New year, new restrictions?

Mayor, city staff considering new watering rules for Midland residents

Learn more in LOCAL/13A

Midland Reporter-Telegram

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012 mywesttexas.com Vol. 183, No. 296 Daily 75¢, Sunday $2

TSA finds explosives at Midland airport

FBI takes man into custody for having military-grade wrap

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

The FBI is holding a man in custody Saturday afternoon after security at Midland International Airport found explosives in his carry-on bag. The terminal was shut down for an hour.

The suspect is active military, and Transportation Security Administration officers found the explosives while he went through the X-ray machine, Midland police said. The incident happened at 9:26 a.m. Saturday.

The man had been in town visiting family and was traveling back to North Carolina, confirmed MPD Sgt. Brian Rackow.

The explosives were in military-grade wrapping, but police said they won't know what their grade is until they are sent out for testing.

The items were in MPD possession Saturday afternoon, said public information officer Tasa Watts.

The Lubbock Regional Response team provided a bomb-sniffing dog Saturday afternoon to assist with the investigation, authorities said.

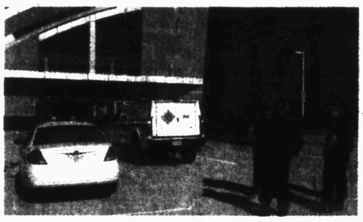
TSA officials notified law enforncement who evacuated the terminal and closed the checkpoint for one hour while the item was removed and the area investigated.

The incident remains under investigation, said Lisa Farbstein with the TSA.

A spokesman for the FBI would not release the man's name but said officials detained him. He said he did not know where the man was being held, saying he was at either the airport or at the FBI office in Midland.

An airport operations spokesperson said no flights were delayed because of the incident.

Audrie Palmer can be reached at apalmer@mrt.com.



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Sgt. Brian Rackow, of the Midland police bomb squad, left, talks with other officers outside Midland International Airport on Saturday morning after an incident where the TSA stopped an active duty military member because the X-ray machine detected explosives in his carry-on bag.

MRT'S WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2012

BONDS, BUILDING & BANS

Here is a list of topics predicted to be big stories in the new year

MISD bond

Planning, proposing and executing a bond initiative for Midland ISD will be a top priority for district officials and members of the board of trustees in 2012.

After deciding it may have been ambitious to prepare for a May 2012 bond election, the board released a request of qualifications from architecture firms on Dec. 14. It outlines that the board of trustees plans to call a general bond election for renovations, additions and new school construction for Midland schools within the next calendar year.

Superintendent Ryder Warren has said the historic building project will require him to "ask this community to totally let us change the way we serve children here."

Warren said he believes the key to improving education is through reconfiguration. He will ask the community to create true high schools to serve students in grades 9-12, six middle schools that would serve sixth- through eighth-grade students and have elementary schools serve pre-K through fifth grade students.

"We could be looking at a building project that, if approved, could transform our schools and everything we do," Warren said.



New hospital tower to open

Construction of the new patient tower at Midland Memorial Hospital is slated to be completed by the end of the year. On Feb. 25, 2010, construction began for the nine-floor tower, and staff said the tower is expected to be finished by the fall or winter months. By spring and summer of 2013, MMH officials said all elements of the project will be completed.

Landscaping was a concern among staff because of the severe drought conditions. In October, officials met with architects to develop a xeriscape design to conserve water and will incorporate river rock and crushed granite with the trees and shrubs that already have been planted.

Between October and December, the canopy and entry construction began and the new surgery waiting room was completed. The roof of the tower also was finished, along with drywall for floors four to nine, and HVAC was installed to heat and cool the building. Sheetrock was installed on the first, second and third floors, and bathrooms were tiled.

This month, major mechanical and electrical components in the tower will be completed to allow the project to be temperature controlled and to move forward with critical installations such as flooring and millwork. Also by February, the data center is expected to be completed and equipment moved in.

By April, the new cafeteria is expected to be completed, officials said, and it will seat three times the capacity of the existing cafeteria with booths, tables and a barstool countertop overlooking the courtyard.



Council to consider texting while driving ban

Midlanders may be told to hang up and drive if one city councilman has his way in 2012.

In October, At-large Councilman Scott Dufford brought up the idea of a texting while driving ban, saying he wishes people would "hang up and drive" rather than sending messages while traversing the roads. The City Council voted in November in a 5-2 motion to allow city staff to draft an ordinance it could consider during the start of 2012.

A similar proposal died for lack of a second motion at an Odessa City Council meeting in November. Gov. Rick Perry also vetoed a similar ban after it had been proposed by Rep. Tom Craddick and passed through the Legislature during 2011.

Midland City Council members said they believe the issue will come up for a vote at the start of the year.

Regardless of how the council votes, Craddick said he will re-introduce his texting ban bill during the 83rd legislative session.

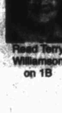
More than 30 states and several Texas cities, including Austin and San Antonio, already have banned texting while driving.



INSIDE: State and local 2012 elections, Horseshoe Arena renovations, new tennis center • 4A

INSIDE

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		Food	7E	TV Schedule	3F
		Living	1E	Weather	12A



Read Terry Williamson on 1B



Sunny High 61 Low 29

Aggies in driver's seat

SPORTS/1C

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-3093

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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weddings@mrt.com

■ **How can I obtain a photo reprint?** 687-8833

■ **How do I submit a Letter to the Editor?**
By fax: 570-7650
By email: Letters@mrt.com
Letters must have name, phone number and address. Limit: 350 words.

■ **How do I submit an obituary?** obits@mrt.com

■ **How do I handle billing problem?**
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your city this week

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Reporter-Telegram and MyWestTexas.com is looking for community news items. If you think you have one, send it to Editor Stewart Doreen at sdoreen@mrt.com. Selected items will find their way into the paper or online.

It's happening

Today
■ Tall City New Year's Calf Roping Blowout, 10 a.m., Horseshoe

Tuesday
■ Classic Movie Club, 7 p.m., Cigar Frog's

Friday and Saturday
■ 79th SandHills Stock Show & Rodeo, Ector County Coliseum, Odessa. Each performance will start at 7 p.m. Tickets $13-17. Web: www.sandhillsstockshowandrodeo.com

Friday through Sunday
■ Tex-Mex Barrel Racing, Horseshoe.

Saturday
■ Midland Downtown Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 501 W. Texas Ave.
■ Children's Storytime, "Bear in Long Underwear," 10:30 a.m., Barnes and Noble Booksellers.
■ The Planets: A Multimedia Show, 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. Info: Series add-on for the Midland-Odessa Symphony. Call: 563-0921 for more information.

Meetings Schedule

Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals
1:30 p.m. Tuesday
Council Chambers, City Hall
300 N. Loraine St.

Planning and Zoning Commission
3:30 p.m. Tuesday
City Council Chambers, City Hall
300 N. Loraine St.

West Texas Real Estate Investment Association
7-9 p.m. Thursday
Atmos Community Room
2304 Loop 40
Visit WestTexasREI.com to RSVP.

Community Calendar

■ Midland Book Review Unit is to meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Ranchland Hills Golf Club. Maridell Fryar will review "Traitor to His Class," a biography of President Franklin Roosevelt written by H.W. Brands.
To make luncheon reservations, call 683-2138.
■ PFLAG Odessa is to meet 7 p.m. Jan. 9 at Alternative Life Solutions Counseling, 2458 E. 11th St.
For more information, call Shari Johnson at 559-5909 or 337-3684, or visit www.pflagodessa.weebly.com.

City receives email inspections requests

The city of Midland Code Administration Division is now setup to receive email inspection requests.
In order to request an inspection, please send an email to the applicable email address with all the required information and the inspection will be put into the system.
Failure to provide all of the required information will result in no inspection.
The required information is: job address, permit number, type of inspection, contact name and phone number, and any special instructions.
Send your inspection to the proper address, see below.
Building inspections: bldginspections@midlandtexas.gov
Plumbing inspections: plbginspections@midlandtexas.gov
Mechanical inspections: mechinspections@midlandtexas.gov
Electrical inspections: elecinspections@midlandtexas.gov

'TIS THE SEASON IN MIDLAND





ABOVE: Children drink hot chocolate recently as they watch the First Baptist Church live nativity scene.

LEFT: Teresa Stickel assists Xavier Hernandez, 7, with finding bags of toys to hand out to awaiting clients recently during the Salvation Army Christmas Program distribution at Trinity Towers.

Photos by Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Evans to speak at Chamber luncheon

Former Commerce Secretary Don Evans will be the guest speaker at the State of Economy Luncheon hosted by the Midland Chamber of Commerce and Midland Development Corp.
The luncheon is scheduled for Jan. 12 at Midland Center.
Evans, will give his expert opinion regarding the present state of our economy and his outlook for the future of our nation, our state and our community. Evans will field questions directly from the audience. Tickets are $30 for Chamber members and $45 for non-members. Tickets and sponsorships are available on the Chamber's website: www.midlandtxchamber.com.

Recycling container locations

Large 30-cubic yard open top containers:
■ Midland Citizens Collection Station - 4100 Smith Road, 685-7278 -- has recycling containers for cardboard, aluminum, paper and No. 1 and No. 2 plastics.
■ Grande Communication Stadium – Cardboard, paper No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ Walmart Supercenter – 200 West Interstate 20 – Cardboard, paper and No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ Western Park Plaza – 1020 Andrews Highway – Cardboard, aluminum, No. 1 and 2 plastics, paper and aluminum
■ Midland College (Chaparral Center) – 3200 N. Garfield Road – Cardboard, paper, aluminum and No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ Citibank Ballpark west side – 5514 Champions Drive – Cardboard, No. 1 and 2 plastics
■ H-E-B – 3325 W. Wadley Ave. – No. 1 and 2 plastics and cardboard
■ Super Mercado – 2208 N. Big Spring St. – Cardboard

There are also 3-cubic yard containers at most of the local elementary schools where you can recycle cardboard, paper and aluminum.
All recyclables can be taken to Butts Recycling Monday through Saturday. Butts Recycling is located at 26 West Industrial Loop.

What's on the radio

KCRS (AM 550)
Today
Coast to Coast Overnight, midnight-6 a.m.
Kim Komando, 6-8 a.m.
Christian Science Sentinel, 8-8:30 a.m.
Paid/Public Affairs programming, 8:30-11 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 11 a.m.-noon
Kim Komando, noon-3 p.m.
Rush Limbaugh, 3-6 p.m.
Ben Ferguson, 6-9 p.m.
Bill Cunningham, 9-midnight

KWEL (AM 1070)
Today
Lutheran Hour 7:30-8 a.m.
Woman to Woman 8-8:30 a.m.
Family Gospel Music Hour with Warren Bell 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Baptist Bible Hour With Rev. Lassaire Bradley, Jr. 9:30-10 a.m.
Live Programming 10-10:30 a.m.
Kelview Heights Baptist Church, 10:30-11 a.m.
First United Methodist Church 11 a.m.-noon
"Moments of Inspiration" Noon-12:15 p.m.
Wall Builders, 12:30-2 p.m.
Glenn Beck 2-5 p.m.
Talk Radio Network 5-6 p.m.
Laura Ingraham 6-8 p.m.
"Science Fantastic"- 8-9 p.m.

Other Options
Sports Talk: KMND (AM 1510)
Contemporary Christian: KFRI (FM 88.7)
NPR: KOCV (FM 91.3)

The Reporter–Telegram on radio
■ Editor Stewart Doreen discusses local news at 9:35 a.m. Thursdays on KWEL (AM 1070).

Tell us what you think

The Reporter–Telegram provides multiple avenues for your online participation in the conversation happening in our community.
Story Comments: Once you finish the story, see what MyWestTexas readers are writing at the comments section.
Facebook: Check out our main page at facebook.com/TheReporterTelegram
Twitter: Follow us or send us a tweet via @mwtnews or @mwtsports
MyOpenForum: From local news to politics to the community scene, go to www.myopenforum.com and weigh in on the hot topic of the day

Weather highlights

Warmest years on record

Year	Degrees
1. 2011	66.5
2. 1998	66.3
3. 1946	66.0
4. 1964	65.9
5. 1977	65.7
6. 1954	65.5
7. 1953	65.5
8. 1999	65.4
9. 2000	65.4
10. 2006	65.3

Note: Average yearly temperature in Midland is 63.9.

Driest calendar years

Year	Inches
1. 1951	4.24
2. 1998	5.14
3. 2011	5.49
4. 1933	6.76
5. 1977	6.84
6. 1953	7.45
7. 1999	7.60
8. 1964	7.65
9. 1989	8.14
10. 1967	8.47

Average yearly precipitation: 14.61 inches

Also set or tied records for:
■ Consecutive 100-degree days (14)
■ Total 100-degree days (65)
■ Total 105-degree days (18)
■ Warmest April, June, July and August on record
■ Most 100-degree days in one month (22 in August)

Source: National Weather Service.

Today in history

Today is Sunday, Jan. 1, the first day of Leap Year 2012. There are 365 days left in the year.

On this date:
In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states were free.
In 1890, the first Tournament of Roses was held in Pasadena, Calif.
In 1913, the U.S. Parcel Post system went into operation.
In 1942, 26 countries, including the United States, signed the Declaration of the United Nations, pledging "not to make a separate armistice or peace" with members of the Axis.
In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.
In 1962, the first two U.S. Navy SEAL (Sea, Air and Land) teams were created.
In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.
In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.
Five years ago: President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush joined thousands of other mourners in paying respects to former President Gerald R. Ford.
One year ago: Oprah Winfrey launched her OWN cable network.
Today's Birthdays: Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 54. Actor Morris Chestnut is 43.

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The tradition of setting New Year's resolutions dates back to the ancient Babylonians. Their most common resolution was to return used farm equipment.
The Tournament of Roses Parade started in 1890 which celebrated blossoming California orange crops.

2012 Travel Showcases
You are invited to one or all!
Concho Valley Travel Show
Wednesday, January 4
2:00 PM
Senior Annex Station 618
618 South Chadbourne
San Angelo, Texas
Permian Basin Travel Show
Thursday, January 5
2:00 PM
Holiday Inn Express Hotel
5309 West Loop 250 North
Midland, Texas
Big Spring Travel Show
Thursday, January 5
10:00 AM
Dora Roberts Com. Center
Comanche Trail Park
100 Whipkey Drive
Big Spring, Texas
Abilene Travel Show
Saturday, January 14
1:00 PM
Southern Hills Church of Christ
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Terms of sale: cash, all major credit cards, ATM & debit. Sorry, no checks, no buyer's premium
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TX Auctioneer # 10151 Mike Murphy • Call 541.592.6660 for More Info

Hope reigns as Americans prepare to ring in 2012

By David B. Caruso
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Times Square was awash in hopeful sentiments as it began to welcome hordes of New Year's Eve revelers looking to cast off a rough year and cheer their way to something better in 2012.

For all of the holiday's bittersweet potential, New York City always treats it like a big party — albeit one that, for a decade now, has taken place under the watchful eye of a massive security force.

Pessimism has no place on Broadway. Not on New Year's Eve, anyway. The masses of tourists streaming through the square for a glimpse of the crystal-paneled ball that drops at midnight were there to kiss, pose for silly snapshots and gawk at the stages being prepared for performers like Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber.

Some revelers, wearing party hats and "2012" glasses, began camping out Saturday morning, even as workers readied bags stuffed with hundreds of balloons and technicians put colored filters on klieg lights.

"Everybody's suffering. That's why it's so beautiful to be here celebrating something with everybody," said Lisa Nicol, 47, of Melbourne, Australia, after securing a prime spot next to the main stage.

Houston tourist Megan Martin, 22, staked out her space with her boyfriend at 10:30 a.m. She said the party ahead would be worth sitting on cold asphalt all day in a spectator pen ringed by metal barricades.

"I told him the pain only lasts tonight, but the memories last forever," she said.

Many Americans will usher in the new year thinking that 2011 is a year they would rather forget. But as the country prepared for the celebration, glum wasn't on the agenda for many, even those that had a sour year.

"We're hoping the next year will be better," said Becky Martin, a former elementary school teacher who drove from Rockford, Ill., with her family to attend the Times Square celebration after spending a fruitless year trying to find a job. "We're starting off optimistic and hoping it lasts."



Associated Press

A worker handles the massive cables attached to the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball as it rises to the top of its 135 foot spire Friday.

Reminders of a trying 2011 around the globe could be seen in the multinational faces of visitors to the so-called "Crossroads of the World" this week.

Asked how his 2011 went, a Japanese tourist who gave his name as Nari didn't know enough English to put it into words as he visited the square Friday, so he whipped open his phone and displayed pictures he had taken of damage wrought by the earthquake and tsunami that ravaged the island nation and his home city of Sendai.

"Not a good year," he said. Then he smiled and added that things are now much better.

The annual dropping of the New Year's Eve ball, from a flagpole 400 above the street, is taking place this year under relatively warm weather, with the temperature at midnight expected to be in the low 40s. The sphere, now decorated with 3,000 Waterford crystal triangles, has been dropping to mark the new year since 1907, long before television made it a national tradition.

Security checkpoints at the city's bridges and tunnels were beefed up in anticipation of the celebration. The New York Police Department's plans for protecting the city from any terrorist attack included sending 1,500 rookie officers to Times Square, where hundreds of thousands of revelers pack into closely watched pens, ringed by barricades, stretched over 17 blocks. Officers will blend into the crowd wearing street clothes. Others, some heavily armed, others wearing radiation detectors, will watch from rooftops and helicopters.

Cautious hope was the watchword elsewhere, too.

In New Orleans, crowds in the French Quarter were starting to build Friday, with New Year's visitors rubbing elbows with college football fans flocking here for Tuesday's Sugar Bowl matchup between Michigan and Virginia Tech.

"People are tired of being stressed and poor," said David Kittrell, a glass gallery owner from Dallas visiting the Crescent City for its New Year's celebrations with his wife, Barbara. The couple has endured a rough few years, as the recession cut into their sales. But they said business had been getting better.

Atlanta was expecting to welcome thousands to its downtown, where a giant peach is dropped every New Year's Eve at midnight. Fans decked out in the orange and navy blue of both the Auburn Tigers and the Virginia Cavaliers lined the streets Saturday afternoon for the Chick-fil-A Bowl parade, cheering on marching bands, floats and a pack of Star Wars stormtroopers.

Debbie Hart, 50, of Perry, Ga., was in town with her family for the bowl game. She called herself the "perpetual optimist" who believes each year will be better than the one before.

