the letter, "'everything I have goes viral online otherwise,'" according to the affidavit.

On Wednesday, the alleged victim called Speck and recorded the conversation, during which Speck confessed to posting the photos. Speck said via text message on Thursday that he had removed the photos from the website and told investigators that he did post the photos on the website, according to the report.

Speck, a one-year probationary officer, was arrested Friday on a third-degree felony charge of online impersonation and faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted of the alleged crime.

MPD Chief Price Robinson terminated Speck after 5 p.m. Friday, calling the incident isolated and a violation of public trust. The department initially placed Speck on administrative leave, according to Reporter-Telegram records.

"The Midland Police Department does not condone this type of behavior," Robinson said in a prepared statement. "I want it made perfectly clear that public trust is of the utmost importance to this department and the men and women that serve our community."

The case has been turned over to the Midland County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Horse slaughter plants prepare to open in New Mexico

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — After months of legal wrangling and false starts in a more than two-year battle to resume domestic horse slaughter, plants in New Mexico and Missouri were working Monday to begin processing equine for human consumption.

The efforts come on the heels of an order late Friday by a federal appeals court that lifted an emergency stay on the companies' plans.

"They are pushing full steam ahead to be ready to go as soon as possible," said Blair Dunn, an Albuquerque attorney who represents Valley Meat Co., of Roswell and Rains Natural Meats of Gallatin, Mo.

Rains Natural Meats, he said, even had horses on site. But it was unclear if the plants would open before Christmas or wait until after the holidays.

A third company, Responsible Transportation of Sigourney, Iowa, was reviewing its options, having already converted to beef.

Founder and CEO Keaton Walker said the company's beef operation was struggling against better-established competitors, and he planned to sell the plant unless he knew for sure that he could process horses. He said he expected to make a decision by early January.

"We're continuing to process cattle, and will for the foreseeable future," Walker said. "We're still trying to understand what this all means right now. Honestly, I'm not really sure what we're going to do."

PAID CONTENT

for your Information

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

Christmas décor now half off at Flowerland

Usually it's not a good thing to wait until the last minute to decorate for the holiday. But with Flowerland's 50 percent off sale going on now through Christmas Eve, you can save some real money.

Even if your holiday decorating is pretty much complete, you can add some extra pizzazz with a few more items from Flowerland's spritely collection. It's an amazing array of decorations new and fresh along with classic and nostalgic. Flowerland's Chief Designer, Chris Collum, AIFD, TMF, has scoured the markets so that you can take a spark of the season home with you.

You can still pick up a seasonal door wreath or flag, too—just ask at the store about selection, availability and pricing.

Whatever other theme you're seeking is probably right there in the store. Just inside the door to the left are Santa and his elven workers getting those last-minute touches on all the toys and games. The list of good girls and boys is pretty long this year, but they don't mind.

If you like the woodlands or the farmyard, you'll love Chris's Noah act, bringing together wise owls, mooing cows, neighing horses, clucking chickens and other friendly animals. The snowy owls are perched among the pine cones, berries and frosted tree branches, looking for a warm place like your home to snuggle in.

What is your color theme this year? Flowerland has chosen hues from bright and whimsical to mellow and reflective—the traditional reds and greens to rich chocolate, copper and gold, plus pink and blue as well are there for the taking.

All the Christmas decorations at Flowerland are 50 percent off through December 24.

At Flowerland they always remember the reason for the season, with Baby Jesus and the Holy Family being visited by shepherds and angels in the manger scene.

Remember that all the Christmas decorations in the store are 50 percent off through December 24, so go by and complete your holiday decorating with beautiful selections from Flowerland.

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

Candy and Christmas are a natural combination—as you see it at Flowerland. Christmas decorations are 50 percent off now through December 24 at Flowerland, 413 Andrews Highway.

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OPINION

Exhausted political class has little to celebrate

■ President Obama, split Republican Party show America little on big issues

MICHAEL GERSON
Washington Post Writers Group

The bipartisan budget deal was a welcome exception to congressional gridlock. It was not, unfortunately, an indication that gridlock has been broken in any lasting or fundamental way.

Speaker John Boehner publicly lost his temper with tea party groups because their political strategy — demonstrated in the manifest failure of the government shutdown — neglected to specify a path to victory. In selling the budget deal to Republican lawmakers, Boehner and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan proposed such a path: Keep the public spotlight on the cascading failures of the Affordable Care Act instead of drawing attention to GOP brinkmanship and internal divisions.

This was the appeal — avoid self-destruction while your opponent is self-destructing — that ended up persuading two-thirds of the Republican Study Committee (the House's conservative caucus) and should secure the requisite number of Senate Republican votes. It is a perfectly rational political argument. But it is hardly the prelude to future legislative ambition.

Put another way: The budget agreement was passed by the House precisely because it was small — small in its discretionary spending increases, in its entitlement adjustments, and in controversial ideological content. It was not a precedent for grand compromises on immigration or tax reform. We are seeing a truce in the budget wars, not the emergence of a centrist governing coalition.

The budget agreement was also notable for the role played by President Obama — which was pretty much none at all. He was marginal to the deal, which had almost nothing to do with his policy priorities.

Given the inherent powers of the office, a president is never fully or finally irrelevant. President George W. Bush, for example, was at a low ebb of popularity and political influence when he pursued the troop surge in Iraq. In a consequential foreign policy decision, or at a time of national crisis, the chief executive makes a sudden return to indispensability.

But Obama now risks permanent damage to his standing as a leader. His main legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act, is broadly tarnished or politically toxic. Polls indicate growing questions about Obama's credibility and competence — mainly due to the contrast between the way Obamacare was sold and the way it has been implemented. (In a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey, just 37 percent of Americans gave Obama high marks for being "honest and straightforward".) Though the midterm elections are still a ways off, control of the Senate could easily switch. A Republican Senate majority would make Obama the lamest of ducks.

The relatively minor White House personnel adjustments the president has so far announced convey little sense of urgency. And his main problem is not personnel-related. It is the messy, unfolding reality of Obamacare. Uptake remains anemic — at last count, about 3 million short of the administration's 3.3 million year-end goal. New regulations have caused disruptions in health insurance markets, including lost and restricted coverage and premium increases. The president did little to prepare Americans for these predictable outcomes, making it difficult for him to credibly argue that these costs are worth the benefits (which, for some Americans, they are). And speaking of costs, Obamacare's new taxes begin to bite this coming year.

So, the president (with suspect credibility and competence) is weakened, while Republicans in Congress (with doubts about their compassion and willingness to compromise) are highly unpopular. American politics seems like a contest of two exhausted boxers. Both have made serious mistakes. Both have been unable (so far) to deliver a decisive blow. Sometimes (as in the budget deal) they hang on to each other to keep from falling down.

Over the years, the policy effects of this political exhaustion have been surprisingly mixed. On fiscal issues, the legislative clinches have added up. In recent years, the two parties have agreed to just more than $2 trillion in reduced spending (over 10 years) and raised taxes by about $700 billion during the same period — cutting the 10-year deficit in half. In the absence of serious entitlement reform, America's long-term fiscal prognosis remains disastrous. But the shorter-term deficit is in significantly better shape.

Yet on domestic policy — including immigration and issues related to economic opportunity and mobility — little gets accomplished. Democrats have few results to show since the 2010 election. Republicans, meanwhile, have conducted a debilitating, internal debate over whether the crafting of domestic policy is even an appropriate federal role.

America is a nation with serious public challenges — and a political class exhausted by minimal exertions.

OUR VIEW

Football can't get in the way of UTPB's mission

Football apparently is coming to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The news was surprising to us. It promises to change college athletics in our region — no doubt about it.

UTPB officials believe football will help boost the university's profile and help achieve aggressive enrollment targets (8,000 by 2020). We expect they have seen examples of football at the Division II level being that enrollment booster. Will the same be true of UTPB? We have no idea.

A business plan shows the initial six-year costs of starting a Division II football program is $9.5 million. That includes costs of the first four seasons.

After the initial six-year period, sustaining a football program at UTPB is projected to cost $2.476 million annually. These expenses will be covered by a student fee, revenue from ticket sales and subsidized by the UTPB Student Housing Auxiliary, which UTPB expects to generate $4 million in annual revenue by 2020. Will those numbers be accurate? Again, we have no clue.

What we do believe is UTPB fundraisers will raise every cent they promised and take as much of a burden off UTPB students as possible.

On some of the other points, we aren't nearly as optimistic. UTPB will find out competing with established programs will not be easy. In the first couple years, we expect it will be especially brutal.

The university will see that expecting 5,000 patrons a game might be aggressive. We also expect, like Sports Editor Len Hayward wrote in his must-read Sunday Morning Line, that adding football changes the culture of the school. Football, because of the investment, has to be treated as a top priority, unlike anything we have seen at a college or university athletic program in our region.

With football comes Title IX issues and decisions about the types of student-athletes you want associated with your school and inside the Odessa community. It also will bring comments about how UTPB chooses to spend its money.

We also wonder with all the positive momentum that we believe UTPB has going for it right now, was it really necessary to get involved in football. The growing engineering program, the Wagner Noel Performance Arts Center, the university's Midland campus, a connection with the city of Midland that's never been better, we can go on. Will football change any of these for worse? We want to make it clear, officials can't allow that to happen. Too many strides have been made.

In the end, we believe in the direction President David Watts has taken UTPB. He has made the choices that have made sense for the school, and while we have serious reservations about the addition of a football program, we believe in Watts.

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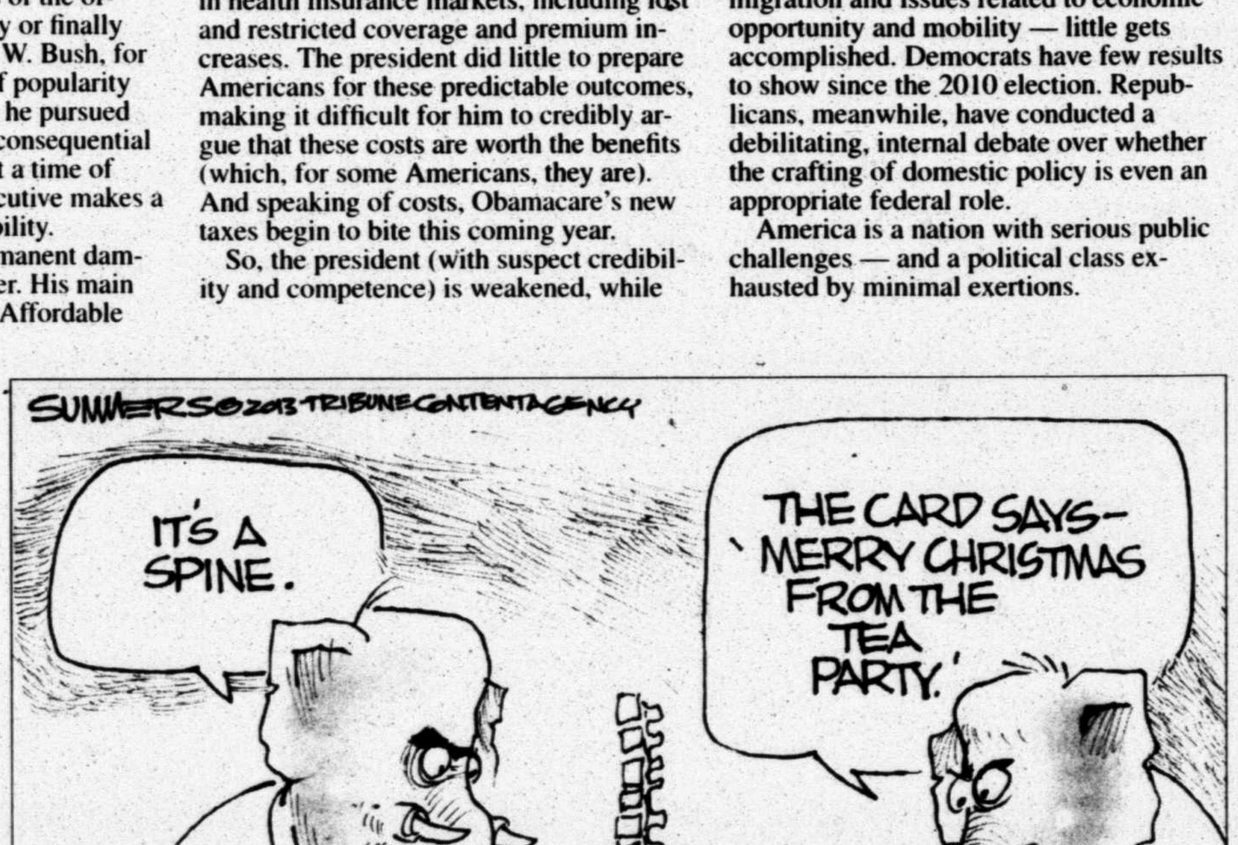


Does US have ADHD epidemic?

■ Can you make it to the end of this op-ed? No, there's medicine for that

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate

If at any time while reading this article your attention wanders, you may have ADHD. If you pause to check your email sometime during the next three paragraphs, you should consult a doctor. If you fail to read this article all the way to the end, you should get on Adderall, Ritalin or some other drug to treat your condition as soon as possible.

This isn't quite the standard for diagnosing attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, but it's close. The New York Times ran a long expose on how the drug industry has stoked the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD that had a revelatory quote from Keith Conners, a doctor who has long advocated for the recognition of the disorder.

Conners called the overdiagnosis of ADHD "a national disaster of dangerous proportions," telling the Times that the rising number of cases "is a concoction to justify the giving out of medication at unprecedented and unjustifiable levels." This isn't bomb-throwing from an outsider, but a critique from the namesake of the Conners ratings scale widely used to evaluate kids for ADHD.

There is no doubt that ADHD is a legitimate neurological condition that makes kids (and those around them) miserable, that blights their potential and that can be alleviated by prescription stimulants like Adderall and Ritalin. There also is no doubt that diagnosis and treatment of the disorder has run wildly out of control on the promise of an easy pharmaceutical fix to the natural rambunctiousness of childhood.

The 6-year-old boy notoriously suspended from a Colorado elementary school on charges of sexual harassment for the offense of kissing a girl's hand summarized the matter nicely: "I just have a lot of energy! I mean 6-year-olds — they have a lot of energy!" No kidding. Our increasing unwillingness to distinguish between run-of-the-mill childishness — which, by definition, is heedless and frustrating at times — and a condition requiring pharmaceutical treatment is at the root of the ADHD epidemic.

According to the forthcoming book "The ADHD Explosion," 19 percent of high-school-aged males have received a diagnosis. The numbers differ from state to state. In North Carolina, an astounding 30 percent of boys over age 9 are supposedly suffering from ADHD. Overall, 6 percent of children and adolescents in the United States are on drugs to treat ADHD.

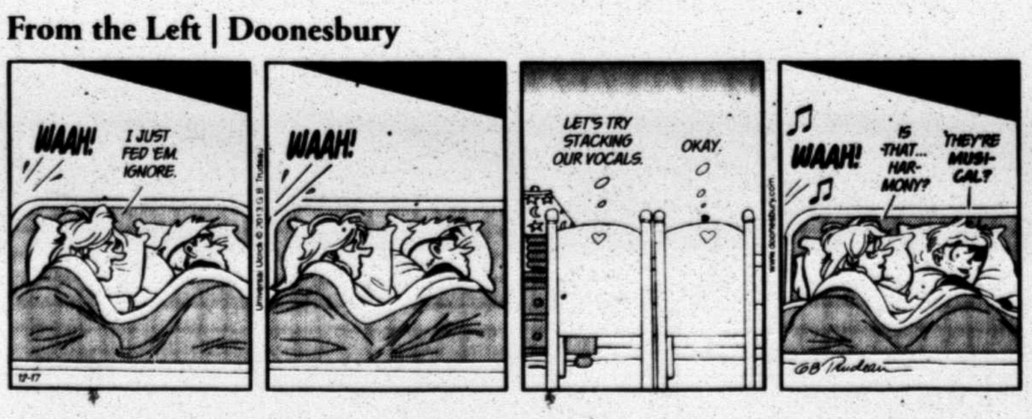
It's a wonder more kids aren't diagnosed with it, given the overlap between the description of the disorder and failings to which we are all prone. The New York Times points out that the American Psychiatric Association criteria for ADHD include "often has difficulty waiting his or her turn" and "makes careless mistakes," hardly rare childhood behaviors. Lowering the bar further, drug companies sponsor online quizzes telling people they may have ADHD if they have trouble with things like "remembering appointments" or "getting things in order."

The drug companies — for whom ADHD is a $9 billion-a-year business — target mothers with alluring ads suggesting their children will become little angels through the wonders of risk-free stimulants. Their kids will get better grades, spend more quality time with the family, remember to take out the trash and shower everyone around them with good cheer. Who wouldn't want their child thus magically transformed? According to the Times report, the Food and Drug Administration has constantly rebuked the companies for going beyond the evidence in selling visions of childhood Valhalla secured through the right drug.

Undertrained primary-care physicians and worried parents default much too often to the diagnosis of ADHD and to the answer of a prescription. The next frontier is adult ADHD, with the promise of a vast new pharmaceutical market made up of people deprived of ADHD diagnoses when they were children. Some of these diagnoses will be warranted and life-changing, but others will be overreach prompted by vague and dubious symptoms, like inattentive op-ed reading.

Sure, you got to the end of this article. But how about the next one?

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore

Judge: NSA records program is likely unconstitutional

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a ruling with potentially far-reaching consequences, a federal judge declared Monday that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of millions of Americans' telephone records likely violates the U.S. Constitution's ban on unreasonable search. The ruling, filled with blistering criticism of the Obama administration's arguments, is the first of its kind on the controversial program.

Even if NSA's "metadata" collection of records should pass constitutional muster, the judge said, there is little evidence it has ever prevented a terrorist attack. The collection program was disclosed by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden, provoking a heated national and international debate.

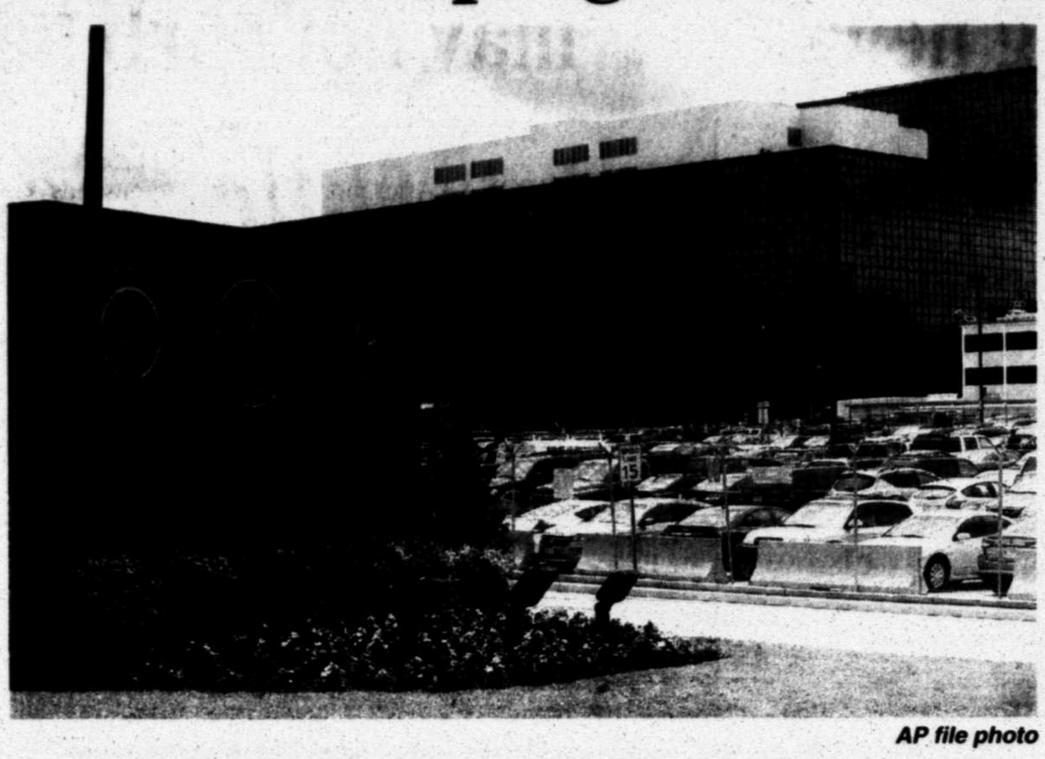
U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon granted a preliminary injunction against the collecting of the phone records of two men who had challenged the program and said any such records for the men should be destroyed. But he put enforcement of that decision on hold pending a near-certain government appeal, which may well end up at the Supreme Court.

The injunction applies only to the two individual plaintiffs, but the ruling is likely to open the door to much broader challenges to the records collection and storage.

The plaintiffs are Larry Klayman, a conservative lawyer, and Charles Strange, who is the father of a cryptologist technician who was killed in Afghanistan when his helicopter was shot down in 2011. The son worked for the NSA and support personnel for Navy SEAL Team VI.

Leon, an appointee of President George W. Bush, ruled that the two men "have a substantial likelihood of showing" that their privacy interests outweigh the government's interest in collecting the data "and therefore the NSA's bulk collection program is indeed an unreasonable search under the Constitution's Fourth Amendment."

"I have little doubt that the author of our Constitution, James Madison, who cautioned us to beware 'the abridgment of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power,' would be aghast," he declared.



AP file photo

This June 6 file photo shows a sign outside the National Security Agency (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md. A federal judge says the NSA's bulk collection of phone records violates the Constitution's ban on unreasonable searches. The judge put his decision on hold pending a nearly certain government appeal.

In addition to civil liberties critics, big communications companies are unhappy with the NSA program, concerned about a loss of business from major clients who are worried about government snoopfng. President Barack Obama will meet Tuesday with executives from leading technology companies. The meeting was previously scheduled, but the NSA program is sure to be on the agenda, and now the court ruling will be in the mix.

After the ruling, Andrew C. Ames, a spokesman for the Justice Department's National Security Division, said in a statement, "We've seen the opinion and are studying it. We believe the program is constitutional as previous judges have found. We have no further comment at this time."

Snowden, in a statement provided to reporter Glenn Greenwald and obtained by The Associated Press, said, "I acted on my belief that the NSA's mass surveillance programs would not withstand a constitutional challenge and that the American public deserved a chance to see these issues determined by open courts. Today, a secret program authorized by a secret court was, when exposed to the light of day, found to violate Americans' rights. It is the first of many."

Klayman said in a telephone interview that it was a big day for the country.

"Obviously it's a great ruling and a correct ruling, and the first time that in a long time that a court has stepped in to prevent the tyranny of the other two branches of government," he said.

The Obama administration has defended the program as a crucial tool against terrorism.

But in his 68-page, heavily footnoted opinion, Leon concluded that the government didn't cite a single instance in which the program "actually stopped an imminent terrorist attack."

"I have serious doubts about the efficacy of the metadata collection program as a means of conducting time-sensitive investigations in cases involving imminent threats of terrorism," he added.

He said was staying his ruling pending appeal "in light of the significant national security interests at stake in this case and the novelty of the constitutional issues."

The government has argued that under a 1979 Supreme Court ruling, Smith v. Maryland, no one has an expectation of privacy in the telephone data that phone companies keep as business records. In that ruling, the high court rejected the claim that police need a warrant to obtain such records.

But Leon said that was a "far cry" from the issue in this case. The question, he said, is, "When do present-day circumstances — the evolutions in the government's surveillance capabilities, citizens' phone habits, and the relationship between the NSA and telecom companies — become so thoroughly unlike those considered by the Supreme Court 34 years ago that a precedent like Smith simply does not apply? The answer, unfortunately for the government, is now."

He wrote that the court in 1979 couldn't have imagined how people interact with their phones nowadays, citing the explosion of cellphones. In addition, he said, the Smith case involved a search of just a few days, while "there is the very real prospect that the (NSA) program will go on for as long as America is combatting terrorism, which realistically could be forever!"

Leon added: "The almost-Orwellian technology that enables the government to store and analyze the phone metadata of every telephone user in the United States is unlike anything that could have been conceived of in 1979."

The judge also mocked the government's contention that it would be burdensome to comply with any court order that requires the NSA to remove the plaintiffs from its database.

"Of course, the public has no interest in saving the government from the burdens of complying with the Constitution!" he wrote. As for the government's complaint that other successful requests "could ultimately have a degrading effect on the utility of the program," he said, "I will leave it to other judges to decide how to handle any future litigation in their courts."

Sen. Mark Udall, a Colorado Democrat and member of the Intelligence Committee, said Leon's ruling "underscores what I have argued for years: The bulk collection of Americans' phone records conflicts with Americans' privacy rights under the U.S. Constitution and has failed to make us safer."

Stephen Vladeck, a national security law expert at the American University law school, said Leon is the first judge to say he has serious constitutional concerns about the program.

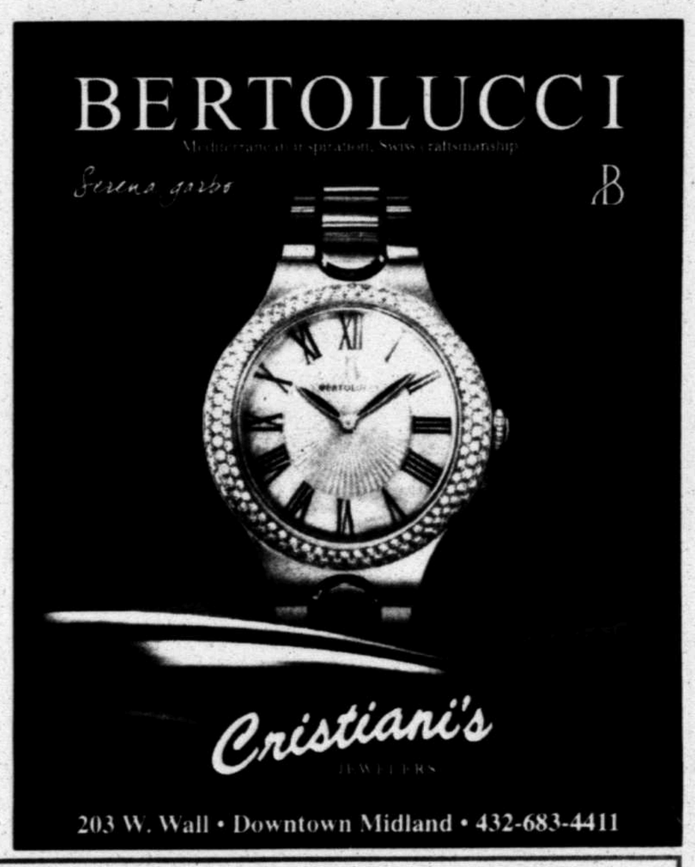
"This is the opening salvo in a very long story, but it's important symbolically in dispelling the invincibility of the metadata program," he added.

Vladeck said 15 judges on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court have examined Section 215 of the Patriot Act, the provision of law under which the data collection takes place, without finding constitutional problems. "There's a disconnect between the 15 judges on the FISA court who seem to think it's a no-brainer that Section 215 is constitutional, and Judge Leon, who seems to think otherwise."

Vladeck said there is a long road of court tests ahead for both sides in this dispute and that a higher court could ultimately avoid ruling on the big constitutional issue identified by Leon. "There are five or six different issues in these cases," Vladeck said.

Robert F. Turner, a professor at the University of Virginia's Center for National Security Law, said searching the databases involved in the National Security Agency case is similar to searching motor vehicle records or FBI fingerprint files.

The judge's decision is highly likely to be reversed on appeal, Turner said.



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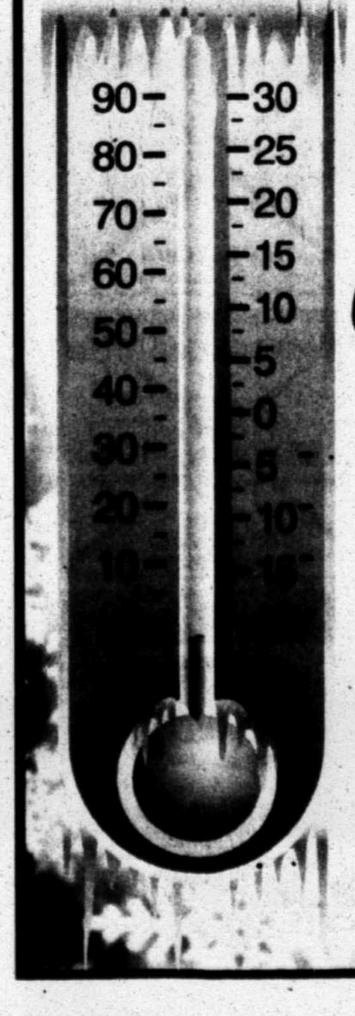

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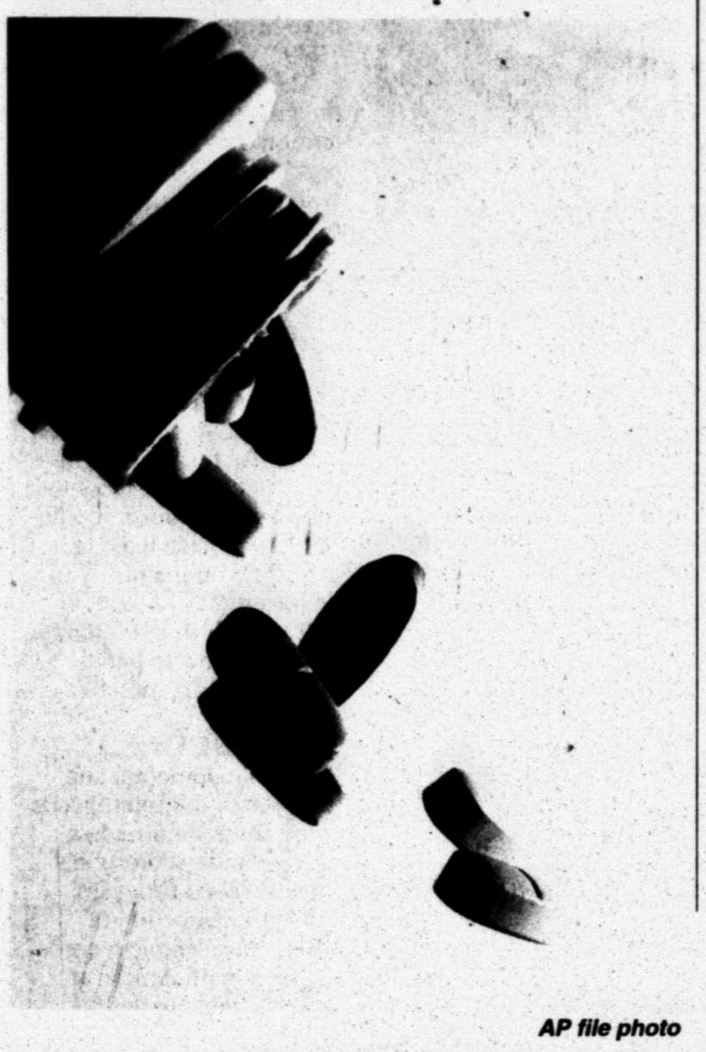
Do vitamins block disease? Some disappointing news

Associated Press



AP file photo

In this 2011 file photo illustration, multivitamins are poured from a bottle in Philadelphia. More disappointing news about multivitamins: About a third of Americans pop these pills but they don't seem to protect our aging brains, or guard against heart disease. The latest findings beg the question of whether society is wasting money that could be better spent on weight loss or fresh produce. But some researchers say the jury's still out — some studies have found signs that multivitamins might help other conditions.

WASHINGTON — There's more disappointing news about multivitamins: Two major studies found popping the pills didn't protect aging men's brains or help heart attack survivors.

Millions of Americans spend billions of dollars on vitamin combinations, presumably to boost their health and fill gaps in their diets. But while people who don't eat enough of certain nutrients may be urged to get them in pill form, the government doesn't recommend routine vitamin supplementation as a way to prevent chronic diseases.

The studies released Monday are the latest to test if multivitamins might go that extra step and concluded they don't.

"Evidence is sufficient to advise against routine supplementation," said a sharply worded editorial that accompanied Monday's findings in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine.

After all, most people who buy multivitamins and other supplements are generally healthy, said journal deputy editor Dr. Cynthia Mulrow. Even junk foods often are fortified with vitamins, while the main nutrition problem in the U.S. is too much fat and calories, she added.

But other researchers say the jury's still out, especially for the country's most commonly used dietary supplement — multivitamins that are taken by about a third of U.S. adults, and even more people over the age of 50.

Indeed, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is deliberating whether vitamin supplements make any difference in the average person's risk of heart disease or cancer. In a draft proposal last month, the government advisory group said for standard multivitamins and certain other nutrients, there's not enough evidence to tell. (It did caution that two single supplements, beta-carotene and vitamin E, didn't work). A final decision is expected next year.

As scientists debate, here are some questions and answers to consider in the vitamin aisle:

Q: Why the new focus on multivitamins?

Multivitamins have grown more popular in recent years as research showed that taking high doses of single supplements could be risky, such as beta-carotene.

Multivitamins typically contain no more than 100 percent of the daily recommended amount of various nutrients. They're marketed as sort of a safety net for nutrition gaps; the industry's Council for Responsible Nutrition says they're taken largely for general wellness.

Q: What are the latest findings?

With Alzheimer's on the rise as the population ages, Harvard researchers wondered if long-term multivitamin use might help keep older brains agile. They examined a subset of nearly 6,000 male doctors, age 65 or older, who were part of a larger study. The men were given either multivitamins or dummy pills, without knowing which they were taking.

After a decade of pill use, the vitamin-takers fared no better on memory or other cognitive tests, Sesso's team reported Monday in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine.

Q: Did that Harvard study find any other benefit from multivitamins?

The results of the Physicians Health Study II have been mixed. Overall it enrolled about 15,000 health male doctors age 50 and older, and the vitamin-takers had a slightly lower risk of cancer — 8 percent. Diet and exercise are more protective. They also had a similarly lower risk of developing cataracts, common to aging eyes. But the vitamins had no effect the risk for heart disease or another eye condition, Sesso said.

Q: Might vitamins have a different effect on people who already have heart disease?

As part of a broader treatment study, a separate research team asked that question. They examined 1,700 heart attack survivors, mostly men, who were given either a special multivitamin containing higher-than-usual doses of 28 ingredients or dummy pills. But the vitamins didn't reduce the chances of another heart attack, other cardiovascular problems, or death.

Q: What about women?

Research involving postmenopausal women a few years ago also concluded multivitamins didn't prevent cancer or heart disease. But it wasn't nearly as rigorous a study as Monday's research, relying on women to recall what vitamins they used.

Q: What's the safety advice for multivitamin users?

The preventive services task force cited no safety issues with standard multivitamins. But specialists say to always tell your doctor what over-the-counter supplements you use. Some vitamins interact with some medications, and Sesso said anyone worried about nutrition should be discussing their diet with their doctor anyway.

FDA: Anti-bacterial soaps may not curb bacteria

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After more than 40 years of study, the U.S. government says it has found no evidence that common anti-bacterial soaps prevent the spread of germs, and regulators want the makers of Dawn, Dial and other household staples to prove that their products do not pose health risks to consumers.

Scientists at the Food and Drug Administration announced Monday that they are revisiting the safety of triclosan and other sanitizing agents found in soap in countless kitchens and bathrooms. Recent studies suggest triclosan and similar substances can interfere with hormone levels in lab animals and spur the growth of drug-resistant bacteria.

The government's preliminary ruling lends new support to outside researchers who have long argued that the chemicals are, at best, ineffective and at worst, a threat to public health.

"The FDA is finally making a judgment call here and asking industry to show us that these products are better than soap and water, and the data don't substantiate that," said Stuart Levy of the Tufts University School of Medicine.

While the rule only applies to personal hygiene products, it has implications for a broader $1 billion industry that includes thousands of anti-bacterial products, including kitchen knives, toys, pacifiers and toothpaste. Over the last 20 years, companies have added triclosan and other cleaners to thousands of household products, touting their germ-killing benefits.

Under a proposed rule released Monday, the agency will require manufacturers to prove that anti-bacterial soaps are safe and more effective than plain soap and water. Products that are not shown to be safe and effective by late 2016 would have to be reformulated, relabeled or removed from the market.

"I suspect there are a lot of consumers who assume that by using an anti-bacterial soap product, they are protecting themselves from illness, protecting their families," said Sandra Kweder, deputy director in the FDA's drug center.

A spokesman for the cleaning product industry said the FDA already has "a wealth of data" showing the benefits of anti-bacterial products.

Monday's action affects virtually all soap products labeled anti-bacterial, including popular brands from CVS, Bath and Body Works, Ajax and many other companies.

DAILY PROMISE BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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Luke 1:28

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Documentary series to focus on Midland, other Texas cities

■ "One Square Mile: Texas" to premiere on Basin PBS in January

By Joseph Basco
jbasco@mrt.com

For Besty and Carl Crum, creators of a documentary series that captures the lives of Texans in nine cities, it felt good to have two episodes left to edit in mid-December after nearly a year of pre-production, filming and post-production.

The couple, creators of the "One Square Mile: Texas" series, filmed people in small and large cities across the state, from Midland to Dallas. The series, with about 81 stories to tell, will premiere on Basin PBS starting Jan. 16, with new episodes premiering every Thursday.

During their documentation, the Crums were able to capture people as they lived day-to-day, giving themselves and the audience a different viewpoint of Texas rather than through a tourist or stereotypical lens.

"I've learned a lot of things from every person we've met, from those with power to the powerless," Carl Crum said.

Carl and Besty Crum explained that once they were able to "break down the barriers" between them and the people they were documenting, they were able to hear interesting stories, instead of, as Carl Crum put it, "the best places to eat in the city."

"Were are all on a similar journey," Betsy Crum said. "We're all wanting to succeed, and we're struggling."

One of the Midlanders the Crums profiled for the series was a student at Abell Junior High School who was diagnosed with leukemia years ago. Another Midlander captured on camera plays golf professionally but has come to Midland to become a teacher in the midst of a shortage.

"People associate Midland with oil," Carl Crum said. "But it doesn't play a role with the people we interviewed."

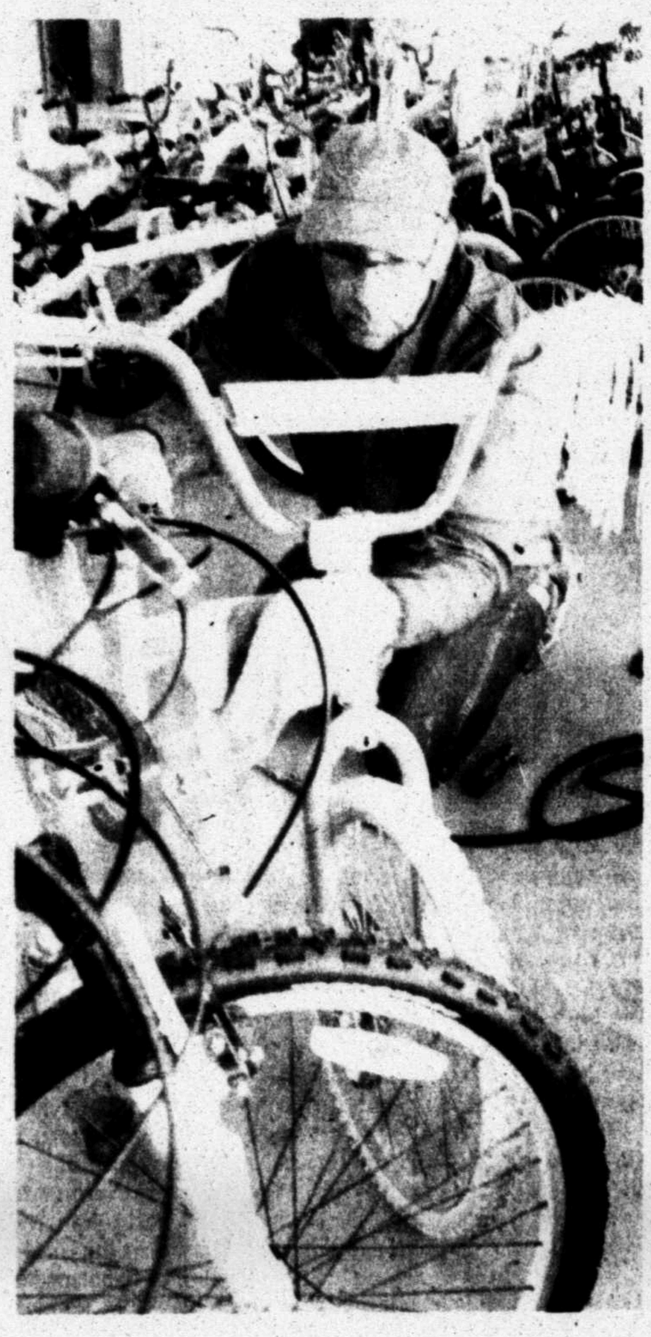
In the Austin episode, the Crums documented Louis Black, one of the co-founders of South by Southwest as the international festival unfolded in 2013. In the preview trailer posted on the One Square Mile website, Black noted how, surrounded by people much younger than him, people don't know who he is even after he has introduced himself.