"I married a farmer. 'Wait until next year. Next year will be better.' That's what I've been hearing for 30 years," said Hart, an Auburn fan wearing a bright orange jacket and tiger-print scarf. "I have faith."

Cities prepared for celebrations both traditional and unusual.

Miami has its own fruit, The Big Orange, a neon citrus with a new animated face that will rise up the side of a downtown hotel as fireworks go off nearby. The town of Eastport, Maine, will lower an 8-foot-long wooden sardine from a downtown building at midnight, in celebration of its sardine canning and fishing history.

At the Mall of America's Nickelodeon Universe, patrons will be able to walk an orange carpet, strike a pose and have their photo taken on their way into a party there.

And Las Vegas prepared to host hundreds of thousands of partiers on the Strip to welcome the year with rooftop fireworks, expensive celebrity-studded parties at nightclubs and an urge to bid adieu to 2011.

Several people preparing to celebrate the holiday told the AP that they would usher in the New Year hoping the U.S. Congress would become a more cooperative place. Some talked about their hopes for the presidential election. Others said they hoped to hold on to their job, or find a new one to replace one they'd lost.

An Associated Press-GfK poll conducted Dec. 8-12 found that 62 percent of Americans are optimistic that the nation's fortunes would improve in 2012, and 78 percent hopeful that their own family would have a better year. Most wrote off 2011 as a dud.

Shahid Ahmad, 53, a sporting goods vendor who has set up in downtown Atlanta during big events for the last 13 years, said his last two New Year's Eves have been slow in sales compared with years prior. He said he's hopeful that the job market will improve in 2012.

"If you worked in corporate America and you lost that job, I promise you that level of expertise could be used in whatever community you're from," said Ahmad, unfolding Braves, Falcons and Hawks T-shirts and hats. "You may not have the six-figure-plus salary, but you will be able to sustain."



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U9	8/1/2002 - 7/31/2003	
U10	8/1/2001 - 7/31/2002	
U11	8/1/2000 - 7/31/2001	$65.00
U12	8/1/1999 - 7/31/2000	
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U14	8/1/1997 - 7/31/1998	
U15	8/1/1996 - 7/31/1997	

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STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 2012

State Senate race

State Sen. Kel Seliger will have an opponent in 2012 after Randy Rives, a former Ector County Independent School District board president, filed for election in November.

Seliger, R-Amarillo, was first elected in 2004 and in the 82nd legislative session served on the education committee and the subcommittees for public education funding and higher education funding. He also chaired the redistricting committee for the Senate.

Rives, of Odessa, said he wanted to offer people a choice and believes Seliger hasn't always been conservative enough. If elected, Rives said he would focus on education, water issues and ensuring the energy industry doesn't become overregulated, among other things.

Seliger's spokesman said he already has led the charge for more funding for education and for additional local control to be returned to school districts.

Craddicks to run for offices

As of late December, Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, will not have a challenger.

Craddick filed for re-election to the state House in early December. He already is the longest serving member in the House, having been elected initially in 1968 when he was 25.

Craddick said he felt there still was work to be done. In addition to his involvement in the budget process during the next session when another shortfall is projected, Craddick said he plans to refile his texting while driving ban that Gov. Rick Perry vetoed in 2011.

A second Craddick announced her intention to run for public office. Christi Craddick is running for an open seat on the state's Railroad Commission.

County elections in 2012

Three people, including incumbent Luis Sanchez, have filed to run for Midland County Commissioner in Precinct 3 during the spring primary.

Brooks Smith and Lynn Yarbrough filed to run as Republicans and Sanchez as a Democrat.

Sanchez was first elected in 2008 and said he still has several projects he would like to complete if elected again. Among them, Sanchez is working to improve a south Midland County neighborhood with a roughly $500,000 colonia grant.

Smith is a native Midlander who is an agent with Legacy Real Estate. Before that, he was involved in the oil field services industry for several years.

Yarbrough ran for the position in 2004 and said he decided to run again because he believes he could be an asset to the court and would like to serve his community.

Other county primary races include:

James "Gene" Smith and David Criner — Precinct 1 constable.

Mark Wohleking and Glenn Wells — Precinct 2 constable.

Ted Macklin is running for re-election to the position of constable for Precinct 3.

Charles Hall filed for re-election to the position of constable for Precinct 4.

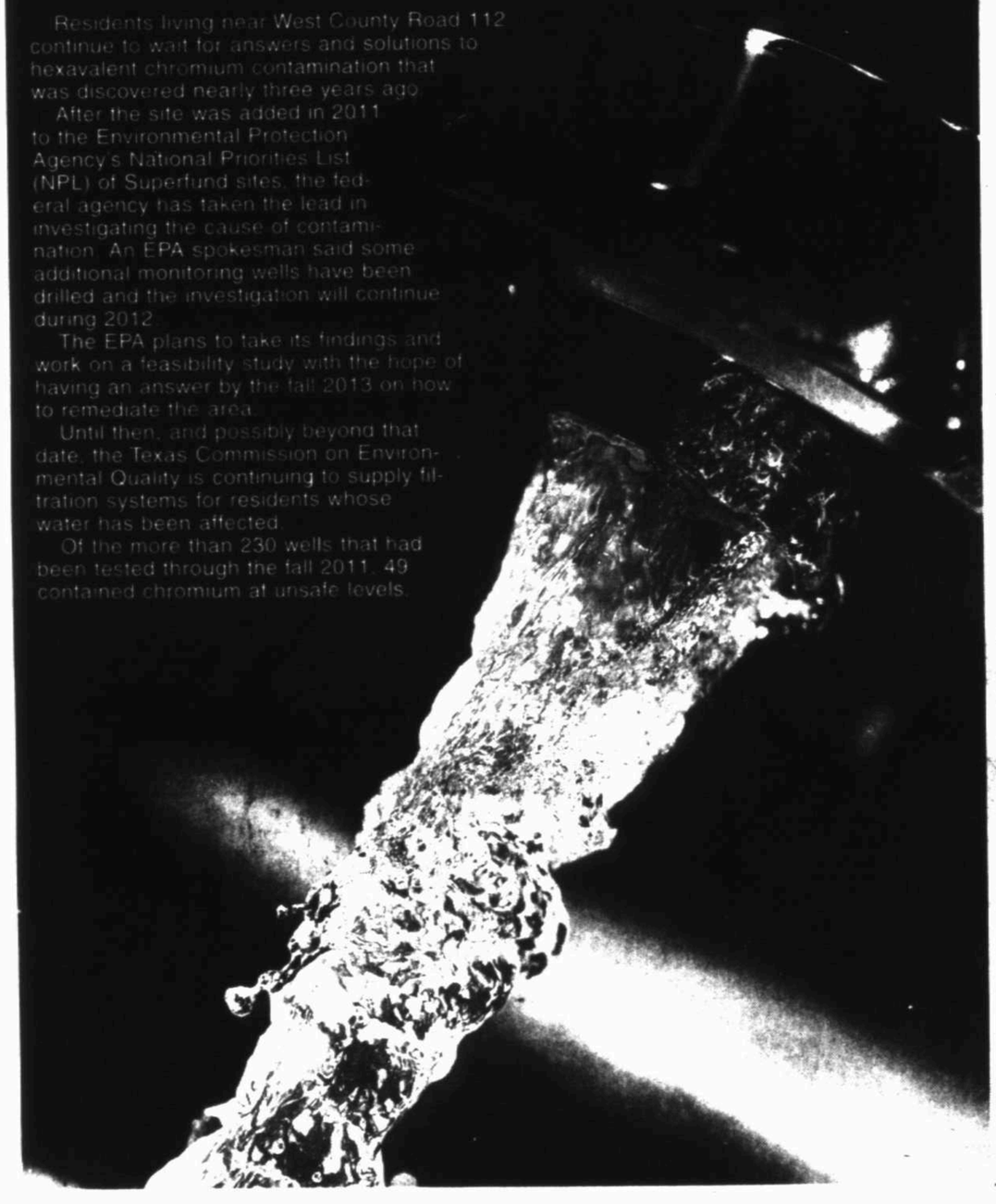
Other elections slated for November

City Council: At-large members Scott Dufford and Jerry Morales and Districts 1 and 2 (Jeff Sparks and Vicky Hailey).

MISD board members: District 1, held by James Fuller; District 2, held by Angel Hernandez; District 4, held by Karen Fullen; and District 7, held by Board President Jay Isaacs.

Midland College Board of Trustees: Place 4, currently held by Neil Fiorer; Place 5, currently held by Stephen Castle; and Place 6, currently held by Charlene Romero McBride.

Chromium contamination continues



Residents living near West County Road 112 continue to wait for answers and solutions to hexavalent chromium contamination that was discovered nearly three years ago.

After the site was added in 2011 to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites, the federal agency has taken the lead in investigating the cause of contamination. An EPA spokesman said some additional monitoring wells have been drilled and the investigation will continue during 2012.

The EPA plans to take its findings and work on a feasibility study with the hope of having an answer by the fall 2013 on how to remediate the area.

Until then, and possibly beyond that date, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is continuing to supply filtration systems for residents whose water has been affected.

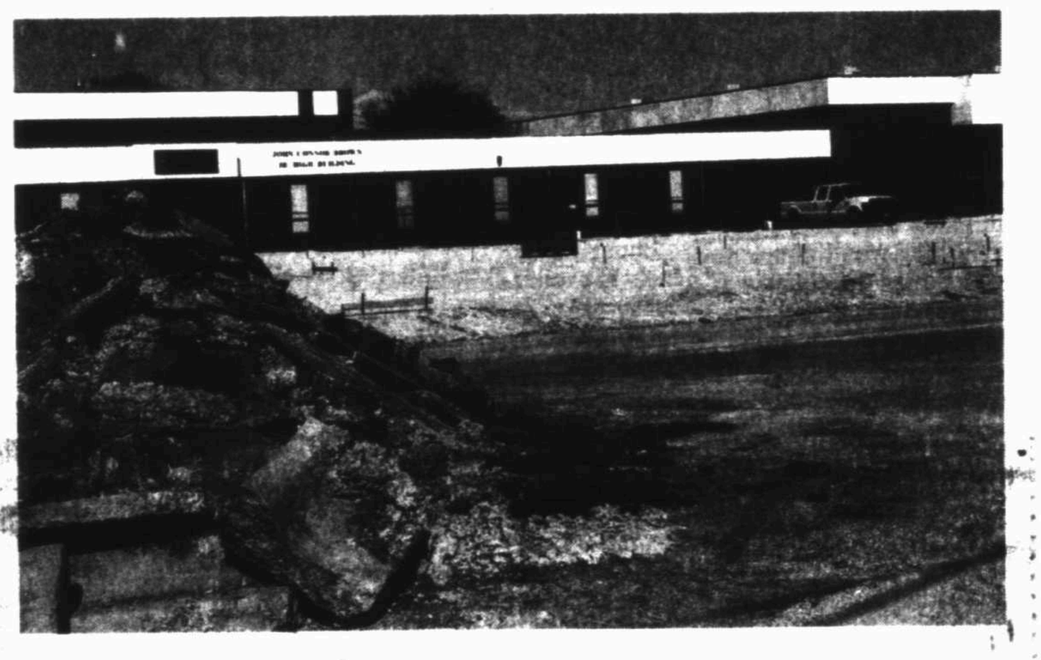
Of the more than 230 wells that had been tested through the fall 2011, 49 contained chromium at unsafe levels.

MCS junior/senior high to be finished

Construction at Midland Christian School still is expected to finish in time for classes to start in August 2012, said project foreman Brent Littlefield.

The school broke ground on a new 76,910 square-foot junior and high school building in May 20 that includes 35 large classrooms, six science labs, two computer labs and dedicated space for arts activities.

The $15 million building was paid for with donations made by parents, grandparents and friends of the school, said Superintendent Eddie Lee. An additional $10 million was donated to pay for remodeling the older facilities once students move out of the current high school and junior high buildings.



Commissioners could spend $11 million in Horseshoe upgrades

The county's budget includes $11 million that could go toward an addition to the Horseshoe Arena.

The proposed addition would be located east of the Horseshoe's education facility and be a conference center-type facility. The addition would be connected to the Horseshoe through a breezeway. An additional $500,000 was budgeted for a roof that will go over the outdoor arena at the Horseshoe.

During fiscal year 2011, 120 events were hosted during 211 days at the Horseshoe, and the upgrades will increase the facility's ability to book additional events, officials said.

All capital expenditures are paid for through the county's reserve fund, which at the close of fiscal year 2011 was more than $42 million.

Tennis anyone?

The first phase of the Bush Tennis Center is set to open this fall.

Construction started in July on the center that is located at the corner of Holiday Hill Road and Briarwood Avenue.

Included in the first phase will be 18 full-size courts, a lighted center court for matches and eight half-size or quick-start courts meant for teaching.



County's northside library project

The Midland County Public Library system is scheduled to receive some structural updates during 2012.

In November, Midland County purchased the Alldredge Home building for $3.2 million and is in the midst of signing a contract with an architect from Dallas to redesign the shopping center space off Loop 250. The downtown library also will undergo some changes as part of the upgrade.

County Judge Mike Bradford said the county hasn't set a specific budget for the upgrades to the two library facilities.





Jenna Welch Nature Center to open

Midlanders will have a 3.4-mile trail to traverse come spring after the first phase of the I-20 Wildlife Preserve and Jenna Welch Nature Study Center is completed.

Board members and staff broke ground on the nature trail in September and plan to finish the first phase in late April.

In addition to a trail around the wetland area, boardwalks, hawk towers and bird blinds also will be added.

In a first, gas and other fuels are top US export

By Chris Kahn
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For the first time, the top export of the United States, the world's biggest gas guzzler, is — wait for it — fuel.

Measured in dollars, the nation is on pace this year to ship more gasoline, diesel and jet fuel than any other single export, according to U.S. Census data going back to 1990. It also will be the first year in more than 60 that America has been a net exporter of these fuels.

Just how big of a shift is this? A decade ago, fuel wasn't even among the top 25 exports. And for the last five years, America's top export was aircraft.

The trend is significant because for decades the U.S. has relied on huge imports of fuel from Europe in order to meet demand. It only reinforced the image of America as an energy hog. And up until a few years ago, whenever gasoline prices climbed, there were complaints in Congress that U.S. refiners were not growing quickly enough to satisfy domestic demand; that controversy would appear to be over.

Still, the U.S. is nowhere close to energy independence. America is still the world's largest importer of crude oil. From January to October, the country imported 2.7 billion barrels of oil worth roughly $280 billion.

Fuel exports, worth an estimated $88 billion in 2011, have surged for two reasons:

■ Crude oil, the raw material from which gasoline and other refined products are made, is a lot more expensive. Oil prices averaged $95 a barrel in 2011, while gasoline averaged $3.52 a gallon — a record. A decade ago oil averaged $26 a barrel, while gasoline averaged $1.44 a gallon.

■ The volume of fuel exports is rising. The U.S. is using less fuel because of a weak economy and more efficient cars and trucks. That allows refiners to sell more fuel to rapidly growing economies in Latin America, for example. In 2011, U.S. refiners exported 117 million gallons per day of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other petroleum products, up from 40 million gallons per day a decade earlier.

There's at least one domestic downside to America's growing role as a fuel exporter. Experts say the trend helps explain why U.S. motorists are paying more for gasoline. The more fuel that's sent overseas, the less of a supply cushion there is at home.

Gasoline supplies are being exported to the highest bidder, says Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service. "It's a world market," he said.

Refining companies won't say how much they make by selling fuel overseas. But analysts say those sales are likely generating higher profits per gallon than the fuel sold in the U.S. Otherwise, they wouldn't occur.

The value of U.S. fuel exports has grown steadily over the past decade, coinciding with rising oil prices and increased demand around the globe.

Developing countries in Latin America and Asia have been burning more gasoline and diesel as their people buy more cars and build more roads and factories. Europe also has been buying more U.S. fuel to make up for its lack of refineries.

And there's a simple reason why America's refiners have been eager to export to these markets: gasoline demand in the U.S. has been falling every year since 2007. It dropped by another 2.5 percent in 2011. With the economy struggling, motorists cut back. Also, cars and trucks have become more fuel-efficient and the government mandates the use of more corn-based ethanol fuel.

The last time the U.S. was a net exporter of fuels was 1949, when Harry Truman was president. That year, the U.S. exported 86 million barrels and imported 82 million barrels. In the first ten months of 2011, the nation exported 848 million barrels (worth $73.4 billion) and imported 750 million barrels.

TOP US EXPORTS

Here are the top U.S. exports for the past six years, according to U.S. Census records.

2011 (Through October)
1 — Fuel: $73.4 billion;
2 — Aircraft: $70.8 billion;
3 — Motor Vehicles: $39.6 billion;
4 — Vacuum Tubes: $37.1 billion;
5 — Telecommunications Equipment: $33.2 billion.

2010
1 — Aircraft: $79.2 billion;
2 — Fuel: $53.7 billion;
3 — Vacuum Tubes: $47.3 billion;
4 — Motor Vehicles: $39.3 billion;
5 — Telecommunications Equipment: $35.3 billion.

2009
1 — Aircraft: $82.9 billion;
2 — Vacuum Tubes: $37.7 billion;
3 — Fuel: $36.5 billion;
4 — Telecommunications Equipment: $30.8 billion;
5 — Motor Vehicles: $28.4 billion.

2008
1 — Aircraft: $72 billion;
2 — Fuel: $51.8 billion;
3 — Motor Vehicles: $50.7 billion;
4 — Vacuum Tubes: $50.6 billion;
5 — Telecommunications Equipment: $35.4 billion.

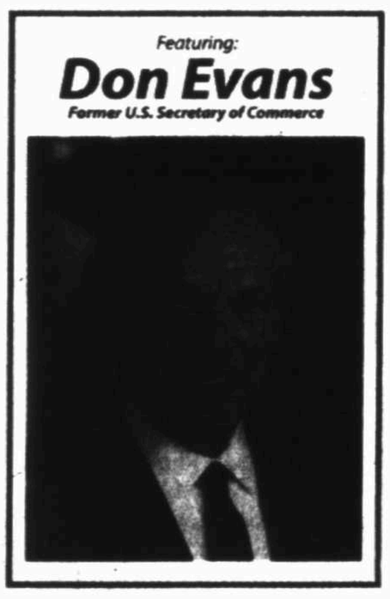


2007
1 — Aircraft: $75.9 billion;
2 — Vacuum Tubes: $50.2 billion;
3 — Motor Vehicles: $44.8 billion;
4 — Vehicle Parts: $$35.1 billion;
5 — Telecommunications Equipment: $32.4 billion.

2006
1 — Aircraft: $66.7 billion;
2 — Vacuum Tubes: $53 billion;
3 — Motor Vehicles: $35.4 billion;
4 — Vehicle Parts: $34 billion;
5 — Telecommunications Equipment: $28.8 billion.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau





Join us as Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans, gives his expert opinion regarding the present state of our economy and his outlook for the future of our nation, our state and our community.

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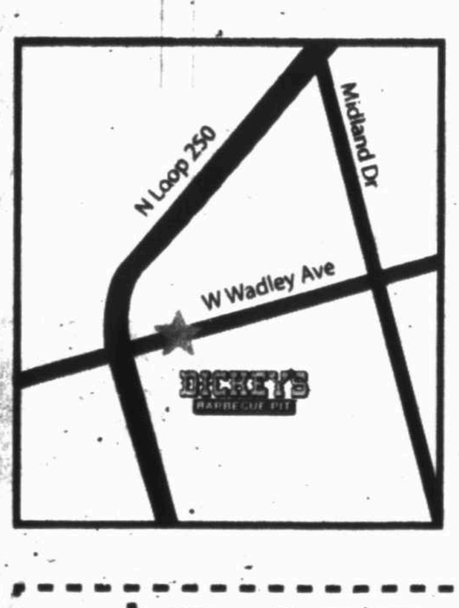
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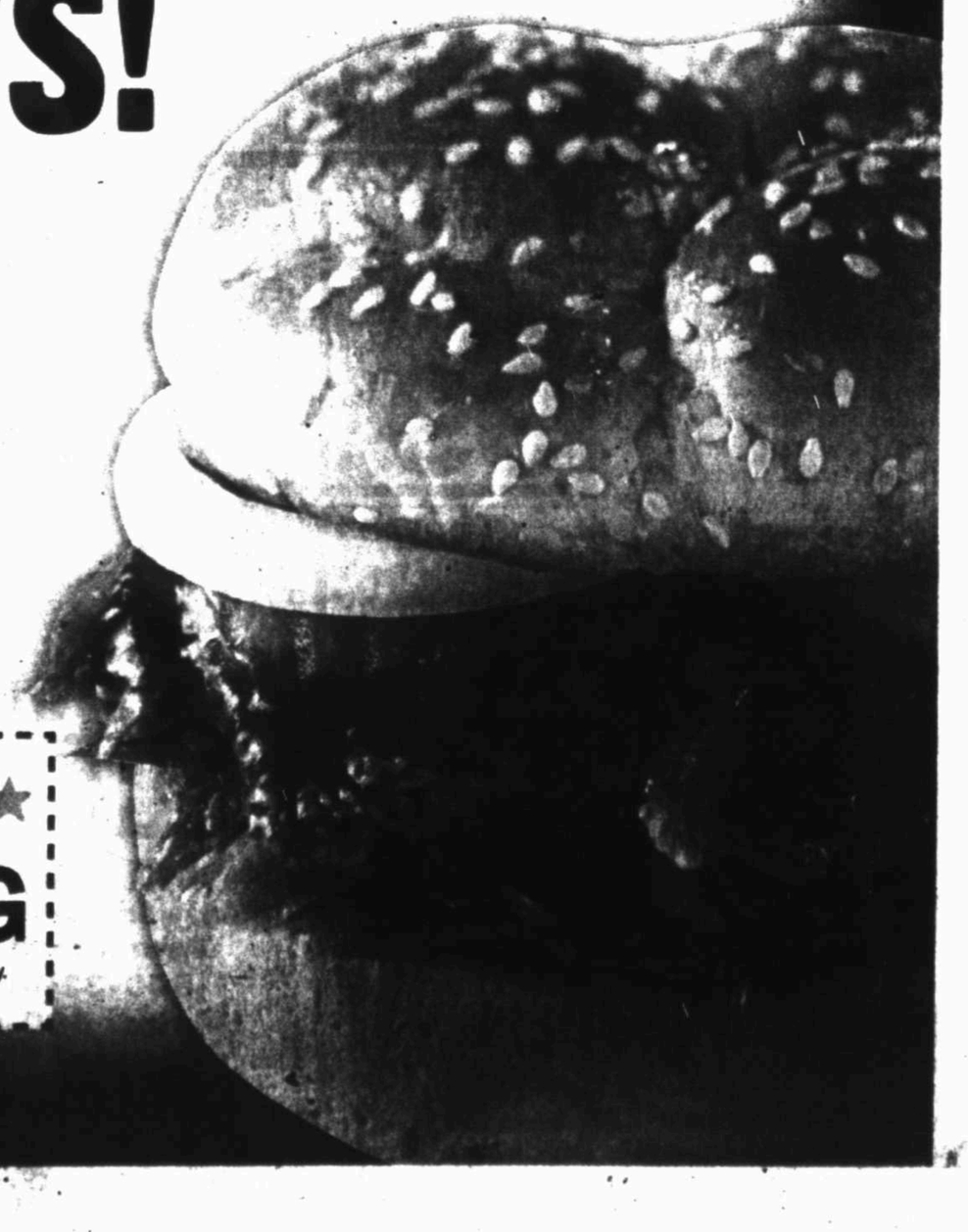
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In 2012, Obama to press ahead without Congress

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Leaving behind a year of bruising legislative battles, President Barack Obama enters his fourth year in office having calculated that he no longer needs Congress to promote his agenda and may even benefit in his re-election campaign if lawmakers accomplish little in 2012.

Absent any major policy pushes, much of the year will focus on winning a second term. The president will keep up a robust domestic travel schedule and aggressive campaign fundraising and use executive action to try to boost the economy.

Partisan, down-to-the-wire fights over allowing the nation to take on more debt and sharply reducing government spending defined 2011. In the new year, there are almost no must-do pieces of legislation facing the president and Congress.

The one exception is the looming debate on a full-year extension of a cut in the Social Security payroll tax rate from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent. Democrats and Republicans are divided over how to put in place that extension.

The White House believes GOP lawmakers boxed themselves in during the pre-Christmas debate on the tax break and will be hard-pressed to back off their own assertions that it should continue through the end of 2012.

Once that debate is over, the White House says Obama's political fate will no longer be tied to Washington.

"Now that he's sort of free from having to put out these fires, the president will have a larger playing field. If that includes Congress, all the better," said Josh Earnest, White House deputy press secretary. But, he added, "that's no longer a requirement."

Aides say the president will not turn his back on Congress completely in the new year. He is expected to once again push lawmakers to pass elements of his jobs bill that were blocked by Republicans last fall.

If those efforts fail, the White House says, Obama's re-election year will focus almost exclusively on executive action.

Earnest said Obama will come out with at least two or three directives per week, continuing the "We Can't Wait" campaign the administration began this fall, and try to define Republicans in Congress as gridlocked and dysfunctional.

Obama's election year retreat from legislative fights means this term will end without significant progress on two of his 2008 campaign promises, an immigration overhaul and closing the military prison for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

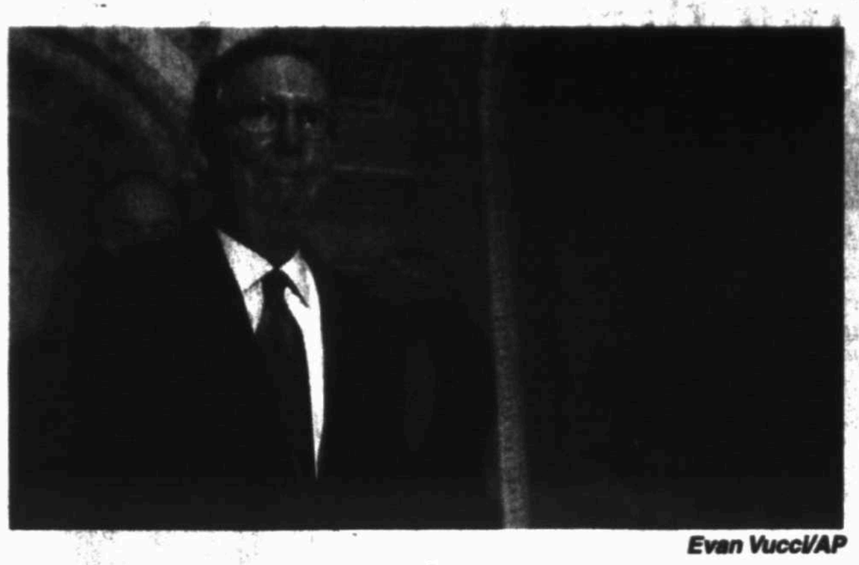
Presidential directives probably won't make a big dent in the nation's 8.6 percent unemployment rate or lead to significant improvements in the economy. That's the chief concern for many voters and the issue on which Republican candidates are most likely to criticize Obama.

In focusing on executive actions rather than ambitious legislation, the president risks appearing to be putting election-year strategy ahead of economic action at a time when millions of Americans are still out of work.

"Americans expect their elected leaders to work together to boost job creation, even in an election year," said Brendan Buck, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Still, Obama and his advisers are beginning 2012 with a renewed sense of confidence, buoyed by a series of polls that show the president's approval rating climbing as Congress becomes increasingly unpopular.

They believe his victory over Republicans in the payroll tax debate has boosted his credentials as a fighter for the middle class, a theme he will look to seize on in his Jan. 24 State of the Union address.



Evan Vucci/AP

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., arrives to make a statement after a Republican policy luncheon Dec. 6 on Capitol Hill in Washington.



Charlie Neibergall/Beaumont Enterprise

Gov. Rick Perry speaks during a campaign stop at the Blue Strawberry Coffee Co. on Thursday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The 2011 politics honor roll of winner and losers

By Richard S. Dunham

Houston Chronicle

WASHINGTON — From former Rep. Anthony Weiner to Gov. Rick Perry, we've seen some ambitious politicians self-destruct before our eyes in 2011. Here are some of the nation's biggest political winners (and losers) of the year.

WINNERS:

■ **Mitch McConnell**
The Senate Minority Leader is a rare Washington politician who knows how to cut a deal and get things done.

■ **Ron Paul**
The Houston-area congressman (and Republican presidential candidate) has built a national political movement that can no longer be ignored by fellow Republicans.

■ **Mitt Romney**
Conservative activists were looking for "Anybody but Mitt." They may end up with Mitt as their 2012 presidential nominee if none of the Great Conservative Hopes of 2011 catch on with voters.

■ **Hillary Clinton**
The most popular member of the Obama Cabinet — even among Republicans.

■ **Bill Clinton**
He's become the wise old man of the Democratic Party. (Jimmy Who?)

■ **Andrew Cuomo**
Many rookie governors are exceptionally unpopular, but New York's chief executive has been a strong leader (with strong poll numbers).

■ **Paul Ryan**
The intellectual leader of congressional Republicans, the House Budget Committee chairman combines style and substance.

■ **Elizabeth Warren**
The president's consumer watchdog couldn't get confirmed by the Senate. Now she may win a seat in the Senate.

■ **George H.W Bush**
The 41st president was honored at a bipartisan gala at the Kennedy Center. And historians are starting to give him more credit for his accomplishments.

■ **Barack Obama**
The president had 10 bad months, but he's rising in the polls at just the right time — as the 2012 campaign season starts.

LOSERS:

■ **Anthony Weiner**
The now-former New York congressman's sordid sex scandal, featuring crotch shots on Twitter, was the dumbest of the year's numerous sex scandals.

■ **Donald Trump**
The only thing missing from the Trump presidential bandwagon was supporters. Only two Republicans would even agree to appear on the stage with the reality show host.

■ **Sarah Palin**
Wasn't the Alaska governor, now a TV personality and best-selling author, going to be the 2012 Republican presidential nominee? That is so 2010.

■ **Eric Holder**
Fast and Furious. More questions than answers. Not going away.

■ **John Boehner**
He's the House Republicans' leader in name only. The tea party tail is wagging the GOP dog.

■ **Rick Scott**
How unpopular can a governor be without getting indicted? Ask Florida's first-term governor.

■ **John Kasich**
The freshman governor's signature accomplishment — a sweeping anti-union measure was repudiated by Ohio voters at the polls in November.

■ **Rick Perry**
As Karl Rove would say, "I know George W. Bush. George W. Bush is a friend of mine. And governor, you're no George W. Bush."

■ **Rod Blagojevich**
Rick Perry had a bad year, but unlike the former Illinois governor, he's not going to the slammer for 14 years.

■ **Carol Moseley Braun**
The year's best example of failing downward. Once an Illinois senator, she lost her re-election bid, lost a Democratic presidential bid and recently garnered just 9 percent in a bid for mayor of Chicago.

Police: More cars set afire in LA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Several more cars burned in suspected arson attacks in the Los Angeles area early Saturday morning, and authorities investigated if they were connected to nearly two dozen deliberately set blazes a day earlier, police said.

Seven or eight cars burned Saturday in the North Hollywood area, said officer Robert Collier.

He said he didn't have further details of the blazes, but said arson is suspected and there could be a link to the earlier blazes.

"We believe there might be, but we don't know for sure," he said.

Fire officials said the first report came in shortly after midnight, and the most recent about three hours later.

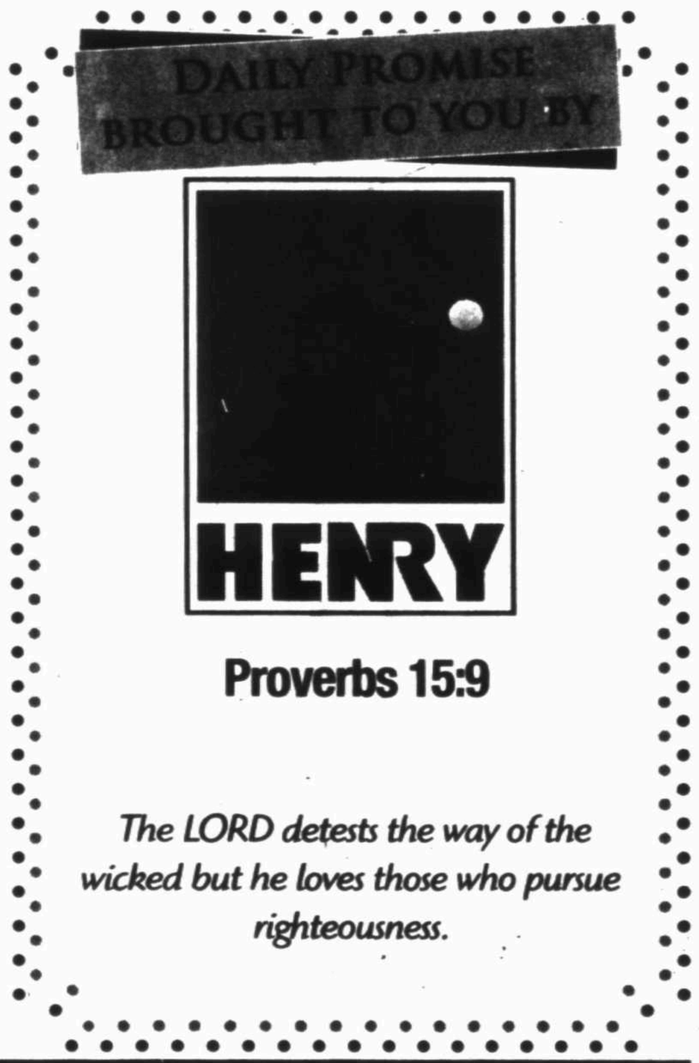
Early Friday morning, fires were reported in nearly two dozen locations in Hollywood and the neighboring city of West Hollywood during a four-hour period before dawn. In nearly every case, the fire started in a parked car.

Flames from torched vehicles ignited some nearby houses early Friday, including one once occupied by Doors frontman Jim Morrison.

But Collier said that although some of Saturday's blazes are in carports and garages, he didn't have any reports of damage to buildings.

Police up a command post in the North Hollywood area and have called a tactical alert, allowing them to call in more officers.





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ACROSS THE NATION

FROM WIRE REPORTS

LOS ANGELES

Moon countdown: Hours until 1st NASA probe arrives

NASA is counting down the seconds until its twin spacecraft bound for the moon make back-to-back arrivals over the New Year's weekend.

The washing machine-size probes have been cruising independently toward their destination since launching in September aboard the same rocket on a mission to measure lunar gravity.

Approaching the moon from the south pole, the Grail spacecraft — short for Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory — won't land on the surface, but will survey from orbit.

On New Year's Eve, Grail-A was poised to fire its engine for more than a half hour to slow itself and get captured into orbit. Grail-B will follow suit today.

Deep space antennas in the California desert and Madrid will track the tricky maneuvers and feed real-time updates to ground controllers.

LOS ANGELES

Hugh Hefner, Playboy ready for their next chapters

On the second floor of the Playboy Mansion, beyond the seemingly endless hallway lined with photos of the famous folks who have visited the legendary party playground, is a narrow staircase that leads to a small loft.

"LOCK DOOR," signed "Hef," reads a handmade note tacked to the loft's tiny entrance.

"Excuse me if I sit?" asks Hugh Hefner, ever the gentleman as he leads a reporter into the cramped room that has only one chair. "I've got a bad hip."

Here in this modest space is where Hefner keeps a detailed record of his life that spans more than 2,500 volumes and counting — a Guinness world record for a personal scrapbook collection.

Every Saturday, the 85-year-old founder of Playboy magazine spends a few hours scrapbooking — a hobby he began in 1943 with cartoons he drew of himself and his high-school classmates.

Those doodles were "probably just a way of creating a world of my own to share with my friends," Hefner says, seated amid the archives of his life in yes, his trademark silk pajamas and bathrobe. "And in retrospect, in thinking about it, it's not a whole lot different than creating the magazine."

As the new year begins and Playboy approaches its 60th birthday, Hefner intends to continue working on the magazine, his scrapbooks and a Hollywood movie about his life. "That's alive again," he says of the biopic idea that's been bandied about for decades.