The Crums said one of the goals of the series is to display the wide diversity of Texas for people outside, and even inside, the Lone Star State, and to illustrate how the diversity unites everyone.

Betsy Crum, giving anecdotal evidence of the misconceptions of Texas, discussed how Chanel's Metiers d'Art fashion show Dec. 10 at Fair Park in Dallas used rodeo-esque decor for its runway, or how people have asked the couple why Texas, via U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, is ruining the

Please see **SERIES**/3B

IT'S BETTER TO GIVE



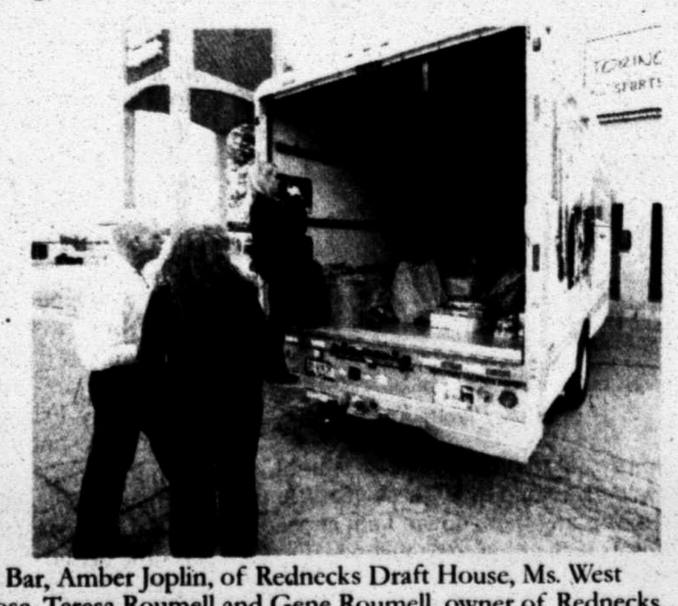
RIGHT: Jeff Jacobson, with Jake's Clays, wipes down and checks the tires of one of the hundred bikes donated Friday as part of the Shoot from the Heart fundraiser to collect bikes for Salvation Army at Jake's Clays. **ABOVE:** Chris Snider arranges bikes.

Photos by Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Jake's Clays collected 125 bicycles on Friday to donate to the Salvation Army in Midland and Odessa. Riley's Bar and Grill hosted a toy drive this weekend, and Party with a Purpose teamed up with several local businesses to donate toys to Salvation Army. Several Midland businesses and organizations are currently collecting gifts or food to distribute to others this holiday season. Read more about good deeds in the Permian Basin in the Reporter-Telegram's Faith & Philanthropy section on Friday.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Members of Dignity Car Club, Los Carnales, Boozefighters and Brotherhood 74 pose with Chris Stonedale of Casa de Amigos (back row center) at Riley's Bar and Grill during a toy drive for Casa de Amigos on Saturday.



LEFT: Toy drive volunteers from left, Christy Unrein, of Torino's Pizza Bar, Amber Joplin, of Rednecks Draft House, Ms. West Texas Shannon Anderson, Steven Palma, founder of Party With A Purpose, Teresa Roumell and Gene Roumell, owner of Rednecks, Torino's and the Boardroom, pose for a photo with a pile of toys for a toy drive on Thursday at the Boardroom. **RIGHT:** Teresa Roumell, from left, Gene Roumell and Unrein load toys into a truck.

Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

FOOD ETC.

Email Joan Huff at foodetcmrt@aol.com. See more recipes at mywesttexas.com.

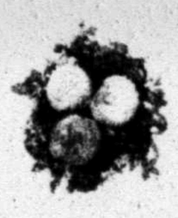
Christmas breakfast should mean little time in kitchen

Breakfast on Christmas morning should be easy. After all, Christmas is a day to sit and enjoy family time. Planning ahead can bring great results and keep time spent in the kitchen to a minimum.

Most of the recipes listed today can be made in advance and refrigerated overnight. If you need an activity for the kids, you might invite them to join you in the kitchen to help cook. Who knows, you might start a new family tradition.

Recipes wanted

After all the rich foods of the holidays, what do you like to make for meals? Do you have a favorite chicken, fish or salad recipe? Send to foodetcmrt@aol.com or mail to the Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701, attention: Food Etc./Joan Huff or fax to 570-7650. Please include your name, phone number and source of the recipe. Deadline is Dec. 20.



Bacon Cheddar Cups
From "Christmas

12 slices white bread
1 Tablespoon butter
4 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled
1/2 cup whipping cream
1 egg, beaten
1/2 Tablespoon chives
1/2 Tablespoon onion powder
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
Garnish: cherry tomatoes, mushrooms

Cut a 3-inch circle from center of each bread slice. Roll out each circle with a rolling pin to flatten slightly. Grease a 12-cup muffin pan with butter. Press one bread circle in each cup. Bake at 350 degrees for 7 minutes. Divide bacon among cups. Combine whipping cream, egg, chives and onion powder; divide among cups. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Garnish with cherry tomatoes or mushrooms. Makes 12 servings.

Ham and Hash Brown Breakfast Casserole
From "The Ultimate Christmas Cookbook"

8 bacon slices
3/4 cup chopped sweet onion
1/3 cup butter
1 (30-ounce) package frozen country-style hash brown potatoes, thawed
1 (10 3/4-ounce) can cream of chicken soup
1 (16-ounce) container sour cream
2 cups (8-ounces) shredded Colby Jack cheese
1 (8-ounce) package diced ham
1 (4-ounce) jar diced pimiento, drained
2 Tablespoons coarse-grained Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Cook bacon in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat until very crisp. Remove bacon from pan, reserving 2 tablespoons drippings in pan. Crumble bacon, set aside.

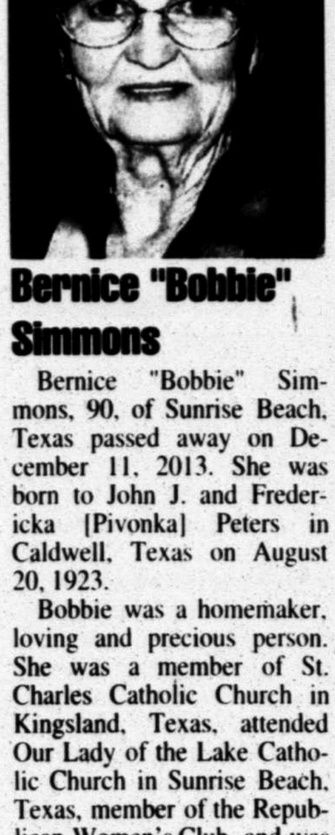
Add onions to reserved drippings; cook over medium-high heat 6 minutes or until tender and golden. Reduce heat to medium-low, and swirl in butter until melted; remove pan from heat.

Squeeze excess moisture from potatoes. Stir in potatoes, soup, and remaining ingredients. Spoon into a greased 13x9-inch baking dish.

Bake, covered at 350 for 45 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle with crumbled bacon. Bake 15 more minutes or until browned on top. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Yield: 12 serv-

Please see **FOOD ETC.**/4A

Obituaries



Bernice "Bobbie" Simmons

Bernice "Bobbie" Simmons, 90, of Sunrise Beach, Texas passed away on December 11, 2013. She was born to John J. and Fredericka [Pivonka] Peters in Caldwell, Texas on August 20, 1923.

Bobbie was a homemaker, loving and precious person. She was a member of St. Charles Catholic Church in Kingsland, Texas, attended Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Sunrise Beach, Texas, member of the Republican Women's Club, and was on the altar society in Midland, Texas.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Bill O. and Pam Simmons, Jr. of Midland, Texas, Paul D. and Kandi Simmons of Sunrise Beach, Texas, two granddaughters, four great grandchildren, brother, George M. Peters of Midland, Texas, sister, Clara Holloman of San Angelo, Texas, ten nieces also survive.

Bobbie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Bill O. Simmons, Sr., Brother, James S. Peters, sisters, Earlene Peters-Mills and Ida Peters-Marshall.

Visitations will be held at Putnam Funeral Home on Wednesday, December 18 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a Rosary said at 7:00 p.m. The Liturgy will be held at St. Charles Catholic Church in Kingsland, Texas on Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow on Friday, December 20, at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Stanton, Texas. An online guest register may be signed at www/PutnamCares.com.

Funeral arrangements made by Putnam Funeral Home 145 Texas Avenue, Kingsland, Texas 78639 [325] 388-0008.

Don Hector Miller

Don Hector Miller, 87, of Midland went to be with his Lord Jesus on December 16, 2013. He was born in Crews, Texas on May 11, 1926 to Hector R. Miller and Grace Mitchell Miller. Don grew up in Coleman, Texas. He was a Navy Veteran of WWII. He was an independent trucker and most recently leased his truck through Weaver Trucking until he retired in 1999.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his brother Bob Miller and sisters, Mary Davis and Billie Ruth Stone.

Don is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris Jean Miller; his son, Jerry Miller and wife Donna of Weatherford; his daughter, Donna Minnick and husband Edwin of Midland; his son, Steve Miller and wife Sheila of Lubbock; and his grandchildren: Joshua Miller, Garrett Miller, Hayden Miller, Collins Miller, Nathan Maples, Amanda Bruton, John Minnick and wife Tamara. He also leaves behind numerous, much loved, nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Dr. Chiloa, Dr. Ganta and the staff at MMH for their kindness and excellent care.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 17 between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00pm at Ellis Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 2:00pm in the Chapel at Ellis Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park North. Online condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5535

John "Johnny" Andrew Rowbotham

John "Johnny" Andrew Rowbotham of Midland passed away on December 15, 2013. Johnny was born to Ira Blaine and Valarie Thompson Rowbotham on August 16, 1922 in Burlington, Colorado. He graduated from Alva High School in Alva, Oklahoma.

After graduating from high school he joined the National Guard. Johnny then went into the regular Army to serve his country during World War II. He served in the 45th Division of the United States Army having three amphibian landings in North Africa, Sicily and Anzio.

In 1945 Johnny was employed by Gulf Oil Corporation working on a Seismograph Crews. In 1954 he was transferred to Fort Worth, Texas working in the budget department. In 1959 was transferred to Midland Division as a Senior Accountant Analysis. Later retiring in 1983 from Chevron.

Family was very important to Johnny and he was a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was a very devoted man to his Christ Church of Midland family.

Johnny was a long time member of the Acacia Masonic Lodge 1414, serving 67 years. He was a 32 degree Mason and also a member to Suez Shrines. He was a member of the Earl S. Bailey American Legion Post 0430 for 21 years and a longtime member of the VFW post in Odessa.

In the 70's Johnny served the City of Midland on one of the Commission Boards.

Johnny was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Doris Watts Rowbotham; his second wife, Nancy Beverly Rowbotham; his two brothers; his sister and three nieces and many aunts and uncles.

Johnny is survived by his daughter, Gloria Newman and husband Jerry of Midland; his son, Frank Rowbotham and wife Ginger of Edmond, OK; and his three step-children: Patty Merrifield and husband Tim, John Beverly and wife Beth, and Brian Beverly and wife Cindy. He also leaves behind fourteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

The family wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to the caregivers and staff at Senior Care, Terrace West and Hospice of Midland for the outstanding care given to Johnny in the past few months.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at Ellis Funeral Home between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00pm. A funeral service has been scheduled for 11: 00am on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at Christ Church Anglican of Midland. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Online condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5535

Joyce C. Hunt

Joyce C. Hunt, 82, of Midland went to be with Our Lord on Sunday, December 15, 2013. She was born on July 5, 1931 in Vernon, Texas to Henry and America Upchurch. Joyce married Ray D. Hunt on July 10, 1949. Ray and Joyce moved to West Texas in early 1950's. Joyce owned Hwy 158 Grocery for over 30 years when she retired in 1994. Joyce's family was her strong passion. She loved family night every Friday playing cards with her babies. Joyce was an active member of Valley View Church. She will be missed by many and loved by all.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ray Hunt and her son, Wayne Hunt.

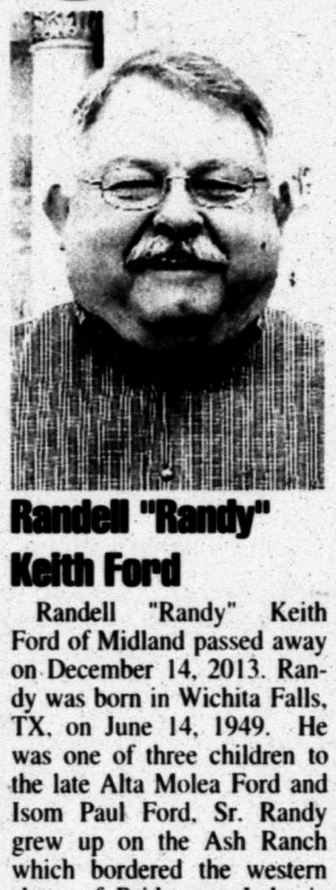
Joyce is survived by her son, James Hunt and wife Belinda of Midland; her daughters: Phyllis Williamson of Midland, Nelda Briggs and husband Paul of Mesquite, Texas, and Melinda Brown of Midland; and her sister, Joy Pechusick of Hermit California. She also leaves behind twelve grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbears will be: Chris Briggs, Justin Williamson, Chad Matlock, Michael Barrett, Jimmy Haile, Daniel Beauchamp, Noble Haile and Reico Patrick. Honorary Pallbears will be her grandson, Brandan Hunt and nephew, Kenneth Hunt.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 West Cuthbert Avenue, Midland, TX, 79701.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00pm at Ellis Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 1:00pm in the Chapel at Ellis Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Online condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5535



Randell "Randy" Keith Ford

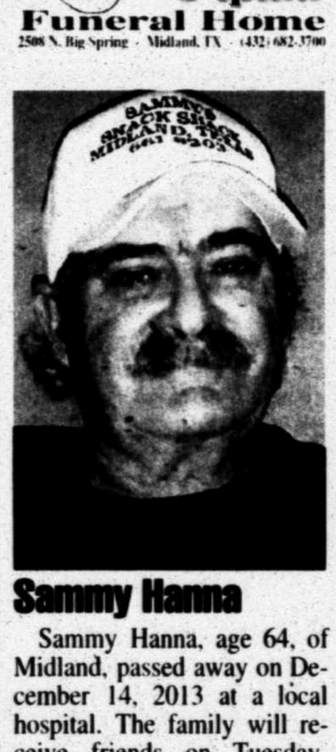
Randell "Randy" Keith Ford of Midland passed away on December 14, 2013. Randy was born in Wichita Falls, TX, on June 14, 1949. He was one of three children to the late Alta Molea Ford and Isom Paul Ford, Sr. Randy grew up on the Ash Ranch which bordered the western shore of Bridgeport Lake in Jacksboro, Texas in the shadow of the oil derricks of Jack County. Roughnecking at the age of 16 and drilling by 23, he worked the local rigs for the likes of contractor F.L. "Red" Livingston for Megargel Drilling and legendary driller Dub Morris. In 1978, he brought a rig to West Texas for a "four well project" that turned into a "one hundred and forty-three well project." After promotion to Toolpusher and a first venture into consulting for Myers & Moritz, his "can do" reputation spread quickly. After Randy was asked to watch rigs as a Drilling Foreman for Santa Fe Energy in 1983, he perfected the art of drilling "kick-to-kick", uncovering zones in Southeast New Mexico that had been masked for years by over-balanced drilling. In 1989, Randy became Division Drilling Engineer for Grace Drilling, where he ran turnkey operations. In 1993, Randy founded R.K. Ford & Associates, got some cards printed and went to work consulting. Randy's innovative and sound solutions to unusual drilling situations have developed his reputation as a "go-to" problem solver for many of the drillers of the Permian Basin and elsewhere. Randy loved to spend quality time at Possum Kingdom Lake, TX with family and friends. He always had a captive audience when reminiscing about his tall tales and wilder days! In addition, Randy loved to make his famous meatloaf for family, friends, and anyone who specially requested, which was a lot!

Randy is preceded in death by his parents and his brothers Isom Paul "Pee Wee" Ford, Jr., and Benny Henry. He is survived by his son Colbey Keith Ford, of Midland, TX and his daughter Courtney Marie Bandsma, of Dallas, TX. Randy is also survived by his sister Judy Ann Wood and husband Don of Midland, TX; his nephews Arthur Jay Green, Jr. of Midland, TX and Marty Keith Green and wife Brooke of Midland, TX; and many friends that he considered family. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to the American Diabetes Association.

A viewing will be held from 6-8:00 P.M. Wednesday at the Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home in Midland, TX. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel. Randy's final resting place will be at the lake he loved so much.

Funeral services are under the direction of Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: pipkin@nts-online.net.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
2508 N. Big Spring - Midland, TX - (432) 682-3706



Sammy Hanna

Sammy Hanna, age 64, of Midland, passed away on December 14, 2013 at a local hospital. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 from 6:00-8:00PM, but he can be viewed anytime between 8am and 9pm at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Funeral services will be on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 1:00PM at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland with Pastor Aaron Wills officiating.

Sammy was born on August 12, 1949 to Frances and Ocie Meryl Hanna in Rotan, Texas. He graduated from Midland High School in 1968. After graduation he was enlisted in the United States Air Force and served our Country for 4 years. The things he enjoyed in life were: Making snow-cones for the children at the flea-market and running security at the flea-market. He was a mechanic for most of his life but retired and opened Sammy's Snack Shack which he owned and operated until his passing.

Sammy is survived by his children, Samson Massingill of Austin, TX; Shayla Love of Dalhart, TX; and Lorene Anderson of Shawnee, OK; dad, Daniel Labowski of Midland; 5 sisters, Mary Pate of Flowermound, TX; Helen Barker of Appleton, WI; Debra Dickens of Midland; Paulet Casey of Hamilton MT; and Margaret Diaz of Midland; 2 brothers, Doug Hanna and Daniel Labowski both of Midland; grandchildren, Austin Shipley, Wesley Massingill, Ella Johnson, Ashton Massingill, Cheyenne Massingill, Krista Massingill, Lynzi Massingill, and Tyler Massingill; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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

Death Notices

Juanita "Nita" Wells

Nita Wells, 87, of Midland passed away on December 15, 2013.

A Memorial service will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 2:00pm at 1st Christian in Midland.

Margaret Ann Kull

Margaret Ann Kull, of Odessa, passed away Sunday, December 15, 2013, in Odessa.

Margaret is survived by her husband, Ed Kull; her son, Lou Swain; and daughter, Carol Swain Wilson; sisters, Donna Hampton Rogers and Mary Hampton Robison; nine grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

There will be a graveside service at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home.

Maria R. Diaz

Maria R. Diaz, 87, passed away on Sunday, December 15, 2013.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00a.m., Thursday, December 19, 2013 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Survivors include son-in-law Joe Vidal; grandson, Jeffrey Vidal; granddaughter, Marissa Fuentez; and four great grandchildren. Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Mathew Bell, Jr.

Mathew Bell, Jr., age 68 of Seminole, Texas, passed away Saturday, December 14, 2013.

Family arrangements are under the direction of Boyer Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife Ruby Bell; two sons Jonathan Bell and wife Robin, Michael Bell; two daughters Vicki Bell and Sonia Bell, two sisters Bernice Anderson and Christine Bell, and one grandchild.

Ronald "Ronnie" Gene "7-up" Ward

Ronald "Ronnie" Gene "7-up" Ward, 73, passed away on December 12, 2013, in Iraan, Texas.

He is survived by his three sons: Celey David Ward, Bradley Trent Ward, Sr. and Kelly Rosato; brother, Warren Ward; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held at the Methodist Church, in Iraan, on December 17th, 2013, at 3:00 p.m.

Arrangements are entrusted to American Heritage Cemetery and Funeral Home.

Vernice McVea

A funeral service for Vernice McVea, 93, of Midland are pending at Jackie Warren Funeral Home.

Vernice McVea died December 14, 2013 at a local hospital.

Influential country singer Ray Price dies in Mount Pleasant at 87

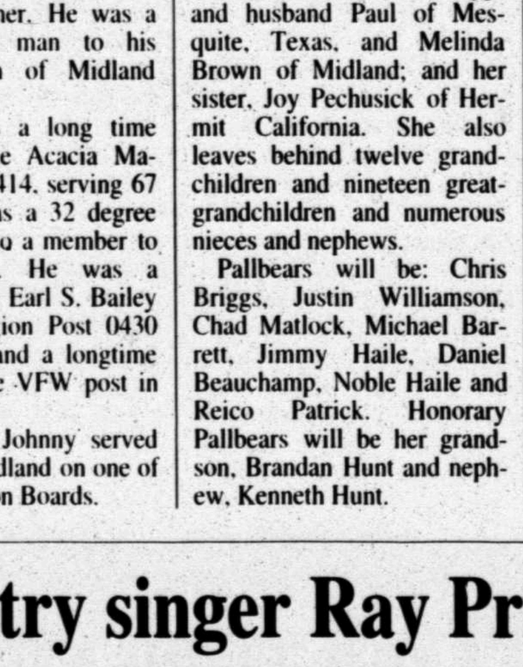
By Chris Talbott and Jamie Stengle
Associated Press

DALLAS — Ray Price, one of country music's most popular and influential singers and bandleaders who had more than 100 hits and was one of the last living connections to Hank Williams, died Monday. He was 87.

Price died Monday afternoon at his ranch outside Mount Pleasant, said Billy Mack Jr., who was acting as a family spokesman. Billie Perryman, the wife of family friend and spokesman Tom Perryman, a DJ with KKUS-FM in Tyler, also confirmed his death.

Price was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2011 and it had recently spread to his liver; intestines and lungs, according East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. He stopped aggressive treatments and left the hospital last Thursday to receive hospice care at home.

At the time, his wife, Janie Price, relayed what she called her husband's "final message" to his fans: "I love my fans and have devoted my life to reaching out to them. I appreciate their support all these years, and I hope I haven't let them down. I am at peace. I love Jesus. I'm going to be just fine. Don't worry about me. I'll see you again one day."



Ray Price

Perhaps best known for his version of the Kris Kristofferson song "For the Good Times," a pop hit in 1970, the velvet-voiced Price was a giant among traditional country performers in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, as likely to defy a trend as he was to defend one. He helped invent the genre's honky-tonk sound early in his career, then took it in a more polished direction.

He reached the Billboard Hot 100 eight times from 1958-73 and had seven No. 1 hits and more than 100 titles on the Billboard country chart from 1952 to 1989. "For the Good Times" was his biggest crossover hit, reaching No. 11 on the Billboard pop music singles chart. His other country hits included "Crazy Arms," "Release Me," "The Same Old Me," "Heartaches by the Number," "City Lights" and "Too Young to Die."

"If you got a pop hit, you sold a lot more records," Price said in 2000. "It was my style, really. I sang ballads, sort of laid-back. I'm still a country boy. I don't pretend to be anything else."

Price was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1996, long after he had become dissatisfied with Nashville and returned to his home state of Texas.

His importance went well beyond hit singles. He was among the pioneers who popularized electric instruments and drums in country music. After helping to establish the bedrock 4/4 shuffle beat that can still be heard on every honky-tonk jukebox and most country radio stations in the world, Price angered traditionalists by breaking away from country. He gave early breaks to Willie Nelson, Roger Miller and other major performers.

His "Danny Boy" in the late 1960s was a heavily orchestrated version that crossed over to the pop charts. He then started touring with a string-laden 20-piece band that outraged his dancehall fans.

In the 1970s he sang often with symphony orchestras — in a tuxedo and cowboy boots.

Like Nelson, his good friend and contemporary, Price simply didn't care what others thought and pursued the chance to make his music the way he wanted to.

"I have fought prejudice since I got in country music and I will continue to fight it," he told The Associated Press in 1981. "A lot of people want to keep country music in the minority of people. But it belongs to the world. It's art."

In the same 1981 interview, he credited the cowboy for the popularity of country music.

"Everyone loves the cowboy. He's nice, humble and straightforward. And country music is the same thing. The kids have discovered what mom and pop told 'em."

FOOD ETC.

From 1B

ings. Can make ahead: after spooning potato mixture into dish, cover and chill overnight. Place casserole in oven the next morning and add 15 minutes to initial bake time.

Stuffed French Toast
From "Farmhouse Christmas"

8 or more slices of hearty bread, crusts trimmed, cubed
2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, cubed
12 eggs
2 cups milk
1/3 cup maple syrup

Place half of bread cubes in a 13x9-inch baking pan. Top with cream cheese and layer on remaining bread cubes. Whip eggs; add milk and syrup. Blend well. Pour over bread and cheese. Cover dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight. Next day, remove plastic wrap and bake at 375 for 45 minutes or until nicely browned. Top with powdered sugar, syrup or any other of your favorite toppings.

Blueberry Sour Cream Breakfast Cake
From "Merry Christmas"

1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 cup sour cream
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups cake flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup blueberries, well drained

Garnish: Powdered sugar
Filling: 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar; add eggs. Fold in sour cream and vanilla. Sift together dry ingredients and add to mixture. Fold in blueberries. In another bowl, mix filling ingredients until combined.

Pour 1/3 batter into a greased and floured Bundt pan; sprinkle with half the filling. Pour 1/3 batter over top; sprinkle with remaining filling. Top with remaining batter. Gently swirl cake with spatula. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Cool and invert onto a serving platter. Dust with powdered sugar. Serves 12 to 16.

Cinnamon Puffins
From "Holidays at Home"

1 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon nutmeg, ground and divided
1/3 cup shortening
1 cup sugar, divided
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup butter
1 teaspoon cinnamon, ground

Preheat oven to 350. In medium mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt and 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg. In another bowl, beat shortening, 1/2 cup sugar, egg and vanilla until well blended. Add the flour mixture to the creamed mixture and beat in the milk until smooth. Fill each greased cup 2/3 full with batter. Bake 20 minutes. Melt butter in small pan. In small bowl, combine 1/2 cup sugar, cinnamon and 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg. While puffins are warm, dip each one in butter, then in sugar mixture. Store in airtight container.

White Chocolate Iced Cranberry Bread
From "Pillsbury Family Christmas Cookbook"

Bread:
2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup coarsely chopped sweetened dried cranberries
3/4 cup half and half
2 teaspoons grated orange peel
2 eggs
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
1/4 cup orange juice

Icing:
1 ounce white chocolate baking bar, chopped
1 to 2 Tablespoons half and half
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Heat oven to 350. Grease bottom only of 8x4-inch loaf pan. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt; mix well. Stir in cranberries. In small bowl, combine 3/4 cup half and half, orange peel and eggs; beat well. Add half and half mixture, melted butter and orange juice to flour mixture; stir just until dry ingredients are moistened. Pour batter into greased pan.

Bake at 350 for 50 to 60 minutes or until deep golden brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Run knife around edges of pan to loosen loaf. Remove from pan; place on wire rack. Cool one hour or until completely cooled.

In small microwave safe bowl, combine chocolate baking bar and 1 tablespoon of the half and half. Microwave on high for 30 seconds; stir until melted and smooth. If necessary, microwave an additional 10 to 20 seconds. With wire whisk, beat in powdered sugar until smooth. If necessary, add additional half and half, 1/2 teaspoon at a time until desired consistency. Spoon and spread icing over cooled loaf, allowing some to run down the sides.

Gifting at work calls for etiquette

Houston Chronicle

It's hard enough to shop for your parents, nieces and nephews. But what do you give your employees as a holiday gift? Your co-workers? And how about that white elephant office Christmas party?

The most frequently asked question etiquette expert Diane Gottsman gets each year is whether to give a gift to the boss.

Protocol says no, said Gottsman, owner of the Protocol School of Texas, a corporate etiquette training firm based in San Antonio.

In reality, however, if you work closely and you'd like to give your supervisor a gift, you can make some cookies or a plate of your famous fudge, she said. Or you can join with your co-workers and buy a joint gift.

But go out on your own and slip a bottle of perfume on the boss' desk? It looks a little too, well ... cozy. And eyebrow-raising around the office.

"Don't try to be the shining star," Gottsman said.

Generally speaking, you gift downward, she said: "Your boss is giving to you."

The development office at the Houston Zoo used to have an "As Seen On TV" holiday party and each employee was asked to buy and exchange one of the gifts promoted on late-night television.

Even though the limit was $20 per gift, Nick Espinosa, senior director of development, worried it might be a financial burden at an expensive time of the year. So he came up another idea: scratch-off lottery tickets.

Espinosa dips into his own pocket — he does not use Houston Zoo funds — to buy a $5 lottery ticket for each of his 10 employees. The mass scratch-off — aided by a thoughtfully provided quarter for each ticket — is done before the food arrives at the annual holiday lunch because if one of the employees wins the $100,000 jackpot, that employee is expected to pick up the lunch tab.

Well, that's the joke anyway.

"I want them to win," said Espinosa, whose team is responsible for fundraising. "I want them to have a good holiday. But not too much so they don't come back."

The big winner this year won $15, he said.

Some offices have a gift exchange. Gottsman recommends staying away from gag gifts.

Think office accessories, instead. Consider some decorative push pins. Or a brightly colored stapler. Or a candy jar filled with nuts.

If you have a lemon or orange tree in your backyard, consider a small basket of fruit. Or a gift card to a neighborhood coffee shop.

One gift that Gottsman doesn't like is a coffee mug.

"Too generic," she said.

And don't even think about giving anything with a corporate logo as a holiday gift. That's marketing, Gottsman said.

But even if you unwrap a coffee mug with a corporate logo, be courteous and say thank you.

Are you really good friends with one of your colleagues and you'd like to get him or her a gift?

It's best to present the present off-site, Gottsman said. Do it over lunch or over the weekend.

It puts co-workers in an uncomfortable position when

Please see **GIFTING**/4B

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 17, 2013

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

Channel	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST																	
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. "FZZT"		Goldberg	Trophy "Pilot"	What Would You Do?		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Homesick" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "Merry Evasion" (N)		Person of Interest "Lethe" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Letterman Paul Rudd, Barbara Walters		(:35) Late Late
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Sein. "The Soup"	Rules of Engage.	The Originals "Always and Forever"		Supernatural "Dog Dean Afternoon"		Rules of Engage.	Sein. "The Deal"	Commu-nity	Commu-nity	That '70s Show	That '70s Show
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Dads	Brooklyn 99	New Girl "Nerd"	Mindy Project	Modern Family	Modern "The Kiss"	The Arsenio Hall Show		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Doorways to Wisdom		Update News	BAS Presents	Light of the Southwest				Shepherd's Heart		Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Biggest Loser (N)		The Voice "Live Finale" The winner as chosen by America is revealed. (SF) (N)				News-West 9	(:35) Jay Leno Olivia Wilde, Julie Scardina		(:35) LateNight
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Red Metal (N)		Sherlock Change How Sherlock Holmes impacted criminal investigations. (N)				Charlie Rose (N)		BBC News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Corazon Indomable		Por Siempre Mi Amor		Lo Que La Vida Me Robo		Mentir Para Vivir		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Una familia con suerte	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	Bones		Bones		My News	Million..	30 Rock	Sunny	Access H.	OMG!
PREMIUM																	
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:25) The Baby D...		★★ The Door in the Floor Jeff Bridges.				★★★ Before and After Liam Neeson.				★★★ Elizabeth	
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:30) Sherlock Holmes: A G...			Making	24/7		Real Sports		Treme		Ja'mie	Sondheim
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(5:20) The Three S...		★★★ Pitch Perfect Anna Kendrick.				★★★★ The Dark Knight Rises Anne Hathaway.					Movie
HBOS	304	70	16	102		Treme		Sopranos "Isabella"		Get On	★★★ Savages ('12, Cri) Aaron Johnson.				(:45) ★★ Battleship		
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:05) Contraband		★★ The Long Kiss Goodnight				Abraham Lincoln: Vampire ...			(:50) Girl's Guide		(:25) SinCity
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(5:45) ★★★ Million Dollar Baby				★ Date Movie			(:25) ★★★★ Casino ('95, Cri) Robert De Niro.				
PLEX			96			(:20) Down and Derby Greg Germann.				★★ Speechless Geena Davis.			(:45) ★★★ Tender Mercies			(:20) Hercules & ...	
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(4:50) Out of Sight		Masters "Manhigh"		Homeland "The Star"		Masters "Manhigh"		Homeland "The Star"		Killing Them So...	
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:20) The Story o...		Love and Honor			(:35) ★★ Step Up Revolution			(:15) Barbershop 2: Back in Business			
CABLE																	
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Shipping Wars (N)	Shipping Wars (N)	Shipping Wars	Shipping Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(5:00) Bring It On		★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York					★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York				
BET	58	26		40		★★ Why Did I Get Married? Tyler Perry.					Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Shahs of Sunset		Housewives Atlanta		Atlanta "Savann-no"		Shahs of Sunset (N)		Watch (N)	Shahs of Sunset		Atlanta
CNBC	46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		American Greed		Queen of Versailles				Mad Money		Queen of Versailles	
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Live		AC360 Later		11th Hr	ICYMI	Piers Morgan Live	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	To Be Announced		Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		To Be Announced		Moonshiners			
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	GoodLuck	Jessie	Santa Buddies Craig Anton.			(:40) A.N.T.	(:05) GoodL	Gravity	Austin	Dog Blog	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball Jimmy V Classic Pit./Cin. (L)				NCAA Basketball Jimmy V Classic Florida vs. Memphis (L)					SportsCenter		
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Jimmy V Classic Con./Duke (L)				NCAA Basketball Missouri St. vs Louisville (L)				SportsC.	Olbermann (N)		Olber
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	★★ The Santa Clause 2 Tim Allen.				★★★ The Polar Express Tom Hanks.				The 700 Club		I'll Be Home for...	
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 (N)		Diners, Drive-Ins		Chopped	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Ultimate Insider	Stars Insider	Stars Pre-game (L)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche vs. Dallas Stars Site: American Airlines Center -- Dallas, Texas (L)					Stars Live (L)	Icons of Coaching	WPT Poker Bellagio 5 Diamond Classic	
FX	31	31	59	64	69	2½Men	Two 1/2...	★★ Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen Shia LaBeouf.						★★★ Death Race Jason Statham.			
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) The Christ...		A Bride for Christmas Andrew W. Walker.				Let It Snow Candace Cameron Bure.				Christmas With...	
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	Income Property		Income Property		H.Hunter	House	Renovation		Income Property	
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pwn Star	Pawn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Wife Swap		To Be Announced				To Be Announced				To Be Announced	
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				NHLLive	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals vs. Philadelphia Flyers (L)					Overtime	Rivals	NHLTop10	EPL Soccer		
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Thunder.	Sam & Cat	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(4:30) ★★★ Man on Fire			★★★ The Longest Yard ('05, Com) Chris Rock, Adam Sandler.						Bar Rescue		Bar Res.
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	(5:30) Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan				Haunted HWay (N)		Killer Contact (N)		Haunted Highway		Killer Contact	
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Trust Me I'm	Trust Me I'm	Conan		Trust Me I'm	Conan
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:45) Elizabeth Taylor		★★★ Holiday Affair			(:45) ★★ Remember the Night				★★★ The Holiday		
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Marido en Alquiler		La Reina Del Sur		Santa Diabla		Al rojo	(:35) Titular.	La Reina Del Sur	
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Little People, Big World "All Tangled Up"		Little People "Come Rain or Come Shine"		People "Crossroads for the Roloffs" (N)		The Little Couple "Finally a Family"		People "Crossroads for the Roloffs"		The Little Couple "Finally a Family"	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Castle "3XK"		Castle "Almost Famous"		B. Finest "Fighting for the Truth"		Marshal Law: Texas "Fifty Stabs"		B. Finest "Fighting for the Truth"		Marshal Law: Texas "Fifty Stabs"	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Griffith	(:35) Griffith	(:10) Griffith	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Infected"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Goliath"		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Night"	
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		★★ Deep Blue Sea (1999, Horror) Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Rapaport, Saffron Burrows.				WGN News at Nine		Met Your Mother	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.	Parks and Rec

Grandfather remembers time as town's Santa Claus

TUMBLEWEED SMITH
Big Spring storyteller

Earl Gregg lives at Weches, near Crockett. He makes chocolate turtles, peanut patties and pralines for his grandkids at Christmastime. This year he had to make 20 bags full of the sweets. He starts cooking in November to be ready for the holiday.

For seven years during the 1980s, Gregg was Mr. Santa Claus in Nederland. He dressed as Santa and visited with people in their cars as they drove by his house.

"I had many thrills," he said. "I'd average passing out about 1,200 to 1,400 candy canes every night. We'd have traffic jams on the street in front of my house. Some people told me they were in line for an hour waiting to get to Santa Claus. When they were about half a block away, they'd start hollering, 'I'm coming, Santa, I'm coming.'"

In the early '80s, Gregg was in Wal-Mart with his wife shopping for Christmas presents when they saw a Santa Claus suit. He told his wife he thought he would buy it and get dressed up for his grandkids. When they got home that evening, he couldn't wait to try it on.

He used a pillow to give him a belly. After he put it on, he asked his wife if she had any candy in the house. She said she had some mints. He took them and said he was going to stand in the driveway and see what happens. He got out to the driveway about 6:30 p.m. and it was 9:30 p.m. before he could go in the house. Everybody wanted to talk to Santa.

"We had plyboard cutouts of our eight grandkids in the front yard and we had thousands of lights around the house. There was a pretty stream of cars passing by just to see the lights. Our neighborhood had lots of traffic in December," he said.

Every year, houses on eight blocks of Gregg's street in Nederland were decorated and became an enchanted area called Candle Light Lane. Each house had a big candle made out of plastic pipe with a light on top of it. The neighborhood had meetings starting in September planning what they were going to do about decorating for Christmas. Gregg got to be a major attraction from Dec. 1 through Dec. 24.

"I'd go out at about 6 o'clock in the evening. Sometimes I'd be out there until 11 o'clock at night. Cars would drive by, stop at the driveway and I'd try to spend two or three minutes with each one. I had people from all over the world: Japan, France, Great Britain, Italy. They were visiting, you know."

Gregg talked to people of all ages and could make Alzheimer patients smile. KPRC-TV in Houston went to Nederland to do a report on Mr. Santa Claus. Rain was falling when the crew got there. Ray Miller, the producer, stayed there the whole night and told Gregg, "this is the best thing I've seen in a long time."

Gregg has scrapbooks filled with newspaper and magazine stories about his time as Mr. Santa Claus of Nederland.

Tumbleweed Smith taught broadcast production and speech at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin for 34 years while producing his newspaper column and radio program. He and his wife, Susan, own Multi Media Advertising. Contact him at tumbleweedsmith.com

SERIES

From 1B

country.

In the future, the Crums plan to begin production on "One Square Mile: Texas" season two, hinting that Odessa may be one of the next cities to be documented. They also plan to do series on other states, as well.

Though the series is very Texas-centric, from its Texas sponsors such as Best Maid to its Texas creators, "One Square Mile: Texas" is more about living than the state itself.

"People have parallels," Carl Crum said. "People have fears, they have breakfast, go to work, but we all have different ways of doing things."

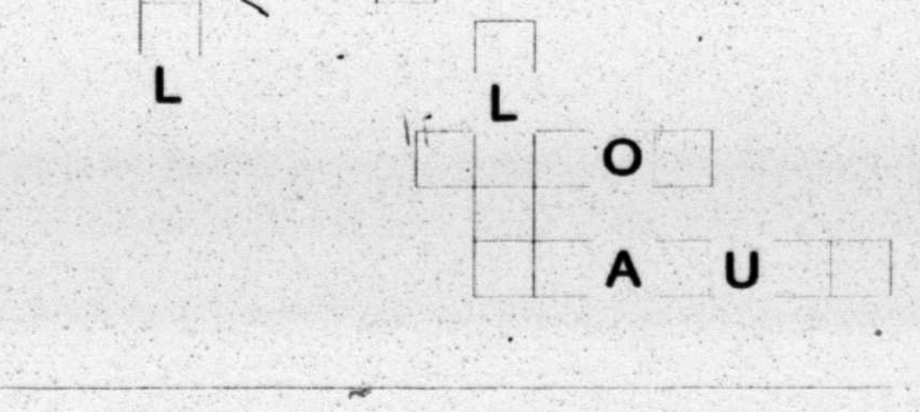
For more information, go to osmtx.com.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. A few tiles from the bunch have been placed. Reuse the tiles for each grid.

A E E S L G O
R T R M R T U U



Yesterday's Answer: UNEASY, POPLAR

12.17

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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.

Nursery pros help gardeners find the best herbicides

Dear Neil: You recently recommended that we use a glyphosate-only herbicide to kill Bermuda grass in a bed. Is there a brand name you would recommend?

Answer: I typically prefer not to refer directly to brands, because that introduces the fear of plugola. Your local independent retail garden center manager can show you several brands. He or she can also show you the fine print, to be sure you don't get a product that also contains other weedkillers you might not want to be applying. However, because you asked, the brand that is by far the most common form of glyphosate-only weed-killer spray is Roundup. But you must be sure that you get the original Roundup, not one of the blended mixes that are now sold under the umbrella Roundup family name. Again, ask the nursery professional for help.

Dear Neil: My dad has a beautiful magnolia tree, and I have noticed a small tree at its base. The sapling is about 2 feet tall. Is it possible to cut it away from the base of the mother tree and replant it, or will it do more harm than good?

Answer: The critical factor will be if it is a sprout from the bigger tree, or if it's a seedling on its own set of roots. If it is tethered to mama, there is no way to move it as a new tree. Magnolias do not root from cuttings, which is essentially what you would have. However, if it is a free-growing seedling that just happened to germinate close to the mother tree, dig it carefully during the winter, while it's dormant. Hold a ball of soil about the size of a volleyball around its roots. If very much of the soil falls away, you'll probably need to trim the top back by half or more to compensate and to speed its reestablishment.

Dear Neil: Our daughter has several large wax myrtles in Weatherford. They were hurt badly by the ice a couple of weeks ago. Several large trunks snapped almost to the ground. Will they come back?

Answer: They will probably send up new shoots from the ground if she'll cut them completely back to remove all of the jagged tissues. However, in all candor, this might be a good time and reason to replace them with a type of plant that would be much more satisfactory. Wax myrtles just don't do very well for very long when they're grown in arid, alkaline soils. We originally were sold wax myrtles as replacements for tree-form yaupon hollies. That was at a time 30 years ago when it was difficult to find nursery-grown yaupons. But the wax myrtles have proven to be far less dependable in much of Texas, especially after six or 10 years.

Dear Neil: Squirrels have been really active beneath our pecan trees the past several weeks. I'm sure they've been planting pecans. Will pre-emergent weedkillers stop pecans from coming up in the spring?

Answer: They might help, but I really don't think it's the best plan. Most pre-emergent products are intended to be used to prevent grassy weeds, plus pecan seeds (the nuts) are so large and vigorous that they might grow right through the layer of protection you thought you had put down. I live in a pecan forest along a creek bed, and I know what you're experiencing. I've always had very good luck pulling the young seedlings up with a hefty pair of pliers. I do so in May. I wait for a good rain or heavy watering so the soil will be soft, then I grasp the seedlings with the pliers just above the ground line, and I pull straight up. It's about like harvesting carrots, but only if you get there before they start to form side roots that anchor them tightly to the soil. Wear a glove if you have very many to pull.

Dear Neil: What is the least often I can water my lawn and landscape in the winter? I want my plants to stay healthy, but I also want to conserve all the water I can.

Answer: Great question. There are so many variables in figuring that answer that it's almost impossible to know that I'm giving you useful suggestions. They would include soil type, temperature, wind, sun or shade, types and sizes of plants, rainfall and other precipitation and, if you're using a sprinkler system, how much it delivers in a given period of time. So, from that chaos, let me try to make something simple from it. I am especially careful to be sure that my plants are watered thoroughly if I hear a severe cold spell is rolling toward us. Dry plants suffer much more damage than properly watered plants. Otherwise, if I haven't had rain for two or three weeks, and especially if it's been a bit warm and windy, I'll run my sprinklers some evening when the wind has died down. However, I typically operate them at half or two-thirds the normal run time. In between, if I see a bed of pansies that is dry, or a newly planted tree with dry soil, I'll use the hose to spot-water. (Then I'll disconnect it from the faucet to prevent freeze damage when the next cold front blows in.)

Tranquil Murchison sanctuary respects animals

By Kelly Gooch
Tyler Morning Telegraph

MURCHISON — Catherine the rhesus macaque monkey was not in the best shape when she came to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch.

The 18-year-old was more than 40 pounds. Her previous owner allowed her to eat a poor diet and a lot of human food, which led to obesity, said Ben Callison, director of the sanctuary. But through some love and attention, he said she was able to lose weight.

Now, Catherine is among the many animals that enjoy the sanctuary's tranquil surroundings. Animals there include horses, bison, chimpanzees, ostriches, pigs, sheep, monkeys and iguanas.

Noelle Almrud, director of animal care at Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, said most of the animals there have had terrible lives, but the sanctuary is able to offer respect and quiet.

Callison said the sanctuary's mission is not to be an entertainment venue but rather a facility for education.

"We want to make sure these animals can tell their story," he told the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

The Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch was founded in 1979 and started with burros from the Grand Canyon that were going to be exterminated, Callison said. Horses, primates, exotic animals and farm animals followed. Nim Chimpsky, a famous chimpanzee who knew sign language, even lived there for years, according to the sanctuary website.

Today, the sanctuary, which is an affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States, has 1,310 acres with more than 1,000 animals.

Callison said hundreds of equine are on the property, and once the animals are at the sanctuary, they are there for life.

Sarah A. Miller/Tyler Morning Telegraph

Patrick, left, a sorrel horse that came to Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch from the city of San Antonio Animal Care Services, is sniffed by other horses Nov. 21 after being released into the big herd in Murchison. Patrick was seized from a property in San Antonio and had been deprived of food, shelter and water.

"He wanted to create a place where animals could come and live out their life and never have to worry about anything again," Callison said of Amory.

In fact, on display by the entrance gate is an excerpt from Anna Sewell's "Black Beauty," which reads, "I have nothing to fear; and here my story ends. My troubles are all over, and I am at home."

The sanctuary's three chimpanzees — Kitty, Lulu and Midge — came from research labs. Callison said Willy, a pig-tailed macaque, bit his owner, who was not able to keep him.

Then there are two siamang gibbons — Val and June Bug — who were rescued from the exotic pet trade as babies, he said. Callison also pointed out white-handed gibbons Princess and her mother, Sarah.

Additionally, he noted Sunshine, a rhesus macaque that was used in dental research.

He said sheep and goats there came out of a hoarding case in Mississippi, and it took more than a dozen blades per sheep to get them shaved to where they could regrow their coats the way they should.

Among the sheep and goats last month was a pig, Darren, which Callison said is "friends" with one of the goats.

"We have other pigs, (but) he doesn't think he's a pig," he quipped. "He did not do well with the pigs. He wanders the goat pasture."

He said the sanctuary's ultimate mission is to no longer be needed, and one of its big goals is to address private ownership of animals.

In the meantime, he said, the sanctuary does offer open houses and has a fantastic volunteer program. Two more open houses will be held in the spring.

Additionally, the sanctuary offers an internship program for students, and community members can provide in-kind or financial donations.

RE-LEAF BY DEBBIE FROST

Did you buy that big bag of flowering bulbs but got distracted before getting them planted? Well, you still have time to plant. And planting them now could be a nice stress release from the whirlwind of Christmas activities.

There are many flowering bulbs that we can grow successfully such as daffodils, jonquils, alliums, grape hyacinths and other lesser-known species. Bulbs add a nice surprising element to the landscape, because they disappear while dormant and then reappear when the send up their flower stalks. Bulbs are mostly carefree and easy to grow.

Not all bulbs are happy to live in the warm winter area. They may bloom only during the first year. Most tulips, large flowering hyacinth, some daffodils and most crocus need more winter cold to induce good flowering. But for the species that are adapted to warmer winter areas, they are pure pleasure in the landscape.

Find the bulbs you have been stashed and start digging. Find a good spot for bulbs based on where you will see and enjoy them when they bloom. They can be planted in front of shrubs, between perennials and other plants, as long as they will be visible. Small flowering bulbs like spring star flower (Ipheion uniflorum) or grape hyacinth (Muscari sp.) should be planted near the edge of a bed because they only grow a few inches tall. Taller species can be planted in and among other plants and still be enjoyed.

Bulbs are self-sufficient and don't require much care other than water and planting at the proper depth. If the soil is poor, shallow or heavy, amend it with 3 to 4 inches of compost thoroughly worked into the soil. Plant bulbs about two to three times as deep as the bulb is tall. Follow with a generous layer of organic mulch and water in thoroughly. Take your time and make sure the soil is moist below the depth of the bulbs. After the first good watering, you may need to water once every two or three weeks, depending on winter moisture. When they begin to send up flower stalks, keep the soil moist for good flower quality. Once they finish blooming, watering frequency can be stretched out.

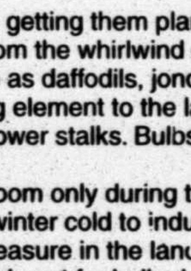
During and after blooming, bulbs replenish their food reserves through photosynthesis which takes place in their leaves. So, leave the leaves alone until they begin to turn brown. Bulbs store food reserves in the bulb for next year's bloom.

Plant today for blooms this spring. Find re-leaf in your landscape with the tough beauty of flowering bulbs.

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

Master Gardeners release 2014 training schedule

JEFF FLOYD



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

The Permian Basin Master Gardeners are throttling up for the 2014 Master Gardener training series. The training class series offers everything you ever wanted to know about gardening in the Permian Basin. New trainees will complete a minimum of 60 hours of classroom instruction and also give 60 hours of volunteer time back to the community. The program is open to all adults. The cost of the course is $250, which covers speaker expenses and material resources used to host the training.

The class schedule kicks off with a required orientation on Jan. 11 designed to answer all questions about becoming a Master Gardener. If you are interested, please RSVP for the orientation to ensure that you will have a seat in the 2014 class by contacting County Extension secretary, Wanda Roberson at 498-4071.

2014 Permian Basin Master Gardener class schedule:

- Jan. 11: 9 a.m.-noon, orientation at Midland County Extension office
- Jan. 18: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Plant Science 101 at CAF Airpower Museum
- Feb. 8: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Growing Vegetables and Herbs in West Texas at CAF Airpower Museum
- Feb. 15: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Horticulture 101 and Efficient Lawn and Garden Irrigation at CAF Airpower Museum
- March 15: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Plant Propagation at Midland County Extention office
- April 5: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., EarthKind Home Landscape Design at CAF Airpower Museum
- April 19: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Garden Weeds and Herbicides at CAF Airpower Museum
- May 10: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Greenhouses and Community Greenhouses at CAF Airpower Museum
- May 17: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Water Conservation in the Arid Southwest and Rainwater Harvesting at CAF Airpower Museum
- June 21: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Native and Adapted Color for West Texas at CAF Airpower Museum
- July 19: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Home Composting and Understanding Permian Basin Soils at Time Machine in Odessa
- Aug. 16: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Garden Insects and their Control and Butterfly Gardening in the Permian Basin at CAF Airpower Museum
- Sept. 20: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Junior Master Gardeners at CAF Airpower Museum
- Oct. 18: 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Tree Biology at Ector County Extension Office.

* Times include half-hour lunch break.

For more information, contact the Midland County Extension office at 686-4700 ext. 205 or email jeff.floyd@ag.tamu.edu.

GIFTING

From 3B

someone is handed a wrapped gift but no one else gets one.

Some companies have taken the stress of holiday gift giving by organizing a secret Santa gift exchange. Names are drawn and employees are asked to buy inexpensive gifts; typically, the exchange happens at a company-sponsored party.

Or companies host what's known as a white elephant party where employees are asked to bring a wrapped gift. Numbers are drawn and employees can choose between opening a wrapped gift or forcing someone else to give up theirs.

That's how Lennie Ambrose got his standing alligator toilet paper holder last year which now graces the men's room at his employer, Saint Arnold Brewing Co. in Houston.

Ambrose, the brewery's marketing and events director, was thrilled to get one of the coveted prizes in the game that goes on for hours. He had one of the later picks, which gave him more opportunity to steal something attractive.

The last thing you want to do is get stuck with something terrible, he said, recalling the institutional sized can of Chef Boyardee ravioli that was the "dog gift" one year.

Vince Mandeville, who works in the lab at Saint Arnold, knows all about those fifth-tier gifts, recalling the cookie jar shaped like a rooster that he brought home one year. But at least he avoided the hot pad and the giant can of soup.

So he was holding his breath last year when he set his heart on a velvet painting of the Admiral Ackbar character from the "Star Wars" movie franchise.

Mandeville drew a high enough number and was able to "steal" it from a co-worker. It now graces the lab.

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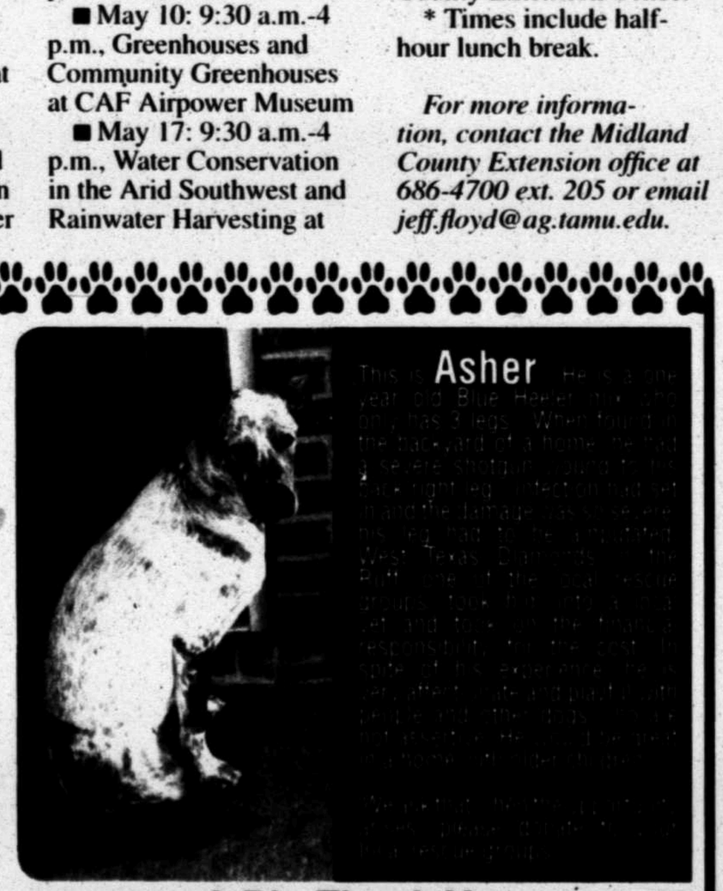

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TODAY: Sunny
High: 65
Low: 38

WEDNESDAY: Mostly sunny
High: 69
Low: 50

THURSDAY: Partly sunny
High: 73
Low: 50

Local forecast

Expect sunny skies today, a high around 65 and calm conditions. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions and a low around 38.

Wednesday and Thursday expect highs in the upper 60s and lower 70s. The low both days should stay in the 50s. The next chance of showers is Friday and Saturday.

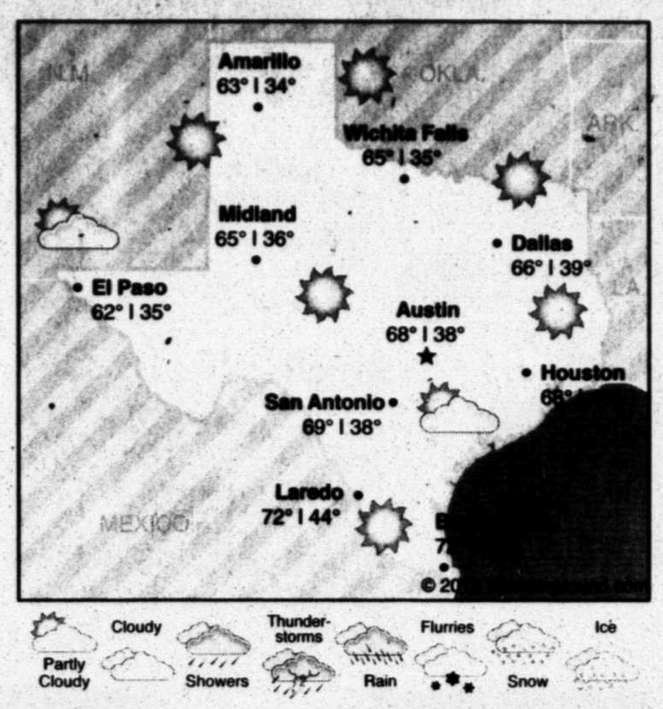
The high on Monday reached about 67, while the low dropped to about 30. The record high for Dec. 16 is 80 set in 1946. The record low is 12 set in 1989.

Weather why

Q: Is there any difference between sleet and freezing rain?

A: The only real difference is that they are formed a bit differently, explained Brent McRoberts, of Texas A&M University. Freezing rain is rain that freezes when it comes into contact with other surfaces, such as pavement or cars.

"Sleet is often confused with freezing rain. Sleet falls to the ground frozen, often forming in advance of a warm front," McRoberts said. "Sleet falls as ice pellets that make a familiar crackle sound as they hit the ground, trees or cars."



Precipitation

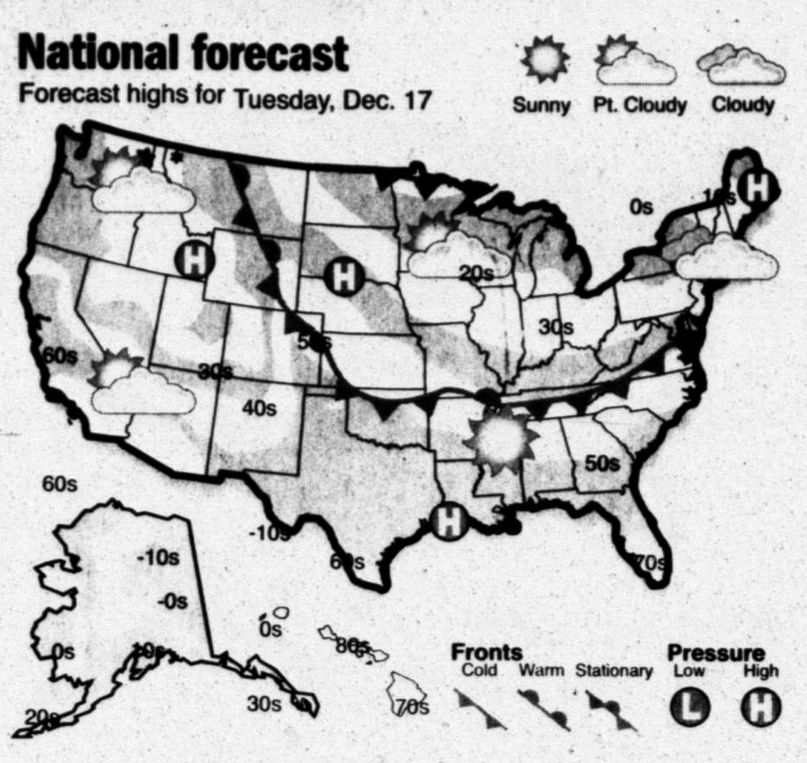
Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.31 in.
Year total	7.38 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.32 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	67
Low	30
Normal high	58
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:43 a.m.
Sunset	5:47 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Dec. 17



Overeager mother-in-law spoils birthday surprise

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 mother-in-law sent my 7-year-old son a gift and a card for his birthday. They arrived about a week early. A few days before his birthday, she called and asked if he had received them. He said he had, but before he could explain that he hadn't opened them, she started talking about the gift inside, revealing the surprise.

I have now "heard" she's upset with me and my son for this awkward moment. She says that from now on she would like a phone call when her cards or gifts arrive, so she can "hear his enjoyment over the phone even if they arrive early." I don't think my son did anything wrong.

When a gift arrives in advance of an occasion, must it be opened immediately? Or can it wait for the actual birthday or Christmas? Sometimes he likes to open one present at a time, write a thank-you note, then open the next, stretching out his gift-opening over a few days. Is this a social no-no? — WONDERING IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WONDERING: Gifts are usually opened the day of the occasion. When the occasion is a birthday, the usual expectation is that the presents will be opened at the party. At that time a verbal thank-you is offered. A thank-you note should be written a very short time later.

Your mother-in-law may have called for reassurance that her gift had arrived. She should not have revealed what it was. You did nothing wrong. The mistake was hers.

DEAR ABBY: My good friend "Derek" is in his 30s and just started his first serious relationship. He told me after a week together that she was "the One" and that he loved her. I told him I was happy for him and suggested he take things slow so they could really get to know each other.

I had a party two nights ago where he introduced his new girlfriend. They spent most of the time making out like teenagers in front of everyone. Some guests were so uncomfortable they left early.

I haven't seen Derek since, and I'm worried not only that he's moving too fast to make up for lost time, but that he's doing it with someone who also is oblivious to how socially unacceptable their behavior was. I'm not sure how to express my concerns to my friend without hurting him. — CONCERNED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONCERNED: It would not be rude or hurtful for you to mention to Derek that you think the girl is "great" — but the show they put on at your party made some of your other guests so uncomfortable they left early. Let's hope the "hint" is sufficient.

DEAR ABBY: My 10-year-old daughter told a friend she would go to a concert with her a few months ago. Since then, my daughter decided to end the friendship because the girl was clingy, dramatic and controlling.

Do I insist my daughter go to the concert as she said she would, or let her off the hook? The friend seems to be hoping she will go so they can renew the friendship, but my daughter has no plans to do it. Please help! — MANAGING DISCORD IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MOM: If the girl is expecting your daughter to go to the concert with her, your daughter should tell her she does NOT plan to attend so the girl can invite someone else. Do not insist that your daughter associate with anyone who makes her feel uncomfortable. Her reason for pulling back from that relationship showed good judgment.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Good tip?

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A 9 7 2
8 5
10 7 6 5
♣ A 3 2

WEST
♠ Q 5 3
K Q 9 3
9 2
♣ K 8 7 5

EAST
♠ K 10 8
A J 4 2
A J 8 3
♣ 10 9

SOUTH
♠ J 6 4
10 7 6
K Q 4
♣ Q J 6 4

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1	Pass	1	Pass
2	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of

East-West stopped accurately in two hearts and North backed in with a balancing double. North had played duplicate bridge the day before and had learned something new: "Never let the opponents play at the two-level." Applied with judgment, that is a good tip for duplicate players due to the scoring used at that form of the game, but rubber bridge players must be willing to go quietly far more often.

West doubled the final contract and the defense was relentless. East overtook the opening lead with the ace to play the club 10 to the queen, king and ace. Declarer led the last heart from the table, but East stepped up smartly with the jack to play the nine of clubs. South won with the jack and ruffed his last heart in dummy.

Next came a diamond from the table, South winning the king when East played low. A spade was ducked to East, who continued with the ace of diamonds and a diamond. West ruffed and cashed his high trump.

Declarer was still entitled to the ace of spades and a trump, but that was it. Down three and a 500-point penalty to East-West. A gentleman to the end, South never said a word, but he was seen giving North a very stern look at the end of the hand.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average; 2-so-so; 1-difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013:

This year others, both from your professional and personal life, constantly seek you out. Their requests will run the scale of possibilities, and some of them could be excuses just to be around you. If you are single, your popularity is undeniable. Know that you don't need to commit unless you want to. You could meet someone very special in the summer. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company and want to spend more time together. You even might schedule that long-discussed vacation. CANCER handles your funds too carelessly. Seek advice elsewhere.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Return calls as soon as possible, and schedule a meeting quickly. Listen to your inner voice in the afternoon. Your intuition will push you in a new direction. Your ingenuity and imagination also will kick in. Tonight: Love being at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ Weigh the pros and cons of a risk. What seems good in the morning might feel like a bad bet by late afternoon. Someone you see nearly every day could cause a problem. Tap into your intuition, and look to fulfill a long-term goal. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You will head into the morning determined to follow through on a call or meeting that evaded your attention yesterday. You could feel empowered by an unexpected message or statement. Tonight: Play the role of Santa's helper. Snap to it!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You could start off the day on the wrong foot, but by the end of it, you'll be smiling despite the fact that a roommate or loved one seems irritated about an issue. You will feel confident that you can handle that problem, and you'll be right! Tonight: Do what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Pivotal meetings in the morning will force you to take stock of your life. By the afternoon, a quieter, more sensitive mood weaves through your day. Expect the unexpected where you feel vested. Steer a steady course. Tonight: Go for a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ You'll have a discussion with someone in power whom you might have considered a problem. It will turn out that you were worried unnecessarily. A meeting later today lets you see how angry a friend is. Tonight: Opt for a heart-to-heart talk with this friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might be more aware of a boss and his or her expectations. In a sense, you tend to go along with this person's ideas probably more than you need to. You might want to have a long-overdue conversation about boundaries and mutual goals. Tonight: You could be up very late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Keep reaching out to a key associate or adviser who is an excellent source of information and who serves as your confidant. A child or loved one could act in the most unpredictable way. Refuse to take any risks right now. Tonight: Nothing self-destructive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Deal with others directly. Do not delegate; otherwise, you could feel very uncomfortable with the results. Others appreciate your presence more than you might be aware. You have a way of brightening up others' days. Tonight: Join a friend to catch up on holiday news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Others defer to you frequently. Your dominance and how you see a situation could change radically. With the understanding that people need to develop their own sense of timing and responsibility, you'll toss your crown to others. Tonight: Now go have some fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Pace yourself; you have a lot to accomplish. An unexpected matter needs resolution. First you need to detach in order to find the right answer. Deal with a problem and understand that you might be partially responsible for what has happened. Tonight: Hunker down at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Your creativity emerges, which might make you rather unpredictable. A friend or associate might decide to join in the fun. When looking at your Christmas list, you could come up with several great choices. Tonight: Use your high energy constructively.

***

BORN TODAY

Author William Safire (1929), conductor Arthur Fiedler (1894), actress Milla Jovovich (1975).

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Butter square
4 Young newts
8 Most gentle
14 Brew that may be pale or dark
15 Baseball family name
16 Environmentally friendly auto
17 Canasta, e.g.
19 Coke competitor
20 Hot-dish holder
21 Fleischer of the Bush White House
22 Train stopping at every sta.
23 Exasperate, metaphorically
27 Barbecue fare
30 Roamed without restraint
31 "The Simpsons" storekeeper
32 Agitate
33 Most characters on "The Big Bang Theory"
37 '60-'70s Canadian folk-rock icon
41 "That's not in the script!" evoker
42 Competes
43 Capote nickname
44 Not at all deceitful
47 Honeyed liquor
48 The same as it was hundreds of years ago, say
52 Slimpy's sidekick
53 Promise to pay, for short
54 Bottom, to baby
58 Uphill climb
60 Spontaneous gathering, and a hint to the starts of 17-, 23-, 37- and 48-Across
62 Bald spot coverer
63 "__ Misbehavin'"
64 Plains tribe
65 Takes an oath
66 Butterfly catchers
67 __ Antonio

DOWN

1 Diplomat's goal
2 Banned apple spray
3 Garr of "Tootsie"
4 More than willing
5 Old-style clothes presser
6 Alley prowler
7 "Peggy __ Got Married": 1986 film
8 Intense fear
9 Traffic backup causes
10 Comfy shoe
11 Food-poisoning bacteria
12 Manicure spot
13 Liner notes listing
18 Redbox rentals
21 DOJ enforcer
24 Resort WSW of Boulder
25 Add some pep to
26 Coral formation
27 Ravi Shankar genre
28 Apple with tunes
29 Folksy Ives
32 "The Bucket List" director
34 Repetitive learning
35 Toon explorer with a monkey friend named Boots
36 It may be ear-piercing
38 Rodrigo de Vivar: El Cid
39 Basic idea
40 Reluctant to commit
45 Govt. securities
46 Sch. with a Brooklyn campus
47 Interlock, as gears
48 Houses with Greek letters
49 Plant anew
50 Just as planned
51 Mandatory items
55 Managed care gps.
56 Minuscule amount
57 Dark, to a poet
59 Anti-pollution org.
60 Cooling device
61 Prevaricate

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

D	O	H	A			S	P	I	N	E		S	O	S	A
O	D	O	R			I	S	S	U	E		E	R	O	S
M	E	T	E			C	A	P	N	C	R	U	N	C	H
			F	A	M	I	L	Y				O	S	A	K	A
E	D	U			E	L	M			C	R	U	S	T	E	D
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E	D	G	E	D				U	R	G	E	S				
N	O	E	L		G	L	A	D	E		P	E	D	I		
			L	I	M	O	S			S	A	X	O	N		
O	T	T		V	A	N	I	T	Y	P	R	E	S	S		
R	O	O	F	I	N	G		H	E	A		R	E	P		
A	P	P	L	E			C	E	L	T	I	C				
C	H	E	E	S	E	C	U	R	L		M	I	L	E		
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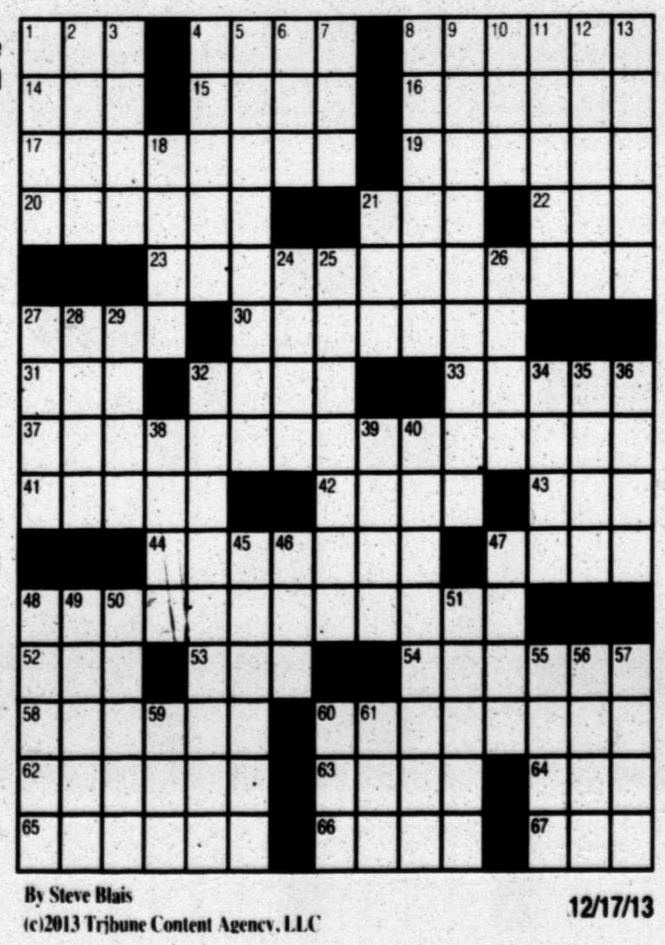
xwordeditor@aol.com 12/17/13



By Steve Blais
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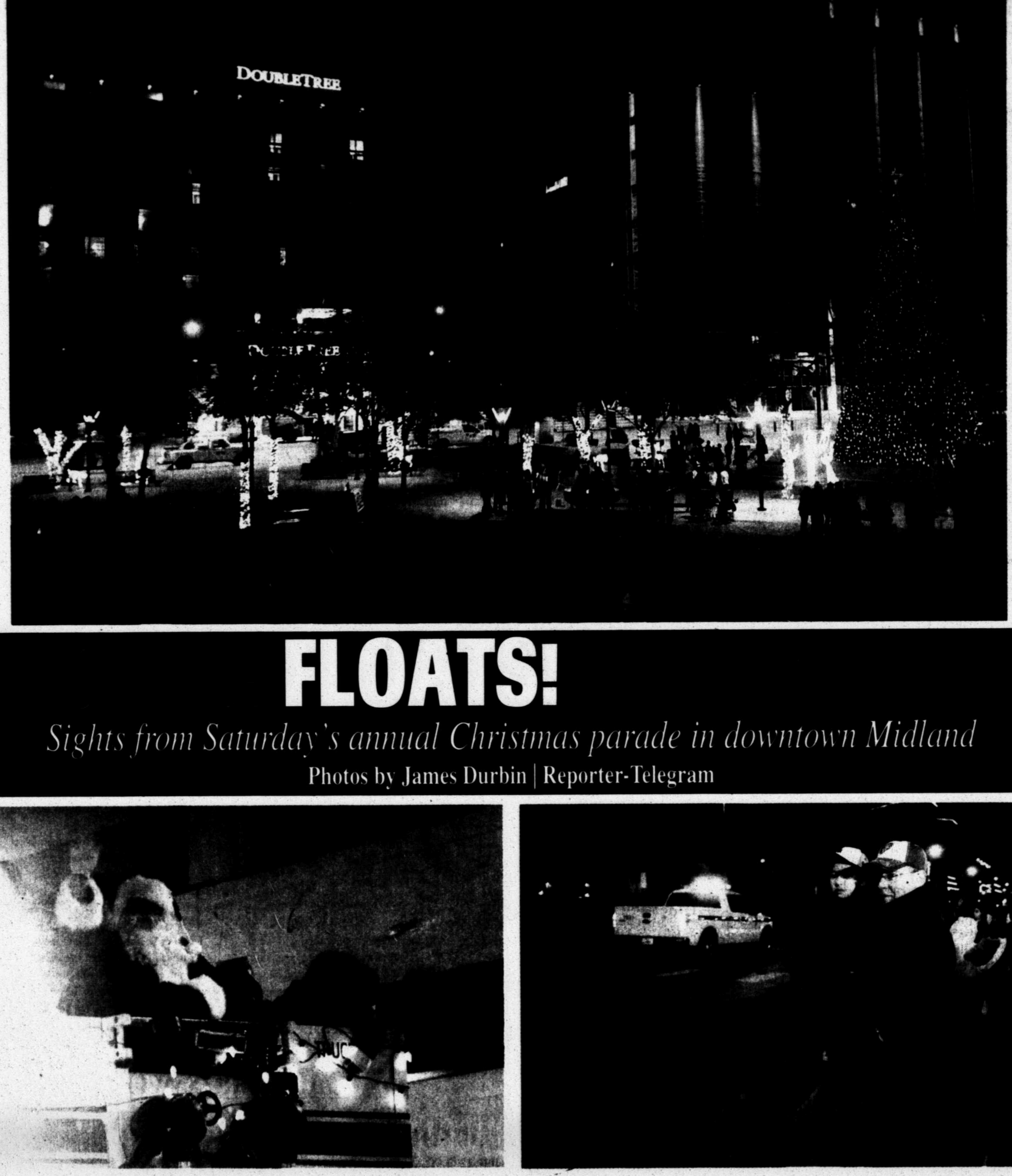
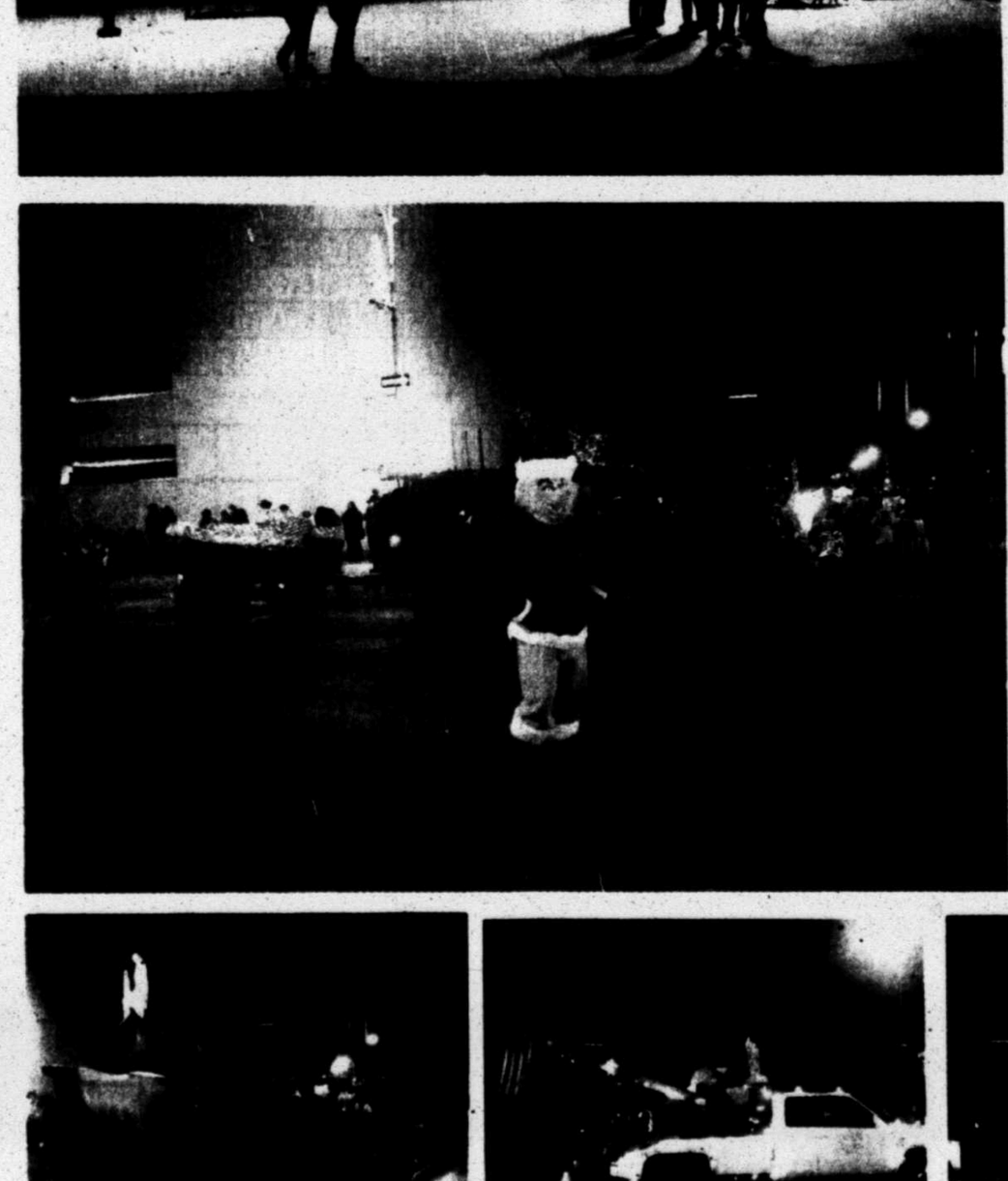
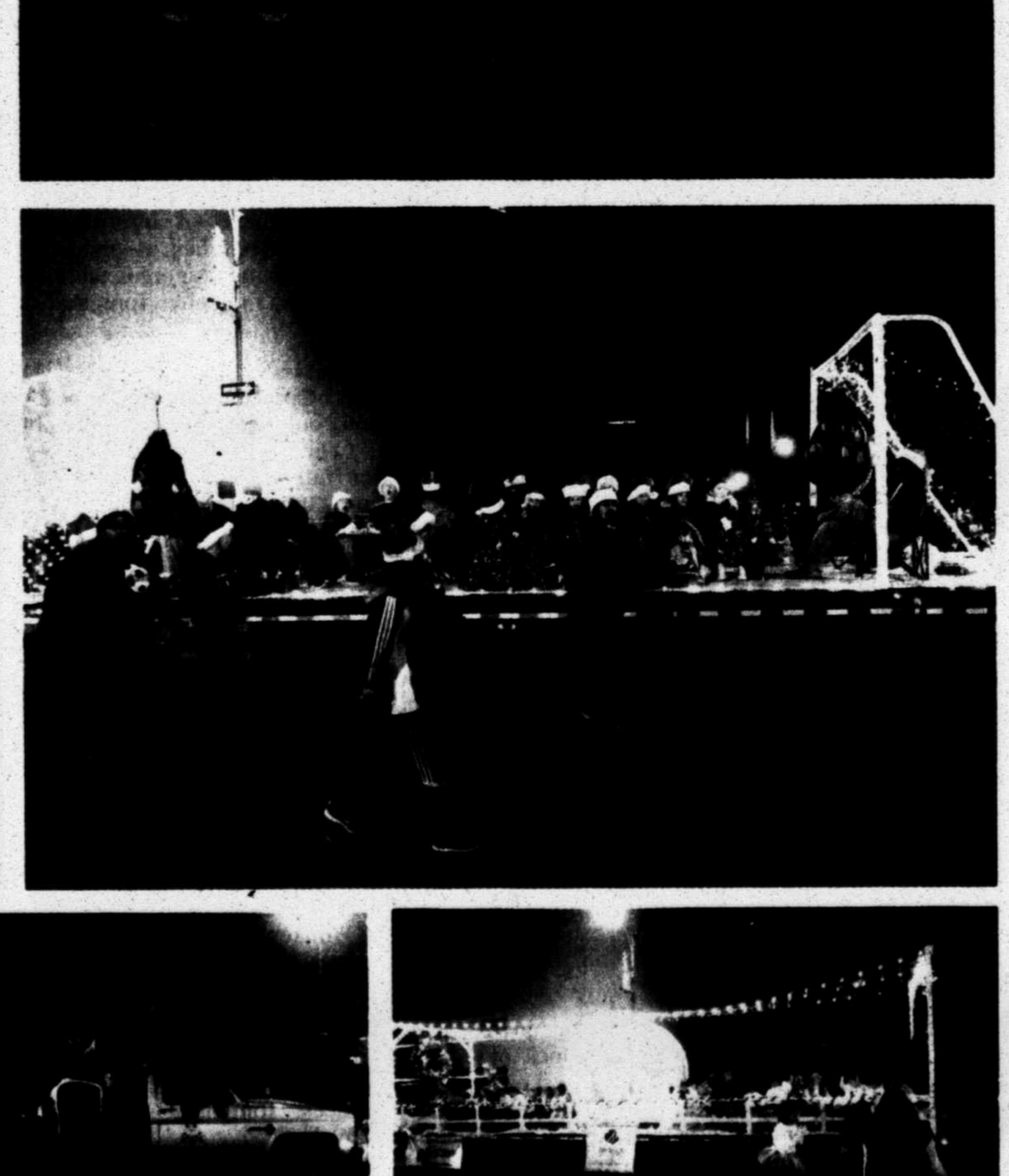


FLOATS!