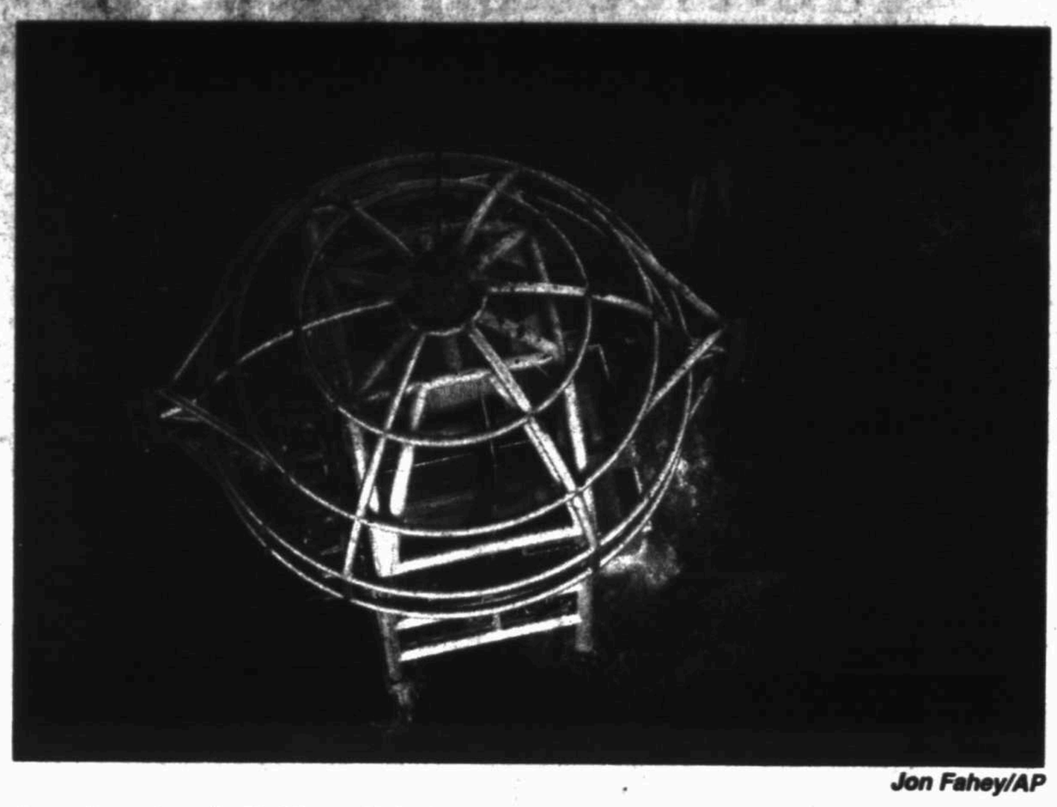
Though 2011 wasn't entirely kind to the man or the brand — Hefner's 24-year-old fiancée called off their engagement days before their June wedding and NBC's "The Playboy Club" was the first fall TV casualty, canceled after just three episodes — Hefner is optimistic about what's next, personally and professionally.

"Retirement is unthinkable to me," he says. "The future is bright and very exciting and I'm looking forward to playing a part in it."

Hef — his preferred nickname since his teens — has been a media force since he published the first issue of Playboy in 1953.

Deep Gulf drilling thrives 18 mos. after BP spill

By Jonathan Fahey
Associated Press



Jon Fahey/AP

An underwater robot is lowered into the water to work on equipment on the sea floor 8,000 feet deep. Two hundred miles off the coast of Texas, ribbons of pipe are reaching for oil and natural gas deeper below the ocean's surface than ever before.

ALAMINOS CANYON BLOCK 857, GULF OF MEXICO — Two hundred miles off the coast of Texas, ribbons of pipe are reaching for oil and natural gas deeper below the ocean's surface than ever before.

These pipes, which run nearly two miles deep, are connected to a floating platform that is so remote Shell named it Perdido, which means "lost" in Spanish. What attracted Shell to this location is a geologic formation found throughout the Gulf of Mexico that may contain enough oil to satisfy U.S. demand for two years.

While Perdido is isolated, it isn't alone. Across the Gulf, energy companies are probing dozens of new deepwater fields thanks to high oil prices and technological advances that finally make it possible to tap them.

The newfound oil will not do much to lower global oil prices. But together with increased production from onshore U.S. fields and slowing domestic demand for gasoline, it could help reduce U.S. oil imports by more than half over the next decade.

Eighteen months ago, such a flurry of activity in the Gulf seemed unlikely. The Obama administration halted drilling and stopped issuing new permits after the explosion of a BP well killed 11 workers and caused the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

But the drilling moratorium eventually was lifted and the Obama administration issued the first new drilling permit in March. Now the Gulf is humming again and oil executives describe it as the world's best place to drill.

"In the short term and the medium term, it's clearly the Gulf of Mexico," says Matthais Bichsel, a Royal Dutch Shell PLC board member who is in charge of all of the company's new projects and technology.

By early 2012 there will be more rigs in the Gulf designed to drill in its "deep water" — defined as 2,000 feet or deeper — than before the spill.

In November, Perdido began pumping oil from a field called Tobago; the well begins 9,627 feet below the surface of the Gulf. No other well on the globe produces oil in deeper water and that's about as deep as the Gulf gets. For drillers, that means the entire Gulf is now within reach.

"We are at the point where ... depth is not the primary issue anymore," says Marvin Odum, the head of Royal Dutch Shell's drilling unit in the Americas. "I do not worry that there is something in the Gulf that we cannot develop ... if we can find it."

From a distance, Perdido looks like an erector set perched on an aluminum can. This can, or "spar," is a 500-foot-tall steel cylinder that sits mostly underwater, serving as a base for the equipment and living quarters above. It is stuffed with iron ore to lower its center of gravity, keeping the whole operation from bobbing in the water like a cork. The spar is tethered to the sea floor 8,000 feet below with ropes and chains.

Oil and natural gas are pumped to Perdido from nearby wells drilled by an onboard rig and from faraway wells drilled by satellite rigs. Water and other impurities are then removed from the oil and gas, which gets sent hundreds of miles through an undersea pipeline to terminals and refineries along the Gulf coast.

Perdido, which pumps the equivalent of 60,000 barrels of oil and natural gas a day, eventually will yield 100,000 barrels per day from 35 wells in a 30-mile radius, according to Shell. It likely will produce oil for decades — in all, as much as 360 million barrels of oil and 750 billion cubic feet of natural gas, according to Wood Mackenzie.

As global oil demand climbs past 89 million barrels a day and traditional onshore and shallow water fields are depleted, the deep waters of the Gulf and off the coasts of South America, West Africa and Australia are playing an increasingly important role.

In 2000, 1.5 million barrels of oil per day were produced from deepwater fields around the globe, or 2 percent of global production. In 2011, that number grew to 5.5 million barrels, or 6 percent of global production. By 2020, deepwater oil will account for 9 percent, according to IHS CERA.

The Gulf is attractive for many reasons. Its oil fields are enormous; it straddles the world's biggest consumer of oil; it's in a politically stable part of the world; and drillers can easily tap into a vast network of pipelines and refineries. Also, despite industry complaints, the cost of royalties, taxes and regulation in the U.S. are among the lowest in the world.

"Everybody wants to be there," says Mohammad Rahman, the lead Gulf analyst for Wood Mackenzie.

By early 2012, there will be 40 deepwater rigs in the Gulf, up from 37 before the BP spill, according to Cinnamon Odell of ODS-Petrodata. BP received its first permit to drill in late October.

The Gulf produces an average of 1.5 million barrels of oil per day, according to Wood Mackenzie. That's 27 percent of U.S. output and 8 percent of U.S. demand.

Thanks to more accurate imaging technologies, drillers are able to see under geologic formations that used to confound geologists. In June, ExxonMobil Corp. said it found 700 million barrels of oil — one of the biggest discoveries in the Gulf in last decade. In September, Chevron and BP also announced major finds, thought to be in the hundreds of millions of barrels of oil.

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Iowa leaders Romney, Paul leave stage to rivals

Associated Press

HAMPTON, N.H. — A confident Mitt Romney called President Barack Obama "a footnote in history" Saturday morning, ignoring his Republican rivals altogether during a campaign stop in New Hampshire three days before the Iowa caucuses.

"This president has been a failure," Romney told hundreds of supporters packed into the Old Salt Restaurant half a continent away from where Iowa Republicans will formally launch the GOP nomination contest Tuesday.

Both Romney and Ron Paul, the leading Republican presidential candidates in Iowa, left that stage to their rivals Saturday. Paul was taking time off in his home state of Texas. Newt Gingrich, Michele Bachmann, Rick Santorum and Rick Perry all remained in Iowa, touring the state as they worked to win over the many still-undecided conservative voters.

Not a single vote has been cast in the GOP contest, but Romney has suggested in recent days that he's increasingly likely to capture his party's presidential nomination whether he prevails in Iowa or not. And while his Republican competitors go after each other, he's largely fine tuning a general election message aimed at Obama.

The country has "major challenges and he hasn't dealt with them," Romney said, adding that Obama would be judged as "a footnote in history."

Romney and Paul are poised to do well in Iowa. Both are leading in polls and have the money and organization to turn supporters out to caucus Tuesday night.

But with just days until voters begin to select the GOP nominee, the other candidates still are fighting in a volatile race that's seen candidate after candidate rise only to quickly fall. The same polls suggest large numbers of Iowa Republicans could change their minds before the first test of the 2012 campaign.

Romney's brief trip to New Hampshire, which included two stops Friday night and Saturday morning, was intended to show that he can compete in multiple states while his rivals are focused solely on Iowa.

"I think it's a tribute to Mitt that he'll be on the news in both Iowa and New Hampshire tonight and tomorrow," Romney adviser Eric Fehrnstrom said Friday night. "Mitt Romney is a national candidate. That means he's going to compete everywhere."

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman has campaigned almost exclusively in New Hampshire, pinning all his hopes on the Jan. 10 primary. He's attending six house parties Saturday across the nation's first primary state.

In Iowa, Santorum is the latest to draw intense interest. He has been rising in polls and drawing larger and larger crowds in recent days. The once resurgent Gingrich has fallen behind as negative ads have battered him on the airwaves and in mailboxes.

Bachmann's campaign has struggled since she won an informal Iowa poll in August. She's lost key staffers and some activists have urged her to drop out of the race. Perry, meanwhile, has spent millions on TV ads and is continuing a bus tour that consumed much of December.

Romney will return to Iowa later Saturday and will hold events in the western part of the state in areas he won when he first ran for president four years ago.

Top election races to watch in 2012

By Richard S. Dunham
Houston Chronicle

WASHINGTON — President Obama's re-election campaign is the headline race of 2012. But there are dozens of other contests that will be interesting or important, or both. Here are 12 election races to watch in 2012.

The presidential general election

President Obama enters the election year with a lead over every Republican contender. That's good news for the president. But the bad news is that his approval rating remains under 50 percent, and unemployment remains over 8 percent. If those numbers don't change, Obama could be in trouble. But the GOP field hasn't quite lit up the scoreboard.

The Republican presidential primary

Mitt Romney started 2011 as the GOP presidential frontrunner. He ended 2011 as the GOP presidential frontrunner. But what a wild ride! Among the so-called "flavors of the month" were Rick Perry, Herman Cain, Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Donald Trump, Chris Christie and Tim Pawlenty. Well, maybe not T-Paw. Voting starts Tuesday in Iowa. This race could be over very quickly or could linger for months.

The Wisconsin recall election

The attempt by Democrats and organized labor to recall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has more symbolic significance than any other race in 2012. The Republican governor delivered on campaign promises to slash state spending and confront powerful public employee unions. The drama in Madison was a staple on cable news shows in 2011. The effort to remove Walker from power will attract worldwide attention in 2012.

The Massachusetts Senate race

Another local race with symbolic significance. Elizabeth Warren, the Harvard professor who was President Obama's original choice to head up a new consumer watchdog agency, is leading in the polls over Republican freshman Sen. Scott Brown, last year's tea party wunderkind. Brown's victory in the January 2010 special election to replace the late liberal lion Ted Kennedy was an early indicator of the Republican tidal wave that hit 10 months later. His defeat in November in a very Democratic state would carry more symbolic significance than real political meaning.

The Wisconsin Senate race

This race to replace retiring Democrat Herb Kohl likely will be one of the most nasty and divisive of the year. The Republican primary is shaping up as an ideological bloodletting featuring a tea party favorite (former congressman Mark Neumann), a Bush Republican (former governor and U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson), and a Scott Walker Republican (State Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald), among others. The survivor will face Democratic congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, who would become the first openly gay senator in U.S. history.

The Virginia Senate race

An open Senate seat in a key swing state features two prominent and popular public figures. Former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine likely will face former Republican Gov. (and Sen.) George Allen. Allen, the son of the famous football coach, is trying to reclaim the seat he lost six years ago after his infamous "macaca" moment went viral on YouTube. President Obama carried the state four years ago, but Republicans have staged a remarkable comeback and now control the state legislature and every statewide office — except the U.S. Senate seats.

The Missouri Senate race

Republicans think they have a chance to oust four incumbent Democrats in the Senate, with Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill being the most vulnerable. The best thing Republicans have going for them is the state's increasingly GOP tilt at the presidential level — and President Obama is unlikely to prevail in the Show Me state.

North Carolina's 11th Congressional District

North Carolina's Republican legislature gerrymandered the state's congressional district lines in a way that jeopardizes four Democratic incumbents. The most closely watched race will be conservative Democratic Rep. Heath Schuler's attempt to survive in his western North Carolina district that has become hostile territory for a Democrat of any ideological stripe. If the former NFL quarterback is sacked it will further reinforce the notion that the old "Blue Dog Democrat" is an endangered species.

Illinois' 8th Congressional District

Brash tea party freshman Joe Walsh, who ousted moderate Democrat Melissa Bean in this suburban Chicago district two years ago, is an underdog for re-election after Illinois' Democratic legislature gerrymandered congressional district lines in an attempt to oust four GOP incumbents. Democrats have a star recruit: Tammy Duckworth, a U.S. Veterans Affairs Department official and Army helicopter pilot who lost both legs in combat in Iraq. This is a must-win race if Democrats are to have any hope to recapture the House in 2012.

California's 30th Congressional District

California's new redistricting process has created competitive races in at least a dozen districts. The toughest contest may be in a Democratic primary, where two Democratic incumbents from the San Fernando Valley, Howard Berman and Brad Sherman, have been drawn into the same district. They have 44 years of seniority between them and Berman is former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Sherman has an important friend in Bill Clinton. Berman, who lives in Hollywood Hills, has lots of star power in his corner, including movie moguls Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen. This flick could feature a dramatic finish.

North Carolina governor's race

This swing state features a possible rematch of the 2008 contest narrowly won by Democrat Bev Perdue. Republican Pat McCrory, a former Charlotte mayor, is already running and he's leading the incumbent Democrat in recent polls. If Perdue bows out, Republicans would be in good position to pick up the seat. If she runs, it'll still be tough.

Washington state governor's race.

This state leans Democratic but has had its share of razor-thin election margins. With Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire forced from office by term limits, the 2012 race looks like a toss-up between veteran Democratic congressman Jay Inslee and Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna. Democrats can't afford to lose this one.

US seals $3.48B missiles, technology sale to UAE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has reached a deal to sell $3.48 billion worth of missiles and related technology to the United Arab Emirates, a close Mideast ally, as part of a massive buildup of defense technology among friendly Mideast nations near Iran.

Pentagon spokesman George Little announced the Christmas Day sale on Friday night.

He noted that the U.S. and U.A.E. have a strong defense relationship and are both interested in "a secure and stable" Persian Gulf region.

The deal includes 96 missiles, along with supporting technology and training support that Little says will bolster the nation's missile defense capacity.

The deal includes a contract with Lockheed Martin to produce the highly sophisticated Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, weapon system for the U.A.E.

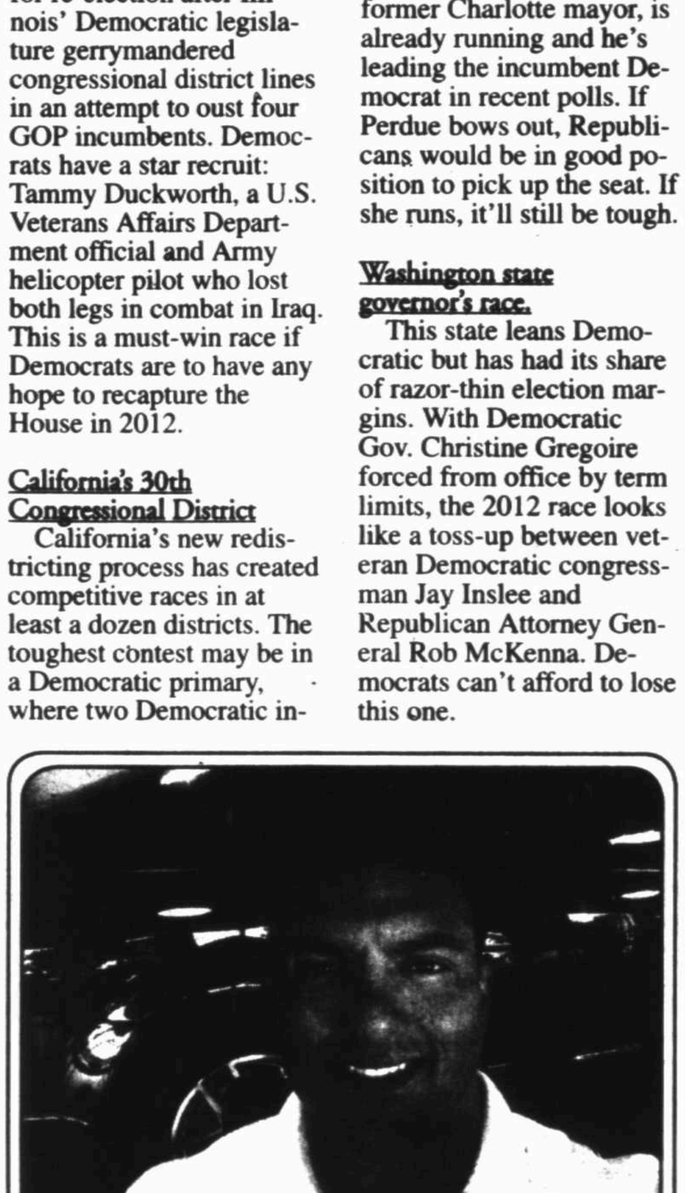
Tom McGrath, vice president and program manager for Lockheed Martin's THAAD program, said in a statement released in Dallas that it was the first foreign military sale of the THAAD system.

THAAD interceptors are produced at Lockheed Martin's Pike County Facility in Troy, Ala. The launchers and fire control units are produced at the company's Camden, Ark., facility.

Wary of Iran, the U.S. has been building up missile defenses of its allies, including a $1.7 billion deal to upgrade Saudi Arabia's Patriot missiles and the sale of 209 Patriot missiles to Kuwait, valued at about $900 million.