Sights from Saturday's annual Christmas parade in downtown Midland

Photos by James Durbin | Reporter-Telegram





Garrett accepts some blame for Sunday's agonizing loss

Tim Sharp/AP

Dallas quarterback Tony Romo (9) sits on the bench wiping his face in the final minutes of Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers in Arlington.

By Tom Orsborn
San Antonio Express-News

IRVING — One day after he blamed Tony Romo for the first of two interceptions the quarterback threw in the final minutes of Sunday's embarrassing 37-36 loss to Green Bay, Dallas Cowboys coach Jason Garrett admitted he also had a role in the monumental meltdown.

"We should have done a better job," Garrett said Monday. "I should have done a better job, the staff should have done a better job, Tony should have done a better job."

In overcoming a 23-point third-quarter deficit, the Packers scored touchdowns on five straight possessions in the second half, which points to the Cowboys' NFL-worst defense as the main culprit in the agonizing defeat.

But many critics have focused on Dallas' decision to abandon the running game in the second half. DeMarco Murray finished with 134 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries, but he logged just seven carries in the second half even though the Cowboys possessed a 26-3 lead at the break.

"It's hard to explain, but the clock management by the Dallas Cowboys was about as bad as I've seen," Fox analyst and Cowboys Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman said on the air.

Garrett was asked if he wished he had asserted his authority as head coach more to ensure that offensive coordinator Bill Callahan and Romo called more running plays in the second half.

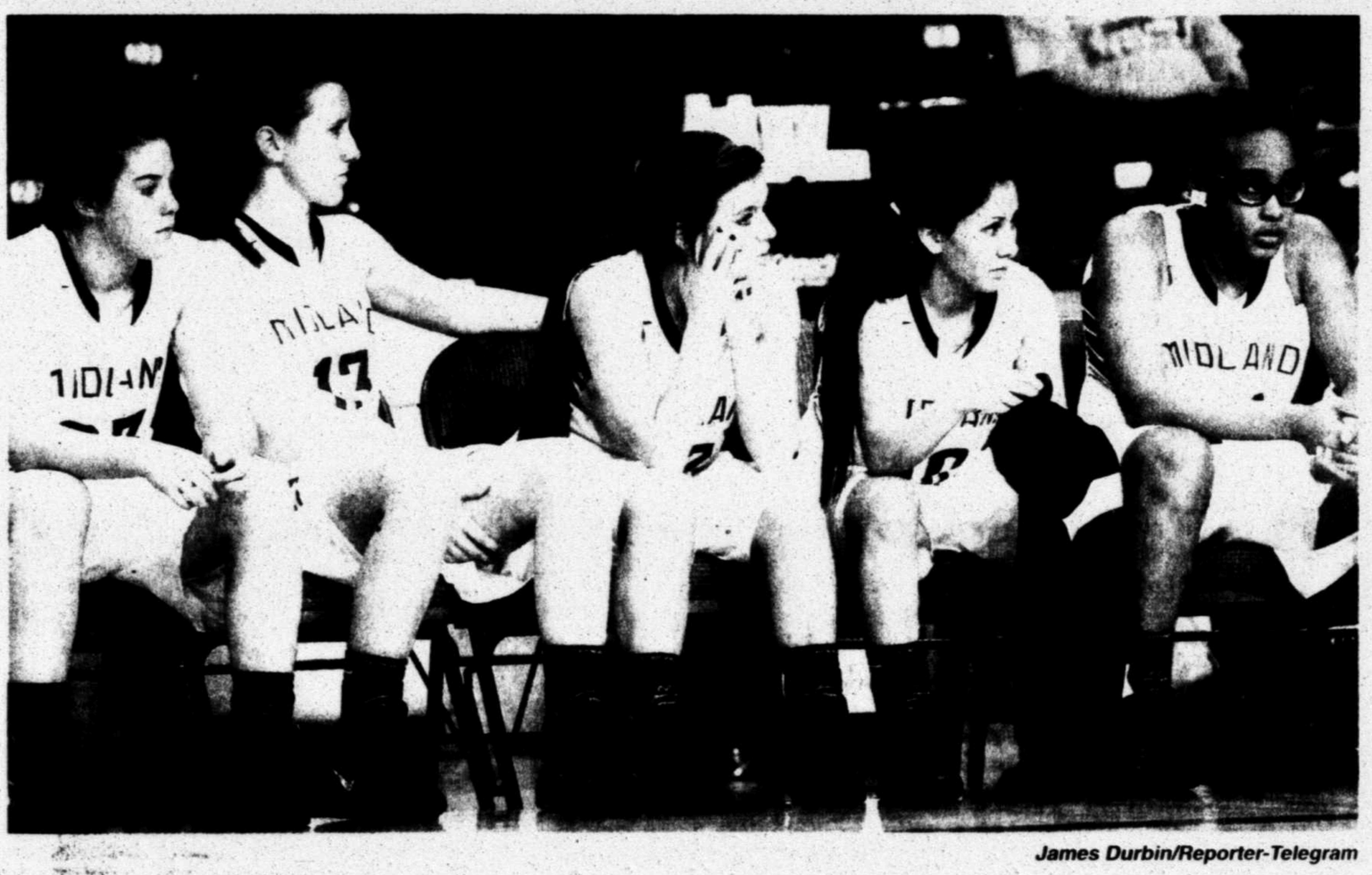
"I think when you step back and look at it again, you probably would have wanted a little bit more balance and run the ball a little bit more," Garrett said.

The most scrutinized decision came while the Cowboys were trying to protect a 36-31 lead with less than 3 minutes left. Facing second-and-6 at the Dallas 35, Romo received a play with the option to run or pass.

But instead of handing off to Murray, Romo chose to pass after seeing Green Bay had 10 men stacked at the line of scrimmage. His slant to Miles Austin was picked off by Packers cornerback Sam Shields, prompting

Please see **COWBOYS/4C**

Rally comes up short



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

The Midland High bench looks on as the final seconds tick away during the Lady Bulldogs' game against Lubbock Coronado on Monday at Chaparral Center. The Lady Dawgs rallied from an 18-point deficit but the Lady Mustangs held on for a 55-50 victory.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Gary Ringo (5) goes up for a shot against Lubbock Coronado on Monday at Chaparral Center.

Lady Dawgs can't catch up to Coronado in loss

By Len Hayward
lhayward@mrt.com

Lady Mustangs	55
Lady Bulldogs	50

The Midland High girls basketball team had Lubbock Coronado in a position it wanted on Monday night.

But then the Lady Mustangs' full-court pressure began to take its toll on the Lady Bulldogs in the third quarter.

Midland High went nearly seven minutes without scoring to bridge the third and fourth quarters, and were forced to play catch-up the rest of the way in a 55-50 District 2-5A loss at Chaparral Center.

"We didn't handle (the press) well," Midland High coach Wes Torres said. "Our guards didn't take care of the ball, and it snowballed. It turned into transition basketball and easy baskets for them."

Midland High's bid to take over sole possession of first place was on track through two-and-half quarters on Tuesday. The Lady Bulldogs held off a pair of rallies from the Lady Mustangs (11-6, 5-1 in District 2-5A) in the first and second quarters to take a 25-21 lead in at halftime.

Then halfway through the third quarter, Midland High jumped out to a 31-24 lead after Aubrie Elliott knocked down a pair of free throws with 4:53 remaining in the quarter.

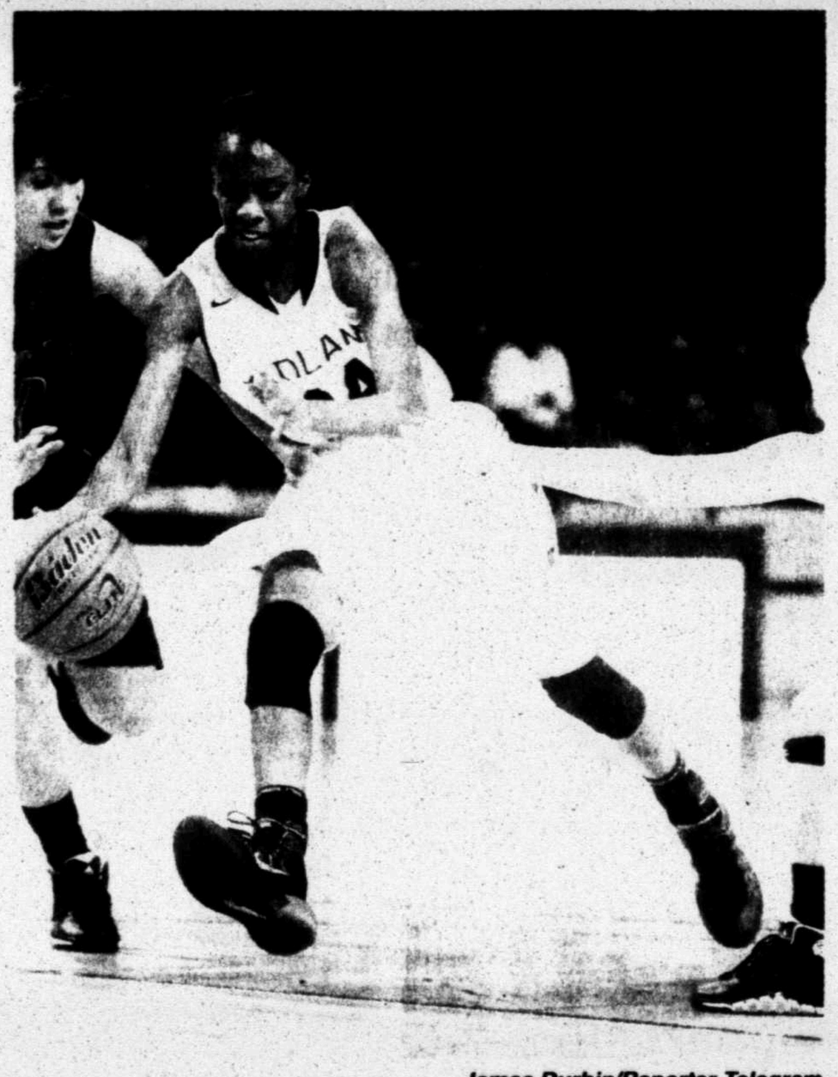
But that was the last time the Lady Bulldogs (6-8, 4-1) scored until the 6:28 mark of the fourth quarter.

In between, Coronado finished the third quarter on a 17-0 run where it forced at least five of Midland High's 14 turnovers. The Lady Mustangs then began the fourth with a 10-2 run and were up 51-33 with 4:36 remaining.

"They hit some shots (in the second half) that they didn't in the first half," Torres said.

Midland High rallied to within two at 52-50 late in the fourth when Desare' Allen came off the bench after being in foul trouble to score six points in a 17-1 run. Allen finished the game with a team-high 10 points.

Please see **MHS/2C**



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland High's Alexis Washington, center, tries to dribble between two Lubbock Coronado defenders Monday at Chaparral Center.

Mustangs pull away from Bulldogs

Mustangs	**66**
Bulldogs	59

By Len Hayward
lhayward@mrt.com

The Midland High boys basketball team put enough pressure on Lubbock Coronado to force 21 turnovers on Monday night, including 13 in the second half.

But even with the defensive pressure ramped up, the Bulldogs had some struggles knocking down key shots as the Mustangs used a scoring surge in the second and fourth quarters to help them take a 66-59 District 2-5A victory Tuesday night at Chaparral Center.

"My guys really fought back hard tonight," Midland High coach Charles Tatum said. "It's one of those situations you look at the makeup of a team, and you've got time running down and you think, 'Are they going to quit?' I'm proud of my guys for (fighting back)."

Midland High held the lead late in the second quarter but Lubbock Coronado (12-1, 4-0) closed the first half with an 8-1 run for a 34-26 advantage.

Midland High then opened the fourth quarter with a 5-0 spurt as Mazelle Justice hit a 3-pointer and Justin LeClear knocked down two free throws to cut the lead to 48-47.

"We knew that we had a chance if we pressured Coronado to force some turnovers because we knew they were really big," Tatum said. "We were really looking to kind of push the tempo and try to make them uncomfortable."

Coronado, though, began to find a way through Midland High's pres-

Please see **BULLDOGS/2C**

Glendale, Ariz., Tampa, Fla., to host title games

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Arizona will host the College Football Playoff championship in 2016 and Tampa, Fla., will be the site of the 2017 title game.

The conference commissioners who oversee the playoffs announced Monday their choices for the sites of the second and third championship games in the new postseason system that goes into effect next season.

"This was not an easy decision," said Bill Hancock, executive director of the playoff. "It was a very competitive process. The decision was difficult because we received eight excellent proposals."

The first championship game will played Jan. 12, 2015, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

The second title game is scheduled to be played Jan. 11, 2016, in Glendale, Ariz., at University of Phoenix Stadium, home of the Fiesta Bowl and the NFL's Cardinals. The Fiesta Bowl is also part of the six-bowl semifinal rotation for the playoff, but it won't host a semifinal until the 2016 season.

The other bidders for the 2016 game were Jacksonville, Fla., New Orleans and Tampa.

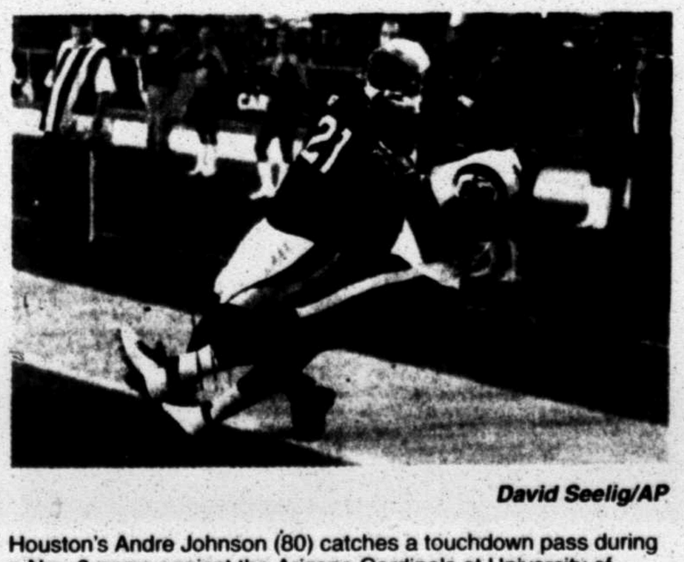
Tampa's Raymond James Stadium, home of the Buccaneers, was a finalist to host the first championship game, and it was no surprise that it was awarded one of the next two. The national title game in Tampa is scheduled to be played Jan. 9, 2017.

"We had to learn to lose before we can learn to win," said Rob Higgins, director of the Tampa Bay sports commission.

The other bidders for the 2017 game were Jacksonville; the San Francisco Bay Area; Minneapolis; San Antonio, Texas; and South Florida.

The Fiesta Bowl was racked by scandal in 2011 when it was revealed by The Arizona Republic that bowl

Please see **TITLE/4C**



David Seelig/AP

Houston's Andre Johnson (80) catches a touchdown pass during a Nov. 3 game against the Arizona Cardinals at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. University of Phoenix Stadium was selected to host the 2015 College Football Playoff championship game.

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

WHAT'S ON TV
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Jimmy V Classic, Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati, 6 p.m., ESPN

Yale at Providence, 6 p.m., Fox Sports 1

Texas-Arlington at Oklahoma, 7 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest Plus

Jimmy V Classic, Florida vs. Memphis, 8 p.m., ESPN

Missouri St. at Louisville, 8 p.m., ESPN2

FS1 — Ball St. at Marquette, 8 p.m., Fox Sports 1

NHL

Washington at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m., NBC Sports Network

Colorado at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., Fox Sports Southwest

SOCCER

FIFA, Club World Cup, semifinal, Guangzhou Evergrande vs. Bayern Munich, 1:30 p.m., Fox Sports 1

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Jimmy V Classic, UConn at Duke, 6 p.m., ESPN2

WHAT'S ON DECK

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Greenwood at Seminole, 7:30 p.m.
Alpine at Midland Christian, 8 p.m.
Water Valley at Garden City, 8 p.m.
Big Spring at Stanton, 8 p.m.
Grady at Klondike, 8 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Greenwood at Seminole, 6:15 p.m.
Water Valley at Garden City, 6:30 p.m.
Big Spring at Stanton, 6:30 p.m.
Grady at Klondike, 6:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with RHP John Axford on a one-year contract, pending a physical and RHP Shaun Marcum on a minor league contract.

DETROIT TIGERS — Announced RHP Luis Marte and INF Danny Worth cleared waivers and were sent outright to Toledo (IL).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with INF Omar Infante on a four-year contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with INF Jared Goedert on a minor league contract.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Acquired RHP Addison Reed from the Chicago White Sox for INF Matt Davidson.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with RHP Gavin Floyd and RHP Brandon Beachy on one-year contracts.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with LHP Wesley Wright on a one-year contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with LHP Boone Logan on a three-year contract. Designated RHP Collin McHugh for assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with INF Josh Bell and RHP Sam Demel on minor league contracts.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with INF Mark Ellis on a one-year contract.

American Association

AMARILLO SOX — Released RHP Freddy Flores.

Can-Am League

TROIS-RIVIERES AIGLES — Released INF Josh Colafemina and RHP Luis Munoz. Frontier League

NORMAL CORNBELTERS — Exercised the 2014 contract options on RHP Drew Provence, RHP Jose Trinidad, RHP Luis Noel, RHP Matthew Suschak, RHP Tyler Lavigne, INF Ryan Lashley, INF Santiago Chirino, OF Jason Matusik, OF Romulo Ruiz, UTL David Medina, and OF Oscar Garcia. Declined the options on RHP Mitch Mormann, RHP Sean Gregory, INF T.J. Gavlik, INF Luis Parache, OF Rogelio Noris and C David Remedios.

RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed OF Daniel Aldrich and C Saxon Butler.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

CHICAGO BULLS — Waived G Mike James.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Signed F James Johnson from Rio Grande Valley (NBADL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Claimed DE Gerald Rivers off waivers from St. Louis. Placed G Mike Brewster on injured reserve.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Waived RB Joe Bryant. Signed OT Mike Remmers.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Edmonton D Corey Potter two games for boarding Anaheim F Nick Bonino during a Dec. 15 game.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Activated F Bryan Bickell from injured reserve. Reassigned F Jeremy Morin to Rockford (AHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Reassigned D Austin Madaisky to Springfield (AHL) from Evansville (ECHL) and D Thomas Larkin to Evansville from Springfield.

DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled C Riley Sheahan from Grand Rapids (AHL).

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Recalled LW Mattias Tedenby from Albany (AHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Placed D Kris Letang on injured reserve. Recalled D Philip Samuelsson and F Harry Zolnierczyk from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

American Hockey League

BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS — Announced G Parker Milner was reassigned to Stockton (ECHL).

GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS — Announced C Louis-Marc Aubry was reassigned to the team from Toledo (ECHL).

HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Announced G Robert Mayer was reassigned to Geneve-Servette HC (Swiss National League A). Recalled G Mike Condon from Wheeling (ECHL). ECHL

BAKERSFIELD CONDORS — Announced LW Andrew Carroll was assigned to the team by Hartford (AHL).

Central Hockey League

BRAMPTON BEAST — Placed D Tyler Matheson on waivers. Signed F Scott Howes.

MISSOURI MAVERICKS — Suspended G Joe Howe. Granted D Henrik Odegaard a leave of absence.

LACROSSE
National Lacrosse League

COLORADO MAMMOTH — Released F Gavin Prout.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed D Roy Miller and G Luis Robles.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC — Signed G Steve Clark and traded him to Columbus for a 2015 fourth-round SuperDraft pick. Re-signed D Leo Gonzalez.

SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Acquired G Andy Gruenebaum from Columbus Crew for a 2016 second-round SuperDraft pick.

VANCOUVER WHITECAPS — Named Carl Robinson coach.

COLLEGE

FAU — Named Charlie Partridge football coach.

NJIT — Named Travis Johnson men's lacrosse coach, which will begin play in 2015.

OREGON — Suspended CB Troy Hill indefinitely from the football team following his arrest.

HS BASKETBALL POLLS

BOYS
Class 5A

1. DeSoto, 10-1; 2. Converse Judson, 13-1; 3. Galena Park North Shore, 13-2; 4. Lewisville, 9-0; 5. Plano West, 8-3; 6. Killeen Harker Heights, 10-1; 7. Richardson Berkner, 8-2; 8. SA Churchill, 17-2; 9. Euless Trinity, 10-2; 10. EP Bel Air, 15-0; 11. Fort Bend Bush, 12-2; 12. South Grand Prairie, 8-2; 13. Humble Atascocita, 10-4; 14. North Crowley, 7-3; 15. SA Wagner, 12-1; 16. McAllen Rowe, 15-1; 17. Manvel, 11-3; 18. Allen, 10-2; 19. Coppell, 8-4; 20. Keller, 7-3; 21. Arlington Martin, 6-3; 22. Houston Clear Lake, 13-2; 23. SA Madison, 10-3; 24. Cypress Lakes, 12-3; 25. Garland Lakeview Centennial, 7-4.

Class 4A

1. SA Alamo Heights, 14-0; 2. Beaumont Ozen, 12-1; 3. Beaumont Central, 12-1; 4. FW Dunbar, 5-2; 5. Dallas Kimball, 6-2; 6. Schertz Clemens, 10-1; 7. Lancaster, 8-3; 8. Pearland Dawson, 12-6; 9. EP Andress, 12-2; 10. Dallas Highland Park, 12-1; 11. Denton Guyer, 5-4; 12. Frisco Heritage, 6-1; 13. Everman, 7-2; 14. Dallas Wilson, 5-3; 15. Friendswood, 10-4; 16. SA Northside Brennan, 11-3; 17. Laredo Nixon, 11-2; 18. Texas City, 10-3; 19. Wolfforth Frenship, 14-3; 20. Amarillo, 9-4; 21. Cedar Park, 7-2; 22. SA Lanier, 14-3; 23. Prosper, 9-2; 24. Brenham, 11-5; 25. Fort Bend Marshall, 9-7.

Class 3A

1. Dallas Madison, 8-1; 2. Kennedale, 10-0; 3. Abilene Wylie, 10-0; 4. Houston Yates, 6-4; 5. Dallas Triple A Academy, 6-5; 6. Burkburnett, 10-3; 7. Argyle, 8-1 8. SA Houston, 6-5; 9. Houston Washington, 8-5; 10. Wilmer-Hutchins, 6-5; 11. Lubbock Estacado, 7-5; 12. CC West Oso, 6-4; 13. West Orange-Stark, 6-6; 14. Silsbee, 9-6; 15. Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson, 17-1; 16. Decatur, 8-2; 17. Frisco Lone Star, 8-3; 18. Mexia, 10-0; 19. WF Hirschi, 6-5; 20. Cleveland, 10-2; 21. Navasota, 8-1 22. Liberty Hill, 9-4; 23. Athens, 11 1; 24. Hidalgo, 5-2; 25. La Vernia, 10-1.

Class 2A

1. Ponder, 12-4; 2. Kountze, 10-4; 3. Abernathy, 9-1; 4. Brock, 10-3; 5. Tatum, 8-3; 6. Wall, 2-1; 7. Childress, 6-1; 8. Breckenridge, 5-1; 9. Franklin, 9-2; 10. Hallettesville, 2-4; 11. Clarksville, 5-5; 12. Peaster, 9-3; 13. East Chambers, 6-6; 14. Idalou, 3-8; 15. Bushland, 8-3; 16. Red Oak Life, 7-2; 17. Dallas Faith Family, 10-1; 18. White Oak, 3-3; 19. Ingram Moore, 12-0; 20. Whitesboro, 5-3; 21. Canadian, 1-0; 22. Salado, 13-3 23. Kermit, 10-1; 24. Van Alstyne, 9-0; 25. Goliad.

Class 1A Division I

1. Mumford, 12-1; 2. Grapeland, 9-4; 3. EP Harmony, 10-1; 4. Muenster, 7-0; 5. Poolville, 8-2; 6. Dallardsville Big Sandy, 12-2; 7. Tenaha, 0-0; 8. Memphis, 8-0; 9. Martins Mill, 11-2; 10. San Augustine, 10-4; 11. Bartlett, 11-0; 12. Kerens, 6-4; 13. La Poynor, 9-1; 14. Sulphur Springs North Hopkins, 12-5; 15. Stamford, 0-0; 16. Wellington, 0-0; 17. Farwell, 4-1; 18. Smyer, 6-2; 19. SA Gervin, 5-0; 20. Pineland West Sabine, 5-3; 21. Gruver, 7-2; 22. Collinsville, 3-2; 23. Brackettville, 6-2; 24. SA Stacey, 4-5; 25. Forsan.

Class 1A Division II

1. Texline, 10-0; 2. Oakwood, 8-0; 3. Lingleville, 6-1; 4. Laneville, 13-3; 5. Graford, 9-0; 6. Water Valley, 3-4; 7. Douglass, 10-2; 8. Huckabay, 5-5; 9. Ira, 3-0; 10. Calvert, 5-1; 11. Throckmorton, 6-0; 12. Turkey Valley, 0-1; 13. Coolidge, 4-2; **14. Grady, 4-2;** 15. Eula, 5-3; 16. Happy, 3-2; 17. Crowell, 0-0; 18. Lometa, 8-4; 19. Nazareth, 3-5; 20. Bellvue, 3-5; 21. Roxton, 4-4; 22. Miller Grove, 10-5; 23. Cumby Avinger, 10-2; 24. Moulton, 12-2; 25. San Isidro, 11-2.

Large Private Schools

1. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 13-0; 2. Houston Kinkaid, 6-1; 3. Plano John Paul II, 11-2; 4. Houston St. Thomas, 10-5; 5. Houston Christian, 9-4; 6. Addison Trinity Christian, 12-5; 7. Houston St. John's, 5-6; 8. Houston St. Pius X, 8-5; 9. Houston Lutheran South, 12-6; 10. Dallas Episcopal, 6-6; 11. Dallas Bishop Dunne, 9-3; 12. The Woodlands John Cooper, 9-5; 13. Houston Westbury Christian, 7-5; 14. Houston Second Baptist, 9-5; 15. Bellaire Episcopal, 9-6; 16. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 8-9; 17. SA Central Catholic, 7-6; 18. Dallas St. Mark's, 6-4; 19. FW All Saints, 10-7; 20. Grapevine Faith Christian, 7-2; 21. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 9-9; 22. Dallas Greenhill, 5-4; 23. Irving Cistercian, 7-4; 24. SA Antonian, 13-5; 25. Laredo St. Augustine, 15-9.

Small Private Schools

1. Lubbock Christian School, 10-2; 2. Dallas Yavneh Academy, 14-3; 3. Waco Vanguard College Prep, 10-3; 4. Houston St. Thomas Episcopal, 15-8; 5. SA St. Gerard, 9-4; 6. Geneva School of Boerne, 8-4; 7. Abilene Christian High School, 4-5; 8. Bullard The Brook Hill School, 7-3; 9. Colleyville Covenant Christian, 8-2; 10. Arlington High Point Prep, 0-1; 11. Dallas Lakehill Prep, 4-0; 12. Christian Academy of SA, 5-4; 13. Dallas Cambridge School, 2-3; 14. League City Bay Area Christian, 5-7; 15. Austin Brentwood Christian, 9-6; 16. Bryan Brazos Christian, 3-0; 17. Austin Waldorf School, 9-6; 18. Universal City First Baptist, 12-2; 19. Conroe Covenant Christian, 10-4; 20. FW Bethesda Christian, 8-3; 21. Houston Cypress Christian, 9-5; 22. Victoria Faith, 15-8; 23. Baytown Christian, 12-3; 24. De Soto The Canterbury School, 3-1; 25. New Braunfels Christian, 4-5.

GIRLS
Class 5A

1. Duncanville, 12-0; 2. Manvel, 15-1; 3. Cypress Woods, 17-3; 4. Lewisville Marcus, 12-1; 5. Cibolo Steele, 11-1; 6. Arlington Bowie, 10-1; 7. Galena Park North Shore, 13-3; 8. Southlake Carroll, 12-3; 9. League City Clear Springs, 11-5; 10. Cedar Ridge, 14-1; 11. SA Churchill, 21-1; 12. SA Reagan, 15-3; 13. Irving MacArthur, 11-1; 14. Plano West, 11-2; 15. Spring DeKaney, 17-2; 16. Pflugerville, 15-2; 17. Pearland, 15-5; 18. Humble Atascocita, 11-2; 19. Klein Forest, 15-3; 20. Spring, 14-4; 21. Round Rock Stony Point, 14-4; 22. EP El Dorado, 16-2; 23. Houston Bellaire, 9-5; 24. Weslaco, 8-2; 25. Richardson, 14-3.

Class 4A

1. SA Northside Brennan, 13-0; 2. Aledo, 11-1; 3. McKinney North, 10-2; 4. Brenham, 12-2; 5. Canyon, 13-2; 6. Barbers Hill, 14-2; 7. Amarillo, 12-3; 8. Houston Wheatley, 12-0; 9. Cedar Park Vista Ridge, 16-2; 10. FW Trimble Tech, 11-2; 11. Mansfield Summit, 7-4; 12. Tomball Memorial, 13-3; 13. Frisco Liberty, 11-1; 14. Shertz Clemens, 11-2; 15. Saginaw, 11-1; 16. WF Rider, 11-3; 17. Cedar Park, 15-4; 18. Dallas Adams, 12-2; 19. Mansfield Legacy, 12-3; 20. Canyon Randall, 12-2; 21. EP Hanks, 14-4; 22. Georgetown, 11-4; 23. Montgomery, 11-3; 24. CC Ray, 12-4; 25. Arlington Seguin, 10-5.

Class 3A

1. Waco La Vega, 13-0; 2. Argyle, 14-1; 3. La Vernia, 12-1; 4. Celina, 11-3; 5. Hondo, 14-2; 6. Quinlan Ford, 14-3; 7. Navasota, 15-2; 8. Abilene Wylie, 10-4; 9. Shallowater, 10-1; 10. Fairfield, 9-3; 11. Lorena, 12-3; 12. Bullard, 14-5; 13. CC West Oso, 12-4; 14. Wilmer-Hutchins, 9-3; 15. Yoakum, 12-4; **16. Big Spring, 8-1;** 17. Melissa, 9-1; 18. Needville, 10-2; 19. Canton, 10-2; 20. Geronimo Navarro, 17-5; 21. Dallas Roosevelt, 11-2; 22. Levelland, 11-3; 23. Robinson, 11-2; 24. Stafford, 12-5; 25. Liberty Hill, 9-4.

Class 2A

1. Sunnyvale, 16-0; 2. Brock, 14-1; 3. SA Cole, 22-1; 4. Cisco, 11-1; 5. Wall, 13-2; 6. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 2-0; 7. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 12-1; 8. Canadian, 12-0; 9. Grandview, 11-1; 10. Paradise, 11-1; 11. Tuscola Jim Ned, 10-4; 12. Idalou, 9-3; 13. Hallettsville, 14-1; 14. Jarrell, 13-2; 15. Sonora, 11-3; 16. Winnsboro, 13-1; 17. Karnes City, 15-5; 18. Dallas Life Oak Cliff, 8-3; 19. Alba-Golden, 9-2; 20. Franklin, 9-3; 21. Schulenburg, 7-2; 22. Winona, 12-1; 23. Tatum, 9-2; 24. Big Sandy Harmony, 9-4; 25. Jourdanton, 12-3.

Class 1A Division I

1. Martins Mill, 14-2; 2. Triple A, 7-3; 3. Wellington, 8-3; 4. Goldthwaite, 8-4; 5. Christoval, 12-1; 6. Mason, 12-1; 7. Plains, 10-1; 8. Slocum, 12-2; 9. Falls City, 11-3; 10. Kerens, 8-3; 11. Zavalla, 8-2; 12. Harper, 12-2; 13. Santo, 8-4; 14. Hubbard, 10-0; 15. Colmesneil, 10-0; 16. Joaquin, 10-2; 17. Weimar, 13-3; 18. Brackettville, 14-2; 19. Muenster, 9-3; 20. Clarendon, 6-3; 21. Snook, 10-3; 22. Windthorst, 6-1; 23. Hamlin, 7-1; 24. Gruver, 10-4; 25. Claude, 10-4.

Class 1A Division II

1. Roscoe Highland, 11-0; 2. Lipan, 16-1; 3. Follett, 11-0; 4. Nazareth, 14-1; 5. Menard, 14-2; **6. Garden City, 11-1;** 7. Eula, 11-2; 8. Frost, 9-1; 9. Goodrich, 8-1; 10. Chireno, 12-3; 11. Miami, 11-2; 12. Buckholts, 9-1; 13. Turkey Valley, 10-2; 14. Rochelle, 12-3; 15. Leakey, 10-4; 16. Calvert, 13-0; 17. Round Top-Carmine, 5-1; 18. Campbell, 10-2; 19. Baird, 9-1; 20. Cross Plains, 8-3; 21. Morgan, 10-1; 22. Miami, 10-1; **23. Rankin, 10-4;** 24. Strawn, 8-6; 25. Yantis, 8-5.

Large Private Schools

1. Argyle Liberty Christian, 10-3; 2. Tomball Concordia, 14-6; 3. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 10-7; 4. Houston Kinkaid, 10-1; 5. Houston St. Agnes, 11-3; 6. SA Antonian, 12-6; 7. Plano John Paul II, 7-5; 8. SA IWA, 12-6; 9. Houston Second Baptist, 12-2; 10. Dallas Christian, 10-2; **11. Midland Christian, 12-1;** 12. Houston Westbury Christian, 8-10; 13. CC IWA, 13-2; 14. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 7-6; 15. Austin Regents, 9-4; 16. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 11-1; 17. Houston Christian, 8-5; 18. Houston St. Pius X, 7-10; 19. Victoria St. Joseph's, 8-5; 20. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 8-5; 21. Waco Reicher, 13-4; 22. Austin St. Dominic Savio, 10-9; 23. Houston Lutheran North, 14-4; 24. Bishop TK Gorman, 8-5; 25. Houston Duchesne, 8-4.

Small Private Schools

1. Austin Brentwood, 10-3; **2. Midland Classical, 7-1;** 3. FW Lake Country Christian, 11-4; 4. Sherman Texoma, 8-3; 5. Austin Waldorf, 17-0; 6. Marble Falls Faith, 9-2; 7. Houston Cypress Christian, 9-2; 8. Victoria Faith, 15-4; 9. Muenster Sacred Heart, 7-2; 10. Granbury North Central Texas, 5-2; 11. League City Bay Area Christian, 8-8; 12. Red Oak Ovilla Christian, 6-2; 13. Colleyville Covenant, 8-7; 14. Lubbock Christian, 6-6; 15. Spring Providence Classical, 12-5; 16. Tomball Woodlands Prep, 13-2; 17. McKinney Christian, 4-5; 18. Amarillo San Jacinto Christian, 3-6; 19. New Braunfels Christian, 7-8; 20. SA Christian, 8-2; 21. SA St. Gerard Catholic, 5-3; 22. FW Calvary Christian, 4-2; 23. Dallas Lutheran, 4-6; 24. Shiner St. Paul, 3-4; 25. Boerne Geneva, 1-2.

Lee falls in close game to Tascosa

From staff reports

Amarillo Tascosa	50
Lee	48

AMARILLO — Coming off a huge upset victory of Lubbock Coronado on Friday, the Lee girls basketball team was unable to build on that momentum, and the Lady Rebels got upset themselves in the process.

Amarillo Tascosa pulled out a 50-48 victory against Lee in District 2-5A play Monday at the Tascosa Activity Center. The Lady Rebels got off to a slow start as Tascosa efficiently used a high-low offense to pull away early.

"We started off slow defensively," Lee coach Monica Ramirez said. "They hurt us with the high-low. Their big girl (Landria Polley) hit a couple threes and then they passed well, too. It took us some time to adjust to it."

The Lady Rebels (11-5, 3-2 in 2-5A) trailed for most of the game, but managed to take a three-point lead with 2:30 left. They weren't able to hang on, though, as some late turnovers ultimately cost them the game.

Tascosa (5-9, 3-2) was led by Kierra McKinley's game-high 18 points, while Latravia Taylor added 15 and Landria Polley scored 10.

Bri'An Washington led Lee with 15 with Daija Stanford scoring 12. But it was a lack of leadership late in the game to which Ramirez attributed this loss.

"It hurts us that we don't have that emotional leader on the floor," Ramirez said. "No one has taken charge to lead us when things get tough. The team needs a leader, it's like having a body with no head."

Lee hosts San Angelo Central at 6 p.m. Friday at the Lee High gymnasium.

AMARILLO TASCOSA 50, LEE 48

Lee (11-5, 3-2 in 2-5A) — Bri'An Washington 15, Daija Stanford 12, Yaritza Rivas 4, Allison Valdez 3, Savannah Sutton 2, Kyra Lewis 1, Jackie Rivas 6, Hannah Payne 2

Tascosa (5-9, 3-2) — M. Richardson 1, M. Klinnert 4, Landria Polley 10, Latravia Taylor 15, Kierra McKinney 18, J. Homer 2

Lee	7	19	7	15—48
Tascosa	11	16	9	14—50

Free throws — Lee 12-20, AT 18-28. 3-point goals — Lee 2 (Washington 2), AT 2 (Polley 2). Total fouls — Lee 18, AT 15. Fouled out — None. Technical foul — Tascosa, Walterscheid.

Next: San Angelo Central at Lee, 6 p.m. Friday.

Polley's 26 points leads Tascosa past Lee boys

From staff reports

Amarillo Tascosa	58
Lee	40

AMARILLO — Darius Polley scored a game-high 26 points to help Amarillo Tascosa to stay unbeaten in District 2-5A play with a 58-40 victory over Lee on Monday.

Tascosa (12-0, 4-0 in district) had a 28-21 halftime lead but put the game away in the third quarter with a 19-4 run.

"That third quarter was the difference," Lee coach Chris Packer said. "We've got to find a way to consistently score the basketball. But you can't take anything away from Tascosa. They're a good team and Darius Polley is a good player."

In addition to Polley's big night, Parker Davidson had 13 points and Jaquan Smith had 12.

Daniel Nelson had 12 points and was the only Lee player in double figures.

The Rebels return home on Friday with a game against San Angelo Central at the Lee High School gymnasium.

AMARILLO TASCOSA 58, LEE 40

Lee (3-4, 2-2) — Daniel Nelson 12, Aaron Jackson 1, Anthony McCoy 2, Tre Guerrero 7, Donald Ekman 7, Jordan Williams 9, Dedrick Thompson 2

Tascosa (12-0, 4-0) — Parker Davidson 13, Jaquan Smith 12, Davadjae Donald 2, Darius Polley 26, Quin Taylor 4, Burt Morris 1

Lee	10	11	4	15—40
Tascosa	19	9	19	11—58

Free throws — Lee 9-18, AT 16-21. 3-point goals — Lee 1 (Guerrero), AT 5 (Davidson 2, Smith 2, Polley). Total fouls — Lee 16, AT 15. Fouled out — Thompson.

Next: San Angelo Central at Lee, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Lee HS Gymnasium

MHS

From 1C

The Lady Bulldogs, though, couldn't complete the comeback as Coronado's Brittany Thompson and Shelby Blankenship combined to hit three of four free throws to clinch the victory. Carly Ritchey led Coronado with 14 points and Sabrina Rodriguez added 11 in the victory.

"We are a young group, and it says that the girls battled and battled to the last buzzer," Torres said. "I'm proud of this team. We had a lull, but I feel like we have a really good team."

Follow Len on Twitter: @Len_Hayward_MRT

LUBBOCK CORONADO 55, MIDLAND HIGH 50

Lubbock Coronado (11-6, 5-1 in District 2-5A) — Ashlee Villarreal 7, Shelby Blankenship 5, Sabrina Rodriguez 11, Brittany Thompson 9, Carly Ritchey 14, Quiana Wiley 2, Linsey Hearn 4.

Midland High (6-8, 4-1) — Arcie Guardiola 9, Marli Martin 2, Aubrie Elliott 8, Alexis Washington 2, Alexandrea Washington 7, Desare' Allen 10, Claire Lancaster 8, Valvareesha Hall 4

Lubb. Coronado	13	8	20	14—55
MHS	12	13	6	19—50

Free throws — LC 11-20. MHS 10-13. 3-point goals — LC 6 (Villarreal, Rodriguez, Ritchey 3, Hearn). MHS 2 (A. Guardiola, Alexandrea Washington). Total fouls — LC 15, MHS 16. Fouled out — MHS, Elliott. Technical fouls — MHS, Claudia Fricker. Rebounds — LC 23 (Thompson 9), MHS 23 (Alexis Washington 8). Assists — LC 3 (Brianna Thompson, Blankenship, Rodriguez). MHS 5 (Alexis Washington). Turnovers — LC 13, MHS 14

Next: Midland High at Amarillo Tascosa, 5 p.m. Friday; Odessa High at Lubbock

BULLDOGS

From 1C

sure defense, while the Bulldogs struggled to hit key shots.

The Mustangs went on an 11-0 run over a three minutes span of the fourth quarter as Duncan Douglas scored five of his 16 points, and Trey Culver ended the run with a pair of free throws as he scored a game-high 20.

The Bulldogs fought back with a 12-3 run late in the quarter as Gary Ringo keyed the surge with seven points, including a 3-pointer with 1:46 to go. Ringo finished the night with 13 points, while Bulldog guard Shawn Rivers had a team-high 18 points, including two 3-pointers.

But Douglas and Culver each made key layups over the final 45 seconds for the victory.

"This game came down to six to eight really high percentage shots we didn't convert," Tatum said. "We make a couple of those shots, it's a different outcome to this game."

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LUBBOCK CORONADO 66, MIDLAND HIGH 59

Lubbock Coronado (12-1, 4-0 in District 2-5A) — Devonte Hutchens 9, David Patton 1, Travis Barber 6, Zach Stepp 5, Duncan Douglas 16, Mike James 3, Trey Culver 20, Emoree Giddens 6

Midland High (3-6, 1-2) — Shawn Rivers 18, Wesley Don Juan 3, Gary Ringer 13, Mazelle Justice 9, Nate Rogers 9, Trevor Abney 2, Brandon Sanchez 3, Justin LeClear 2

Lubb. Coronado	12	22	14	18—66
MHS	16	10	16	17—59

Free throws — LC 12-18, MHS 14-21. 3-point goals — LC 2 (Stepp, James), MHS 7 (Rivers 2, Ringo, Justice 3, Sanchez). Total fouls — LC 13, MHS 22. Fouled out — MHS, Justice. Rebounds — LC 32 (Culver 8), MHS 25 (Ringo 8). Assists — LC 7 (Culver 3), MHS 4 (Justice 2). Turnovers — LC 21, MHS 19.

Next: Midland High at Amarillo Tascosa, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Odessa High at Lubbock Coronado, 7:30 p.m. Friday

District 2-5A basketball

GIRLS

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Lubbock Coronado	5	1	11	6
Midland High	**4**	**1**	**6**	**8**
Lee	**3**	**2**	**11**	**5**
Amarillo Tascosa	3	2	5	9
San Angelo Central	2	2	5	6
Abilene High	2	3	9	7
Odessa Permian	3	3	6	5
Abilene Cooper	1	3	4	12
Odessa High	0	5	0	9

Today's Scores
Permian 63, Odessa High 25
Amarillo Tascosa 50, Lee 48
Lubbock Coronado 55, Midland High 50

Today's Game
San Angelo Central at Abilene Cooper, 6 p.m.

Friday's Games
Odessa High at Lubbock Coronado, 6 p.m.
Abilene Cooper at Abilene High, 6 p.m.
Midland High at Amarillo Tascosa, 5 p.m.
San Angelo Central at Lee, 6 p.m.

BOYS

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Amarillo Tascosa	1	0	6	0
Lubbock Coronado	1	0	6	1
Lee	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**
Odessa Permian	1	0	2	1
Midland High	**0**	**0**	**2**	**4**
San Angelo Central	0	1	3	3
Abilene High	0	1	2	2
Abilene Cooper	0	1	2	3
Odessa High	0	1	1	4

Monday's Scores
Amarillo Tascosa 58, Lee 40
Odessa High 46, Permian 41
Lubbock Coronado 66, Midland High 59

Today's Games
San Angelo Central at Abilene Cooper, 7:30 p.m.
Lubbock Monterey at Abilene High, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Odessa High at Lubbock Coronado
Midland High at Amarillo Tascosa
Abilene Cooper at Abilene High
San Angelo Central at Lee
All games at 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma's Iden earns TAPSE all-state honor

From staff reports

Coahoma senior safety Braxton Iden garnered honorable mention on The Texas Associated Press Sports Editors Class 2A all-state football team.

Crane senior runing back Gunner Tatum was a first-team selection after rushing for 2,165 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Crane senior offensive lineman Trevor Davis was a second-team all-state pick.

Iden

Texas APSE Class 2A all-state football team
FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE
Linemen

CLAY BREWER, Eastland, Sr. — highest graded OL on team that averaged 510 yards & 49 points

JOE RICHARD CASTELLANO, Refugio, Jr. — 21 pancakes, graded at 96 percent, 0 sacks allowed

KYLEN HARRELL, Cameron Yoe, Sr. — 31 pancakes, 13 knockdowns, team averagd 433.2 yards per game

BOYD HENRY, Wall, Sr. — Graded at 96 percent, 25 pancakes, offense averaged 453 yards and 48 points

JACOB REID, Wall, Sr. — Graded at 96 percent, 28 pancakes, offense averaged 453 yards and 48 points

Receivers/ends

JANSEN MCCURDY, White Oak — 40-1,112, 14 TDs receiving

AARON MITCHELL, Teague, Jr. — 64-1,189, 17 TDs receiving

Quarterback

TRAVIS QUINTANILLA, Refugio, Sr. — 149-206-3,092, 39 TDs passing, 1 INT

Running backs

GUNNER TATUM, Crane, Sr. — 226-2,165, 17 TDs rushing

MATT VALADEZ, Stockdale, Sr. — 2,045 rushing yards, 30 TDs, 8 2-point conversions

JEFFERY WILSON, Elkhart, Sr. — 275-2,487, 35 TDs rushing

Kicker

TY MCKINNEY, Leonard, Sr. — 5-7 FGs, long of 44; 49-53 PATS, 28 touchbacks

Offensive Player of the Year: Travis Quintanilla, Refugio

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen

THOMAS BASQUEZ, Post, Sr. — 125 tackles, 10 sacks, 15 tackles for loss, 3 forced fumbles, 3 fumble recoveries

RYAN HARRIS, Eastland, Sr. — 104 total tackles, 20 solo, 84 assist, 11 sacks, 22 tackles for loss, 2 forced fumbles, 2 pass breakups

KELSHIN NEAL, Daingerfield, Sr. — 134 tackles, 20 sacks, 46 tackles for loss

COLTON SCHWARTZ, Lago Vista, Sr. — 109 tackles, 26 tackles for loss, 7 sacks, 4 fumble recoveries, 3 forced fumbles

Linebackers

DRU LUST, Abernathy, Sr. — 135 tackles, 5 sacks, 6 INTs, 5 forced fumbles, 10 pass breakups

ALEJO RODRIGUEZ, Post, Jr. — 151 tackles, 4 sacks, 10 tackles for loss, 3 forced fumbles, 2 fumble recoveries

KYE SCHWARTZ, Wall, Sr. — 119 tackles, 5 sacks, 7 tackles for loss, 3 fumble recoveries, 2 INTs, 3 defensive TDs

Defensive backs

DALTON HERRINGTON, Hallettsville, Sr. — 143 tackles, 7 tackles for loss, 4 sacks, 3 forced fumbles, 12 pass breakups, 1 INT

KYLE PEGGRAM, Olton, Jr. — 11 INTs, 65 tackles

JUSTIN TRUELOVE, Bangs, Sr. — 78 tackles, 8 tackles for loss, 7 pass breakups, 6 INTs, 3 fumble recoveries

KLIFTON WILLIS, Tatum, Sr. — 34 tackles, 11 INTs, 4 pass breakups, 2 defensive TDs

CORY WINKS, Frankston, Sr. — 62 tackles, 8 INTs, 14 pass breakups, 6 blocked kicks

Punter

AUSTIN ROSS, Muleshoe, Sr. — 32 punts, 44.0 avg., 3 inside the 20

Defensive Player of the Year: Kelshin Neal, Daingerfield

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE
Linemen

Santana Aguilar, Dilley Sr.; **Trevor Davis, Crane, Sr.;** Mondo Martinez, Post, Sr.; Ethan Patlan, Sonora, Jr.; William Roberts, Bangs, Sr.

Receivers/ends

Anthony Pando, Tulia, Sr.; Josh Quinn, Sunnyvale, Sr.

Quarterback

Colton Kent, Cisco, Sr.

Running backs

Brandon Johnson, Newton, Sr.; John Love, Teague, Jr.; Cedrick Perkins, East Bernard, Sr.; Darmarcus Robinson, Cooper, Sr.

Kicker

Tyler Ellis, Blooming Grove, Jr.

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE
Linemen

Landon Beck, Early, Jr.; Dustin McBride, Cisco, Sr.; Tralund Webber, Cameron Yoe, Sr.; Phillip Zuniga, Banquete, Jr.

Linebackers

Alex Coronado, Refugio, Sr.; Anthony Hadnot, Newton, Sr.; Robert Mendez, Slaton, Sr.

Defensive backs

Grant Aschenbeck, East Bernard, Sr.; Kasey Byler, Ballinger, Sr.; Demetrius Gray, Sunnyvale, Sr.; DeVontae Steele, Marlin, Sr.

Punter

Jaden Dement, Clyde, Sr.

HONORABLE MENTION OFFENSE

LINEMEN: Garrett Bowery, Gladewater Union Grove; Lionel DeLeon, Sonora; Tanner Dewbre, Abernathy; Tei Dixon-McDaniel, McGregor; Mathew Graham, Bushland; Jason Heim, White Oak; Juan Hernandez, Littlefield; Mason Holcomb, Childress; Justin Hoskinson, Bangs; Gino Juarez, Brownfield; Jordan Mattox, Newton; Cole Maxwell, Danbury; Conner Mayes, Van Alstyne; Jonathan McAnulty, Cameron Yoe; Logan McMain, Nixon-Smiley; Anthony Norman, Edna; Ty Oliver, Cooper; Dylan Pelton, Leonard; Zach Pfiel, Stockdale; John Ross, Frankston; Dustin Smith, Muleshoe; Johnny Swires, Canadian; Bryan Townsend, Whitesboro; Matthew Wiethorn, Crawford; Tyler Williams, Cooper.

RECEIVERS/ENDS: Tyler Blackwell, Danbury; Cole Brunett, Whitney; Jordan Demps, Brownfield; Dirk DeVries, Dublin; Boston Hudson, Canadian; Colby Lee, Grandview; Austin Ross, Muleshoe; Colton Shuffield, Cameron Yoe; Aaron Sims, Cameron Yoe.

QUARTERBACKS: Ben Arbuckle, Canadian; Ryan Cottingame, Sunnyvale; Luke Dacy, Wall; Jason Kopriva, Cameron Yoe; Josh Moylan, Eastland; Spencer Seman, Danbury.

RUNNING BACKS: D.J. Brown, Post; Brandon Jackson, Tulia; Kevin Johnson, Waskom; Jordan Martinez, Grandview; De'Vonte Mathis, Littlefield; Braden Murphy, Crawford; Jaden Roberts, Comanche; Carson Skala, Rogers; Traion Smith, Cameron Yoe; Solomon Titus, Leonard; Willie Winborne, S&S Consolidated.

KICKERS: Adolfo Cordero, Refugio; Alex Lara, Schulenburg; Devin O'Sullivan, Corsicana Mildred; Zach Tovar, Abernathy.

HONORABLE MENTION DEFENSE

LINEMEN: Brett Boles, McGregor; Garrett Bowery, Gladewater Union Grove; Caden Bruton, Frankston; Elijah Cross, Sonora; Lucas Greenwood, Pilot Point; John Groff, Pilot Point; Nathan Hlavinka, East Bernard; Alexander Hoskins, Teague; Garrett Johnson, Jacksboro; Tristan Jones, Cooper; Justin McGuire, East Bernard; Sadler Pinkerton, Olton.

LINEBACKERS: Michael Alexander, Brownfield; Dylan Dunn, Stockdale; Garrett Gibson, Gladewater Union Grove; Demetrius Hill, Tatum; Aaron Jongema, Aransas Pass; Tavaris Owens, Whitney; Mason Reed, Cisco; Justin Reeves, Hallettsville; Cody Rosales, East Bernard; Bryan Smith, Post; Chris Smith, Jefferson; Kyshaun Smith, Tatum; Gaje Smock, Elkhart; Zach Stavinoha, East Bernard; Dylan Washington, Godley; Somari Wright, Cameron Yoe.

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Colton Adamick, Crawford; Branden Dietzman, McGregor; Garrett Earlywine, Nixon-Smiley; **Braxton Iden, Coahoma;** Colt Labay, Cameron Yoe; Cameron Loveday, Refugio; Devonte Mathis, Littlefield; Eriq Mitchell, Lago Vista; Justin Pratt, Cameron Yoe; Austin Ross, Muleshoe; Chance Seale, McGregor; Draylon Sterling, Corsicana Mildred.

PUNTERS: Jason Kopriva, Cameron Yoe; David Llamas, Bloomington; Ty McKinney, Leonard.

UTPBROUNDUP

FROM STAFF REPORTS

UTPB MEN WIN SHOOTOUT

EDMOND, Okla. — The UTPB men's basketball team used a strong second half to defeat Oklahoma Christian University, 110-101, on Monday.

UTPB (8-2, 2-0 in Heartland Conference) trailed 50-42 at the half but outscored the Eagles, 46-38, in the second half.

The Falcons had five players in double figures, led by Dwayne Soders with 25 points and 11 rebounds, Anthony Dees had 22 points, Keith Martin and Phadarius Taylor each had 17, and Aiden Sauders added 11.

TAYLOR HONORED: In other news, Taylor was named Heartland Conference Co-Player of the Week.

Taylor led UTPB with a season-high 22 points on 7-of-12 shooting in the Falcons' 80-66 win Saturday afternoon at Dallas Baptist.

He is the second Falcon to be recognized by the conference this season, joining Soders from three weeks ago.

Taylor shares the honor with Jeremy Espinoza of Newman who scored 25 points in an 86-81 loss at Emporia State.

LADY FALCONS FALL ON THE ROAD

EDMOND, Okla. — The UTPB women's basketball team shot just 31.1 percent from the floor in a 93-66 loss to Oklahoma Christian University on Monday.

Oklahoma Christian (5-5, 1-3 Heartland Conference) took a commanding 42-23 lead at the half.

UTPB (2-7, 1-4) was led by Katreese Lockett with 14 points, Valerie Barriga had 13 and Tori Cooks added 10.

Scrap divisions? Rivers seems like a 'no' vote

By Brian Mahoney
Associated Press

When Doc Rivers coached in Boston, he said he never talked to the Celtics about winning their division. There were far more important goals.

Rivers

Now Rivers could have a say in whether divisions themselves are important.

With every team in the Atlantic Division below .500, deputy commissioner Adam Silver said in a radio interview last week he expected the league's competition committee to discuss whether it's worth having them.

Rivers is on the committee, and doesn't sound eager to see them go.

"I don't think they should," he said. "I think it would be hard to do."

Winners of the three divisions in each conference are guaranteed a top-four seed in the playoffs. That means the champion of a bad division is not only guaranteed a spot, but possibly a more favorable opponent than a better team.

Returning to the pre-2004 format of two divisions in each conference would help — nobody would be complaining about the Atlantic leader if Miami was still in it — but that would be difficult because they would be unbalanced with 15 teams in each conference.

So perhaps this is like issues such as resting healthy players or intentional fouls away from the ball, where the committee discusses it but eventually declines to recommend changes.

That sounds fine by Rivers.

"Obviously, this year you look at it and you say, 'Wow, it would be nice to have the top 16 teams, or whatever it is,'" said Rivers, now coaching the Los Angeles Clippers.

"This has been going on for a while, but at the end of the day I think it's fine the way it is right now."

The next meeting of the nine-member committee, comprised of coaches, general managers and owners, hasn't been scheduled.

Here are five things to watch this week, including Rivers' team heading home:

THEY MEET AGAIN: The Pacers and Heat meet for the second time this month, this time in Miami for the first time since Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals. Routed that night, the Pacers took the first matchup since with their 90-84 home victory last Tuesday.

POWER PLAYERS: Tim Duncan and Dirk Nowitzki are still around, but the NBA's most productive power forwards right now are Kevin Love and LaMarcus Aldridge, who go head-to-head for the first time this season when Minnesota hosts Portland on Wednesday.

START SWAPPING?: Players who signed free agent contracts in the summer became eligible to be traded Sunday, and some will surely hear their names in trade talks between now and the Feb. 20 deadline.

HARD HOMECOMING: Finally back home from a grueling, seven-game road trip that took them more than 6,000 miles, the Clippers play four tough home games in seven nights, starting with San Antonio on Monday before visits from New Orleans, Denver and Minnesota.

HYPE IT UP: With under 10 days until Christmas, expect to see plenty of commercials in the coming days hyping the NBA's marquee five-game holiday schedule.

STAT LINE OF THE WEEK: With 31 points and a career-high 25 rebounds in Thursday's 111-104 victory over Houston, LaMarcus Aldridge had the first 30-25 game in Trail Blazers history and made a loud statement in the MVP race.

Baquirin

Talley

Fender

Warren

Koym

Brown

Breeding

Wilson

McClendon

9 Mustangs earn TAPPS all-state

From staff reports

Midland Christian had nine different players earn spots on the TAPPS Division II All-State football team, which was announced recently, and two players earned first-team slots on both offense and defense.

Midland Christian junior linebacker/running back Justin Fender was a first team selection as a linebacker and also as a running back. Midland Christian senior wide receiver/defensive back Jarrod Koym, who will leave as the school's all-time leading receiver in terms of yardage, received a first team nod as a receiver and a defensive back.

On defense, senior defensive tackle Erwin Baquirin and junior defensive end Reid Talley were named as first team linemen, junior Kaleb Warren was a linebacker and junior Reagan Brown earned a spot in the secondary.

Senior quarterback Mason McClendon was the first team quarterback, and sophomore Bryson Breeding and junior Johnny Wilson earned a slot on the first team as offensive linemen.

The Mustangs had four players earn spots on the second team. Senior defensive end Dakota Jones was a defensive lineman, junior linebacker Will Sanford a linebacker, senior offensive lineman Justin Galindo, senior receiver Elias Aguirre, and freshman McLane Mannix as an athlete.

Senior cornerback Britt Hooper and junior kicker Travis Causey received honorable mention.

HS FOOTBALL PAIRINGS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
State Championship
Allen (15-0) vs. Pearland (14-1), 4 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
State Championship
Cedar Hill (13-2) vs. Katy (15-0), 8 p.m. Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
State Championship
Denton Guyer (13-2) vs. SA Northside Brennan (15-0), 8 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
State Championship
Aledo (15-0) vs. Brenham (14-1), noon Saturday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I
State Championship
Kilgore (14-0) vs. Carthage (14-1), noon Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
State Championship
Argyle (15-0) vs. Fairfield (15-0), 4 p.m. Friday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
State Championship
Wall (15-0) vs. Cameron Yoe (14-1), 5 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION II
State Championship
Cisco (15-0) vs. Refugio (14-1), 8 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 1A DIVISION I
State Championship
Stamford (13-1) vs. Shiner (11-3), 10 a.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 1A DIVISION II
State Championship
Wellington (13-0) vs. Falls City (14-0), 1 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

SIX-MAN DIVISION I
State Championship
Crowell 78, May 52

SIX-MAN DIVISION II
State Championship
Grandfalls-Royalty 78, Milford 23

NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PISTONS 101
PACERS 96

INDIANAPOLIS — Josh Smith had 30 points, Greg Monroe finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds, and the Detroit Pistons handed Indiana its first home loss Monday night, stunning the Pacers 101-96.

The Pistons won for the second time in six games, ending a six-game skid in the series and a nine-game losing streak on the Pacers home court.

Michael Conroy/AP

Detroit Pistons guard Will Bynum, left center, makes a pass between Indiana's Ian Mahinmi, left, Rasual Butler, right center, and Luis Scola in the first half of Monday's game in Indianapolis

NETS 130
76ERS 94

NEW YORK — Joe Johnson made 10 3-pointers, most in the NBA this season, and scored a season-high 37 points to lead Brooklyn over Philadelphia.

HAWKS 114
LAKERS 100

ATLANTA — Kyle Korver sank three 3-pointers in Atlanta's dominant third quarter, Al Horford scored 19 points to lead the Hawks past cold-shooting Kobe Bryant and Los Angeles.

WIZARDS 102
KNICKS 101

NEW YORK — Bradley Beal's driving layup with 6 seconds remaining carried Washington past New York.

HEAT 117
JAZZ 94

MIAMI — LeBron James finished with 30 points, nine rebounds and nine assists despite sitting some of the second half after twisting his left ankle, Dwyane Wade added 27 points and Miami rolled past Utah.

CELTICS 101
TIMBERWOLVES 97

BOSTON — Jared Sullinger had 24 points and 11 rebounds, including a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 2:22 left that helped Boston Celtics hold off Minnesota.

MAGIC 83
BULLS 82

CHICAGO — Arron Afflalo scored 23 points and the Orlando Magic got double-doubles from Glen Davis and Nikola Vucevic in an 83-82 victory over the slumping Chicago Bulls on Monday night.

NBA STANDINGS AND BOXES

STANDINGS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	12	14	.462	—
Toronto	9	13	.409	1
Brooklyn	9	15	.375	2
New York	7	17	.292	4
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	5
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Miami	18	6	.750	—
Atlanta	13	12	.520	5 1/2
Washington	10	13	.435	7 1/2
Charlotte	10	14	.417	8
Orlando	8	17	.320	10 1/2
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Indiana	20	4	.833	—
Detroit	12	14	.462	9
Chicago	9	14	.391	10 1/2
Cleveland	9	14	.391	10 1/2
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	4	.826	—
Houston	16	9	.640	4
Dallas	14	10	.583	5 1/2
New Orleans	11	11	.500	7 1/2
Memphis	10	13	.435	9
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
Portland	21	4	.840	—
Oklahoma City	19	4	.826	1
Denver	14	9	.609	6
Minnesota	12	13	.480	9
Utah	6	21	.222	16
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct**	**GB**
L.A. Clippers	16	9	.640	—
Phoenix	14	9	.609	1
Golden State	13	12	.520	3
L.A. Lakers	11	13	.458	4 1/2
Sacramento	7	15	.318	7 1/2

Monday's Scores
Detroit 101, Indiana 96
Brooklyn 130, Philadelphia 94
Boston 101, Minnesota 97
Miami 117, Utah 94
Atlanta 114, L.A. Lakers 100
Washington 102, New York 101
Orlando 83, Chicago 82
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, late

Today's Games
Portland at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Sacramento at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Denver, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOXES

HAWKS 114, LAKERS 100

L.A. LAKERS (100): Johnson 3-9 0-0 6, Hill 8-8 5-6 21, Gasol 7-9 2-4 16, Bryant 4-14 0-1 8, Meeks 1-8 0-0 2, Henry 6-14 6-6 18, S.Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Young 7-14 4-4 23, Sacre 3-4 0-0 6, Kelly 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-82 17-21 100.

ATLANTA (114): Carroll 5-11 2-2 13, Millsap 6-13 4-5 18, Horford 9-17 1-1 19, Teague 6-16 3-4 17, Korver 4-10 0-0 11, Brand 4-5 0-0 8, L.Williams 2-8 0-0 5, Mack 4-6 0-0 9, Scott 5-6 3-3 14. Totals 45-92 13-15 114.

L.A. Lakers	28	26	19	27	— 100
Atlanta	20	27	35	32	— 114

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 5-21 (Young 5-7, S.Williams 0-2, Johnson 0-2, Henry 0-2, Meeks 0-3, Bryant 0-5), Atlanta 11-27 (Korver 3-8, Teague 2-3, Millsap 2-4, Mack 1-2, L.Williams 1-2, Scott 1-2, Carroll 1-5, Horford 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 46 (Gasol 10), Atlanta 50 (Horford 11). Assists—L.A. Lakers 18 (Bryant 6), Atlanta 34 (Teague 10). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 16, Atlanta 18. Technicals—Teague. A—15,146 (18,729).

PISTONS 101, PACERS 96

DETROIT (101): Smith 13-29 3-4 30, Monroe 5-9 3-5 13, Drummond 4-5 1-6 9, Jennings 4-13 8-9 18, Caldwell-Pope 3-11 0-0 8, Harrellson 3-6 0-0 7, Singler 1-3 2-2 4, Stuckey 1-5 0-0 2, Bynum 3-6 1-2 7, Jerebko 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 38-88 18-28 101.

INDIANA (96): George 4-14 8-8 17, West 6-13 2-4 14, Hibbert 2-12 2-2 6, G.Hill 2-6 2-2 7, Stephenson 9-14 4-5 23, Butler 2-3 0-0 5, Scola 8-11 2-4 18, Watson 2-5 0-2 6, Johnson 0-3 0-0 0, Mahinmi 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-81 20-27 96.

Detroit	31	25	23	22	— 101
Indiana	28	21	24	23	— 96

3-Point Goals—Detroit 7-20 (Jennings 2-5, Caldwell-Pope 2-7, Jerebko 1-1, Harrellson 1-2, Smith 1-4, Singler 0-1), Indiana 6-17 (Watson 2-4, Stephenson 1-2, Butler 1-2, G.Hill 1-2, George 1-5, Johnson 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 63 (Monroe 12), Indiana 50 (George 9). Assists—Detroit 14 (Jennings 8), Indiana 18 (Stephenson 6). Total Fouls—Detroit 20, Indiana 20. Technicals—Smith. A—15,443 (18,165).

CELTICS 101, TIMBERWOLVES

MINNESOTA (97): Hummel 1-4 0-0 2, Love 9-26 7-11 27, Pekovic 6-15 1-4 13, Rubio 2-12 1-2 6, Brewer 1-8 2-2 4, Cunningham 5-6 2-2 12, Mbah a Moute 4-4 0-0 9, Barea 4-10 0-0 10, Shved 3-9 2-4 10, Dieng 2-4 0-1 4. Totals 37-98 15-26 97.

BOSTON (101): Green 3-11 1-1 8, Bass 0-5 0-0 0, Sullinger 7-14 9-11 24, Crawford 6-14 2-2 15, Bradley 9-17 0-0 19, Humphries 4-5 0-0 8, Olynyk 2-3 3-4 9, Wallace 1-3 1-3 4, Lee 1-4 2-2 4, Faverani 3-4 0-0 6, Pressey 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 38-86 18-23 101.

Minnesota	21	29	19	28	— 97
Boston	29	22	23	27	— 101

3-Point Goals—Minnesota 8-29 (Barea 2-4, Shved 2-6, Love 2-11, Mbah a Moute 1-1, Rubio 1-3, Hummel 0-1, Brewer 0-3), Boston 7-21 (Olynyk 2-2, Wallace 1-2, Sullinger 1-2, Green 1-4, Crawford 1-4, Bradley 1-5, Faverani 0-1, Lee 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 67 (Love 14), Boston 58 (Sullinger 11). Assists—Minnesota 22 (Barea 11), Boston 19 (Sullinger 5). Total Fouls—Minnesota 20, Boston 25. Technicals—Boston defensive three second. A—17,071 (18,624).

HEAT 117, JAZZ 94

UTAH (94): Jefferson 1-5 0-0 3, Williams 4-10 0-0 8, Favors 8-12 1-3 17, Burke 1-8 0-0 3, Hayward 2-8 3-4 7, Burks 12-17 5-8 31, Evans 2-6 0-0 4, Rush 0-1 0-0 0, Kanter 6-11 2-2 14, Garrett 1-2 0-0 3, Lucas III 0-0 0-0 0, Biedrins 0-0 0-0 0, Harris 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 39-84 11-17 94.

MIAMI (117): James 13-17 4-5 30, Battier 0-0 0-0 0, Bosh 8-13 4-5 20, Chalmers 4-7 1-2 12, Wade 9-14 9-10 27, Allen 2-6 0-0 5, Andersen 0-0 1-2 1, Lewis 1-3 0-0 3, Cole 5-7 2-2 13, Mason Jr. 1-1 0-0 2, Haslem 1-2 0-0 2, Anthony 1-1 0-0 2, Jones 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 45-71 21-26 117.

Utah	20	30	21	23	— 94
Miami	26	21	36	34	— 117

3-Point Goals—Utah 5-18 (Burks 2-4, Garrett 1-1, Jefferson 1-2, Burke 1-4, Williams 0-3, Hayward 0-4), Miami 6-15 (Chalmers 3-3, Lewis 1-3, Cole 1-3, Allen 1-4, James 0-1, Bosh 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 38 (Kanter 8), Miami 44 (James 9). Assists—Utah 17 (Burks 7), Miami 28 (James 9). Total Fouls—Utah 20, Miami 14. A—19,600 (19,600).

WIZARDS 102, KNICKS 101

WASHINGTON (102): Ariza 4-6 1-1 10, Booker 3-3 0-0 6, Gortat 4-14 1-2 9, Wall 7-16 5-6 20, Beal 9-16 0-0 21, Webster 9-13 6-7 30, Seraphin 1-2 0-0 2, Vesely 1-1 0-1 2, Temple 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 39-72 13-17 102.

NEW YORK (101): J.Smith 6-16 1-2 18, Anthony 12-20 7-8 32, Bargnani 4-12 5-6 13, Prigioni 0-3 0-0 0, Shumpert 2-8 2-2 8, Stoudemire 1-7 2-4 4, Hardaway Jr. 5-6 2-3 14, Udrih 3-7 5-6 12, World Peace 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-79 24-31 101.

Washington	26	27	22	27	— 102
New York	21	21	35	24	— 101

3-Point Goals—Washington 11-18 (Webster 6-8, Beal 3-5, Ariza 1-2, Wall 1-3), New York 11-30 (J.Smith 5-11, Hardaway Jr. 2-3, Shumpert 2-5, Udrih 1-2, Anthony 1-5, Bargnani 0-1, Prigioni 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 47 (Gortat, Beal 7), New York 43 (Shumpert 9). Assists—Washington 21 (Wall 8), New York 21 (J.Smith 6). Total Fouls—Washington 25, New York 20. Technicals—Washington defensive three second. A—19,812 (19,763).

NETS 130, 76ERS 100

PHILADELPHIA (94): Turner 3-11 1-2 9, Young 6-13 2-4 14, Hawes 1-5 0-0 2, Wroten 5-13 2-4 13, Thompson 2-10 2-2 7, J.Anderson 7-14 0-0 17, Allen 3-4 1-2 7, Brown 3-6 0-0 6, Davies 3-7 3-4 9, E.Williams 4-7 1-2 10. Totals 37-90 12-20 94.

BROOKLYN (130): A.Anderson 5-7 1-1 13, Teletovic 4-8 1-4 11, Garnett 4-8 1-2 9, D.Williams 5-8 0-1 13, Johnson 13-20 1-1 37, Blatche 8-12 4-5 20, Pierce 3-7 5-7 14, Plumlee 2-4 1-2 5, Livingston 2-2 0-0 5, Shengelia 1-1 1-3 3, Taylor 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 47-78 15-26 130.

Philadelphia	22	26	25	21	— 94
Brooklyn	32	26	42	30	— 130

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 8-30 (J.Anderson 3-7, Turner 2-4, E.Williams 1-2, Wroten 1-5, Thompson 1-6, Young 0-1, Hawes 0-2, Brown 0-3), Brooklyn 21-35 (Johnson 10-14, Pierce 3-5, D.Williams 3-5, A.Anderson 2-4, Teletovic 2-6, Livingston 1-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 52 (Allen 8), Brooklyn 51 (Plumlee 8). Assists—Philadelphia 21 (Turner 5), Brooklyn 35 (D.Williams 13). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 24, Brooklyn 20. Technicals—Brooklyn defensive three second. A—16,733 (17,732).

MAGIC 83, BULLS 82

ORLANDO (83): Afflalo 8-14 5-6 23, Davis 6-15 2-4 14, Vucevic 5-9 0-0 10, Nelson 6-13 0-0 14, Oladipo 3-12 2-2 8, Harkless 1-3 0-1 2, Nicholson 2-6 0-0 4, Harris 1-7 3-3 5, Moore 1-3 0-0 3, O'Quinn 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 33-83 12-16 83.

CHICAGO (82): Deng 8-16 9-12 26, Boozer 3-10 0-0 6, Noah 4-9 5-6 13, Teague 0-3 0-0 0, Butler 1-11 2-2 4, Gibson 1-7 1-2 3, Augustin 5-15 2-2 14, Dunleavy 5-9 2-2 14, Snell 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 28-81 21-26 82.

Orlando	21	22	24	16	— 83
Chicago	14	21	24	23	— 82

3-Point Goals—Orlando 5-12 (Afflalo 2-2, Nelson 2-4, Moore 1-2, Nicholson 0-1, Oladipo 0-1, Harris 0-2), Chicago 5-18 (Dunleavy 2-5, Augustin 2-7, Deng 1-2, Butler 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 59 (Vucevic, Davis 11), Chicago 53 (Boozer 13). Assists—Orlando 21 (Nelson 7), Chicago 19 (Augustin 8). Total Fouls—Orlando 20, Chicago 20. Technicals—Davis, Boozer. A—21,200 (20,917).

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Arizona (63)	11-0	1,623	1
2. Syracuse (2)	10-0	1,528	2
3. Ohio St.	10-0	1,464	3
4. Wisconsin	12-0	1,381	4
5. Michigan St.	8-1	1,297	5
6. Louisville	9-1	1,264	6
7. Oklahoma St.	9-1	1,165	7
8. Duke	7-2	1,053	8
8. Villanova	10-0	1,053	10
10. UConn	9-0	1,035	9
11. Wichita St.	10-0	923	12
12. Baylor	**8-1**	**898**	**14**
13. Oregon	9-0	834	15
14. North Carolina	7-2	792	18
15. Memphis	7-1	755	16
16. Florida	7-2	699	19
17. Iowa St.	8-0	698	17
18. Kansas	7-3	482	13
19. Kentucky	8-3	414	11
20. Colorado	10-1	405	21
21. Gonzaga	10-1	376	20
22. UMass	9-0	351	22
23. Missouri	10-0	222	24
24. San Diego St.	7-1	176	25
25. Iowa	10-2	72	23

Others receiving votes: UCLA 69, Pittsburgh 66, Saint Mary's (Cal) 11, George Washington 5, Harvard 4, Oklahoma 4, Michigan 3, Toledo 3.

USA TODAY TOP 25

Prv	Record	Pts	
1. Arizona (30)	11-0	798	1
2. Ohio State (1)	10-0	748	2
2. Syracuse (1)	10-0	748	3
4. Louisville	9-1	676	4
5. Michigan State	8-1	653	5
6. Wisconsin	12-0	645	6
7. Oklahoma State	9-1	555	9
8. Duke	7-2	553	7
9. Wichita State	10-0	545	8
10. UConn	9-0	494	12
11. Oregon	9-0	490	11
12. Villanova	10-0	413	14
13. Iowa State	8-0	351	16
14. Memphis	7-1	349	15
15. Gonzaga	10-1	311	16
15. Baylor	**8-1**	**311**	**18**
17. Florida	7-2	296	19
18. North Carolina	7-2	288	21
19. Kansas	7-3	232	13
20. UMass	9-0	229	20
21. Kentucky	8-3	217	10
22. UCLA	9-1	91	23
23. San Diego State	7-1	90	24
24. Colorado	10-1	88	—
25. Missouri	10-0	76	—

Others receiving votes: Iowa 53, Pittsburgh 48, Saint Mary's 24, Creighton 9, Michigan 7, George Washington 5, New Mexico 3, Virginia 3, Oklahoma 1.