On Thursday, the Obama administration announced the sale of $30 billion worth of F-15SA fighter jets to Saudi Arabia.

Under the fighter jet agreement, the U.S. will send Saudi Arabia 84 new fighter jets and upgrades for 70 more. Production of the aircraft, which will be manufactured by Boeing Co., will support 50,000 jobs and have a $3.5 billion annual economic impact in the U.S.

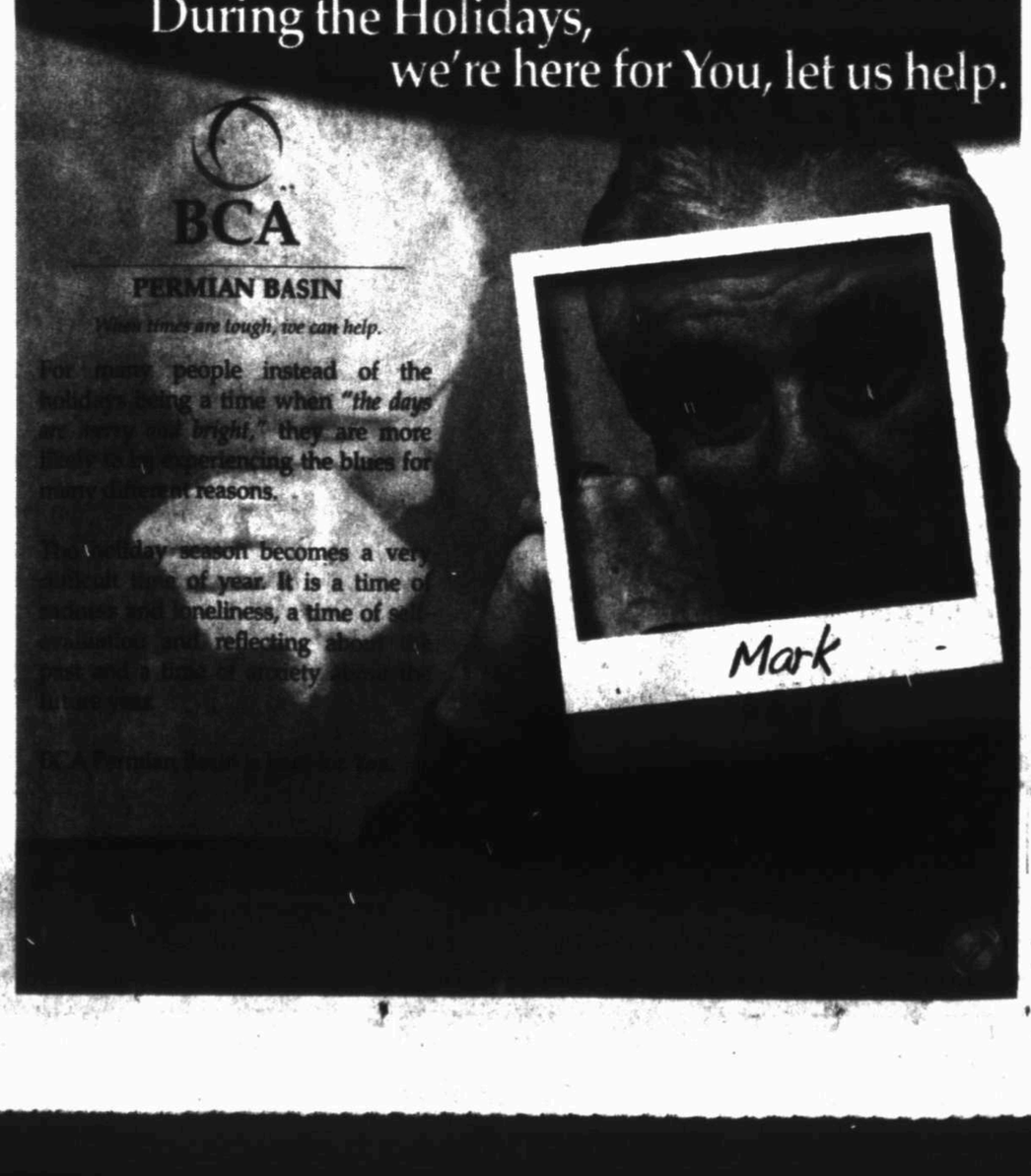

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ACROSS THE NATION

FROM WIRE REPORTS

NORTH CAROLINA

Cops: Man tried to use $1M bill at Walmart

LEXINGTON — Do you have change for a million-dollar bill?

Police said a North Carolina man insisted his million-dollar note was real when he was buying $476 worth of items at a Walmart.

Investigators told the Winston-Salem Journal that 53-year-old Michael Fuller tried to buy a vacuum cleaner, a microwave oven and other items. Store employees called police after his insistence that the bill was legit, and Fuller was arrested.

The largest bill in circulation is $100. The government stopped making bills of up to $10,000 in 1969.

CHICAGO

PETA seeks memorials to cows killed on Ill. roads

An animal rights group wants Illinois to install highway signs in memory of cattle killed when trucks hauling them flipped in two separate wrecks.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has asked for permission to buy the markers, one in suburban Chicago and one northwest of Peoria. The group said the signs would pay tribute to the more than 20 cattle killed as a result of negligent driving this year.

Illinois Department of Transportation spokesman Josh Kauffman said the request likely will be denied because the state's Roadside Memorial Act specifies that only relatives who lost loved ones in highway crashes may request memorials.

In 2006, Virginia rejected PETA's request for highway markers to memorialize hogs killed in crashes on their way to slaughter at Smithfield Foods.

Endorsement game intensifies, but does it matter?

By Steve Peoples
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — It may be overrated, but the political endorsement race won't stop. In fact, it will only accelerate as voting in the GOP presidential contest nears.

Hoping to bolster credibility and build political muscle, Republican presidential contenders have jockeyed for months to woo governors and congressional lawmakers, state senators and county sheriffs, newspaper editorial boards and tea party activists. The game has been dominated so far by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who appears to have captured more endorsements than the rest of the field combined.

But Jeff Frost, like many Republicans in early voting states, isn't impressed. Frost, who is chairman of the Manchester Republican Committee, said New Hampshire voters don't much like being told which candidate to support.

"We're a stubborn bunch of horse traders," he said.

Indeed, candidates and voters alike suggest the impact of political endorsements is unclear at best. Any potential blowback, however, isn't enough to stop campaigns from trotting out new supporters as quickly as they can sign them up.

It didn't matter that the New Hampshire Union Leader has a spotty record of picking winners. Newt Gingrich claimed instant credibility after capturing its endorsement. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum proudly won over Iowa social conservative leader Bob Vander Plaats. Gov. Rick Perry, while touring Iowa, recently dispatched his latest high-profile supporter, conservative businessman Steve Forbes, to New Hampshire.

In most cases, the campaigns shop their big-name backers to local reporters, arrange meetings with voters and use their names and voices in fundraising appeals. Some also offer an instant infrastructure to handle nuts-and-bolts political chores that have tripped up less-organized candidates. That was the case recently in Virginia, where leading Romney supporter Lt. Gov. Bill Boiling shared his political network to help collect thousands of signatures so Romney could qualify for the primary ballot. Gingrich and Perry failed to qualify.



Rajanish Kakade/AP

In this Oct. 10, 2009, photo, Forbes Media Chairman and CEO Steve Forbes arrives for a charity event for the Make-a-Wish foundation in Mumbai, India. It may be overrated, but the political endorsement race will not stop — and it's only accelerating as voting nears. Hoping to bolster credibility and build political muscle, Republican presidential contenders have jockeyed for months to win over governors and congressional lawmakers, state senators and county sheriffs, newspaper editorial boards and tea party activists. It's a game that's been dominated so far by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who appears to have captured more endorsements than the rest of

There's also the buzz that comes with any endorsement, producing days or a few hours of positive media coverage that may inspire confidence among wavering supporters.

Republican candidate Jon Huntsman has struggled to attract big names but recently won the backing of three New Hampshire newspapers, including the capital city's Concord Monitor. His campaign blasted news of the endorsements to reporters.

But even Huntsman acknowledged their impact may be minimal come Election Day.

"It's recognition that you are a legitimate candidate and people think well of you," Huntsman said. "What it does in terms of bringing support around in real numbers that would be quantifiable, I don't have any way of measuring that. I just don't know if it matters at all at the end of the day. But anything that provides additional credibility is a good thing."

The people who endorse candidates are also freer to go negative. Romney supporter and former New Hampshire Gov. John H. Sununu has repeatedly jabbed at Gingrich for "whining." Forbes did much the same thing in New Hampshire for Perry, suggesting that the Texas governor has more "soul" than Romney.

Forbes, once a presidential contender himself, is considered popular in New Hampshire. But a handful of public appearances and media interviews are unlikely to sway any voters, according to Phyllis Woods, one of New Hampshire's two members of the Republican National Committee.

"I think in New Hampshire, there are precious few people who will make their decision based on an endorsement," she said.

There are always exceptions.

Romney helped create an air of inevitability in the fall after earning the endorsement of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, an outspoken conservative favorite. That was strengthened when Romney subsequently won over a tea party favorite, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley.

Dave Roederer, an unaligned Republican who was John McCain's Iowa campaign chairman in 2008, said such high-profile endorsements are helpful.

"Iowa's not a big endorsement-type state, but the fact of the matter is that people will obviously stop and listen to somebody who's a big name like that," Roederer said of Christie and Haley. "It helps."

Santorum hopes people will notice rounds of lesser-known Iowa Republicans, from pastors and politicians alike, whom he's courted with some success in recent weeks. His top prize so far has been Vander Plaats, whose Family Leader organization worked to oust judges who helped usher in gay marriage in Iowa. The organization itself, however, declined to endorse.

In the endorsement race, which candidate gets the most is also a contest.

Romney's campaign says he's collected more than 1,900 endorsements, including conservative activists and current and former elected officials in all 50 states. The list includes four governors, 48 House members and 11 senators.

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Opinion

Expect America to ring in a conservative 2012

■ Even if Obama wins reelection, all signs point to a less progressive country.



GEORGE WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

Although they have become prone to apocalyptic forebodings about the fragility of the nation's institutions and traditions under the current president, conservatives should stride confidently into 2012. This is not because they are certain, or even likely, to defeat Barack Obama this year. Rather, it is because, if they emancipate themselves from their unconservative fixation on the presidency, they will see events unfolding in their favor. And when Congress is controlled by one party, as it might be a year from now, it can stymie an overreaching executive.

In 2011, for the first time in 62 years, America was a net exporter of petroleum products. For the foreseeable future, a specter is haunting progressivism, the specter of abundance. Because progressivism exists to justify a few people bossing around most people, and because progressives believe that only government's energy should flow unimpeded, they crave energy scarcities as an excuse for rationing — by them — that produces ever-more-minute government supervision of Americans' behavior.

Imagine what a horror 2011 was for progressives as Americans began to comprehend their stunning abundance of fossil fuels — beyond their two centuries' supply of coal. Progressives responded with attempts to impede development of the vast proven reserves of natural gas and oil here and in Canada. They bent the willowy Obama to delay approval of the Keystone XL pipeline to carry oil from Canadian tar sands; they raised environmental objections to new techniques for extracting gas and "tight" oil from shale formations.

An all-purpose rationale for rationing in its many permutations has been the progressives' preferred apocalypse, the fear of climate change. But environmentalism as the thin end of an enormous wedge of regulation and redistribution is a spent force. How many Americans noticed the latest United Nations climate change confabulation occurred in December in Durban, South Africa?

The futility of this nullity signaled the end — probably for decades, if not forever — of a trivial pursuit that began 14 years ago with the Kyoto Protocol that the U.S. Senate would not bring to a vote. The pursuit was for a 194-nation consensus obligating a few nations to transfer enormous wealth to many other nations' governments, to be politically distributed by them, with the supposed effect of ending global warming, if such proves to be.

Meanwhile, back in the nation that probably would have ponied up the largest portion of this money, sales of the electric-powered Chevrolet Volt were falling short of General Motors' goals even before reports about fire hazards in crash tests. And a Wall Street Journal headline proclaimed: "Americans Embrace SUVs Again."

Because of the Energy Department's myriad scandals and other misadventures as a venture capital firm (Solyndra, Beacon Power Corp., etc.), it is probable that 2011 will be remembered as the high-water mark of industrial policy. This is another way in which events are draining the Obama presidency of some of its power for mischief. If in November Republicans capture the Senate, which must confirm many senior officials of the executive branch and agencies, only weakness of Republican will can enable, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Labor Relations Board to continue being unconstrained instruments of presidential decrees.

Political logic suggests that this year Obama will try to rekindle the love of young voters with some forgiveness of student debts. But one-third of students do not borrow to pay college tuition. The average debt for those who do borrow to attend a four-year public institution is $22,000 and the average difference between the per-year earnings of college graduates and those with only a high school diploma is ... $22,000.

It will be interesting to see how such a bailout of young and privileged borrowers will appeal to voters, who will begin to be heard from in Iowa. Before this year is many months old, discerning conservatives may decide that Obama probably has been rescued by the Republican nominating electorate and hence it is time to begin focusing on two things other than the 2012 presidential election. One is capturing the Senate. The other is preparing the ground for a better presidential nomination competition in 2016.

In any case, nothing that happens this November will bring an apocalypse. America had 43 presidencies before the current one and will have many more than that after the end of this one in 2013 or 2017. Decades hence, it will look like most others, a pebble in the river of American history.

OUR VIEW

Much for Midlanders to look forward to in 2012

As we celebrate a new year, we want to pause to look forward instead of backward. New Year's Day should be a time of looking forward, setting goals and taking that optimistic step toward our future.

In Midland, that future has mighty fine prospects for 2012. We should embrace the opportunities and challenges we face for the coming year because Midland will change a lot before our eyes before we ring out 2012. We hope when that closing does come, we will regard it as a very good year.

Of course, Midland's booming economy continues to fuel our excitement as we step forward. We realize that expansion and growth brings with it a large amount of headaches for our burgeoning city, but it also brings with it amazing opportunity for our residents.

We continue to hope that our unemployment rate will be among the lowest in the state and nation. That means Midlanders will be working, making and spending money. We expect the oil and gas industry to remain as the key cog in our economic engine, and we hope that decision makers in Washington won't kill our current surge forward with undue regulations and misguided environmental efforts.

We will see more apartment complexes and hotel/motel endeavors rise up in our city, and we expect a robust housing industry to flourish. We should see significant expansion along the 191 Highway corridors from both Odessa and Midland. One day that expansion could mirror what has happened with our own Loop 250 expansion.

We look forward to the time our new hospital will be complete and in use. We also are extremely excited about seeing an expansion of our county library system to a new location on Loop 250. We expect more use of the downtown area, and MISD faces the new era of testing. We hope our water issues will be safeguarded and long-range plans finalized.

Midland also drastically will add to its entertainment options with a new Cineplex in southwest Midland, and the Wagner-Noel Performing Arts Center will host myriad new entertainment options that were previously unavailable in this area before. The center already has hosted some extraordinary events.

Also, the new George W. Bush Tennis Center will be in full swing for its first full year of activity, giving Midland sports enthusiasts another great venue to use. The Horseshoe Arena is expecting renovation, and the Scharbauer Sports Complex continues to attract growth to west Midland in addition to giving us a great venue for all kinds of sporting events, including Texas League baseball.

We could go into hundreds of other projects facing completion in 2012 such as the Midland Christian School expansion or the new sanctuary being built by First Baptist Church, but that list would more than swamp the space we have here.

It is easy to see Midland is on the move, changing with each passing day, much less with each passing year. We have a reason to look forward with pride, hope and confidence.

Midland Reporter-Telegram
A Hearst Corporation newspaper

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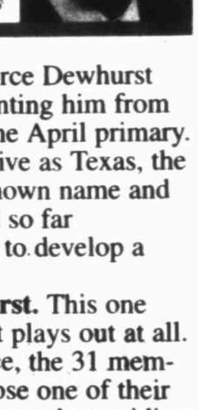
TO OUR READERS
Opinions columns, letters and cartoons reflect the author's or artist's views and not necessarily the view of the Reporter-Telegram

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Letters to the editor run Sundays in the Reporter-Telegram. Letters submitted via email are preferred and can be sent to letters@mrt.com. Letters also can be faxed to 570-7650 or mailed to The Editor, Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701 . All letters must include name, phone number and address and are limited to 350 words.
Letters faxed or sent by email should indicate they are for publication.



Texas stories to watch in 2012

■ Perry fallout (one way or another), U.S. Senate race and Legislature likely will be front and center in the new year.



JASON EMBRY
Cox Newspapers

The year in Texas politics played out pretty much the way we expected. A wave of Republicans who pledged to slash government spending won seats in the Legislature in November 2010, then arrived at the Capitol in early 2011 and slashed government spending.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison announced that she would not seek re-election, prompting a group of Republicans to line up to succeed her. And hopeful candidates spent most of the year waiting to see how judges would draw new boundaries for legislative and congressional districts. In fact, they're still waiting.

The surprise of the year — although it was hardly a shock to those who have watched him closely over the past couple of years — was Gov. Rick Perry's decision to seek the Republican presidential nomination.

We are likely to see more of a shake-up in 2012. In fact, it could prove to be a transformative year. Here are five story lines that will shape Texas politics during the next 12 months.

1. The Perry presidential fallout. If Perry turns his struggling campaign around and somehow makes it to the White House, the state will have a new governor for the first time in 12 years. And because Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst is seeking higher office, the line of succession is murky.

Based on current polling, the more likely scenario is that Perry loses the presidential race — which would be the first electoral loss of his career — and returns to serve the three years left on his gubernatorial term.

What we don't know is how engaged a defeated Perry would be and how much, if at all, his influence would be affected.

Some observers expect legislators will find a new willingness to disagree with the governor, who steered the debate this year over how to handle the state's budget shortfall. But, Perry still knows best how to tap into the Republican grass roots in Texas. And while Perry himself might be less formidable, GOP lawmakers will be less likely to stand up to the governor if Republican activists stick with him.

2. The race to succeed Hutchison. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, helped by 14 years in statewide office and a personal fortune, leads a crowded Republican field to be the next U.S. senator. Former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, former state Solicitor General Ted Cruz and football analyst Craig James are each aiming to force Dewhurst into a one-on-one runoff by preventing him from getting 50 percent of the vote in the April primary.

But in a state as big and expensive as Texas, the person who starts with the best-known name and the most money usually wins, and so far Dewhurst's opponents have failed to develop a permeating message.