MONDAY'S TOP 25 FARED

1. Arizona (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Southern U., Thursday.
2. Syracuse (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. High Point, Friday.
3. Ohio State (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Delaware, Wednesday.
4. Wisconsin (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Prairie View, Saturday, Dec. 28.
5. Michigan State (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Florida, Tuesday.
6. Louisville (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri State, Tuesday.
7. Oklahoma State (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Delaware State, Tuesday.
8. Duke (8-2) beat Gardner-Webb 85-66. Next: vs. UCLA, Thursday.
8. Villanova (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Rider, Saturday.
10. UConn (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Wednesday.
11. Wichita State (10-0) did not play. Next: at Alabama, Tuesday.
12. Baylor (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern State, Wednesday.
13. Oregon (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. UC Irvine, Tuesday.
14. North Carolina (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. Texas, Wednesday.
15. Memphis (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Florida, Tuesday.
16. Florida (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Memphis, Tuesday.
17. Iowa State (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. George Mason, Sunday.
18. Kansas (7-3) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday.
19. Kentucky (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. Belmont, Saturday.
20. Colorado (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Oklahoma State, Saturday.
21. Gonzaga (10-1) did not play. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.
22. UMass (9-0) did not play. Next: at Ohio, Wednesday.
23. Missouri (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois, Saturday.
24. San Diego State (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Southern Utah, Wednesday.
25. Iowa (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Sunday.

MONDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
New Orleans 71, UTEP 69
MIDWEST
Akron 74, Oral Roberts 64
Chicago St. 81, SIU-Edwardsville 64
Cleveland St. 66, W. Carolina 55
N. Dakota St. 85, Delaware 66
Northwestern 86, MVSU 64
Oakland 90, Illinois St. 75
SOUTH
Alabama St. 59, W. Illinois 52
Duke 85, Gardner-Webb 66
ETSU 108, Tusculum 87
Georgia Tech 74, Kennesaw St. 57
Mercer 70, Alcorn St. 44
UT-Martin 73, Presbyterian 70
EAST
Canisius 83, Holy Cross 7
FAR WEST
N. Colorado 63, UC Riverside 60
Santa Clara 75, Radford 62

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Cent. Arkansas at North Texas, 11:30 a.m.
Texas-Arlington at Oklahoma, 7 p.m.
Delaware St. at Oklahoma St., 7 p.m.
Toledo at Arkansas St., 7:05 p.m.
Bacone at Abilene Christian, 7:30 p.m.
SOUTH
Charlotte at Florida St., 6 p.m.
Howard at Liberty, 6 p.m.
Va. Intermont at Longwood, 6 p.m.
Alice Lloyd at Marshall, 6 p.m.
Manhattan at South Carolina, 6 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at South Florida, 6 p.m.
Jacksonville at UCF, 6 p.m.
Wofford at VCU, 6 p.m.
St. Bonaventure at Wake Forest, 6 p.m.
McNeese St. at Louisiana Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at SC State, 6:30 p.m.
FAU at Stetson, 6:30 p.m.
Tenn. Temple at Middle Tennessee, 7 p.m.
Florida A&M at Mississippi St., 7 p.m.
S. Illinois at Murray St., 7 p.m.
Washington at Tulane, 7 p.m.
Centenary at Louisiana-Lafayette, 7:05 p.m.
Dillard at South Alabama, 7:05 p.m.
Cent. Michigan at Jacksonville St., 7:45 p.m.
Wichita St. at Alabama, 8 p.m.
Missouri St. at Louisville, 8 p.m.
Austin Peay at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m.
MIDWEST
North Florida at Michigan St., 6 p.m.
Md.-Eastern Shore at Purdue, 6 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman at Youngstown St., 6:05 p.m.
Ark.-Pine Bluff at Creighton, 7 p.m.
Tennessee Tech at Green Bay, 7 p.m.
Purdue-Calumet at Ill.-Chicago, 7:8 p.m.
Ball St. at Marquette, 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
New Mexico St. at New Mexico, 8 p.m.
Belmont at Denver, 9 p.m.
Cal Poly at Loyola Marymount, 9 p.m.
UC Irvine at Oregon, 9:30 p.m.
EAST
Pittsburgh vs. Cincinnati at Madison Square Garden, 6 p.m.
Elon at Georgetown, 6 p.m.
Yale at Providence, 6 p.m.
Duquesne at St. Francis (Pa.), 6 p.m.
Florida vs. Memphis at Madison Square Garden, 8 p.m.

Women

AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. UConn (36)	10-0	900	1
2. Duke	10-0	864	2
3. Tennessee	9-0	804	3
4. Notre Dame	9-0	778	4
5. Kentucky	11-0	764	5
6. Stanford	8-1	728	6
7. Louisville	10-1	674	7
8. Maryland	10-1	650	8
9. Baylor	**8-1**	**630**	**9**
10. South Carolina	9-0	530	10
11. Colorado	9-0	517	11
12. LSU	8-1	465	13
13. Oklahoma St.	8-0	419	14
14. North Carolina	8-2	388	15
15. Iowa St.	9-0	378	17
16. Georgia	10-0	344	16
17. Penn St.	7-3	323	12
18. Purdue	6-2	267	18
19. Nebraska	8-2	249	19
20. Oklahoma	6-3	232	20
21. California	7-2	200	22
22. Iowa	10-2	126	21
23. Syracuse	8-1	122	25
24. Florida St.	8-1	98	—
25. Gonzaga	8-2	72	23

Others receiving votes: Arizona St. 51, **Texas A&M 44**, Arizona St. 50, Arkansas 32, **Texas 15**, San Diego 9, West Virginia 8, **UTEP 7**, Georgia Tech 4, Indiana 4, Middle Tennessee 2, BYU 1, Saint Joseph's 1.

MONDAY'S TOP 25 FARED

1. UConn (10-0) did not play. Next: at No. 2 Duke, Tuesday.
2. Duke (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 UConn, Tuesday.
3. Tennessee (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee State, Tuesday.
4. Notre Dame (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Central Michigan, Sunday.
5. Kentucky (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 2 Duke, Sunday.
6. Stanford (9-1) beat New Mexico 75-41. Next: vs. No. 3 Tennessee, Saturday.
7. Louisville (10-1) did not play. Next: at Ball State, Tuesday.
8. Maryland (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Wofford, Saturday, Dec. 28.
9. Baylor (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Wednesday.
10. South Carolina (9-0) did not play. Next vs. No. 14 North Carolina, Wednesday.
11. Colorado (9-0) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Louisville, Saturday.
12. LSU (8-1) did not play. Next: vs. Florida Gulf Coast, Tuesday.
13. Oklahoma State (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan State, Thursday.
14. North Carolina (9-2) beat New Orleans 124-41. Next: vs. No. 10 South Carolina, Wednesday.
15. Iowa State (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Holy Cross, Saturday, Dec. 28.
16. Georgia (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Lipscomb, Tuesday.
17. Penn State (7-3) did not play. Next: vs. Alcorn State, Sunday.
18. Purdue (6-2) did not play. Next: at Green Bay, Wednesday.
19. Nebraska (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. South Dakota, Saturday.
20. Oklahoma (6-3) did not play. Next: at Fairfield, Wednesday.
21. California (7-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 UConn, Sunday.
22. Iowa (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Drake, Saturday.
23. Syracuse (9-1) beat Temple 82-76. Next: vs. Niagara, Thursday.
24. Florida State (9-1) beat North Florida 61-42. Next: vs. Pacific, Friday.
25. Gonzaga (9-2) beat UC Riverside 87-43. Next: at Washington State, Saturday.

MONDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
Southern Miss 71, Cent. Arkansas 60
SOUTH
Appalachian St. 83, Radford 60
Armstrong Atlantic 75, Young Harris 70
Bridgewater (Va.) 94, Averett 85
Campbell 56, NC Central 45
Catawba 81, Virginia Intermont 61
Chattanooga 66, Elon 43
Cumberland (Tenn.) 70, Milligan 50
FIU 70, Tennessee Tech 65
Florida St. 61, North Florida 42
Freed-Hardeman 61, Auburn-Montgomery 47
Georgia Southern 79, Wofford 70
Indianapolis 69, Lincoln Memorial 46
Lee 58, West Florida 53
Middle Tennessee 63, UCF 51
Mississippi 72, South Alabama 56
North Carolina 124, New Orleans 41
Samford 65, UNC-Greensboro 52
Southern NO 81, Spring Hill 53
Transylvania 117, Midway 100
W. Carolina 56, Charleston Southern 47
Wake Forest 68, UNC Wilmington 44
Xavier (NO) 70, Puerto Rico 47
MIDWEST
Ashland 84, Saginaw Valley St. 78
Baker 72, Central Methodist 63
Concordia (Wis.) 75, Alverno 65, OT
DePaul 90, Dartmouth 76
Illinois College 91, Lawrence 54
Missouri 82, Belmont 70
Northwestern 84, Oral Roberts 54
S. Illinois 66, E. Illinois 60
Wis.-Oshkosh 58, St. Norbert 56
FAR WEST
Cal Poly 80, Pepperdine 77
Gonzaga 87, UC Riverside 43
Stanford 75, New Mexico 41
EAST
Holy Family 87, Wilmington (Del.) 70
Mount St. Mary's 64, American U. 61
Syracuse 82, Temple 76
Vermont 74, Canisius 51
TOURNAMENT
Transylvania Classic First Round
Maryville (Tenn.) 80, Roanoke 71

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Nicholls St. at Texas A&M, 11 a.m.
Texas Wesleyan at Abilene Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Talladega at Ark.-Pine Bluff, 6 p.m.
SOUTH
Jacksonville at Alabama, 11 a.m.
Charlotte at Stetson, 4 p.m.
East Carolina at Norfolk St., 5 p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at Florida, 5 p.m.
Mercer at Jacksonville St., 5:15 p.m.
Md.-Eastern Shore at Virginia, 6 p.m.
Portland St. at Georgia Tech, 6 p.m.
UConn at Duke, 6 p.m.
Florida A&M at Alabama St., 6 p.m.
N.C. A&T at UNC Asheville, 6 p.m.
Tennessee St. at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
Lipscomb at Georgia, 6 p.m.
Ark.-Monticello at Northwestern St., 7 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at LSU, 7 p.m.
Louisiana Tech at McNeese St., 7 p.m.
S.C. State at Alabama A&M, 7 p.m.
High Point at UAB, 7 p.m.
MIDWEST
SIU Edwardsville at Drake, 12:05 p.m.
Louisville at Ball St., 6 p.m.
UT Martin at Ohio St., 6 p.m.
UMass at Kent St., 6 p.m.
Akron at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.
N. Illinois at S. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
Mississippi St. at N. Dakota St., 7 p.m.
FAR WEST
North Texas at Denver, 7 p.m.
Northwest College at E. Washington, 8 p.m.
Montana at Wyoming, 8 p.m.
Miami (Ohio) at Long Beach St., 9 p.m.
EAST
Buffalo at St. Bonaventure, 6 p.m.

Ravens beat Lions on Tucker's 6 field goals

Ravens.....18
Lions.....16

By Larry Lage
Associated Press

DETROIT — The defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens moved a step closer toward having a shot at defending their title.

Justin Tucker had a lot to do with that.

Tucker's franchise-record 61-yard field goal with 38 seconds left lifted Baltimore to an 18-16 win over the Detroit Lions in a Monday night matchup with major playoff implications.

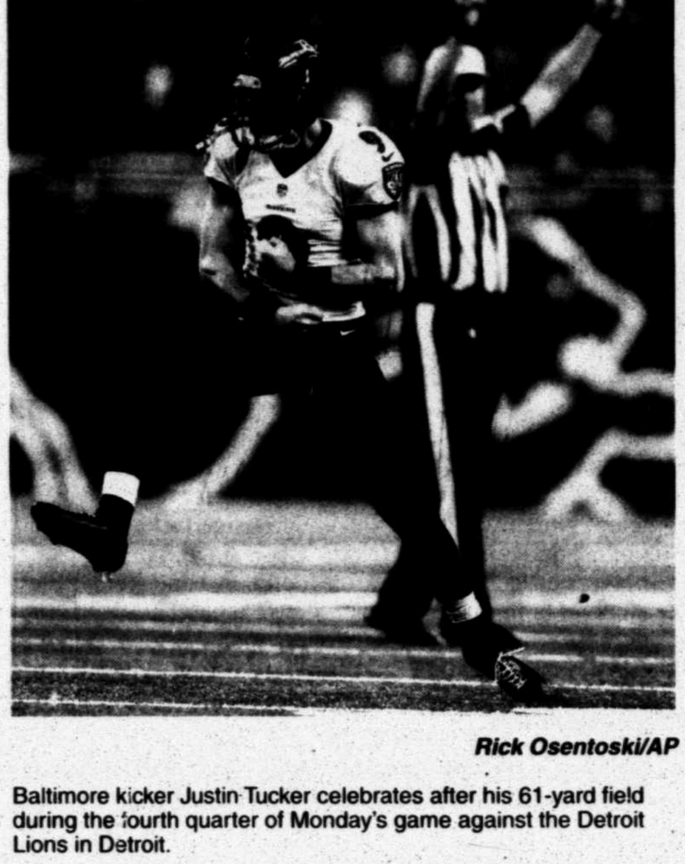
Ravens rookie safety Matt Elam sealed the victory with an interception — Matthew Stafford's third of the night.

Stafford threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Joseph Fauria with 2:21 left, putting Detroit ahead 16-15. But the Lions were unable to make a 2-point conversion and couldn't prevent Baltimore from setting up its sensational kicker for his sixth field goal of the game and 33rd in a row.

Tucker's kick went just inside the right upright and barely had enough distance, eight days after Denver's Matt Prater broke the NFL record with a 64-yard field goal.

"Didn't get all of it, got enough of it," Tucker said. "Just glad to get out of here with a victory at a time when the team needed one."

Tucker, who hasn't missed a field goal since he was 0 for 2 in Week 2 at Cleveland, has the NFL's longest streak since Matt Stover made 36 in a row for the Ravens from 2005-06, according to STATS.



Rick Osentoski/AP

Baltimore kicker Justin Tucker celebrates after his 61-yard field during the fourth quarter of Monday's game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit.

Detroit (7-7) has hurt its playoff chances by losing four of its last five, falling out of sole possession of first place in the NFC North to third place behind the division-leading Chicago Bears and Green Bay.

Stafford's three interceptions followed a troubling trend for the franchise.

He has 12 interceptions in his last five games. Not coincidently, the Lions have been able to overcome those miscues well enough to win only one game during the slump.

Joe Flacco, meanwhile, didn't turn the ball over and made enough subtle moves in and around the pocket to get sacked only once. He has been sacked a career-high 42 times this season, but he stayed upright enough to move the ball into position for Tucker's big kick.

NFL STANDINGS AND BOX

STANDINGS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
New England	10	4	0	.714	369	311
Miami	8	6	0	.571	310	296
N Y Jets	6	8	0	.429	246	367
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	300	354
South						
y-Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	338	319
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	326	355
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	221	399
Houston	2	12	0	.143	253	375
North						
Cincinnati	9	5	0	.643	354	274
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	296	277
Pittsburgh	6	8	0	.429	321	332
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	288	362
West						
x-Denver	11	3	0	.786	535	372
x-Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	399	255
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	343	311
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	295	393

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
Philadelphia	8	6	0	.571	364	349
Dallas	7	7	0	.500	393	385
N Y Giants	5	9	0	.357	251	357
Washington	3	11	0	.214	305	434
South						
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	359	270
Carolina	10	4	0	.714	328	208
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	258	324
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	309	388
North						
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	406	391
Green Bay	7	6	1	.536	353	362
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	362	339
Minnesota	4	9	1	.321	363	425
West						
x-Seattle	12	2	0	.857	380	205
San Francisco	10	4	0	.714	349	228
Arizona	9	5	0	.643	342	291
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	316	324

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday, Dec. 12
San Diego 27, Denver 20

Sunday's Scores
Minnesota 48, Philadelphia 30
Atlanta 27, Washington 26
San Francisco 33, Tampa Bay 14
Seattle 23, N Y Giants 0
Chicago 38, Cleveland 31
Indianapolis 25, Houston 3
Buffalo 27, Jacksonville 20
Miami 24, New England 20
Kansas City 56, Oakland 31
Carolina 30, N Y Jets 20
Arizona 37, Tennessee 34, OT
St. Louis 27, New Orleans 16
Green Bay 37, Dallas 36
Pittsburgh 30, Cincinnati 20

Monday's Score
Baltimore 18, Detroit 16

Sunday, Dec. 22
Tampa Bay at St. Louis, Noon
Indianapolis at Kansas City, Noon
Denver at Houston, Noon
Miami at Buffalo, Noon
New Orleans at Carolina, Noon
Dallas at Washington, Noon
Cleveland at N Y Jets, Noon
Minnesota at Cincinnati, Noon
Tennessee at Jacksonville, Noon
Arizona at Seattle, 3:05 p.m.
N Y Giants at Detroit, 3:05 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 3:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Green Bay, 3:25 p.m.
New England at Baltimore, 3:25 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 23
Atlanta at San Francisco, 7:40 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOX
RAVENS 18, LIONS 16

Baltimore	0	9	3	6	—18
Detroit	7	0	3	6	—16

First Quarter
Det—Bush 14 run (Akers kick), 10:57

Second Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 29, 12:49
Bal—FG Tucker 24, 2:32
Bal—FG Tucker 32, :00

Third Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 49, 8:00
Det—FG Akers 40, 1:49

Fourth Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 53, 8:06
Det—Fauria 14 pass from Stafford (pass failed), 2:21
Bal—FG Tucker 61, :38
A—64,742

	Bal	Det
First downs	18	19
Total Net Yards	305	349
Rushes-yards	21-90	28-119
Passing	215	230
Comp-Att-Int	20-38-0	18-34-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-7	1-5
Punts	5-48.0	5-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-60	8-89
Time of Possession	27:35	32:25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Baltimore: Rice 12-56, Pierce 7-21, Flacco 2-13, Detroit: Bush 17-86, Bell 9-24, Stafford 2-9.

PASSING—Baltimore: Flacco 20-38-0-222. Detroit: Stafford 18-34-3-235.

RECEIVING—Baltimore: J.Jones 6-80, T.Smith 4-69, M.Brown 4-31, Dickson 3-10, Pitta 2-24, Rice 1-6. Detroit: Johnson 6-98, Burleson 4-51, Pettigrew 2-23, Bush 2-15, Bell 1-23, Fauria 1-14, Riddick 1-6, Durham 1-5.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None

Tech assistant going to TCU

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — TCU's offensive makeover continues.

Sonny Cumbie will be the Horned Frogs' next quarterbacks coach, several sources close to the program have confirmed.

Cumbie comes from Texas Tech where he has been an assistant. He spent the 2013 season as the Red Raiders' co-offensive coordinator and outside receivers coach. Cumbie joins Doug Meacham who was recently hired to be TCU's offensive coordinator.

TCU has not announced the new positions of former co-offensive coordinators Rusty Burns and Jarrett Anderson. Burns had also coached quarterbacks and Anderson also coached running backs.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCORES AND SCHEDULES

College Football FBS Bowl Glance

Saturday, Dec. 21
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Washington State (6-6) vs. Colorado State (7-6), 1 p.m. (ESPN) Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno State (11-1) vs. Southern Cal (9-4), 2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Buffalo (8-4) vs. San Diego State (7-5), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)
New Orleans Bowl
Tulane (7-5) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 23
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Ohio (7-5) vs. East Carolina (9-3), 1 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Oregon State (6-6) vs. Boise State (8-4), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 26
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Bowling Green (10-3) vs. Pittsburgh (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Northern Illinois (12-1) vs. Utah State (8-5), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Marshall (9-4) vs. Maryland (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Minnesota (8-4) vs. Syracuse (6-6), 5 p.m. (ESPN)
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
BYU (8-4) vs. Washington (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Dec. 28
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Notre Dame (8-4) vs. Rutgers (6-6), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Cincinnati (9-3) vs. North Carolina (6-6), 2:20 p.m. (ESPN)
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Miami (9-3) vs. Louisville (11-1), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Kansas State (7-5) vs. Michigan (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth
Middle Tennessee (8-4) vs. Navy (8-4), 10:45 a.m. (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 2:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Oregon (10-2) vs. Texas (8-4), 5:45 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Arizona State (10-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5), 9:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 31
AdvoCare V100 Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Boston College (7-5), 11:30 a.m. (ESPN)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Virginia Tech (8-4) vs. UCLA (9-3), 1 p.m. (CBS)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Rice (9-3) vs. Mississippi State (6-6), 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Texas A&M (8-4) vs. Duke (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 1
Heart of Dallas Bowl
At Dallas
UNLV (7-5) vs. North Texas (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPNU)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Nebraska (8-4) vs. Georgia (8-4), 11 a.m. (ESPN2)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), Noon (ABC)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Iowa (8-4) vs. LSU (9-3), Noon (ESPN)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Stanford (11-2) vs. Michigan State (12-1), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Baylor (11-1) vs. UCF (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Jan. 2
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Alabama (11-1) vs. Oklahoma (10-2), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 3
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Ohio State (12-1) vs. Clemson (10-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington
Missouri (11-2) vs. Oklahoma State (10-2), 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 4
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Vanderbilt (8-4) vs. Houston (8-4), Noon (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 5
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (7-5) vs. Ball State (10-2), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 6
BCS National Championship
At Pasadena, Calif.
Florida State (13-0) vs. Auburn (12-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 18
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

Saturday, Jan. 25
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
South vs. North, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

NCAA Football Championship Subdivision Playoff Glance

First Round
Saturday, Nov. 30
New Hampshire 45, Lafayette 7
Furman 30, South Carolina State 20
Coastal Carolina 48, Bethune-Cookman 24
Fordham 37, Sacred Heart 27
Tennessee State 31, Butler 0
Sam Houston State 51, Southern Utah 20
South Dakota State 26, Northern Arizona 7
Jacksonville State 55, Samford 14

Second Round
Saturday, Dec. 7
Towson 48, Fordham 28
Coastal Carolina 42, Montana 35
New Hampshire 41, Maine 27
Eastern Illinois 51, Tennessee State 10
North Dakota St. 38, Furman 7
Eastern Washington 41, South Dakota State 17
Jacksonville State 31, McNeese State 10
Southeastern Louisiana 30, Sam Houston State 29

Quarterfinals
Friday, Dec. 13
Towson 49, Eastern Illinois 39
Saturday, Dec. 14
North Dakota State 48, Coastal Carolina 14
Eastern Washington 35, Jacksonville State 24
New Hampshire 20, Southeastern Louisiana 17

Semifinals
Friday, Dec. 20
New Hampshire (10-4) at North Dakota State (13-0), 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21
Towson (12-2) at Eastern Washington (12-2), 1 p.m.
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 4
At FC Dallas Stadium
Frisco
TBD, 1 p.m.

NCAA Division II Football Playoff Glance

First Round
Saturday, Nov. 23
Winston-Salem 27, Slippery Rock 20
West Chester 38, American International 7
Carson-Newman 37, Newberry 27
Grand Valley State 40, Saginaw Valley State 7
West Texas A&M 27, Indianapolis 14
North Alabama 30, Tuskegee 27
Minnesota-Duluth 55, Empona State 13
St. Cloud State 40, Henderson State 35

Second Round
Saturday, Nov. 30
Shepherd 7, Winston-Salem 0
West Chester 40, Bloomsburg 38
Lenoir-Rhyne 27, Carson-Newman 20
North Alabama 37, North Carolina-Pembroke 13
West Texas A&M 34, Ohio Dominican 27
Northwest Missouri State 45, Minnesota-Duluth 21
St. Cloud State 54, Minnesota State-Mankato 48
Grand Valley State 34, Colorado State-Pueblo 30

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 7
West Chester 28, Shepherd 7
Lenoir-Rhyne 42, North Alabama 39
Grand Valley State 35, West Texas A&M 28
Northwest Missouri State 59, St. Cloud State 21

Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
Lenoir-Rhyne 42, West Chester 14
Northwest Missouri State 27, Grand Valley State 13

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21
At Braly Municipal Stadium
Florence, Ala.
Lenoir-Rhyne (13-1) vs. Northwest Missouri State (14-0), 11 a.m.

NCAA Division III Football Playoff Glance

First Round
Saturday, Nov. 23
Mount Union 34, Washington & Jefferson 20
Wittenberg 58, Lebanon Valley 17
Ithaca 20, Framingham State 17
Wesley 29, Johns Hopkins 24
Franklin 17, Washington (Mo.) 10
Hampden-Sydney 42, Maryville (Tenn.) 34
Hobart 34, Gallaudet 7
St. John Fisher 25, John Carroll 16
Rowan 24, Endicott 0
North Central (Ill.) 63, Albion 7
Wisconsin-Platteville 54, Concordia (Wis.) 20
Wartburg 41, Illinois Wesleyan 7
Bethel (Minn.) 70, St. Scholastica 13
Wisconsin-Whitewater 31, St. Norbert 7
Mary Hardin-Baylor 35, Redlands 7
Linfield 42, Pacific Lutheran 21

Second Round
Saturday, Nov. 30
Mount Union 56, Wittenberg 21
Wesley 23, Ithaca 15
St. John Fisher 27, Hobart 6
North Central (Ill.) 52, Wisconsin-Platteville 24
Bethel (Minn.) 34, Wartburg 27
Wisconsin-Whitewater 33, Franklin 3
Mary Hardin-Baylor 59, Rowan 8
Linfield 31, Hampden-Sydney 21

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 7
Mount Union 62, Wesley 59
North Central (Ill.) 41, Bethel (Minn.) 17
Mary Hardin-Baylor 45, St. John Fisher 23
Wisconsin-Whitewater 28, Linfield 17

Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
Mount Union 41, North Central (Ill.) 40
Wisconsin-Whitewater 16, Mary Hardin-Baylor 15

Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl
Friday, Dec. 20
At Salem Stadium
Salem, Va.
Mount Union (14-0) vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater (14-0), 6 p.m.

NAIA Football Playoff Glance

First Round
Saturday, Nov. 23
St. Francis (Ind.) 20, Faulkner 13
Cumberlands (Ky.) 56, St. Ambrose 28
Missouri Valley 38, Northwestern (Iowa) 13
Morningside 40, Rocky Mountain 21
Grand View 38, Ottawa (Kan.) 13
Tabor 14, Benedictine (Kan.) 13
Baker 10, Sterling 7
Carroll (Mont.) 38, Georgetown (Ky.) 28

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Nov. 30
Cumberlands (Ky.) 28, Saint Francis (Ind.) 14
Morningside 36, Baker 28
Carroll (Mont.) 27, Missouri Valley 3
Grand View 44, Tabor 24

Semifinals
Saturday, Dec. 7
Cumberlands (Ky.) 34, Carroll (Mont.) 27, OT
Grand View 35, Morningside 0

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21
At Barron Stadium
Rome, Ga.
Cumberlands (Ky.) vs. Grand View (13-0), 3:30 p.m.

COWBOYS

From 1C

Murray to slam his helmet to the ground after he reached the sideline.

Seven plays later, Green Bay took the lead on Eddie Lacy's 1-yard run. Romo threw another interception with 1:24 left to all but end the game, but receiver Cole Beasley was at fault there after stopping short on a route.

In addressing the first interception, Garrett made it clear the blame should mainly fall on Romo's shoulders.

"Sometimes it's OK on second-and-6 to hand the ball off, take your lumps and deal with the third down, force them to use another timeout and then just work that situation out," Garrett said. "That's something we've discussed."

But was it discussed forcefully enough?

"I don't want to get into all the details of how I communicate with Tony, but we have good lines of communication," Garrett said. "(Sunday) we had good lines of communication. There are always cases as a coach that you look back and say, I should have done this, I should have done that. There certainly were cases of that yesterday. And we, as a team, didn't handle that well enough. We should have handled it better."

The Cowboys (7-7) can still make the playoffs by winning Sunday at Washington (3-11) and on Dec. 29 in the regular season finale at home against Philadelphia (8-6).

But what happens if they don't? Is Garrett's job safe?

Owner Jerry Jones reminded reporters Sunday that he said last month Garrett would return next season. Garrett was asked if Jones has told him he would be safe no matter what happens in the final two games.

"I'm just focused on doing my job," said Garrett, who is 28-26 as the team's coach.

Garrett said he is confident the Cowboys can snap their two-game losing streak against the Redskins and set up a playoffs-or-bust game against a division foe in the finale for the third straight year.

"We have a lot of history with these guys and we've done a lot of great things," Garrett said of the players. "We have a tremendous amount of belief in them as people and players."

TITLE

From 1C

employees were being reimbursed for political contributions. Later, a 276-page report of an investigation conducted by Fiesta Bowl board members and a retired Arizona state Supreme Court justice detailed the "apparent scheme." The probe also found "an apparent conspiracy to conceal the reimbursement scheme from the bowl's Board of Directors and state officials." Two high-ranking bowl officials were fired and later pleaded guilty to federal charges for their roles in the fraudulent campaign-contribution scheme.

The Bowl Championship Series fined the Fiesta Bowl $1 million, but the game remained part of the postseason system for crowning a national champion.

Under new leadership, the Fiesta Bowl has been able to hold on to a place among the elite postseason games.

"Credit to the commissioners for hearing me out and understanding where the Fiesta Bowl is headed," Fiesta Bowl executive director and former University of Arizona president Robert Shelton said.

The championship game will be played in three time zones in the first three seasons, but Hancock said that shouldn't suggest a pattern.

"Obviously, playing in three time zones with the first three games was something that turned out to be important to the committee," Hancock said. "I think you can expect to see the game move around to different parts of the country, but without a set rotation."

NHL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

AVALANCHE 6, STARS 2

DENVER — Paul Stastny scored twice and added two assists and Colorado beat Dallas.

Erik Johnson and Andre Benoit also scored in a four-goal second period, and Nathan MacKinnon and Tyson Barrie scored for Colorado.

Tyler Seguin had a goal and an assist and Kevin Connauton scored his first NHL goal for the Stars, who have dropped three of the past four.

Goalie Kari Lehtonen stopped 42 shots for Dallas.

PENGUINS 3
MAPLE LEAFS 1

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby's 19th goal of the season broke a tie with just over 6 minutes remaining and the Pittsburgh Penguins edged the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-1 on Monday night.

Crosby took a centering pass from Pascal Dupuis and beat Toronto's Jonathan Bernier to the stick side to boost his point total to a league-leading 47.

Chris Conner and Brandon Sutter also scored for the Penguins, who were playing without a number of regulars, including forward Evgeni Malkin.

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 25 shots for Pittsburgh to improve to 27-3 in his past 30 home starts. Pittsburgh has won four straight and nine of 10.

Morgan Rielly scored the first goal of his career for the Maple Leafs. Bernier made 28 saves, but couldn't stop Toronto from losing for the fourth time in its past five games.

SENATORS 3
BLUES 2, OT

OTTAWA — Cody Ceci scored his first NHL goal in overtime and Ottawa beat St. Louis.

Ceci recovered a clearing attempt by the Blues and sent a wrist shot toward the St. Louis goal that beat Brian Elliott at 3:59 of the extra period.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Bobby Ryan scored in regulation for the Senators, who picked up points for the fifth time in their past six games.

Chris Stewart had both goals for the Blues and both came late in the second period and both were set up by Derek Roy.

JETS 3
BLUE JACKETS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Evander Kane returned from an injury to score a goal and add an assist, leading Winnipeg over Columbus.

Mark Scheifele and Bryan Little also had goals for the Jets, with Al Montoya making 22 saves.

R.J. Umberger and Fedor Tyutin had the goals for the Blue Jackets, who had a first-period goal disallowed.

The Blue Jackets had picked up points in five of their past six games (4-1-1). The Jets won four of six games on a road swing only to return home and go 0-2-1 before heading to Columbus.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlantic Division							
Boston	33	22	9	2	46	92	70
Montreal	35	20	12	3	43	88	75
Tampa Bay	33	19	11	3	41	90	80
Detroit	35	15	11	9	39	89	94
Toronto	35	17	15	3	37	98	102
Ottawa	35	14	15	6	34	99	113
Florida	34	12	17	5	29	78	109
Buffalo	33	7	23	3	17	55	96
Metropolitan Division							
Pittsburgh	35	24	10	1	49	108	75
Washington	33	18	12	3	39	105	97
Carolina	34	14	13	7	35	79	94
N.Y.Rangers	34	16	17	1	33	76	91
Philadelphia	33	14	15	4	32	76	91
New Jersey	34	13	15	6	32	78	85
Columbus	34	14	16	4	32	87	95
N.Y.Islanders	34	9	19	6	24	83	118

WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Central Division							
Chicago	36	24	7	5	53	135	101
St. Louis	32	22	6	4	48	112	76
Colorado	35	22	9	1	45	94	75
Minnesota	35	19	11	5	43	81	81
Dallas	32	15	12	5	35	92	99
Nashville	33	16	14	3	35	77	92
Winnipeg	35	15	15	5	35	93	102
Pacific Division							
Anaheim	35	23	7	5	51	111	89
Los Angeles	34	22	8	4	48	94	68
San Jose	33	20	7	6	46	108	82
Vancouver	35	20	10	5	45	98	83
Phoenix	32	18	9	5	41	104	100
Calgary	33	13	15	5	31	86	106
Edmonton	35	11	21	3	25	93	120

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

Monday's Scores
Pittsburgh 3, Toronto 1
Winnipeg 3, Columbus 2
Ottawa 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Colorado 6, Dallas 2

Today's Games
Calgary at Boston, 6 p.m.
Winnipeg at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Florida at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at Montreal, 6:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 6:30 p.m.
San Jose at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

US fundraising mittens made in China

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

The outside of the mittens say "Go USA." The insides say "Made in China."

Less than two years after being criticized for having the U.S. Olympic team's uniforms made in China, the U.S. Olympic Committee has another wardrobe malfunction on its hands.

The red-white-and-blue mittens it's selling to raise funds for winter athletes were produced in China.

It says so right on the tag on the inside.

The USOC is charging $14 a pair for the blue gloves that have the word "Go" embroidered in red on the left mitten and "USA" on the right. Also part of that left mitten is the tag, which says the gloves are "100% acrylic," "One Size Fits Most" and "Made in China."

USOC spokesman Patrick Sandusky said the "official" mittens being worn by the athletes at the opening ceremony are made in the USA. They're also available to the public for $98 a pair on the Ralph Lauren website, which proudly proclaims its products are "Made in America" almost everywhere you look on the page for its official Team USA collection.

But the federation was going for a lower price point for its fundraiser. With the games more than a month away, it has raised $500,000 from the mitten sales.

"We wanted to create a fundraising opportunity where almost anyone could support Team USA," Sandusky said.

The foreign-made mittens are available at the USOC's official online shop of the U.S. Olympic Team.

The mittens are an American spin on an idea that started in Canada at the last Winter Games. The host country produced "Go Canada" mittens that turned out to be the hot item of the Olympics, raising more than $14 million for the Canadian team.

The USOC, meanwhile, has tried to be extra careful about where its goods are manufactured since running into trouble when news broke that its 2012 team uniforms were produced in China. Congressmen from both parties piled onto the PR gaffe, with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., saying, "I think they should take all the uniforms, put them in a big pile and burn them and start all over again."

Shortly after that, the USOC said all future team uniforms would be made in the United States and, true to its word, the 2014 versions are.

Fans can buy almost all components of the uniforms — among them, pullover sweaters, the same boots the athletes will wear at the opening ceremony and, of course, the $98 "Go for gold TEAM USA" mittens that also say "Go USA." Some of the proceeds from those sales go to the U.S. team, per terms of licensing agreements with Ralph Lauren.

"We want to provide a variety of things for people to purchase," Sandusky said. "A good number of those items are made in the USA and some items are made from around the globe, like most sporting goods. But we wanted to make an effort to make sure people have a chance to buy the official team mittens, which are made in the USA."

Russian coach dies after Sochi torch relay

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Officials in a Siberian province say a veteran wrestling coach has died of a heart attack after taking part in the Sochi Olympics torch relay.

Authorities in the Kurgan region say 73-year old Vadim Gorbenko died Sunday after carrying the Olympic flame.

Gorbenko was a Greco-Roman wrestling coach who headed a local sports school. Russian news reports say Gorbenko felt unwell after carrying the torch more than 200 yards and died in a local hospital of a heart attack a few hours later.

Gorbenko looked well and smiled during a brief interview with local television after taking part in the torch relay, which will cover 39,000 miles and is the longest in the history of the Olympics.

14 added to Masters field through world ranking

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

Augusta National added 14 players to the field for the Masters when the final world ranking of the year was published Monday.

That brings the field to 90 players who are expected to compete April 10-13, and again raises the possibility of the Masters exceeding 100 players for the first time in nearly 50 years. Augusta National has the smallest field of the four majors and prefers to keep it under 100 to enhance the overall experience at its tournament.

This is the third time in the last four years that the field was at least 90 players going into a new calendar year. There were 99 players for the 2011 Masters, the most since 103 players competed in 1966.

Those who qualified by being in the top 50 of the final ranking were Hideki Matsuyama, Thomas Bjorn, Jamie Donaldson, Victor Dubuisson, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Francesco Molinari, Rickie Fowler, Matteo Manassero, David Lynn, Thongchai Jaidee, Peter Hanson, Joost Luiten and Branden Grace.

Players can still qualify by winning a PGA Tour event (except for the Puerto Rico Open) or being in the top 50 on March 30, a full week before the Masters.

Matsuyama qualified at No. 23. It will be his third appearance at the Masters, and his first as a pro. Matsuyama was a two-time winner of the Asia-Pacific Amateur, which awards an exemption to the Masters. He made the cut both times as an amateur.

"I'm ecstatic I qualified for the Masters through my play for this year," Matsuyama said through an interpreter in October, when it was clear he would be in the top 50.

He won four times this year on the Japan Golf Tour and had a pair of top 10s in the majors.

Fowler was the only American of the 14 from the world ranking, though two other players (Peter Hanson, David Lynn) were PGA Tour members, who have more options available to them during the year.

The Masters changed the criteria for the 2014 tournament, though that appears to have little bearing on the number of qualified players. Because the PGA Tour went to a wraparound season (October through September), the Masters awarded spots to the winners of tournaments held in the fall. Jimmy Walker, Ryan Moore and Chris Kirk qualified by winning those events. The other winners of fall events — Webb Simpson, Dustin Johnson and Harris English — previously were eligible for the Masters.

Augusta National eliminated the category for top 30 on the money list, though that didn't keep out any player who qualified.

The club now takes the top 12 and ties from the previous Masters (instead of the top 16) and the top four and ties from the U.S. Open (instead of the top eight). That eliminated only one player — David Toms — who would have been eligible under the previous category. The others would have made it through other criteria.

Qualifiers for the 2014 Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The 90 players who have qualified and are expected to compete in the 78th Masters, to be played April 10-13 at Augusta National Golf Club. Players listed in only first category for which they are eligible.

MASTERS CHAMPIONS: Adam Scott, Bubba Watson, Charl Schwartzel, Phil Mickelson, Angel Cabrera, Trevor Immelman, Zach Johnson, Tiger Woods, Mike Weir, Vijay Singh, Jose Maria Olazabal, Mark O'Meara, Ben Crenshaw, Bernhard Langer, Fred Couples, Ian Woosnam, Sandy Lyle, Larry Mize, Craig Stadler, Tom Watson.

U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONS (five years): Justin Rose, Webb Simpson, Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell, Lucas Glover.

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONS (five years): Ernie Els, Darren Clarke, Louis Oosthuizen, Stewart Cink.