3. The race to succeed Dewhurst. This one might not play out until 2013, if it plays out at all. But if he wins the U.S. Senate race, the 31 members of the Texas Senate will choose one of their own to replace Dewhurst as the Senate's presiding officer. Republicans have the majority and will face pressure from some activists — and some senators — to unite behind a single conservative candidate to lead the chamber. But, Republicans and Democrats could join together to elect a more moderate Republican.

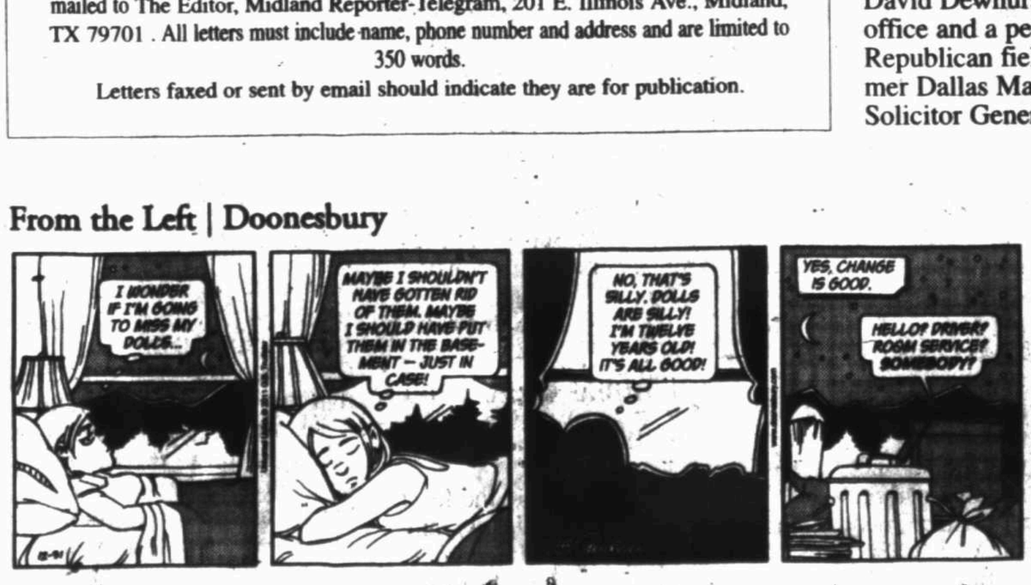
4. Democrats look for signs of hope. Once again, Democrats didn't have much to get excited about in 2011. The party got trampled on a number of issues in the Legislature and seems to recognize that it would take a miracle to capture Hutchison's U.S. senate seat.

The party's best hopes lie in reducing the GOP's 2-to-1 majority in the Texas House. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on redistricting will go a long way in determining whether that will happen.

5. Tax increases versus education cuts. In the 2010 elections, the state's looming budget shortfall was an abstract idea. Candidates said they would fight off tax increases without detailing which programs they would cut. In 2011, legislators gave schools billions of dollars less than they were owed under the state's school-finance formulas. Almost every Republican in the Texas House, in fact, voted for a budget that reduced school funding by $870 per student — a budget that Republican Senate Finance Committee Chairman Steve Ogden said would "wreck" public education.

In the 2012 primaries and the general election, we will see whether legislators pay any price for that vote, or whether voters were willing to make those cuts in order to avoid spending the state's rainy day fund or raising taxes.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers' views on: Christmas Day Newsmaker presentation

OUR APOLOGIES

In the Dec. 25th edition of the Reporter-Telegram, many people saw a headline on top of our Newsmaker of the Year story that they didn't agree with.

It was not our intention to offend anyone based on what the headline said, and looking back we should have run this story on a different day. To those we offended, we apologize.

For those readers we disappointed, we will work hard to live up to your expectations. Our goal every day is to print the best community newspaper for the people of Midland and the Permian Basin. If we make mistakes, we must learn from them and use that knowledge, including what comes from your feedback, to do a better job in future editions.

We have included all letters we have received this week about the Newsmaker of the Year article in today's "Letters to the Editor" section. For those who wish to comment on what you see in the Reporter-Telegram, please don't hesitate to contact me at 687-8856.

— Stewart Doreen

Lizard presentation was 'breathtakingly ridiculous'

As I left a Christmas Eve service with my family, I relished the perfection of the evening. The stillness, the quiet, the new fallen snow and even the lack of food establishments and businesses open. People were at home with their loved ones, the world stood still and peace was on earth. What a site to behold and a memory to cherish as the Christmas Eve snow fell slowly and plentifully unto our drought-stricken land.

Indeed, it was a time to be thankful for the peace, the moisture and the stillness of our troubled world. Knowing that Christmas morning would be dressed in white made the holiday nothing but right. Then, to awake on Christmas morning and find THAT DAMN LIZARD as the morning's headline was breathtakingly ridiculous. Shame on you, Reporter-Telegram.

To report on such a ludicrous and embarrassing (not to mention potentially devastating) topic for our region on the morning of Christmas was nothing but bah humbug. The cover stories to several other sections throughout the paper were far more worthy of front page coverage than the tales of the lizard. Sure, the lizard has it's place in the news, but it is not on the front page on Christmas morning. There were far better focuses that could have adorned the cover of the Christmas paper: thankfulness of moisture to our parched land, accounts of kindness between strangers, heartwarming stories of family gatherings, and most fittingly, celebrations of the Christ child. You took a morning of so much good, of perfect snow covered peace, of joy and celebration of life, of goodwill toward men — to reflect on one big bad. Reporter-Telegram, you really struck out.

Darla Morrow

Reader disagrees with word choice in headline

Imagine my disgust upon seeing the front page of the Midland Reporter-Telegram on Dec. 25. The blaring headline contained a curse word my family was appalled to see in any paper, much less on Christmas Day.

If burning were allowed in the city, I would have taken it outside and set it on fire. Never have I been so insulted as a Christian to see such language in big letters on the front page of a newspaper. Where is your sense of morality?

Julie Hillard, Hobbs, N.M.

Headline showed lack of vocabulary

I am writing to tell you about Christmas Day 2011, because I am afraid you must have been out of town.

This Christmas season was a special one. The snow started to fall on the evening of Dec. 23, and it continued snowing through the Christmas morning. This made the holiday seem much more joyful and alive. The children and adults around town were building snowmen and frolicking in winter weather. On Christmas Eve, my wife and I sat visualizing Santa with his reindeer traveling through the snow around West Texas delivering toys and gifts. Christmas also fell on Sunday, the Lord's Day. It was delightful.

Christmas morning, after my wife and I enjoyed the gifts we found under our tree and had our breakfast, we retrieved the Midland Reporter-Telegram from the front yard. Opening the newspaper, what was the second word of the big bold headline? Well, it was a curse word. How disgusting and disappointing! With a storybook set of events that had made this Christmas Day so special, your paper published a headline that was contrary to decent behavior and good morals. It disheartens me to see the hometown paper set such an uneducated and pitiful example.

You, or someone in your absence, allowed this curse word to be printed in the headline on Christmas, a day of family gatherings. Must you be reminded that on Dec. 25 people around the world remember the birth of Christ and go to church to worship God? Our hometown paper published what would be an inappropriate headline any day, let alone Christmas Day. Has the Midland Reporter-Telegram lost sight of what is good and decent? Has the paper resorted to hiring people with such a limited vocabulary that they must use a word from the back alley to express themselves?

I, as well as others, want to know why cursing was published in our newspaper.

Fred Stubbs

Headline was in poor taste

I opened up our Dec. 25 issue of the paper and I didn't see "Merry Christmas" or any mention of it even being Christmas as the headline on the front page, but the headlines "That Damn Lizard." What kind of headline is that for the front page of a newspaper, especially when it is Christmas Day or any day for that matter? The title was offensive and in very poor taste. I understand all the problems this particular lizard is causing our area, and this letter is not about the lizard, it's about the poor choice of words used as the headline.

This newspaper is read not by just adults, but by children and teenagers. What kind of example is the paper setting when it uses language like it did in this headline? We hear enough bad language every day on TV, movies or just passing someone on the street. We don't need the newspaper to start using it, too.

This is Christmas Day, when we are to especially remember what all Jesus has done for us, and its about family and love for our fellow man. I respectfully urge you to be more aware and cautious about what headline you put on the front page of your newspaper and to remember how many people's lives you are touching by what you say, whether in a headline or in a story.

Brenda Kendall Stanton

Headline, cartoon shock reader

When I picked up my wet Midland Reporter-Telegram paper from the gutter on Christmas morning, little did I know what disgust I would experience when I opened it up and saw the half page damn lizard headline and "cartoon." You chose this greeting to readers on Jesus Christ's birthday.

This was total disregard for the reason for the season — Christmas — Christ's birthday. Shame on you.

David E. Penick

Paper shouldn't make news

I understand it is the Reporter-Telegram's choice as to which story is deemed "Newsmaker of the Year." While I would contend that the drought was the newsmaker of the year rather than the dunes sagebrush lizard, that is not the reason for my writing to you.

I found your front page headline on your Christmas Day edition of the Reporter-Telegram absolutely disgusting. You could have chosen a story about the first white Christmas or winter wonderland in several years. You could have had Merry Christmas in big bold letters across the front of the newspaper. However, you chose to display a cuss word. Ignoring the fact that children may see the headline at street corners, in convenience stores or in their own homes as their parents read the paper, you found that decision to be proper.

I am extremely disappointed in your decision, but I am not surprised. Apparently the Reporter-Telegram is trying to be a "newsmaker" itself. I hope you decide to make better decisions in the future regarding what you display on your product. Until then, I will enjoy reading the Odessa American.

Kevin Broome

Wrong headline, wrong day

Shame on you, Reporter-Telegram. The front page headline of the Christmas morning paper was absolutely out of line. No mention of Christmas on the whole page except for Dr. Kris Howard's ad, which I'm sure she paid highly for. It's bad enough that this lizard was given top billing, but to promote it with 1-inch tall letters plus profanity makes me sick. Put the "damn lizard" on another page, another day.

Nancy Doss

Paper offers supermarket tabloid front

This past Sunday's front page assault on the senses resulted in the cancellation of my subscription after more than 30 years as a Reporter-Telegram subscriber. Dec. 25 is a day of celebration and renewal for many of us, but the sight of the Godzilla-like lizard and the use of profanity to attract eyes was more than this reader could stand that morning.

Has the editor lost leave of his senses to make this the lead on Christmas morning?

Even on New Year's Day this would be a rude awakening, but for Christmas it was an extreme example of lack of judgment, poor taste and decency. I may be in the minority on this one, and the loss of one subscriber has little bearing on the paper's editorial judgment, but you need to know that you offended at least one family in Midland for absolutely no good reason. That is the kind of behavior more fitting of a supermarket tabloid than daily newspaper journalism.

Dale Strauss

Lizard story not festive

What a disappointment to open the paper Christmas morning to a headline that read "That Damn Lizard." On Christmas Day, you expect something pertaining to the holiday or a human interest story. At the bottom of the front page was an article about Midland firefighters getting The Persons of the Year Award.

On Christmas Day, the firefighter story should have taken top billing before "That Damn Lizard." We have to deal with plenty of unpleasant news most of the year. Christmas should be about good will.

Wendi Tully

BILL O'REILLY

Creators Syndicate



Why we say good riddance to 2011

■ Year teaches lesson that the marginal in America will be shut out when times are tough.

Bad year, 2011, even though some bad guys and charlatans got a karma blast. Osama bin Laden got it up close and personal from a Navy SEAL, while his cohort al-Awlaki got drilled from the sky. Gadhafi went down, and al-Assad is tottering.

Schwarzenegger, Weiner, Sheen and Cain all got hammered in the court of public opinion. Blagojevich, Bonds and Mubarak were held accountable in actual courts.

Casey Anthony got away with killing her 2-year-old daughter. Amanda Knox finally beat the rap in Italy. And Kim Kardashian continued to be the poster girl for narcissism.

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, by all accounts a stellar human being, survived a brutal gun attack, but more than 20,000 Japanese did not survive the earthquake and tsunami that hit the country in March.

But things like those listed above happen every year. The primary reason 2011 is not a year to remember is focused around one thing: The folks continue to get a bad deal.

Most Americans work hard, are honest people and look out for their neighbors. They deserve prosperity and capitalism was set up to provide it. But with technology changing the way we live, the rules of capital engagement are changing, and the U.S. government has not acknowledged that. The unemployment rate is just below 9 percent. But if you have a college degree, the jobless rate is cut in half. If you are educated, you most likely will get a decent paying job. If you have a skill such as plumbing, you'll work as much as you want. But if you can't write a sentence, speak like the Jersey Shore crew and/or have a bad attitude in the workplace — you are up against it.

In most situations, the employer is holding all the cards. Competition for jobs is intense and that drives wages down. The boss man can make demands and set a strict workplace regimen. If you are supporting a family, this is not the greatest scenario. So, the Occupy protestors are right about one thing: The American worker is on the defensive.

President Obama wants you to believe the feds can change all that and can right those private marketplace wrongs. That is bull. They can't, and they are bankrupting the country with false hopes. Right now, only individuals can improve their own circumstances. Pinheads in Washington cannot help us.

The most important thing for a worker to understand is that you have to make yourself indispensable. You have to make your employer money or his life easier. Preferably both. Also, you have to learn as much as you can about your chosen endeavor. Again, if you can fix things, you will earn good money. If you can sell things, you will prosper. If you're primarily interested in tattoos, you will suffer economically unless you're a member of Green Day.

In prosperous years, the marginal workers get by. In tough times, they get the shaft. Let's all hope 2012 finally brings relief on the economic front. But don't count on it. Make your own way, and a happy new year will be far more likely to occur.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Animal protection group makes bad decision

I feel the public should know some information about our Midland SPCA.

If you think that by taking any animal or family pet to this shelter will save them from euthanization, think again. I, too, thought all animals dropped off at this facility would be taken care of until they find a forever home, but this is not the case. They just lead you to believe this. I left a dog there with the understanding from the staff that they would take care of it and find it a permanent home. But that is not what happened. They euthanized the dog without contacting me. There also were 10 other dogs that previously had been advertised in the paper for adoption just before their deaths.

They do not have anyone on staff who is educated or certified in animal behavior to make such a drastic and permanent decision. This sickens me to the core. I feel having one Animal Control is enough. Besides, I thought Midland wanted to become a no-kill city. I guess the board of directors of the Midland SPCA was so desperate to find a director for their facility they put the first and only person who applied for the job to fill the position. It takes a special and knowledgeable person to do this job, and I feel just not any person can qualify to do it correctly and efficiently.

I wish the board would reconsider who it has chosen to do this job and gets a more suitable person to do it. I feel the truth needs to be told, and Midlanders deserve to know the truth. The truth will set you free. Come on, Midland; let your voices be heard about this horrific act.

Sherri Vines

'A person is a person'

There are those who, on a daily basis, attempt to lead everyone to believe the entire process of life before birth is nothing more than a sum of bodily functions. They would say these can be aborted and disposed. Yet, we have laws in our country to protect life in nature, all the way down to some single-celled organisms.

From the second of conception, a single-celled organism is created that grows into many cells, and eventually the more recognizable human form. I find it contradictory that one would argue in favor of pro-choice, when the choice involves the destruction of someone our society fights to protect. Have the sanctity of all life and the human instinct of species survival been lost on such people?

The newly conceived child may not have a recognizable heartbeat and has yet to gasp its first breath, but a living being is created from the onset and begins its path for survival. How else can people of the pro-choice movement explain the gestation process? A baby certainly doesn't just appear after nine months.

Even a child can recite the words of Dr. Seuss: "A person is a person ... no matter how small."

Caleb Frerich

Christmas doesn't end after Dec. 25

Well, it is Jan. 1 (the feast of the naming of Jesus), and have you ripped down your "holiday tree" and thrown it into the park or the Dumpster yet?

Have you taken down what few lights you put up and pitched them into the garage for another year? Why not? "Christmas is over," isn't it? Actually, Advent is over, but Christmas officially has just begun. Thanks to the inversion our modern world puts on almost everything, Christmas begins sometime in October and ends after gifts are exchanged on Christmas morning. No wonder people are sick of Christmas by Dec. 26, because their house has been decorated for two months and they have attended endless parties.

It should be just the opposite. The celebration should begin on Christmas Day and extend for 40 days through Feb. 2, when Christ was presented in the temple and his mother Mary purified. Christians moan and complain that Christ has been taken out of Christmas, but how many of them contribute to this erosion by declaring Christmas over Dec. 26? And let's get the angels' words correct: "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will." (Luke 2:14).

Michael Banschbach

KMB thanks those who made a difference

It has been tough year for how Midland looks. We have had extreme drought, complete with high hot temperatures and no rain with water restrictions, tall dry grass that fueled our area wildfires that turned our empty fields black, and lots of litter adding insult to the already parched terrain. Still, we have a place to live and a place to be proud of, Mid-

Please see LETTERS/12A

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TODAY Sunny high 51 low 25

MONDAY Sunny high 51 low 28

TUESDAY Sunny high 62 low 32

LOCAL FORECAST

Expect sunny skies today with a high around 51 and northeast winds between 5 and 15 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for partly cloudy conditions with a low around 25 and east winds around 5 mph becoming calm.

Monday, look for sunny skies with a high around 51, a low around 28 and calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph.

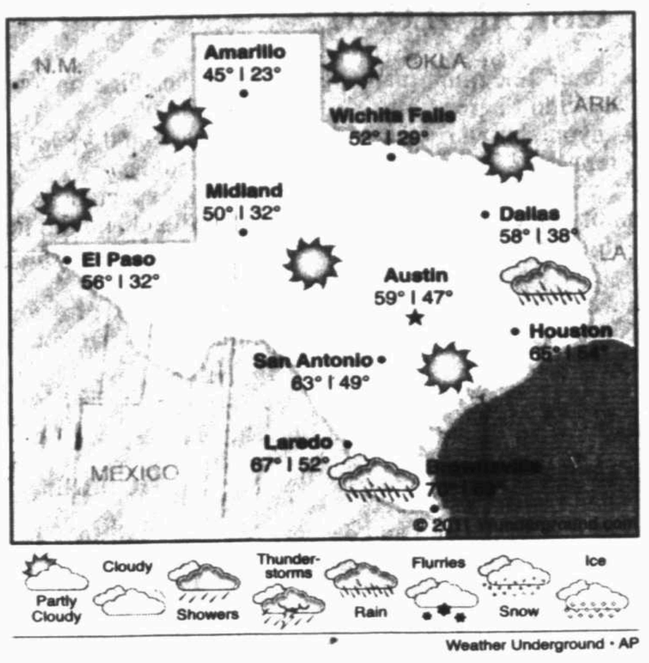
Tuesday, look for sunny skies with a high around 62 and a low around 32.