PGA CHAMPIONS (five years): Jason Dufner, Keegan Bradley, Martin Kaymer, Y.E. Yang.

PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIPS CHAMPIONS (three years): Matt Kuchar, K.J. Choi.

U.S. AMATEUR CHAMPION AND RUNNER-UP: a-Matt Fitzpatrick, a-Oliver Goss.

BRITISH AMATEUR CHAMPION: a-Garrick Porteous.

U.S. AMATEUR PUBLIC LINKS CHAMPION: a-Jordan Niebrugge.

U.S. MID-AMATEUR CHAMPION: a-Michael McCoy.

ASIAN AMATEUR CHAMPION: a-Lee Chang-woo.

TOP 12 AND TIES-2013 MASTERS: Jason Day, Marc Leishman, Thorbjorn Olesen, Brandt Snedeker, Sergio Garcia, Lee Westwood, Tim Clark, John Huh.

TOP FOUR AND TIES-2013 U.S. OPEN: Billy Horschel, Hunter Mahan.

TOP FOUR AND TIES-2013 BRITISH OPEN: Henrik Stenson, Ian Poulter.

TOP FOUR AND TIES-2013 PGA CHAMPIONSHIP: Jim Furyk, Jonas Blixt.

PGA TOUR EVENT WINNERS SINCE 2013 MASTERS (FULL FEDEX CUP POINTS AWARDED): Derek Ernst, Sang-Moon Bae, Boo Weekley, Harris English, Ken Duke, Bill Haas, Jordan Spieth, Patrick Reed, Jimmy Walker, Ryan Moore, Chris Kirk.

FIELD FROM THE 2013 TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP: Steve Stricker, Dustin Johnson, Roberto Castro, Nick Watney, Brendon de Jonge, Luke Donald, Gary Woodland, Kevin Streelman, D.A. Points, Graham DeLaet.

TOP 50 FROM FINAL WORLD RANKING IN 2013: Hideki Matsuyama, Thomas Bjorn, Jamie Donaldson, Victor Dubuisson, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Francesco Molinari, Rickie Fowler, Matteo Manassero, David Lynn, Thongchai Jaidee, Peter Hanson, Joost Luiten, Branden Grace.

TOP 50 FROM WORLD RANKING ON MARCH 30: TBD.

SPECIAL FOREIGN INVITATIONS: TBD.

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

To fax your information, send to 570-7650.

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players
For: Ages 5 & up
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount
For more info: Call (432) 425-6108

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-on-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2438

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-6080

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Lunch break Pick-up Basketball
When: Noon-1 p.m., Monday-Friday
Where: MLK Center, 2300 Butternut Lane
For more info: Call 413-0521

Co-Ed Basketball League
For: Kindergarten through 8th grade
When: Begin registering Dec. 2; Season is January through March
Cost: $60
Deadline: January 15
For more info: Go to www.basinkids.org or call 683-5297

Winter Competitive League
For: Pre-K through 8th grade
When: Registration starts Dec. 1 and continues through Jan. 15
Cost: $60
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or eddie@basinkids.com; Also register at www.basinkids.org

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzanteddie@yahoo.com

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177
Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Beginner tennis clinics

Where: Midland High School tennis courts
When: Monday-Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. or 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For: Kindergarten-12th grade, community-based organizations, parents and adults
Deadline: Two weeks before week wanting to attend
For more info: Call Luis Valdez at 570-6245, Brandi at 687-7059 or Elizabeth at 699-6058

YMCA Basketball Skills Clinic
When: Every Saturday
Times: 1 p.m.-3:45 p.m. for grades 3 through 12
Cost: YMCA Family member: free; YMCA Youth member, $5 and program participant, $10 per visit
For more info: Call Midland YMCA at 682-2551

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: Atmos Energy's Fischer Community Room, 2304 Loop 40, Midland International Airport
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbatx.com

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W. Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Fitness

Beach Body
When: 7-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Where: MLK Center, 2300 Butternut
Note: Instructor is Tommy Hindman
For more info: Call 685-7355

P-90X/Beach Body Fitness Club
When: 12-1 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
Where: MLK Center, 2300 Butternut
For more info: Call 685-7355

Yoga
When: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays
Where: MLK Center, 2300 Butternut
For more info: Call 685-7355

Cardio/Core
When: 11 a.m., Tuesdays & Thursday
Where: MLK Center, 2300 Butternut
For more info: Call 685-7355

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Don Orren at 631-2395

Ice Hockey

Jackalopes Amatur Hockey Association
Where: Odessa
When: October through March
Who: Youth and Adult Leagues will start Oct. 2
For more info: Contact www.jaxyouthhockey@hotmail.com or call 661-3453

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m., Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Cardio Kickboxing Class
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do and Fitness Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
Cost: $35 a month
For more info: Call 689-8139

Women's Self Defense Class
When: Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Private Tae Kwon-Do lessons
Where: Jimenez Tae Kwon-Do Studio, 4400 N. Midland Dr.
For more info: Call 697-8554

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
When: 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. Saturdays
Where: Perez Martial Arts Academy, 350 N. Midland Dr., Suite A
For more info: Call 634-9621 or (469) 248-8472

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Taekwondo
When: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday nights; Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.
Where: MLK Center, 2300 Butternut
For more info: Call 685-7355

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Etiquette
When: 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays
Note: Instructor is Natalie Cargile
For more info: Call 685-7355

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21 and up
When/where: 7 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 7 p.m., Monday and Tuesday at The Detour. Players must be signed in by 6:45 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages
Where: 404 E. 61st St., Odessa
When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Sunday
Cost: $50 down, $35 a month
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Midland Mad Dog Rugby Club
What: Recruiting for 2012-13 season, no experience necessary
For: Participants 16 years and older, need shorts, t-shirt or jersey, cleats or running shoes, watch
When: Practice is 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
For more info: Go to www.maddogrugby.com

Midland Rugby (Bloodhounds) Club
For more info: Call Joshua 661-7147

HHD Dads & Lads Rugby
When: 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays
Where: Cowden Park
For more info: 212-6088

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership; $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month, first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.; Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter); Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422.

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle, bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 stand and sporting clays
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring/summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
What: Men's fastpitch softball
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com pages Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

USA Softball Jr. Men's National Fastpitch Team looking for players
For: Boys players born between 1995 and 1998
Note: No softball experience is needed
For more info: Tim Lyon, USA Jr Men's National Team coach, 801-244-7477 or Dave Parker, West Texas Men's Fastpitch Association, 634-6474 or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team, tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of the quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours.
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease, chronic conditions, advanced age, etc.
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area
For more info: Call 432-563-1333 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information

Bush Tennis Center Youth Clinics
What: Tennis clinics for beginners to advanced players ranging from preschoolers to high school seniors. Ages 3-5, balloon tennis, ages 6-8, Quick Start (red ball), ages 9-10, Quick Start (orange and green ball) ages 11-18, junior development, all levels of adult programs
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com and click on "Programs & Events" or call, 620-8180

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College tennis classes
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 to 1:50 p.m.
Where: Midland College
For more info: Midland College 685-4500 or Lance Armstrong 687-4046

Youth Clinics
When: For children 4-8 years of age (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4 p.m.) and 9-15 years of age (Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: 687-4046

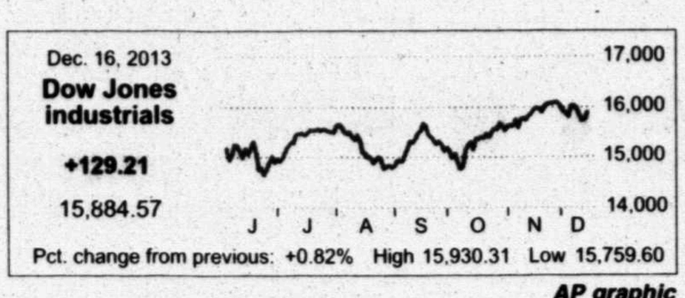
Midland Women's Tennis Association fall league
For more info: 689-4340

Walking

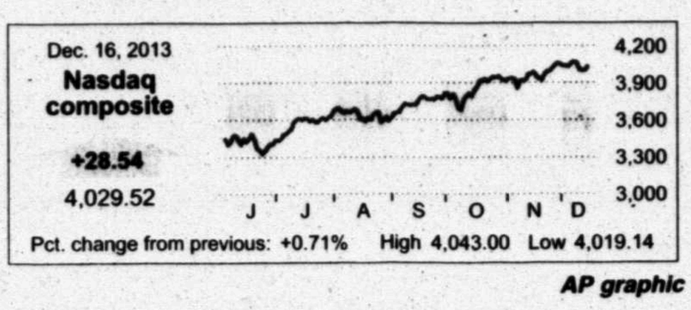
Midland Walkabout AVA Club Meetings
When: Fun Walks, 10K, 3rd Saturday morning of the month; Monthly meeting 3rd Sunday at 5 p.m.
Where: Fun Walks, vary; meetings in Room 227, First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas Ave.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call Alex Rose 687-2588 or go to www.midlandwalkabout.org

BUSINESS & OIL

A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



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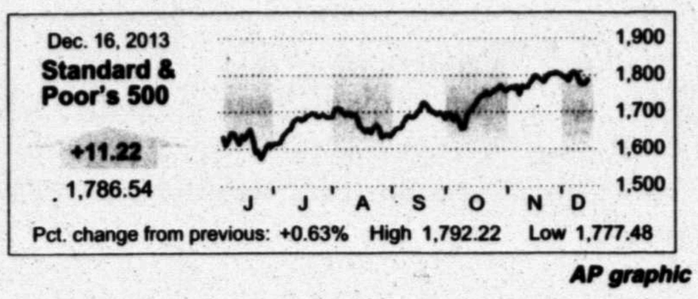

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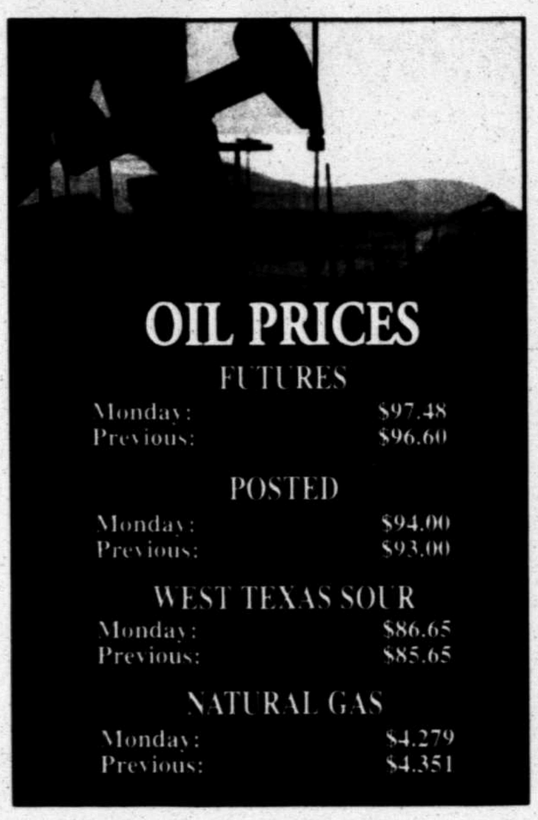

Seth Wenig/AP

In this Dec. 31, 2012, file photo, a trader wearing Happy New Year glasses works on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York. According to an Associated Press-GfK poll released Monday, Americans don't expect another gangbuster year for the stock market. Of the people polled, 40 percent think the market will stabilize at current levels by the end of 2014, with 39 percent predicting that it will drop, but not crash. Only 14 percent believe the market will rise and 5 percent think that the market will crash

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	801446	179.22	+1.11
SPDR Fncl	673476	21.26	+.13
BkofAm	646090	15.24	+.06
iShEMkts	571468	41.22	+.26
iShJapan	416981	11.72	-.07

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AerCap	33.17	+8.24	+33.1
Drdgold	4.23	+.92	+27.8
ViolinM n	3.27	+.58	+21.6
EKodk wtA	16.02	+2.52	+18.7
LightBox n	7.51	+1.16	+18.3

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
USEC rs	3.51	-5.30	-60.2
Dolan pfB	15.66	-3.10	-16.5
500.com n	27.80	-3.77	-11.9
PwSBMetS	16.66	-1.84	-9.9
BiP GCrb	5.94	-.56	-8.6

DIARY

Advanced	2,077
Declined	1,028
Unchanged	104
Total issues	3,209
New Highs	114
New Lows	80
Volume	3,101,686,623

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
ChenereEn	39806	40.71	-.22
NwGold g	39442	4.86	...
WidePoint	38651	1.60	+.14
InovioPhm	26135	2.04	+.06
Organovo	23270	9.02	-.32

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
OnonEnrgy	6.89	+.72	+11.7
Medgenics	5.84	+.43	+7.9
ERBA Diag	2.16	+.15	+7.5
ContlMatls	18.95	+1.15	+6.5
AmpioPhm	7.14	+.40	+5.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
InstFnMkts	2.08	-.27	-11.5
EnviroStr	2.96	-.36	-10.8
Can-Fite	6.04	-.42	-6.5
Pedevco rs	2.34	-.16	-6.4
Aerocntry	16.90	-1.05	-5.8

DIARY

Advanced	246
Declined	169
Unchanged	25
Total issues	440
New Highs	8
New Lows	20
Volume	101,390,008

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
LSI Corp	1348932	10.96	+3.05
Facebook	834002	53.81	+.49
SiriusXM	531011	3.52	-.01
Cisco	514290	20.68	+.44
MicronT	340232	22.77	-.31

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NuPathe	3.39	+1.09	+47.4
SoltaMed	2.92	+.83	+39.7
LSI Corp	10.96	+3.05	+38.6
Astrotch h	2.40	+.58	+31.9
AgiosPh n	24.05	+4.48	+22.9

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
XTL Bioph	2.24	-.57	-20.3
ARC Grp	22.81	-4.05	-15.1
AddusHC h	24.10	-3.34	-12.2
SuperthlH rs	2.63	-.36	-11.9
MethesEng	2.51	-.29	-10.4

DIARY

Advanced	1,744
Declined	812
Unchanged	151
Total issues	2,707
New Highs	115
New Lows	33
Volume	1,818,639,020

Poll: Americans see end of stock surge

By Steve Rothwell
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans aren't expecting another bang-up year for the stock market, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

Of the people polled, 40 percent think the market will stabilize where it is now by the end of 2014, with 39 percent predicting that it will drop, but not crash. Only 14 percent believe the market will rise and 5 percent think it will crash.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index has surged 24.5 percent to 1,775 in 2013, putting it on track for its best year in a decade.

The rally has been fueled by higher corporate earnings, a slow but steady recovery in the U.S. economy and stimulus from the Federal Reserve.

Perhaps because of the slow recovery, only about half of the general public noted the market's strong performance, according to the poll. Investors were more aware of the booming market, however, as 73 percent say it improved.

William Leyser, 74, a retired machinist from Las Vegas, thinks the stock market may fall by as much as 10 percent next year. He has taken some of his money out of stocks this year and put it into bonds.

"I'm concerned there is going to be a big correction here," says Leyser, who invests in mutual funds. "When it gets high, it always goes down a little bit."

The poll also shows that individuals are less optimistic about the outlook for the stock market than many investment professionals.

While few market strategists expect stocks to keep climbing at the same pace, many see them extending their gains at a slower rate. Bank of America Merrill Lynch predicts the S&P 500 index will end next year at 2,000, about 13 percent higher than its current level. Wells Fargo Advisors forecasts the index will climb as high as 1,900, a gain of about 7 percent.

Stocks have rallied since bottoming out after the financial crisis and the start of the Great Recession, lifting the S&P 500 index 162 percent from its low in March 2009. Despite those steady returns, the poll suggests that Americans are still nervous about buying and holding stocks.

Of those polled, 71 percent consider investing in the stock market to be "generally risky," compared with 27 percent who think of the market as "generally safe."

The perception of stocks as a risky investment has lessened since the spring, when 75 percent of respondents said it was "generally risky" and 18 percent said it was "generally safe."

Still, with interest rates on savings accounts low, some individual investors recognize the need to take on more risk.

"If you want to see some growth in your portfolio you have to go into equities," says Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, 64, a former IT worker who lives in Portsmouth, Va.

Overall, 20 percent of investors say they plan to invest more heavily in the market in the coming year, 22 percent will pull back, and 57 percent plan to invest at about the same level as in 2013.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 5-9, 2013, using KnowledgePanel, GfK's probability-based online panel. For results based on all 1,367 adults, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Oil rises above $97

The price of oil rose above $97 a barrel Monday, lifted by new signals that Europe's economy is on the mend and by the ongoing closure of export terminals in Libya.

Benchmark U.S. crude for January delivery rose 88 cents to $97.48 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark used to price international oil used by many U.S. refineries, closed at $110.47.

The average retail price of a gallon of gasoline fell less than a penny to $3.23 per gallon, three cents higher than a month ago and three cents lower than a year ago.

In Europe, business sentiment is rising for the first time in three months, according to a survey of the 17-country eurozone. The monthly purchasing managers' index for the eurozone from financial information company Markit rose to 52.1 in December from 51.7 in November, after two consecutive months of declines.

Williams Energy transfer

Clayton Williams Energy Inc. announced Monday its intention to transfer the listing of its shares of common stock from the Nasdaq Global Select Market to the New York Stock Exchange. The company expects that its shares of common stock will commence trading on the NYSE under the symbol CWEI.

Gold, silver rise

Gold for February delivery was up $9.80, or 1 percent, to $1,244.40 an ounce, and silver rose 50 cents, or 3 percent, to $20.10 an ounce.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $83.18 Up 1.92

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $100.72 Up 0.58

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $31.55 Unchanged

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $45.49 Up 0.76

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $26.83 Down 0.21

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $6.88 Down 0.06

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $28.77 Up 0.75

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $11.70 Down 0.19

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.84f	25	34.15	+.30	+1.3
Abraxas	...	**36**	**3.27**	**+.01**	**+49.3**
AdamsEx	**.84e**	**...**	**12.44**	**+.02**	**+17.5**
AMD	...	...	3.59	-.10	+49.6
Alcoa	.12	27	9.57	+.06	+10.3
AlonUSA	.24a	18	14.96	+.38	-17.3
AlphaNRs	...	...	6.33	+.01	-35.0
AmAirl n	...	...	26.61	+.38	+8.2
AmIntlGrp	.40	24	50.28	+.55	+42.4
Amgen	**2.44f**	**18**	**112.12**	**-.04**	**+30.1**
Anadarko	**.72**	**23**	**79.07**	**+.77**	**+6.4**
Apnaly	1.65e	3	9.82	-.12	-30.1
Apache	**.80**	**13**	**86.14**	**-.02**	**+9.7**
ApldMatl	**.40**	**79**	**16.66**	**-.05**	**+45.6**
ATMOS	**1.48f**	**17**	**43.82**	**-.23**	**+24.8**
AutoData	1.92f	26	77.52	+.50	+36.2
AvagoTch	1.00f	23	50.10	+4.45	+58.3
BP PLC	**2.28f**	**11**	**46.03**	**+.34**	**+10.5**
BabsCCInv	1.20a	...	14.73	-.16	-3.6
BakrHu	.60	22	53.23	+.52	+30.3
BcoBrad pf	.54e	...	12.38	+.11	-21.6
BkofAm	.04	20	15.24	+.06	+31.3
B iPVix rs	...	...	47.45	+.06	-62.7
BarrickG	.20	...	17.05	+.31	-51.3
BasicEnSv	...	...	14.67	+.31	+28.6
BerkHa A	**...**	**161711**	**139.00**	**+39.00**	**+27.7**
BerryPet	**.32**	**16**	**47.25**	**-1.36**	**+40.8**
BlkHillsCp	**1.52**	**20**	**51.16**	**+.94**	**+40.8**
BlackBerry	...	...	6.20	+.12	-47.8
BrMySq	**1.40**	**30**	**50.88**	**+.15**	**+57.8**
Broadcom	.44	32	28.38	+.37	-14.5
BrownFA	**1.16f**	**26**	**72.48**	**+.36**	**+17.9**
BrownFB	**1.16f**	**26**	**73.83**	**+.46**	**+16.7**
CVS Care	.90	19	67.79	+.48	+40.2
Cameron	...	20	57.74	+1.65	+2.5
Caterpillar	2.40	17	87.38	+1.33	-2.5
Celestic g	...	22	10.22	+.30	+25.4
Cemex	.45t	...	11.32	-.11	+19.3
CntryLink	2.16	...	30.95	+.22	-20.9
ChesEng	.35	20	26.77	-.23	+61.1
Chevron	**4.00**	**10**	**120.22**	**+.32**	**+11.2**
Chicos	.30f	19	18.57	+.02	+.6
Cimarex	.56	22	98.80	+1.33	+71.1
Cisco	.68	11	20.68	+.44	+5.2

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Citigroup	.04	13	50.90	-.07	+28.7
ClayEng	**...**	**...**	**83.18**	**+1.92**	**+107.9**
CocaCola	**1.12**	**21**	**39.27**	**+.04**	**+8.3**
ColgPalm s	**1.36**	**27**	**64.04**	**+.06**	**+22.5**
ConAgra	**1.00**	**17**	**31.77**	**+.10**	**+7.7**
ConchoRes	**...**	**48**	**100.72**	**+.58**	**+25.0**
ConocoPhil	**2.76**	**11**	**69.79**	**+.36**	**+20.3**
CrackerB	3.00	21	108.04	+2.51	+68.1
CrosTim	**2.24e**	**14**	**30.26**	**-.34**	**+12.4**
DCP Mid	2.88f	21	47.29	+.03	+13.3
DTE	2.62	19	66.05	+.69	+10.0
Datarm rsh	...	...	2.96	-.05	+49.5
Dawson	**...**	**16**	**31.55**	**...**	**+19.6**
DeltaAir	.24	10	27.92	-.45	+135.2
DevonE	**.88**	**...**	**60.40**	**+1.18**	**+16.1**
Disney	**.86f**	**21**	**70.51**	**+.89**	**+41.6**
DowChm	**1.28**	**42**	**41.60**	**+.08**	**+28.7**
eBay	...	25	53.11	+1.56	+4.1
EMC Cp	.40	19	23.70	+.40	-6.3
EOG Res	**.75**	**39**	**159.74**	**+.72**	**+32.2**
EmpDist	**1.02f**	**17**	**22.71**	**+.25**	**+11.4**
Energen	.58	25	66.31	-.10	+47.1
EngyTsfr	3.62f	10	52.27	+.04	+21.8
EnPro	**...**	**35**	**54.80**	**+1.17**	**+34.0**
EntPrPt	2.76f	22	61.53	-.07	+22.9
Ericsson	.43e	...	11.75	-.06	+16.3
ExterranH	**...**	**23**	**32.33**	**+1.02**	**+47.5**
ExxonMbl	**2.52**	**10**	**97.22**	**+1.91**	**+12.3**
Facebook	...	...	53.81	+.49	+102.1
FordM	.40	13	16.86	+.27	+30.2
ForestOil	...	13	3.65	+.12	-45.4
GATX	**1.24**	**16**	**49.39**	**+.72**	**+14.1**
GabelMulT	**.80**	**...**	**11.69**	**+.33**	**+48.9**
GAInv	**2.70e**	**...**	**33.73**	**+.05**	**+21.2**
GenElec	**.88f**	**20**	**26.98**	**+.14**	**+28.5**
GenMotors	...	17	41.44	+1.40	+43.7
GtPlainEn	**.92f**	**16**	**24.02**	**+.04**	**+18.3**
Groupon	...	...	10.36	+.12	+113.2
HalconRes	...	20	3.75	-.04	-45.8
Hallibrtn	**.50f**	**17**	**50.13**	**+.74**	**+44.5**
HewlettP	.58	9	26.90	+.13	+88.8
HimaxTch	.25e	79	11.82	+.86	+392.3
iShBrazil	1.36e	...	44.48	+.14	-20.5
iShJapan	.15e	...	11.72	-.07	+20.2

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShChinaLC	.93e	...	38.37	-.01	-5.1
iShEMkts	.77e	...	41.22	+.26	-7.1
iS Eafe	1.76e	...	64.53	+.46	+13.5
iShR2K	1.70e	...	111.51	+1.31	+32.2
IntegrysE	2.72	15	53.82	+.71	+3.1
Intel	**.90**	**13**	**24.45**	**+.16**	**+18.6**
InterDig	.40	34	32.23	+.06	-21.6
JPMorgCh	1.52	13	56.42	+.25	+29.2
JohnJn	**2.64**	**20**	**91.37**	**+.02**	**+30.3**
KimbClk	**3.24**	**22**	**104.03**	**+.11**	**+23.2**
KindME	5.40f	29	78.60	-.41	-1.5
KindMM	5.40f	47	73.19	+.09	-3.0
Kinross g	...	...	4.63	+.04	-52.4
LSI Corp	.12	84	10.96	+3.05	+55.0
LegacyRes	2.34f	...	26.83	-.21	+12.7
Lubys	**...**	**53**	**7.46**	**+.16**	**+11.5**
MGM Rsts	...	...	21.71	+.51	+86.5
MktVGold	.46e	...	21.38	+.27	-53.9
McDnlds	3.24f	17	95.45	+1.01	+8.2
Merck	1.76f	29	48.09	-.29	+17.5
MerltMed	**...**	**62**	**15.40**	**+.23**	**+10.8**
MexcoEn	...	...	6.88	-.06	+6.9
MicronT	...	23	22.77	-.31	+259.1
Microsoft	1.12	14	36.88	+.20	+38.1
Nabors	.16	37	15.80	+.08	+9.3
NatGrid	**3.17e**	**...**	**62.58**	**+1.04**	**+8.9**
NOilVarco	1.04	14	78.92	+.18	+15.5
NewmtM	.80m	...	23.16	-.12	-50.1
NokiaCp	...	...	7.46	-.08	+88.9
NuPathe	.84f	...	12.20	+.34	+73.3
Novavax	...	...	4.61	+.74	+143.9
NuPathe	...	...	3.39	+1.09	+.3
NvMAd	**.80a**	**...**	**11.83**	**+.03**	**-22.2**
NvPhll	**.88**	**...**	**12.11**	**-.04**	**-18.8**
NuvPl	**.86**	**...**	**11.96**	**+.04**	**-20.1**
NSTFI3	**.63a**	**...**	**12.53**	**-.04**	**-14.3**
NTXQI	**.70a**	**...**	**12.59**	**...**	**-20.5**
OcciPet	**2.56**	**16**	**90.95**	**-.16**	**+18.7**
Oracle	.48	14	33.54	+.31	+.7
ParTech	**...**	**...**	**5.63**	**+.11**	**+14.9**
ParkDrl	**...**	**...**	**7.79**	**+.10**	**+69.3**
PattUTI	**.20**	**15**	**24.22**	**+.47**	**+30.0**
Penney	...	...	8.48	-.09	-57.0
PennaRE	**.80f**	**...**	**18.62**	**+.63**	**+5.6**
Prmian	.86e	16	13.55	-.26	+0.5

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Petrobras	.27e	...	13.71	+.02	-29.6
Pfizer	**1.04f**	**16**	**30.25**	**...**	**+20.6**
PioNtrl	.08	45	179.52	-.23	+68.4
PlainsAAP	**2.40f**	**17**	**48.44**	**-.14**	**+7.1**
PwShs QQQ	.98e	...	85.32	+.47	+31.0
Praxair	**2.40**	**22**	**125.02**	**+.77**	**+14.2**
PrmEgy	**...**	**10**	**49.75**	**...**	**+116.3**
ProctGam	**2.41**	**21**	**81.69**	**-.68**	**+20.3**
RangeRs	.16	94	90.17	+.48	+27.6
RiteAid	...	97	5.80	+.24	+326.5
Rowan	...	18	33.97	+.33	+8.6
RoyDShllA	3.60	9	67.55	+.98	-2.0
SpdrDJIA	3.49e	...	158.90	+1.25	+21.7
S&P500ETF	3.39e	...	179.22	+1.11	+25.8
SabnR	3.90e	13	51.48	+.06	+29.4
SanderFm	**.80f**	**17**	**70.72**	**+1.72**	**+48.7**
SandRidge	**...**	**...**	**5.50**	**+.09**	**-13.4**
Sapient	**...**	**30**	**16.42**	**+.33**	**+55.5**
Schlmbrg	1.25	17	87.00	+.63	+25.5
SigmaAld	**.86**	**23**	**89.75**	**+.31**	**+22.0**
SiriusXM	.05e	50	3.52	-.01	+21.6
Smucker	2.32	19	101.60	+1.19	+17.8
SoltaMed	...	...	2.92	+.83	+9.4
Sprint n	...	...	8.31	-.12	+49.7
SP Engy	1.49e	...	85.87	+.74	+20.2
SPDR Fncl	.32e	...	21.26	+.13	+29.7

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
SunEdison	...	...	11.89	+.43	+270.4
SunocoLog	2.52f	18	68.52	+.20	+37.8
T-MobIUS n	...	...	26.39	-1.25	+59.7
TelefEsp	**.47e**	**...**	**15.64**	**+.19**	**+15.9**
Tesoro	1.00	17	58.37	+2.07	+32.5
3M Co	2.54	20	127.66	+1.23	+37.5
Torchmark	**.68**	**14**	**76.14**	**+.30**	**+47.8**
TriContl	**.70e**	**...**	**19.22**	**+.06**	**+19.8**
Twitter n	...	...	56.61	-2.39	+26.1
TylerTech	**...**	**92**	**102.20**	**+1.77**	**+111.0**
UBWV	**1.28f**	**18**	**31.39**	**+.07**	**+29.0**
Vale SA	.78e	...	14.77	+.10	-29.5
ValeroE	.90	17	46.75	+.62	+37.0
VangEmg	1.38e	...	40.54	+.20	-9.0
VerizonCm	2.12	68	48.26	+.42	+11.5
VulcanM	**.04**	**...**	**58.71**	**+.58**	**+9.0**
Walgrn	**1.26**	**22**	**58.88**	**-.13**	**+53.7**
WellsFargo	1.20	12	43.98	+.25	+28.7
WstnRefin	.88f	8	40.05	+1.70	+42.1
WhitingPet	...	14	60.59	+1.57	+39.7
WmsCos	1.52f	40	35.33	+1.08	+7.9
XcelEngy	**1.12**	**15**	**27.99**	**+.25**	**+4.8**
Xerox	**.23**	**12**	**11.51**	**+.18**	**+68.8**
Yahoo	...	34	39.73	...	+99.6
Zynga	...	...	4.10	-.01	+73.7

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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
16,174.51	12,883.89	Dow Jones Industrials	15,884.57	+129.21	+.82	+21.22	+20.02
7,304.49	5,123.97	Dow Jones Transportation	7,151.16	+64.73	+.91	+34.76	+36.82
537.86	443.69	Dow Jones Utilities	481.07	+3.26	+.68	+6.18	+5.22
10,229.57	8,298.36	NYSE Composite	10,024.97	+70.10	+.70	+18.73	+19.25
2,471.19	2,186.97	Amex Index	2,346.07	+12.16	+.52	-.41	-1.49
4,081.78	2,951.04	Nasdaq Composite	4,029.52	+28.54	+.71	+33.45	+33.84
1,813.55	1,398.11	S&P 500	1,786.54	+11.22	+.63	+25.27	+24.90
19,276.43	14,700.70	Wilshire 5000	19,014.84	+121.63	+.64	+26.81	+26.89
1,147.00	821.82	Russell 2000	1,119.85	+12.73	+1.16	+31.85	+34.11

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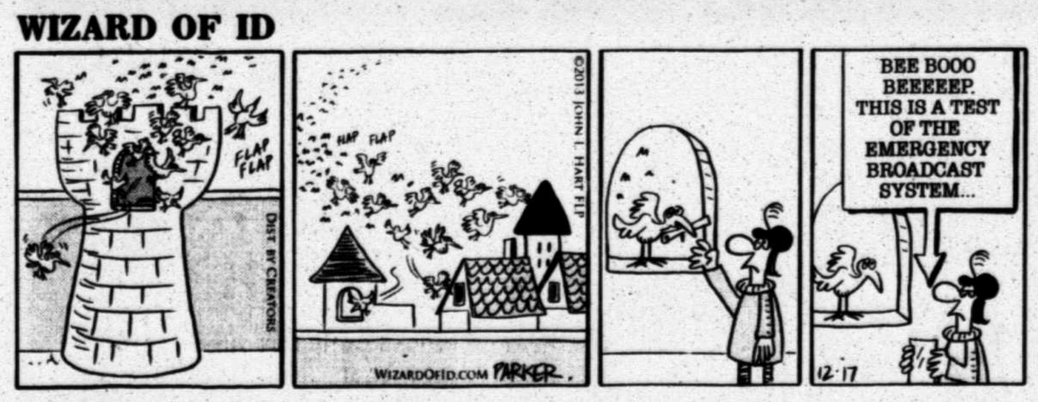
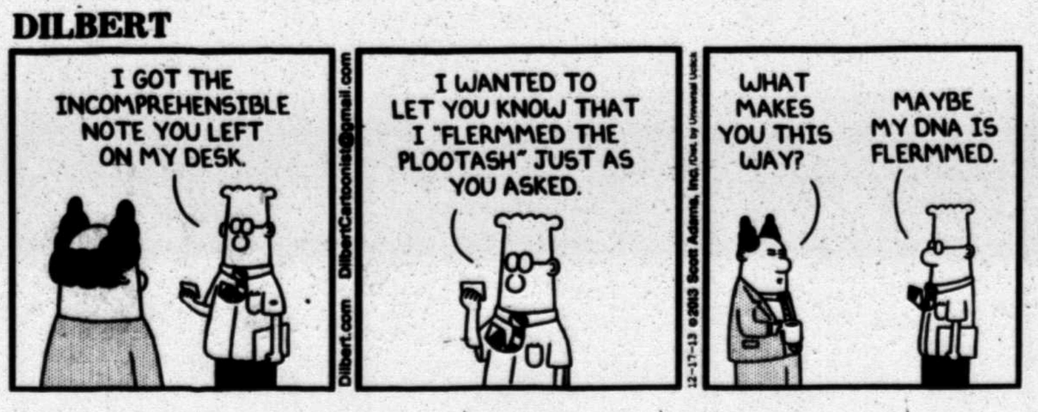
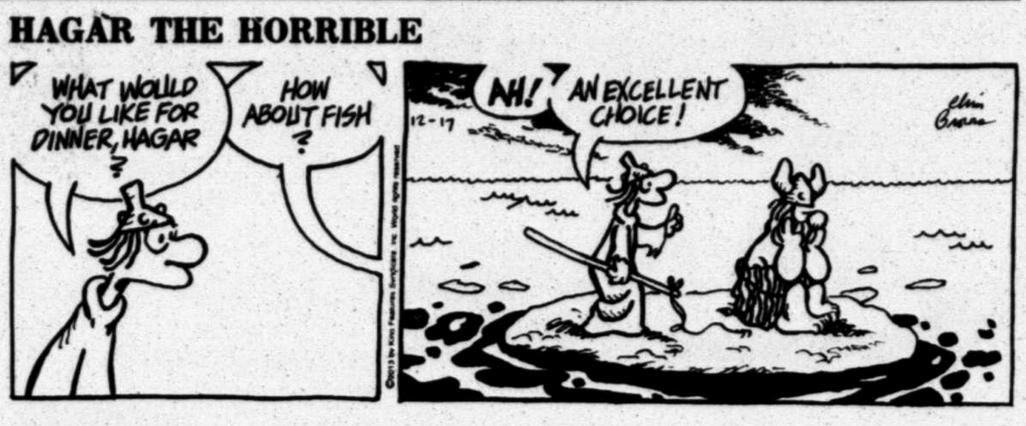


DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



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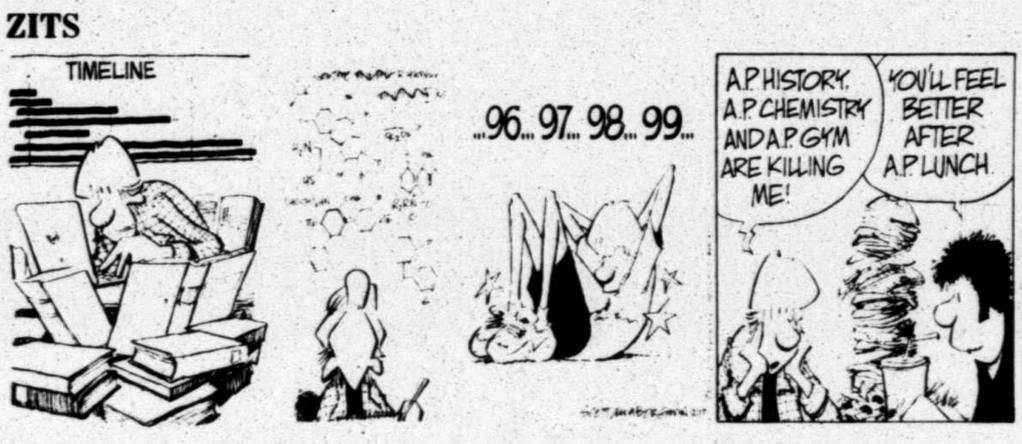

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Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No.080286020
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2013 — Status/Permit No.774067
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 13, 2014
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit,
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 26, Bk. 35 T2S, T&P RR CO / FUQUA, W S Survey, A-1283, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, GLASSCOCK COunty, being 13.4 miles NW direction from GARDEN CITY, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAL IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 13, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED AUTOMATICALLY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLCIATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	BOATWRIGHT '26'
Lease/Unit Well No. :	2
Lease/Unit Acres :	80.3
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	660.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1322.0

Lease Lines : 662.1 F SOUTH L, 660.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines : 1980.0 F NORTH L, 660.0 F WEST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 2 additional fields: (1) DEWEY LAKE (ATOKA), (2) BERRYHILL (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for these fields.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/0, 80.0 acres.
DEWEY LAKE (ATOKA): Special Rules 467/660, 40.0 acres
BERRYHILL (STRAWN): OIL Statewide ruls. 467/1200, 40.0 acres

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10600 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, NORMA DONOVAN, at (972) 969-3643.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 37/38 Case No. 0285490
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 16, 2013 — Status/Permit No. 772170
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 21, 2014
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a spacing and density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 and 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37 and 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DISTANCE BETWEEN WELLS requirement of Rule 37, and the DENSITY requirement of Rule 38, for the RECOMPLETION permit in Sec. 48, Bk. 39, T&P RR CO Survey, A-<N/A>, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) and BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) Fields, MIDLAND County, being 8.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	TEXAS TEN 'A'
Lease/Unit Well No. :	18
Lease/Unit Acres :	653.3
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	1320.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	933.0

Lease Lines : 1320.0 F SOUTH L, 1369.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines : 1320.0 F SOUTH L, 1320.0 F WEST L

FIELD: BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN)

Lease/Unit Name :	TEXAS TEN 'A'
Lease/Unit Well No. :	18
Lease/Unit Acres :	653.3
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	1320.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	933.0

Lease Lines : 1320.0 F SOUTH L, 1369.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines : 1320.0 F SOUTH L, 1320.0 F WEST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) AZALEA (BEND). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/0, 80.0 acres.
BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.
AZALEA (BEND) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 12000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, NORMA DONOVAN, at (972) 969-3643.

General Announcements

BETTER READ
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FOUND CALICO female cat. Call to identify, at 432-697-3516.

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FOUND - FEMALE dachshund older dog in Midland at Wadley and Midkiff. Very sweet well taken care of please contact Delores at 432-559-0172

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LOST JACK RUSSELL MALE. Black and whit. Last seen at Airline mobile home park. Wearing a Harly Davidson collar. Call 432-664-1035

LOST WEDDING RING at Graves Post Office across from HEB on Wadley Reward offered. Call 432-553-9410

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General Announcements

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed on Tuesday, December 17th, at 2:30 pm in order for our employees to enjoy our annual

Christmas Party.

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CHEVY 2008 Malibu $9950 We finance bnbmidland.com 432-683-6222

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CHRYSLER '02 300M Special, garaged, kept with 81,000 miles, loaded, great condition. $5,750. Call Karen 432 520-4191

DODGE 2010 Charger SXT 53k miles. Clean. bnbmidland.com 432-683-6222

FORD 1995 MUSTANG GT 5 speed standard. 95K miles. $4000 432-556-5511

Passenger Cars

FORD 2005 Mustang GT V8 auto. We finance. 432-683-6222 bnbmidland.com

FORD 2010 MUSTANG Candy Apple Red, Tan Leather Interior. Automatic V6, Power Windows, Seats, Mirrors, 6 CD Disk Changer One Owner, Non-Smoker Only 36,000 miles $13,500 432-967-0080

FORD 2010 Mustang V6, 66K, King Ranch Leather, Blue Light Package, Shaker Stereo. $14,900 432-556-0962

PONTIAC 2009 G8 GT White 95,800 Miles new tires Great Car Loaded $19,500 OBO 432-288-8018 after 5pm

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick up 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

CHEVY 2006 3500 Dually Crew Cab LS. 6.6 Duramax 432-683-6222 bnbmidland.com

CHEVY 2009 Ext Cab 4x4 We Finance bnbmidland.com Call 432-683-6222

Pickup Trucks

DIESEL PICKUP 2002 Chevrolet 2500 Silverado Extended cab, long bed. 197000 miles runs great $7500.00. Trailer, custom built, 14' tandem, 5000# axles, electric brakes both axles. Very sturdy. Call 432-520-3913

DODGE 1998 one ton dually, crew cab, 24V diesel, new tires,clean $12,900. 683-6222

FORD 2004 F350 Super Duty Crew Cab Lariat Pickup 4-wheel drive. Has FX4 off-road package. New Hankook all-terrain 10-ply tires. Two new Interstate Batteries. Air shocks with built-in air compressor. Custom camo seat covers. Running boards and spray-in bed liner. Runs great. Good condition. 175K miles. $17K 325-762-0431

FORD 2005 F250 XLT CrewCab Diesel 128k miles. $14,999. 683-6222 bnbmidland.com

FORD 2008 F150 XLT Crew Cab 86k miles bnbmidland.com Call 432-683-6222

FORD '97 F150 3 door step side white exterior with burgandy interior. $2000 432-559-5936

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Burlington Res. O&G Co-Midland, P.O. Box 51810 Midland, Texas 79710, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a amend injection permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Grayburg-San Andres Waddell, W N. Lease, Well No. 701 W. The proposed injection well is located 15 miles North West from Crane, Texas, in the Dune Field in Crane County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval of 3346'-3740'.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of The Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application, should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Drawer 12967, Austin, TX 78711. (Telephone (512) 463-6792)

Passenger Cars

BMW of the Permian Basin
2nd Location Now Open!
432-272-2400

2009 BMW 528i
Alpine/ Cream Beige Prem. Xenon, Assist & Bluetooth. 98k miles

2011 BMW X5 50i
Jet Black / Blk Sport Activity, Cold, Tech, Spare saver. Head up Avtive seats 13k miles, CPO

2013 BMW 335i Convertible
Jet Blk/Blk Conv. Prem, Nav, SaT. Though Loading System heated seats 4k miles, DEMO

2013 BMW 535i
Dark Graphite / Blk M sport , Tech, Prem , heated , head up display 6k miles, Service loaner

2013 BMW 528xi
Space Gray/Oyster Prem, Heated seats, rear view camera , Nav, 4k miles, Demo

2007 GMC Yukon
Gray/Blk Sat, Rear Seat Ent, 3rd row, 125k Super Clean

2012 BMW 535i
Space Gray/Oyster Prem sound, Sport , Prem. 11k miles, CPO

2012 Mercedes - CLS550
Blk/Blk Harman Kardon, Nav., 20k miles

2012 BMW 328i Coupe
Mineral Wht/Oyster M sport , Prem., hi- fi, nav.,12k miles

2013 BMW 328i
Wht/Blk-Red Blk racing Stripe Sport line, Sport Trans, Nav, Heated seats, 3k miles, Unique

bmwpermianbasin.com

Attention Readers
In observance of
Christmas Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2013

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 25th	Tues., Dec. 24th, NOON
Thurs., Dec. 26th	Tues., Dec. 24th, 2 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 25th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Thurs., Dec. 26th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Fri., Dec. 27th	Tues., Dec. 24th, NOON

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Wed., Dec. 25th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Thurs., Dec. 26th	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Sun., Dec. 29th (Oil Report/West Texas Living, Arts & Ent.)	Mon., Dec. 23rd, 5 PM
Fri., Dec. 27th	Tues., Dec. 24th, Noon

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken Wednesday, December 25th from 7 AM-11 AM only.
We will re-open Thursday, Dec. 26th for regular business hours.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Accountant

Oilfield Transportation Company Corporate Accounting Position Accounting degree preferred Experience a plus Employee benefits include 401(k), Health, Dental, Vision Send resume to E. L. Farmer, Attn: Human Resources, P.O. Box 3512, Odessa, TX 79760 or email lpipkin@elfarmer.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Applicants for various positions

Stanley Ford - Andrews **FT**

Stanley Ford- Andrews is currently seeking applicants for the following positions:
Service Advisors
Cetified Diesel Techs
Experienced Techs
Sales Associate
State Inspectors
We are willing to offer top pay depending on experience. Benefits include: vacation and medical benefits.
Qualified individuals may send resumes by fax to: 432-524-9112 or via email at: pplunkett@stanleyautogroup.com

HELP WANTED

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION SPECIALIST & AUTO DETAIL TECH

Best Pay in the Permian Basin. Plus Health, Life, Dental & Vision Insurance, Paid Uniforms and Paid Vacations. Two computers per Tech. Awesome tool room. Very Clean well lit shop in a modern Facility with state of the art equipment. Please ask for Bob Smith

FREEDOM
BUICK - GMC - TRUCK
5251 E. 42ND • ODESSA, TX 79762 • 432-550-9950
bob@freedombg.com
EOE

General Mechanic Needed

Abilities:

- Welding, Oil Changes, Brakes & Maintenance on trucks.
- Maintenance & Service on John Deere Motors & Centrifical Pumps.
- Trailer Repairs including hangers, axles, equalizers & lights.

Blue Cross Blue Shield medical & dental available after 90 days.

Pay will be discussed at interview.

Please submit all resumes via Fax to:
432-686-8205

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business Development Representitives

GeoGuidance Drilling Services, Inc. is currently seeking experienced Business Development Representatives for West Texas. Candidates must have at least 5+years in Business Development specifically in the Directional Drilling sector of Oil & Gas. All candidates are required to have a clean driving record and drug free. All Serious applicants, please send RESUME to jobs@ggdsinc.com or mail to 901 Tower Way, Bakersfield, CA 93309

GEOGUIDANCE

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Admin Clerk

Reliance Industrial Product **FT**

Must be responsible and reliable. Basic knowledge of computers.Deligent self motivated worker. Email resume to: rberg@relianceindustrial.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Monday-Thursday from 2-6, Event and meeting planning,Make travel arrangements,running errands,setting appointments,monitor expenses. Attach resume with references and salary expectations: rduffey13@yahoo.com

Collection Clerk

FT

Collection Clerk needed for local trucking company. Please send resumes to boomerangtrucking@yahoo.com or apply in person at 4801 South County Rd 1200, Midland , TX . Salary DOE

ENERGY & UTILITIES

hunt

A privately held exploration and production company, Hunt Oil has successfully conducted worldwide petroleum operations for over 75 years, and is one of the world's leading independent energy companies.

We are currently seeking candidates to work in Midland, TX in the following positions:

- **Production Foreman** - 10+ years' experience in field level supervision; High school diploma or equivalent required
- **Lease Operator** - 5+ years production experience; High school diploma or equivalent required
- **EHS & Regulatory Specialist** - strong oil & gas operational knowledge; experience in implementing safety & regulatory plans
- **Field Clerk** - experience as an Administrative Assistant or Field Clerk; High school diploma with college degree a plus
- **Production Engineer** - 3+ years' experience in Production Engineering and/or Well Completions; BS in Engineering required
- **Sr. Production Engineer** - 8+ years' experience in Production Engineering and/or Well Completions; BS in Engineering required
- **Assistant Foreman** - 7+ years' experience in operations; experience in field level supervision preferred
- **Gang Pusher** - 5+ years' experience in production; High school diploma or equivalent required

Interested parties: please visit our website at www.huntoil.com and select the Career Opportunities link to find the appropriate position. You can "Apply for this Position" or if you are already registered use your email and password and select "Add to my Jobs" to be considered for this opportunity.

Field Technician (Midland, TX)

An established environmental consulting company is currently looking to fill a field technician position. The position is fulltime with benefits and requires working in the field. Good mechanical aptitude is preferred, but not required. Duties Include: groundwater sampling, obtaining groundwater data from monitor wells, and recovering phase separated hydrocarbons from monitor wells. Use of personal vehicle may be required and may travel more than 150 miles per day. Compensation is hourly and will be discussed during the interview. Please send resumes to Becky via email to rhaskell@novatraining.cc or by mail to 2057 Commerce Drive, Midland, Texas 79703.

Tubing Testers & Scanners

Confidential **FT**
Odessa, TX 79763

Oilfield Service Company in Odessa, TX looking to hire Tubing Testers and Scanners. Must have clean driving record and be able to pass a drug test. Come to 1535 Windcrest, Odessa, TX to fill out application.

The internet is the best thing to happen to newspapers since the paperboy.

DURING A TYPICAL WEEK, NEWSPAPER MEDIA REACH 77% OF ALL ADULTS.

newspapermedia.com

mywesttexas.com

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

Pay $10.00 per hour paid every 2 weeks

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@hearstmp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Energy Sales

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN ENERGY SALES
MANUFACTURER'S REP FOR MULTIPLE OILFIELD PRODUCTS

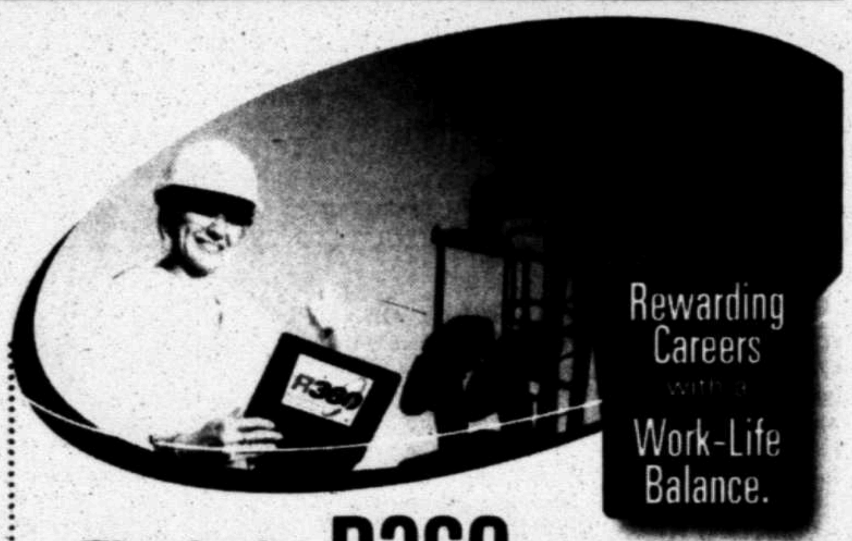
CURRENT POSITIONS AVAILABLE:
✦ CORPORATE SALES ✦

Required experience
- 5-10 years' experience calling on engineering and corporate level project managers within the oil and gas industry.
- 5 years' direct experience selling related products to oilfield services clientele.
- Degree preferred but not required for right candidate.

Required characteristics
- Naturally conveys passion and enthusiasm for the company's products; able to convey technical product details in the most effective manner.
- Polished sales skills at the executive level – adept at interacting with and cultivating relationships with engineering design and project coordinators for major projects within oil and gas industry.
- Equally comfortable delivering high-impact sales presentations in boardroom settings as well as going into the field to ensure delivery/installation has gone smoothly.
- Self-directed; highly competitive and goal-oriented. Strives to sell "all of the product we can get our hands on."
- Ability to identify, strategize, and pursue major sales opportunities.

Location Flexible: Midland, TX/Houston, TX/Oklahoma City, OK — Travel Necessary
Salary Dependent on Experience + Competitive Bonus + Company Vehicle + Country Club Membership + Health Insurance + 401K

CALL US TODAY!
432.580.7280 | www.EnergySalesLLC.com
1408 W Interstate 20
Odessa, Texas 79763



That's the R360 experience.

R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc. is the nation's leading independent provider of oil and gas E&P waste treatment and disposal services. If you are looking to be part of a TEAM and interested in a rewarding career, we want to talk to you about openings at our new facility opening in **Stanton, TX**.

Job Fair
Friday, Dec 20th, 1PM - 6PM
Saturday, Dec 21st, 10AM - 3PM
R360 Environmental Solutions, Inc.
2499 FM 3033 • Stanton TX 79782

We have opportunities for:

Operations Supervisor
Equipment Operators
Diesel Mechanics
Electrician | Laborers | Receivers

We offer a family atmosphere, competitive wages and an excellent benefits package that includes

Medical/dental insurance • Life/disability insurance
401(k) with company match • Paid time off

Join us on the 20th or 21st to learn more about these amazing opportunities. If unable to attend, submit your resume online at:
www.r360es.com

R360 ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

R360 Environmental Solutions is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer (Minority/Female/Disabled/Veterans).

HEALTHCARE

RN, LVN & MA

Busy Physician's office looking for RN, LVN & MA. Please fax resumes to 682-2284 or mail to Attn: Arita Routh, P.O. Box 5291, Midland, Texas 79704 KHA7032

Registered Dental Assistant

FT

Registered Dental Assistant needed for a busy Oral Surgery Practice. Must be dependable and able to travel to work in Midland or Odessa locations. Please fax resume to 432-620-0813.

RNs for Su Casa Home Health

RN position is **PT**. Great benefits and pay rate. Fax resume to **432-570-0823** or come by **1311 W. Florida, Midland, TX.**

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Food & Beverage Director/Manager

Job Description: Must have working knowledge of all Food & Beverage positions, food preparation, and beverage service. Will maintain and manage the highest standards of products and services while maximizing profitability though revenue generation, labor and expense controls. Provide training to the team to lead the market In service efficiency. Provide assistance with set up of banquet rooms for functions (chairs, tables, linens, etc.).
Job Requirements: At least two years' experience in a Food & Beverage Management role. Experience in a full service or select service hotel preferred. Must have skills in inventory control, labor cost control, menu creation, banquets, ability to use MS Word and MS Excel. Excellent communication skills in order to professionally deal with occasional difficult situations/people. Must be able to meet deadlines consistently and prioritize business demands. Adjust to schedule changes, cover shifts on short notice and will need to work a variety of hours and perform varied tasks under varied conditions. This is a hands on position. Excellent salary and benefits.
Apply at Hilton Garden Inn 1301 N loop 250 West

Sales Managers

We currently have an exciting opportunity for a Corporate Sales Manager AND Leisure Sales Manager selling for TownePlace Suites, Residence Inn and Hilton Garden Inn branded hotels in the Midland/Odessa market. Both corporate and leisure positions include soliciting of accounts, nurturing and growing client relationships/ business, consistently up-selling the hotel's rooms to meet or exceed set sales goals, budgeting, forecasting, and assist in the creation of the marketing/business plan.
Job Requirements
*Must utilize a "hands-on" approach to be actively involved in maintaining current accounts; as well as securing, qualifying, and following up on leads to book new clients.
Position Offers:
*Competitive Salary*Bonus Plan*Growth Potential*Health and Dental Insurance *Paid Vacation *

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Assistant

Natural Gas Services Group **FT**

NGSG is seeking a Human Resources Assistant. Responsibilities will included Multi-state payroll, Benefit Administration, HR administration, maintaining files, reports and working with the accounting Department. This individual must have at minimum of 3 years payroll service and 3 years Human Resources experience. Excellent Salary & Benefit package. For more information or to submit resume contact Employment@ngsgi.com or call 432.262.2700.

INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Area Engineer

Now accepting applications for Area Engineer(Head Maintenance). Hotel experience preferred. This is a salaried position with excellent salary and benefits. Will be responsible for three hotels in the Midland area. Please reply to P-101 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, Tx. 79701

OTHER JOBS

All Positions

Firehouse Subs **FT**
Midland, TX 79701

Now hiring Slice, Prep, Cashiers, Catering & Kitchen help for AM/PM positions. Apply in person: 2900 W. Loop 250 North, Ste 162.

CDL Bus Driver

The Boys & Girls Club of Midland seeking afternoon CDL Bus Driver. Approximately 2 hours per day @ $25 per hour. Mon-Fri. Call Michael 683-0050 .

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS 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

Pay $10.00 per hour paid every 2 weeks

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@hearstmp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

OTHER JOBS

The Midland Reporter Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the position of:

Pressman/Pressman Trainee

for our Harris N 1650 Printing presses. This 5-6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires: night shift weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter-Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE.

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Production Director
c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701
E-mail: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
or
come by 201 E. Illinois Street to fill out an application.

HEARST corporation

Midland Reporter-Telegram is a part of Hearst Corp.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

SKILLED LABOR

ULTRA TECH FRAC SERVICES LLC

FRACTURING ■ ACIDIZING ■ ENGINEERING

Begin a career with a growing team.

UTFS, A Keane Group Company is seeking experienced Frac Site Supervisors, Frac Equipment Operators with a Class A CDL, Frac Mechanics, and a QHSE Manager to join our growing team. We offer competitive salaries and benefits packages. For consideration, please submit an application at www.keanegrp.com/careers.html or submit a resume to HR@keanegrp.com.

Forklift Operator

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the Position of "Fork Lift Operator" and other duties as assigned.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Ability to read and write
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to bend and reach overhead
- Ability to count accurately and do simple math
- Able to operate a forklift and willing to be certified
- Be reliable, responsible and able to follow instructions
- Capable of standing and walking for extended period of time
- Able to work in various environments that include winter and summer conditions.
- Must be able to work weekends when necessary

RESPONSIBILITES:
- Accurate loading and unloading of printed materials in a safe and efficient manner
- Ensure material are efficiently/properly stacked and stored in appropriate and designated areas
- Perform other non-forklift duties when assigned

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest diversified communications companies. Its major interests include magazines, newspapers and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, Internet businesses and more. As an associate of the Midland Reporter-Telegram, you join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

Send resume and salary requirements to: **John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities**
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram - 201 E. Illinois St - Midland, TX 79701
Email to: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

HEARST media services

Midland Reporter-Telegram
Delivering life...every day.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MARC

Creating choices for people with disabilities

Now accepting applications until January 1, 2014 for the following position:

Home & Community Based Services Program Director

Successful candidate must have experience in case management, working with individuals with disabilities and their families, ability to communicate effectively and have a desire to be part of a team working on behalf of children and adults who have disabilities.
Salary depending on experience. Benefit package includes health and dental insurance, 403(B) retirement and 3 weeks paid time off your first year.

Apply in person at 2701 North A Street or send resume to Linda Ireland at
lireland@marcinc-tx.org
432-498-8590

OTHER JOBS

Housekeeper
Villa Chateau Apartments FT
Full time Housekeeper needed. Physical/Drug screen & Background check done. Apply in person at Villa Chateau Apts., 1603 N. Midkiff Rd., Midland, TX 79701. No phone calls please.

Inventory Manager - OCTG
United Casing, Inc. FT
Must have pipeyard experience and computer skills. Pay rate based on skills & experience. Send all inquiries & resumes to gpatterson@unitedcasing.com or bring to 3610 E. Highway 158, Midland. **Qualified Applicants Only.**

Surveyor
Willbros seeks New Mexico Professional Surveyor for Midland, TX office. TX registration a plus. Oil and gas pipeline exp. a plus. Min. 5 years surveying exp. with supervisory assignments. Competitive pay/benefit package. EOE. To apply go to: www.willbros.com - click on Careers.

QA & QUALITY CONTROL

NACE Level 1 Inspector
NACE Level 1 Inspector with ASME code experience needed to act as Quality Assurance Manager. Salary DOE. Send resume and salary requirements to **RWI Construction, 10700 State Hwy 191, Midland, TX 79707.**

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

DOMINO'S PIZZA NOW HIRING!
•Drivers: Make cash everyday. Great part time & full time shifts. Starting wage of $7.50 an hour (no split tip/wage here) plus delivery reimbursement, plus tips. **•CSRs:** Great part time & full time shifts. Starting wage of $8.25 an hour. Bright & Friendly people only! **•Shift Leaders:** Great part time & full time shifts. Starting wage of $10 an hour. Flexible Schedules. Apply at any **Domino's Pizza** Midland or Odessa or send resume **dominos@clearwire.net**. Senior citizens & stay at home moms always welcome. EOE

Hiring All Positions
Basin Burger House is hiring for all positions. FOH shift managers, kitchen shift managers, bussers, wait staff, dish washers, and cooks. Join our team! Apply in person at **607 N Colorado, Downtown Midland.**

Now Hiring
Taste at 508 Barista Cafe All Arounder.
Call 432-230-0225

SALES JOBS

FLOOR MANAGER
Westlake ACE Hardware, one of the largest retailers of home hardware in the U.S., has an opening for **Floor Manager** for our Midland TX store. Our Floor Manager reports to the General Manager. **Westlake** operates 85 stores in seven states and we are growing. We offer starting salary of $40,000, bonus eligibility, two weeks paid vacation and holidays, a liberal employee discount and other benefits. Whether you've worked in the hardware industry, another retail environment or you're just getting started in your retail career, **Westlake ACE** could be the right fit for you. Submit resume and salary history to **resumes@westlakehardware.com** or fax to **866-490-0460.**

SALES JOBS

Salesperson
Salesperson needed for mattress store in Midland. Are you tired of working furniture store hours from dawn to dark? Personable, energetic individual needed for full time position. Should be good with people and have a professional appearance. Job description includes both sales and clerical/administrative duties. Compensation includes full commission (no tiers, minimums or holdbacks), plus spiffs, vacation, and 401k. No late hours or Sundays. Mail resume to Sleep Shop, 3303 W. Illinois, Midland, TX. 79703

STORE MANAGERS and CASHIERS
Smoker's Outlet is looking for **Store Managers** and **Cashiers** in the Midland area. We offer competitive wages and a good work environment. Paid weekly. Go by your nearest **Smoker's Outlet** to apply.

SKILLED LABOR

Apprentice/Journeyman Electricians
Apprentice/Journeyman Electricians needed. Fort Worth Electrical Contractor needs Apprentice and Journeyman Electricians for work in Andrews, TX area. Please fax resume, list of experience & salary requirements to 817-355-5355. Attn: H.R. Dept.

Electrician
Apple Electrical Contractors FT
Odessa, TX
Apple Electrical Contractors, Inc. has immediate openings for experienced and/or licensed Journeyman and Apprentice Electricians. Pre-employment drug test required. Fill out an application at 7540 Andrews Hwy, Odessa, TX 79765 or fax a resume to 432-363-0192 or email alan@appleelectric.com. No phone calls please.

HR Generalist
Teraco, Inc. FT
Teraco, Inc. is an industry leading plastic card manufacturer located in Midland. We currently have a job opening in our HR Department. The HR Generalist will oversee employee relations, recruiting, safety, training, compensation, government regulations and reporting, staffing, record keeping, and payroll. PHR Certification is preferred. Bilingual is a plus. Benefits include: paid vacation and holiday, tuition reimbursement, 401K, and medical insurance. Email your inquiries and salary requirements to: resume@teraco.com

Licensed Commercial Plumber & Exp. Helpers
TMI Mechanical currently hiring **Licensed Commercial Plumbers & Experienced Helpers** for local jobsites. We offer top pay **(up to $28/hr and we will pay additional for medical gas endorsements)**. Paid medical, paid vacations and holidays. Must have good driving record. Please call **432-686-0002** for interview.

Tool & Equipment Procurement Manager
Strong Electric now hiring an experienced Tool & Equipment Procurement Manager.
This position will plan, organize, direct, control and coordinate the supply, storage and distribution of tools and equipment.
Download application online at www.strongelectric.net.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL Driver
Class A CDL Driver needed. Must have at least 1 year experience. Good pay and benefits. Also needing a swamper (driver helper). Please apply in person at 7600 West County Rd 116, Midland Texas. For information contact Deborah at 432-617-5000.

Class A CDL Drivers & Shuttle Drivers
Class A CDL Drivers needed - $2,500 Sign-On Bonus! Guaranteed Pay! 2 years experience required. Apply: to Brown Brothers DOS @ 11308 W. Hwy 80 E. in Odessa, 79765. Email jobs@bbdos.com, Visit www.bbdos.com or Call 432-272-7640 for more information. ALSO HIRING Shuttle Drivers - valid drivers license required, clean MVR & must be at least 23 years of age.

Class A CDL Drivers
WE ARE LOOKING FOR CLASS A CDL DRIVERS WITH TANKER ENDORSEMENT FOR THE PERMIAN BASIN AREA TO HAUL SALT WATER LOCALLY. WE PREFER EXPERIENCED DRIVERS, BUT WILL TRAIN THE RIGHT CANDIDATES. COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS AFTER 90 DAYS OF EMPLOYMENT. BOTH DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL CLINT AT 817-526-4126 OR CLINT@TUTLEANDTUTLE.COM FOR A DRIVER'S APPLICATION

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver $2,000 sign-on bonus, 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 **432-563-1894** for interview or online @ **www.rockwaterenergy.com**

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Drivers
Reliance Industrial Product FT
Must have valid drivers license and provide clean driving record. Reliable. Willing to work overtime. Email resume to: rberg@relianceindustrial.com

Lease Trucks & Company Driver
SanJan Hot Shot & Transportation FT
San Jan Hot Shot is now hiring Hot Shot Lease Trucks and Semi Lease Trucks. We are also hiring company drivers. Must have experience. 432-488-6430 or 432-563-0307.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER STREET 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: Tony 687-9002

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FREE FEMALE AMERICAN BULLDOG left abandoned to good home. ASAP. 432-634-7764

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Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

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BALDWIN BABY Grand Piano, Black, 5'2" Concert Grade, $9,500. Appraised for $12,500. Call 432-553-4654.

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Pets

AKC BOXERS for Sale. 1 male 3 female left. Please text 325-245-9964 or 325-374-9510 for pics and more info.

ENGLISH BULL DOG PUPS. 3 males left. Reg. all shots, Pedigree and Health records. 806-341-4340

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LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/ eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs. www.pooleslabs.com. Call (806) 633-4364.

Pets

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2079YA	2014	MAZD	MAZDA6 4DR SDN AUTO I SPORT	$23,991
U12675	2013	TOYO	TUNDRA 4WD CREWMAX 5.7L	$35,981
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M12593	2013	MAZD	CX-5 AWD 4DR AUTO SPORT	$23,881
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U12672	2013	INFI	FX37 AWD 4DR BLACK	$38,881
U12651	2013	FORD	F-150 4WD SUPERCREW 145"	$37,881
M12609	2013	CHRY	300 4DR SDN 300C RWD	$28,750
U12688	2013	CHEV	SILVERADO 2WD CREW CAB	$27,581
S10485	2012	VOLK	JETTA SEDA 4DR AUTO SE	$15,225
U12659	2012	MITS	LANCER 4DR SDN CVT GT FWD	$16,881
S10482	2012	JEEP	WRANGLER U 4WD 4DR SAHARA	$34,900
U12693	2012	GMC	SIERRA 150 4WD CREW CAB	$34,581
U12687	2012	FORD	F-150 4WD SUPERCREW 145"	$35,781
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M12544	2012	BMW	X5 AWD 4DR 35I PREMIUM	$38,789
S10459	2012	BMW	X3 AWD 4DR 28I	$35,750
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S10496	2011	JEEP	PATRIOT FWD 4DR SPORT	$12,221
U12677	2011	HOND	PILOT 2WD 4DR EX-L	$25,741
U12682	2011	GMC	YUKON XL AWD 4DR 1500 DENALI	$39,891
U12696	2011	FORD	F-150 2WD SUPERCREW 145"	$29,881
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U12644	2010	LEXU	IS 350C 2DR CONV	$33,864
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SKYLINE 186 2011 like new, comes complete, sleeps 4, flatscreen TV & new hitch, $8,500 OBO, 817-596-9088.

TOYOTA 1986 Mini Cruiser, only 37k miles, 18+ feet, fully loaded, sleeps 4 comfortably. P/S, A/C, great running 22RE motor, $3200 OBO. **Call 432-599-8306**

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FOR SALE 2012 Lexion S-Lite. 31' with 1 slide. Loaded! Pulled 1 time. Used retail $30,310. Asking $27,300 or best offer. 432-687-2621 after 5pm

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Estate Sale by Joseph and Team
2102 N. "H", Midland
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

This home is PACKED with great antique and collectible items. Be sure to leave yourself plenty of time to browse! Items include...Milk glass, salt & pepper collection, vintage kitchen, silver plate, depression glass, antique quilts/wall clocks, core lamp, antique wall phones, men's western boots, antique curios/gun case, Howard Miller grandfather clock, hand carved Santa's/and other items, antique cast iron mechanical banks, spinning wheel lamp, chase lounge, maple tea cart, antique side & lamp tables/radio/desk/wash stand/hall tree, cradles, writing desk wooden rocking horse, art work, washer/dryer/fridge, roll top desk, china cabinet, drop leaf dining table, kitchen hutch, chest/dressers with mirrors, cedar chests, secretary, king bed, cabinets, file cabinets, Shop Smith, band saw, drill press, grinders, jigs saws, chop saw, ship vacs, yard décor, trailers, riding lawn mower, lawn mower, edger, animal traps, and the usual household misc.
For pictures please go to...
http://www.estatesales.net/estate-sales/TX/Midland/79705/550671

Yard & Garage Sales

Area Sales

PERFUME SALE! Great gifts - great prices- all new! TWO DAYS ONLY Wednesday 12/18 &Thursday 12/19 - 3pm-6pm 4101 Dawn Circle in alley

DON'T MISS OUT!
The deadline for a Saturday Garage Sale ad is Friday at 12 noon
Please be sure to call 682-6222, by 11:30 am, to ensure your ad will be in Saturday's paper.

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Real Estate Rentals & Sales

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502 HOLMSLEY 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, $1,445. 432-699-7720.

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Houses for Rent Unfurnished

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Condos/ Townhouses

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Condos/Townhouses

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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

1			7			4		
		4		1		6		
	3	5			8	9		
				3			4	2
	2						6	
6	4			7				
		9	8			5	7	
		6		2		8		
		3			1			4

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

7	6	2	9	1	5	4	3	8
8	5	9	4	3	6	1	2	7
1	4	3	7	2	8	6	9	5
3	9	7	2	5	4	8	6	1
2	8	4	1	6	9	5	7	3
5	1	6	3	8	7	9	4	2
9	7	1	5	4	3	2	8	6
6	3	5	8	9	2	7	1	4
4	2	8	6	7	1	3	5	9

12/17/13

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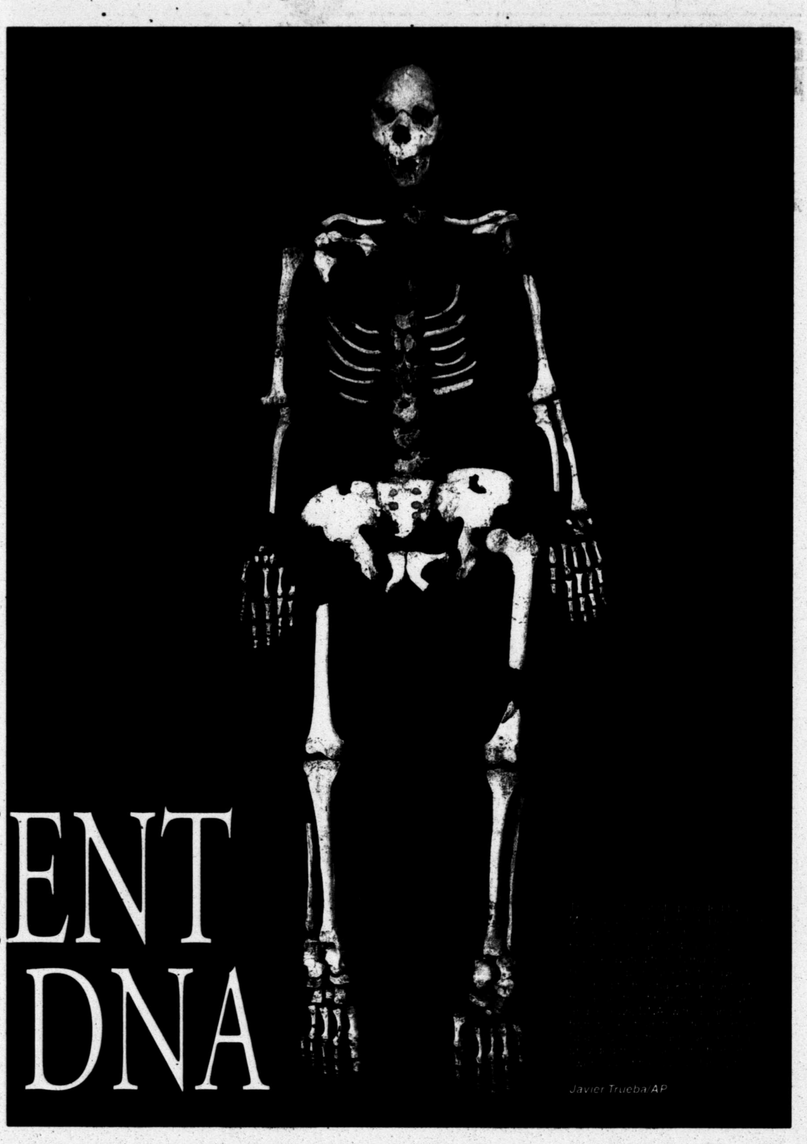

Javier Trueba AP

ANCIENT DNA

Ancient DNA from human relative sets age record

By Malcolm Ritter
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists have reached farther back than ever into the ancestry of humans to recover and analyze DNA, using a bone found in Spain that's estimated to be 400,000 years old. So far, the achievement has provided more questions than answers about our ancient forerunners.

The feat surpasses the previous age record of about 100,000 years for genetic material recovered from members of the human evolutionary line. Older DNA has been mapped from animals.

Experts said the work shows that new techniques for working with ancient DNA may lead to more discoveries about human origins.

Results were presented online Dec. 4 in the journal Nature by Matthias Meyer and colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, with co-authors in Spain and China.

They retrieved the DNA from a thighbone found in a cave in northern Spain. It is among thousands of fossils from at least 28 individuals to be recovered from a chamber called the "Pit of the Bones." The remains are typically classified as Homo heidelbergensis, but not everybody agrees.

The age of the bones has been hard to determine. A rough estimate from analyzing the DNA is around 400,000 years, which supports what Meyer said is the current view of the anthropologists excavating the site. Todd Disotell, an anthropology professor at New York University, said geological techniques suggest the remains are older than 300,000 years but it's not clear by how much. By comparison, modern humans arose only about 200,000 years ago.

The researchers mapped almost the complete collection of so-called mitochondrial DNA. While the DNA most people know about is found in the nucleus of a cell, mitochondrial DNA lies outside the nucleus. It is passed only from mother to child.

Researchers used the DNA to construct possible evolutionary family trees that include the Spanish individuals and two groups that showed up much later: Neanderthals and an evolutionary cousin of Neanderthals called Denisovans. They assumed the DNA would show similarities to Neanderthal DNA, since the Spanish fossils have anatomical features reminiscent of Neanderthals.

But surprisingly, the DNA instead showed a closer relationship to Denisovans, who lived in Siberia and apparently elsewhere in Asia, far from the Spanish cave. Scientists are uncertain of how to explain that, Meyer said.

The picture should get clearer if scientists can recover the other kind of DNA, found in the nucleus, from the Spanish bones, he said. Nucleus DNA would give more comprehensive information about evolutionary relationships between species, perhaps telling a story much different from the mitochondrial DNA evidence, Meyer said. Nucleus DNA is harder to recover, but Meyer said he's optimistic that some small fraction might be retrievable.

He also noted that the cave has acted as "the perfect fridge" to preserve the DNA for eons, and said it will be hard to find comparable situations elsewhere.

Experts in ancient DNA called the new paper exciting because it showed scientists can recover older DNA than many had thought outside the deep freeze of permafrost areas. Much of human evolution happened in warmer places.

"We had been operating for a while under the assumption that the oldest DNA we're going to get is about 100,000 years," said Disotell. Now, "we might take a shot at some older samples that we just never would have bothered with in the past."

In warm places like Africa, where DNA does not preserve well, even getting genetic material that is just tens of thousands of years old would be an advance, said David Reich of Harvard Medical School.

Online:
Nature: http://www.nature.com/nature

Tech predictions for 2014

Dear PropellerHeads: What do you see in our techno-future for 2013?

A: It's time for our annual predictions column already? My, how time has flown. I have been so busy trying to sign up for health care that I haven't been paying attention.

So, without further ado, our 2014 predictions….

HealthCare.gov is dead! Long live HealthCare.gov! Ok, so Obama didn't hire the PropellerHeads to build HealthCare.gov. The rollout has been a disaster. That being said, after a little more pain, we think the "glitches" will be behind us. We predict that after the deadlines move a bit further down the road the website will finally do what it was intended to.

Cable TV is dead! Long live streaming TV! By now, many of you have cut the cord on cable, satellite or fiber TV. At $100 or more per month, even Breaking Bad was looking expensive. A good alternative for us laggards is an amalgam of services that give you great viewing choices for about $30-$40 a month. Start by connecting a decent over-the-air antenna for free viewing of network broadcasts. Check out the Best Buy buyers guide to get you started. Subscribe to one or two of the great streaming services like Amazon Prime Netflix.com, and Hulu.com/plus to get access to movies, TV shows and original programming on your SmartTV, streaming device, PC, or tablet for about $9 a month.

Windows 8 RT is dead! Long live Windows 8.1! OK, Microsoft blew it. Windows 8 RT (aka hobbled tablet) was a very poor choice against nice offerings from Apple and Android (Google). But full-fledged Windows 8.1, including the beloved Start button, looks like it is a keeper. If you are looking for a small-form computer (tablet), but need all of Windows, this is a good solution. Some nice Windows 8.1 tablets, like the Asus 10.1" Tablet T100TA-B1-GR, can be had for about $350.

Gear is dead! Kudos to Samsung for their Galaxy line, especially for those who appreciate more screen space. But being tethered to yet more gadgets, none of which can make a decent phone call, is not the answer. Even the über-nerds here at Prop Central will not be getting the geeky Dick Tracy-styled wristwatch to accompany their 5.7" phone. Well, unless it's a Christmas gift…thanks, Mom!

A new Dawn. This PropellerHead can't wait until July for Dawn of the Planet of the Apes. New movie series based on old classics often disappoint, but c'mon! Rise of the Planet of the Apes was awesome, with all due respect to Mr. Heston and the rest of the damn, dirty apes. Can anyone say Oscar?

No 4K for you! We really don't see a big move toward 4K TVs (4,000 pixels, ultra-high definition) in 2014. Many of us suckers — I mean "consumers" — are still paying off our little-used 3D TVs. I already see way too many pock-faced TV talking heads; I don't need any more detail. Sure, when my TV breaks, maybe. Hopefully by then, my holodeck will be completed or at least there will be some 4K content. If you must, there is a nice buying guide from our friends at CNET.

Google Glass — Yes, please! OK, it is super nerdy. But I must have one. As its capabilities expand, more apps are built, and the price drops, I don't see how 2014 will pass without the ultimate in four-eyes gear finding its way to this PropHead. All of those no-text-while-you-drive laws will have to be rewritten. That's progress.

Happy New Year from the PropellerHeads at Data Directions!

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