The high on Saturday reached 75 while the low dropped to 37. The record high for Dec. 31 is 77 set in 2005. The record low is 14 set in 1976.

***

A strong low pressure system will move from the northern Plains into eastern Ontario today, bringing areas of snow from the Great Lakes into southwestern Quebec. The storm will push a cold front from the Plains and the Northeast through the Southeast, ushering in frigid air and much colder temperatures.

Strong winds will also accompany this cold front, with winds gusting past 50 miles per hour in some places in the Midwest. Strong winds and cold temperatures will make it feel even colder.



Precipitation

Friday	0.00 in.
Saturday	0.00 in.
Total for month	1.63 in.
Total for year	5.49 in.
Normal total (year to date)	14.58 in.

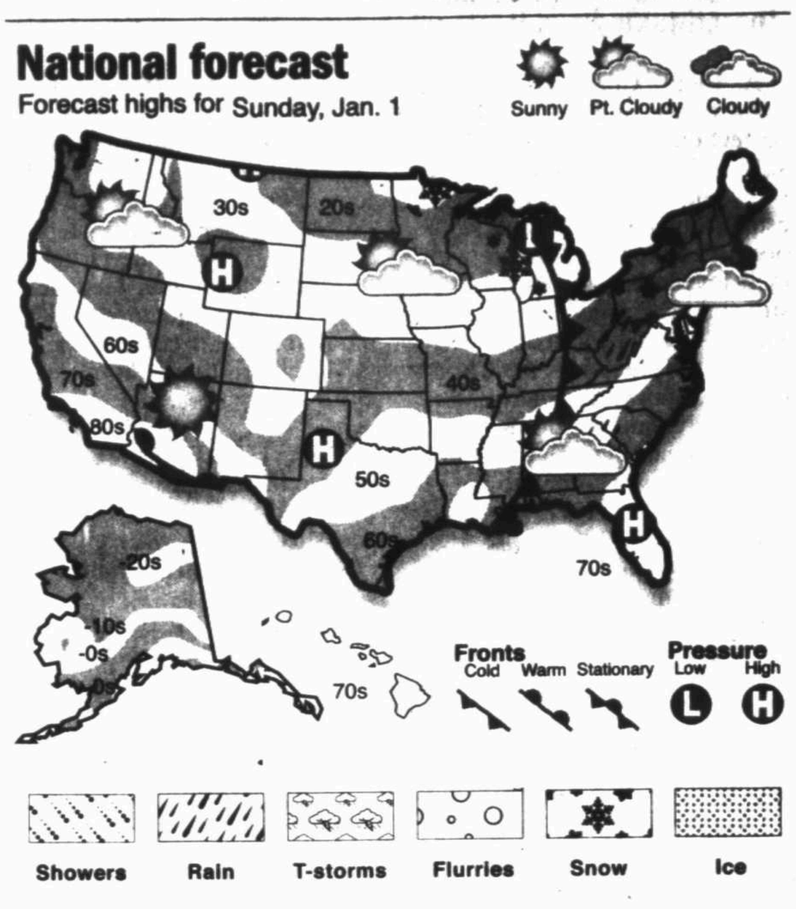
Saturday's temperatures

High	75
Low	37
Normal high	57
Normal low	30

Sunrise ... 7:49 a.m.
Sunset ... 5:55 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Sunday, Jan. 1



LETTERS

cont. from 11A

land is our home.

Keep Midland Beautiful thanks the thousands of volunteers who spent their time and efforts picking up litter in our annual events and projects. We can't imagine what our city would look like if you hadn't collected 164 tons of trash and debris in 2011. KMB thanks all those who willingly participated in the city's water restrictions and did all they could to save water. KMB also thanks those who dispose of their cigarette butts properly and help prevent wildfires.

We can't predict when our drought will be over. Until then we ask you to join these residents in taking care of our community by following all water restrictions and keeping Midland beautiful by not littering. These two simple acts will help keep our community in shape and ready for the moisture we so badly need. Thank you.

Doreen Womack
executive director,
Keep Midland Beautiful

Why not spend money on city, county roads?

It is a shame the powers that be can find the money to work on the Horseshoe and can't pave South Midland Drive and get ride of dust and holes. You only can go about 10 mph and not get beat to death.

Jim Sutherland

Sun goes down on the east side of Midland

As I prepare for the coming new year, I look back at growing up on the corner of Marshall Street and Ohio Avenue in a humble yellow house made out of wood, right behind Sundown Market. I have witnessed many things and changes in this side of town some people might have forgotten of and/or many would not want to remember. Ask anyone where you could find the freshest meat in town, and they would answer, "Sundown Market."

Owned and operated by the Powell brothers and established by their father about 60 years ago, the Powell family have taken new paths in their lives. The store was sold this past summer, and change did not waste time in making its way in. Unfortunately, the all-American mom-and-pop stores are pretty much things of the past. The good old-fashion customer service, common courtesy with a smile, and the feeling one would get while making their way around the store as the owners and employees would acknowledge you by your first or last name are no more. I hold a special place in my heart for the Powells that I will carry with me till the day that I die.

My grandfather, who lived to be 100, passed away three years ago. He was an avid recycler and enjoyed spending his time outdoors. He developed dementia in the last three years of his life and started to wonder off many times. My parents would keep a close eye on him, but there were a few times that the Powells, along with their employees, would bring my grandfather back home. They did this just because it was in their hearts and was the right thing to do. I just want to say thank you to Pat, Charlie and Lloyd for the care and support they contributed to the many families and the community of east side Midland. The large Sundown Market sign that could be seen on Front Street might be gone now, but it will never be forgotten. God bless you now and always.

Vickie HA Cordova

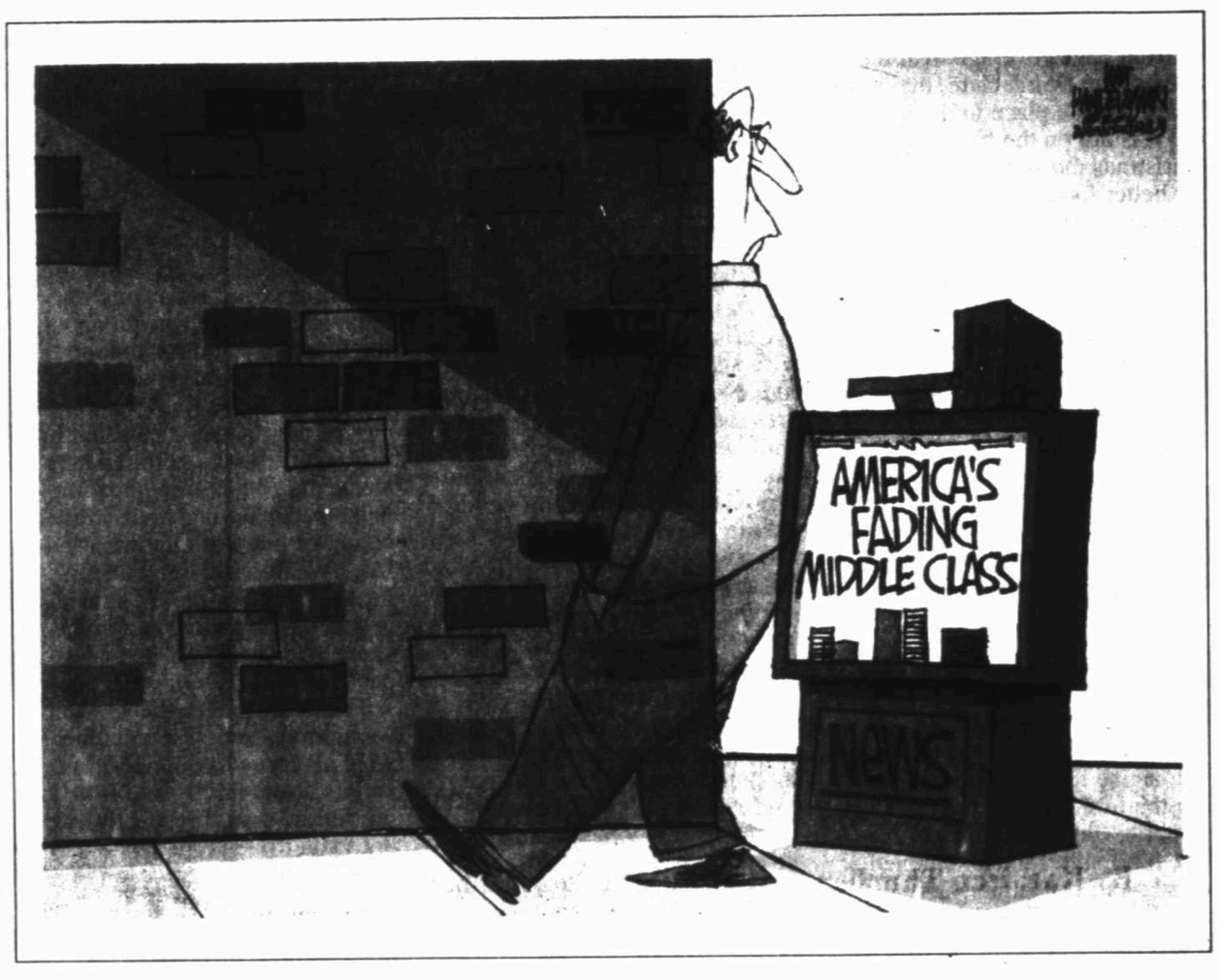
Theater critic should offer apology

A couple of weeks ago in an article in the Reporter-Telegram referenced the musical at Midland Community Theatre, "The Sound of Music." The writer spoke of the play and players and after almost every complimentary thing was a "but" and something negative about their acting or singing.

On Dec. 17 we went to see the play. These people have worked very hard using their time and talent to entertain the people of Midland. We have enjoyed many plays in the past 37 years.

No, they aren't Christopher Plummer or Julie Andrews, (although "Maria" wasn't far from it), but they are faithful with their time in preparing for our enjoyment. Every one who works with our theater — from the people in the box office, prop people, costume people, to the star and anyone else involved in the work that goes into the preparation of these plays — deserves a standing ovation from Midland, and the cast of "The Sound of Music" deserves an apology from the writer who wrote that article.

Betty Newsom



Thoughts about turning 60? It's not what it used to be

■ What will the legacy of the baby boomers be? The mid-grades are in, and it could be a lot better.



BILL KING
Houston Chronicle

As it happens, this column will be published as I reach my 60th birthday. I know, I know, I don't look nearly 60, and you are kind to say so. But unfortunately it is true, and at the passing of such a milestone, it is impossible to not reflect on one's life and times.

My age puts me in the early wave of the baby boom generation, generally defined as those born between 1946 and 1964. We are the generation that followed what Tom Brokaw called the Greatest Generation. Many have compared my generation unfavorably to that Greatest Generation.

In a 2000 essay, Paul Begala dubbed the baby boomers the Worst Generation, enumerating a host of shortcomings. Mitt Romney reprised Begala's moniker in a chapter in his book, "No Apology," focusing on the public fiscal irresponsibility of our generation. So as I mark my sixth decade, I find myself wondering more and more how history ultimately will grade my generation.

Certainly as it relates to how we have managed public finances, it is hard to argue with Begala's and Romney's characterizations. Since we came of age in the 1980s, the U.S. federal debt has more than quadrupled from around $3 trillion to $15 trillion. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

We also have engineered Social Security and Medicare so that most of us will receive far more in benefits than we paid into those systems. Add to that a mountain of state and local debt including trillions in unfunded pension benefits, and there seems little argument that no generation before the boomers has been so willing to pass its bills off to its children and grandchildren.

If we could point to a grand build-up in our public infrastructure for which this debt had been incurred, it might be somewhat excusable. But that is not the case. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently issued a report card on the state of America's infrastructure and gave the country a "D." According to the ASCE, it will take an investment of more than $2 trillion during the next five years to bring our public infrastructure back to an acceptable condition.

Admittedly, engineers are not entirely objective when it comes to telling us that we need to spend more on projects they want to design. However, there is more objective evidence that our infrastructure is lagging. For example, there is a survey of the top airports in the world. More than 11 million passengers are surveyed. In 2011, the U.S. did not have a single airport in the top 10. In fact, we did not even have the top-rated airport in North America.

Our public education system, which was at one time second to none, has slipped badly in world rankings. Today, U.S. students participating in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) only rack up average scores compared to the rest of the world, and students from about a dozen other countries regularly beat our kids' scores.

Other measures of the baby boom generation are more ambiguous. There are those who argue the baby boomers ushered in a moral decline that saw divorce rates soar, church attendance decline and a cultural promiscuity that will have long-lasting negative effects on our country. But on the other hand, the baby boomers faced up to racism, the last vestige of our great national sin of slavery. While we did not eradicate racism, we made it socially and political unacceptable and raised children and grandchildren who are largely colorblind.

But regardless of what our grade is so far, here is the good news: We are not done yet. Because of advances in medical science and many boomers recognizing the importance of a healthier lifestyle, many of us are likely to be around for another three or four decades. In a sense, we only have gotten our mid-term grades at this point. We have time to cram for our finals and burnish our legacy. Let's see that we do.

The following is a list of local, state and federal officials West Texans may wish to contact:

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

PRESIDENT
Barack Obama (D)
Address: The President, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: 202-456-1414
Fax: 202-456-2461
Website: www.whitehouse.gov/president

SENATORS

Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)
Address: 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
Fax: 202-224-0776
Website: hutchison.senate.gov

John Cornyn (R)
Address: 284 Russell Office Building, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510-4302
Phone: 202-224-0704
Fax 202-228-2856
Website: cornyn.senate.gov

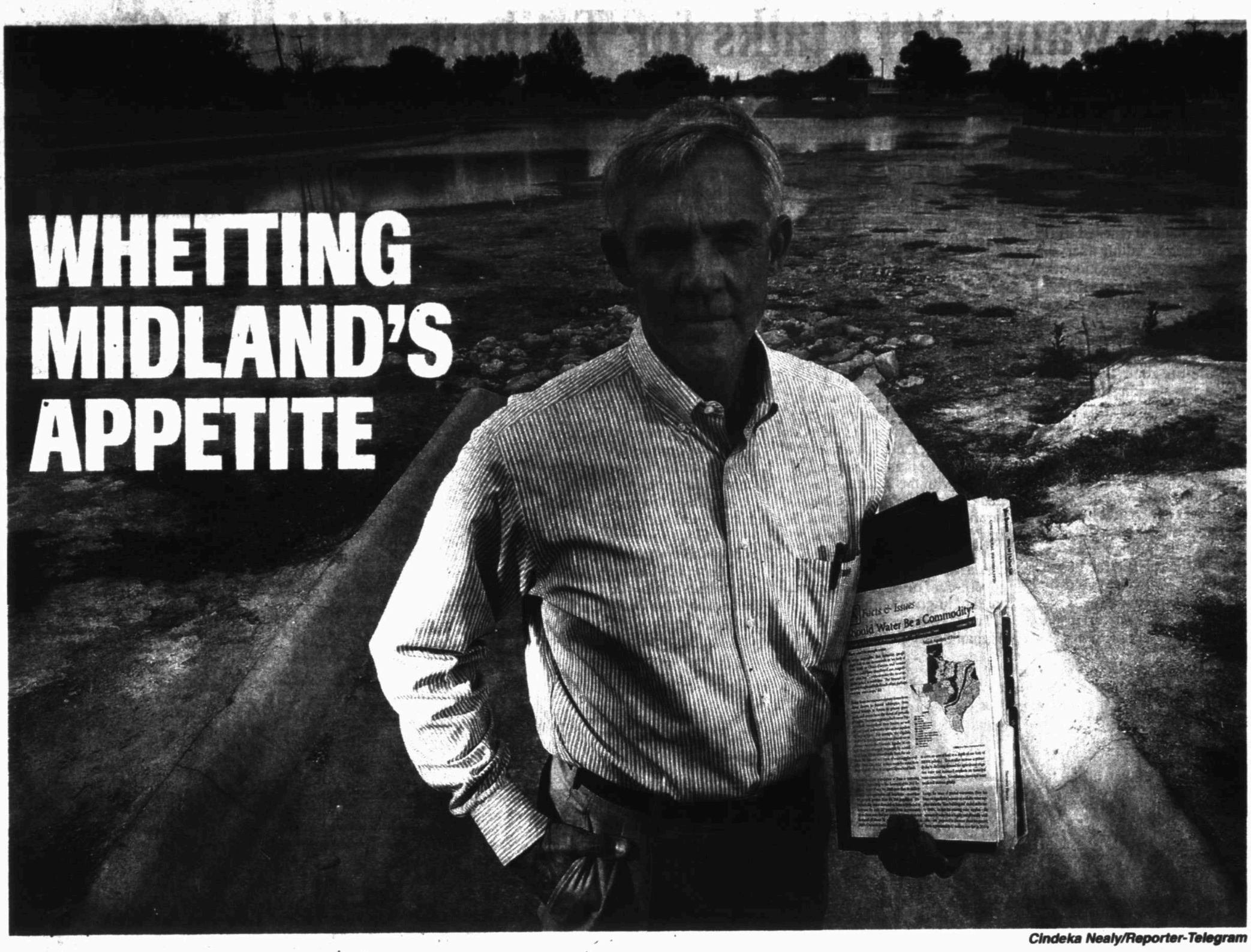
REPRESENTATIVE
K. Michael Conaway (R)
Address: 511 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-3605
Fax 202-225-1783
Local office address: 6 Desta Drive, Suite 2000, Midland, TX 79705
Phone: 687-2390
Fax: 687-0277
Website: www.house.gov/conaway

GOVERNOR

Rick Perry (R)
Address: P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711
Phone: 512-463-2000
Fax: 512-463-1849
Website: www.governor.state.tx.us

STATE SENATOR
Kel Seliger (R)
Address: 6 Desta Drive, Suite 3360
Midland, TX 79705
Phone: 620-0436
Fax: 686-7748
www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist31/dist31.htm

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Tom Craddick (R)
Address: District 82, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768; 500 W. Texas Ave. Suite 880, Midland, TX 79701
Phone: 682-3000; 512-463-0500
Fax: 684-4864
Website: www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist82/craddick.htm



Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Mayor Wes Perry has been one of the chief leaders for establishing a long-term plan for a water supply to Midland.

Mayor, city staff to recommend new format for water restrictions in 2012

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

For those who managed to nurture green grass amid the irrigation restrictions of 2011, new rules likely on the way for 2012 may make a lush lawn even more difficult to sustain.

Without significant inflows into O.H. Ivie Reservoir, John Grant, executive director of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, said he'll recommend the board hold cities' water supplies to winter purchasing levels.

The city of Midland still is waiting to hear how many gallons a day that will mean for its residents. But, Mayor Wes Perry said the city anticipates the amount will be less than was provided in 2011, which means outdoor water restrictions already imposed will have to tighten, as well.

In addition to water from the CRMWD, the city will continue to supplement its supply with resources from the Paul Davis Well Fields.

"The goal will be to have indoor use and trees maintained and shrubs," Perry said. "Then lawns will be a different story ... It's what we think will work. This is the worst case scenario."

Instead of allowing homes and businesses two days each week for irrigation based on their odd or even address, Perry said he and city staff will recommend breaking the city into quadrants and giving everyone just one day a week for lawn irrigation.

Additionally, those who are in the top tiers of water users could see their bill multiplied if the city enters into certain stages of its Drought Contingency Plan, Perry said.

Water rates approved in September already increased costs by the annual 2.5 percent. The ordinance passed included a reworking of the rate structure that left typical homeowners paying the annual 2.5 percent rate increase, while some in the top tiers were shifted into a new category and now are paying 20 percent or more for water if their usage hasn't dropped from its previous levels.

Perry said City Council has been opposed to raising rates to discourage water use but that if supplies need to be limited even further in 2012, that may be a tool on which they have to rely.

"We know that raising rates has an impact on people," he said. "You hate to do it that way, but that works actually. We think that that's going to help encourage people to think about it differently."

Enforcement

Building Official Steve Thorpe said if a quadrant-type system is implemented, it should be simpler for officers to enforce.

"It's probably going to be pretty easy to see who's not adhering. By working sections, we should be able to have a better handle on it," he said.

If only one day of irrigation is permitted, extremely green lawns will become a thing of the past for those following the restrictions, Thorpe said.

"If we're seeing green turf based on what we believe is going to happen, the person has a well or they're not adhering to the rules," he said. "Of all the plants we have in Midland, turf is the most expendable. The city's goal is to attempt to provide enough water to save trees and shrubs."

Because the restrictions that will go in still haven't been formally proposed or voted on, Thorpe said they're also waiting to hear what the rules will be before finalizing a plan for enforcement.

"Things could change; there's no decision that's been made yet," he said.

Exceptions, incentives

Thorpe said football, soccer and baseball fields may again be granted exceptions to whatever irrigating schedule the city implements.

The city hasn't been granting exceptions for new landscaping in recent months, and that likely will continue, staff said.

A list of functioning water wells already is maintained by the city so its officers know which homes and businesses not to cite in regards to water restrictions. Adding addresses to the list is an ongoing process, staff said.

Freese and Nichols also is working with the city to provide recommendations on how it can encourage conservation, including incentive programs that allow for landscaping to be updated to a more desert-friendly design or low-flow toilets.

Perry said the city anticipates receiving those recommendations in the spring and will look at what part of the consultants' suggestions to adopt from there.

"By the summer time, we'll know what those incentives look like," he said. "The goal is just to be better stewards of our water."

With restrictions, Perry said the city likely will start earlier this year to ingrain the schedule in the community. In 2011, voluntary restrictions began on April 1 and mandatory restrictions on July 1. Any plan implemented this year will have to be approved by the council.

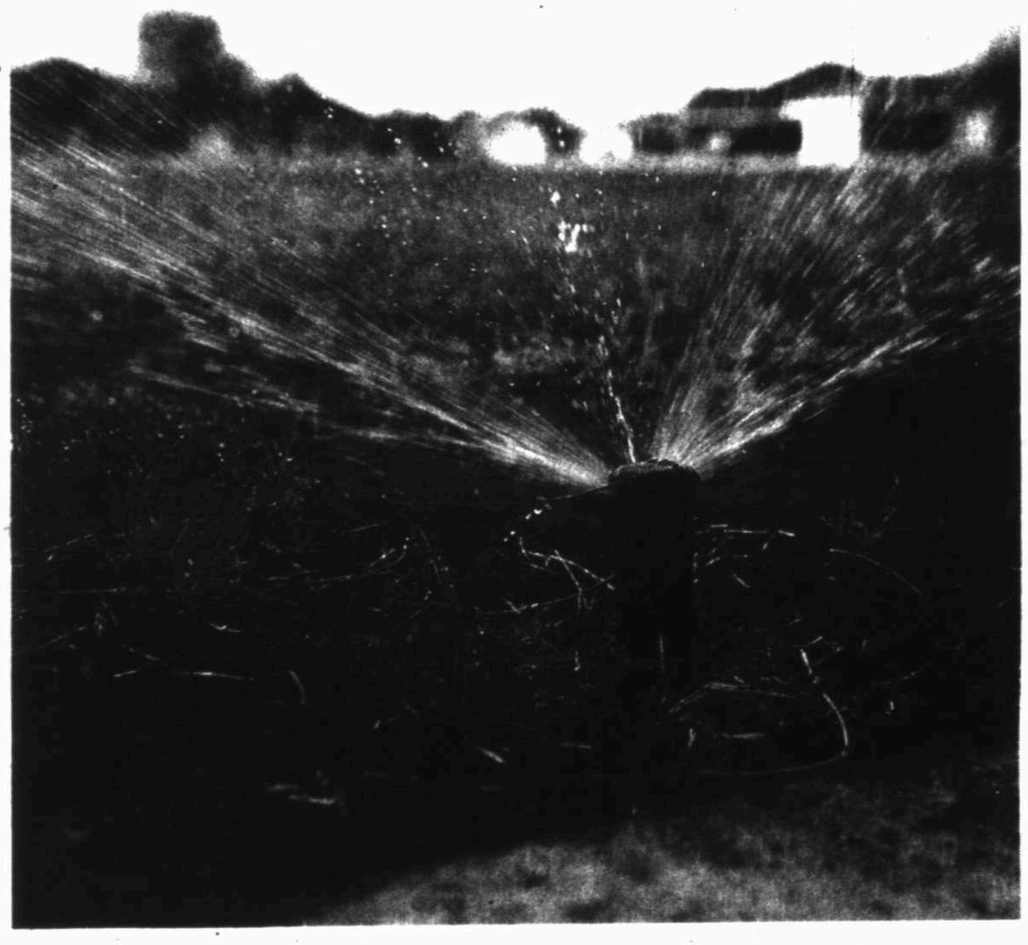
"The last thing we want to do is use up our supply before year-end," he said.

Cities that rely solely on the CRMWD may have to ban outdoor watering all together, Grant has said.

If abundant rain surfaces, watering could return to normal, Perry said.

"There's a good possibility that we'll go back to what we used to do if we have a lot of rain," he said.

Kathleen Thurber can be reached at kthurber@mrt.com.



City reviewing bids for T Bar Ranch water, looking toward long-term

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Selecting a company to transport Midland's water from T Bar Ranch to the city will be among the first tasks of some city officials in 2012.

Mayor Wes Perry, City Manager Courtney Sharp, Assistant City Manager Jim Nichols, Director of Utilities Stuart Purvis and councilmen at-large Jerry Morales and Scott Dufford are part of a committee that will review requests for proposals submitted in late 2011 to bring water from Midland's T Bar Ranch property to city residents.

"T Bar will solve our problem for the next 30 years," Perry said. "We'll have that in place or at least executed in 2012. It won't be delivering water until 2013."

A request for proposals (RFP) was released in late October seeking a company that would build and maintain pipelines from the T Bar Ranch well fields in Winkler County to Midland County. As part of any contract, the city of Midland would then agree to pay for a certain amount of water to be transported each year but would not take on any debt for infrastructure development, Perry said.

"The goal with our T Bar ranch proposals is that there's no indebtedness to the city," Perry said. "They'd build a pipeline, and we have a contract to buy water from them."

Two proposals were submitted, and city officials will meet with individuals representing both bids toward the end of January before making a recommendation to the council.

During 2012, the city of Midland will acquire its water from the Colorado River Municipal Water District and will supplement its supplies with water from the Paul Davis Well Fields.

T Bar is planned to start providing water in 2013.

Whichever entity is selected to develop infrastructure to begin bringing water from the T Bar well fields will have agreed to take care of the financing, design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of the initial infrastructure, according to the RFP. The entity also will have to take care of operations and maintenance of the field, as well as the delivery system through the length of any contract signed, according to the RFP.

The latest estimate for pipeline construction came in at more than $140 million.

Once a plan is in place for T Bar, which Perry described as a "short-term solution" that will provide water for the next 30 to 40 years, city leaders will move on to cementing a long-term plan that covers the next 75 to 100 years.

"I think the long-term, 100-year solution will include surface water and groundwater and hopefully rechargeable water," Perry said.

A request for proposal also was released in late October seeking a pipeline to Midland from a new source of water, which could be part of that long-term plan, Perry said.

The Midland County Freshwater District No. 1, which aims to eventually sell water transported from Clayton Williams' Pecos County land, was the only entity to submit a packet for that RFP, Perry said.

Purchasing water from that entity could be a possibility but is not an option that's been vetted or one the city is necessarily leaning toward one way or the other, Perry said.

Perry also is continuing to work with San Angelo and Abilene on long-term options and said additional details should be available in 2012 from those efforts. He said several possibilities exist and they're working to research options before presenting them publicly.

"There's so many different options, and I know one of them is going to work," he said. "You start at the 30,000 foot view. When you start way out there and you say all these things are possible, it could be a cost issue, it could be lots of things. Then you just have to keep drilling down deeper and deeper. You just don't want to go out and say, 'Hey this is going to work and find out it doesn't.'"

Kathleen Thurber can be reached at kthurber@mrt.com.

US wants 2012 talks for Taliban political office

By Anne Gearan and Kathy Gannon
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration hopes to restore momentum in the spring to U.S. talks with the Taliban insurgency that had reached a critical point before falling apart this month because of objections from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

One goal of renewed talks with the insurgents would be to identify cease-fire zones that could be used as a steppingstone toward a full peace agreement that stops most fighting, a senior administration official told The Associated Press. It's a goal that so far has remained far out of reach.

U.S. officials from the State Department and White House plan to continue a series of secret meetings with Taliban representatives in Europe and the Persian Gulf region next year, two officials said, assuming a small group of Taliban emissaries the U.S. considers legitimate remains willing.

The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the sensitive and precarious American outreach to the Taliban leadership.

The U.S. outreach this year had fits and starts but had progressed to the point that there was active discussion of two steps the Taliban seeks as precursors to negotiations, the senior U.S. official said. Talks are on an unofficial hiatus at Karzai's request, U.S. and other officials said.

The trust-building measures under discussion involve a would-be Taliban headquarters office and the release from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, of about five Afghan prisoners considered affiliated with the Taliban. Those steps were to be matched by assurances from at least part of the Taliban leadership that the insurgents would cut ties with al-Qaida, accept the elected civilian government of Afghanistan and bargain in good faith.

The U.S. describes its current Afghan policy as "fight, talk, build" and maintains that it will not back off the military campaign that has ended Taliban control of key southern areas that had been the movement's mainstay. The Taliban remains a potent fighting force and has shifted operations to other parts of the country.

Just Friday, for instance, a NATO service member died in a roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan, while allied and Afghan forces killed three senior Taliban figures and captured 11 fighters and sympathizers, according to the alliance.

Although top U.S. military commanders say they cannot kill their way to military victory in Afghanistan, targeted raids on Taliban operatives are one of the tactical success stories of President Barack Obama's shift in strategy that favors counter-terrorism tactics.

The longer-term strategic effect of those tactics is less clear; nighttime kill-and-capture raids, in which a number of civilians have died, have become a flashpoint for anger over foreign meddling in Afghanistan. Karzai has demanded that foreign troops stop breaking into homes.

The U.S. administration wants to use its current extensive military campaign and an acknowledged but incomplete plan for a long-term American military presence in Afghanistan as leverage to draw the Taliban to talks with Karzai's representatives.

The gradual process of handing over areas of the country to Afghan security control would ideally be marshaled toward encouraging peace talks, by identifying areas where a test ceasefire could be tried, the official said.

More generally, the U.S. is trying to unify disparate elements of its strategy in Afghanistan after 10 tiring years of war and with an eye on the NATO deadline to withdraw combat forces by the end of 2014.

The likelihood that the Taliban insurgency continues as a fighting force after most foreign forces leave is driving the U.S. and NATO to seek even an incomplete bargain with the insurgents that would keep them talking with the Kabul government.

The U.S. goal is to midwife talks between the insurgents and the U.S.-backed Afghan government led by Karzai, who frequently has felt sidelined by the U.S. as it pursues talks with his enemies. He bills peace talks as an Afghan-led process, which the U.S. insists is also its goal. The U.S. outreach is meant to jumpstart negotiations, U.S. officials have said, but they acknowledge that their efforts can feed the perception that Karzai is not fully in charge.

Although the Karzai government shares the goal of outreach and eventual political reconciliation with the Afghan Taliban movement, he resents the insurgents' demand only to speak with what they call American occupiers. He has argued that the U.S. undercuts his leverage, and his inner circle derailed initial U.S.-Taliban talks earlier this year, several officials previously told the AP.

With Obama planning to host a large NATO summit in his hometown of Chicago this spring, the administration would like some good news to announce.

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ASHLEY

68-NURSE toll-free number launches today

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

Starting today, the 68-NURSE telephone triage program is expanding to include more of the Permian Basin.

Medical Center Hospital in Odessa has entered a partnership with Midland Memorial Hospital to use the program and share operating costs of the system.

Midland residents can continue to call 68-NURSE (686-8773), but according to Dr. Bob Dent, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer, the program also has added a toll-free number for those outside of Midland to call. That new number will be 855-68-NURSE.

"This program will be more of a resource to all of our Permian Basin friends," Dent said.

A new branding and marketing campaign will kick off later this month to advertise the new number and let people in the Permian Basin know of the program's expansion.

The free telephone service allows residents to dial and speak with health care professionals about medical concerns. In an effort to curtail improper use of the hospital's emergency rooms, callers can be advised on whether they should go to the emergency room, see their physician or go to a community clinic.

The program, which went live July 6, 2009, in Midland, cost about $150,000 to set up and costs about $15,000 a year to operate, according to previous Reporter-Telegram reports.

There are up to six providers available to answer questions 24 hours a day at the MMH call center, staff said. The call center will remain at Midland Memorial's west campus.

In 2010, hospital staff estimated about 25,688 calls were answered during the program's first year. Many calls came from outside Midland. People from Alpine, Dallas, Pecos, Lubbock and Kermit, as well as New Mexico, Michigan, California, Washington, New Jersey and Tennessee, called the service, the Reporter-Telegram previously reported.

During the first few months of the program, staff averaged about four calls an hour, MMH officials said.

Currently, the hospital averages about 2,500 to 2,800 calls per month.

Studies have shown that approximately 60 to 65 percent of callers who believed they needed to go to the emergency room were triaged to a lower level of care, Dent previously said.

He anticipates the program will receive more calls once the hospital market its campaign in the Basin later this month but said the hospital has sufficient staff to answer the phones 24/7.

"We will adjust as needed depending on the numbers of calls received," Dent said.

Audrie Palmer can be reached at apalmer@mrt.com.

2011: THE YEAR FOR BEER



Houston Chronicle file photo

Kevin Bartol, co-founder of Saint Arnold Brewing Company, taps a glass of beer from the selection at the Gingerman in Houston.

Craft brewing business booms in Houston

By Ronnie Crocker
Houston Chronicle

From the very large to the very newest, Houston breweries made a lot more beer in 2011.

For sheer volume, none topped Anhueser-Busch InBev, which completed a $34 million upgrade at its east Houston plant that increased annual capacity to 12.5 million barrels, or 387.5 million gallons of Bud Light and other brands in kegs, bottles and cans of varying sizes.

But the area's sudden bounty of craft breweries all reported impressive growth, even if it was on a smaller scale.

Fueled by growing demand and continued capacity increases at the converted warehouse it began moving into in late 2009, Saint Arnold Brewing Co. expects to top 40,000 barrels by year's end. That would be a 27 percent increase over the previous year. In 2006, Saint Arnold produced fewer than 14,000 barrels.

"If you'd told me we'd be at 40,000 in five years, I'd have told you you were smoking dope," founder Brock Wagner said.

The craft brewery founded in 1994 released several new beers this year, including the Weedwacker, while discontinuing the slow-selling Texas Wheat. This was also the first full year of its expansion into parts of Louisiana.

The new digs sparked a boom in the company's tour business, as thousands more people paid the $7 fee to see the facilities and sample the beers. Daily tours grew 90 percent, Wagner said, and an average of 100 people now visit Monday through Friday afternoons. The Saturday tours grew by 25 percent, to an average of nearly 1,000.



Houston Chronicle file photo

Veteran brewmaster Eric Warner pours a beer at Karbach Brewing Co. in Houston.

In Conroe, Southern Star Brewing Co. added a new canning line and six fermentation tanks that should boost capacity to around 10,000 barrels. Founder Dave Fougeron said the 3 1/2-year-old brewery probably made 5,000 barrels this year, an increase of more than 40 percent. Final figures won't be available until next month.

"It was a pretty exciting year for us," Fougeron said, citing the expansions and the release of its first canned seasonal beer, Le Mort Vivant, which began hitting shelves last week.

Fougeron was bullish about 2012, expecting at least two more seasonal releases and production of at least 9,000 barrels. The company also will continue looking for a new location in Conroe that it can move into once the current lease is up in the spring of 2013.

The two-employee No Label Brewing Co. doubled internal expectations by producing 800 barrels in its first year of operation. That is close to the 900 barrels that owner Brian Royo thought he would brew in year two. Now, he is forecasting minimum production of at least 2,500 to 3,000 barrels.

"Everything is going really, really well," he said.

The Katy brewery's full commercial system went online in May, and Royo is in negotiations for a 12,000-square-foot

Please see BEER/4B

Woman dies from crash injuries; investigation ongoing

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

One woman died early Saturday morning from injuries sustained in what police are investigating as an alcohol-related crash.

Diane Day, 47, was pronounced dead at Midland Memorial Hospital at 3:42 a.m. by Judge George Zimmerman after she was transported there after a crash where she struck a light pole head on.

At 10:11 p.m. Friday evening, Midland police responded to a car crash at Thomason and Anetta drives for a minor accident. There, investigators believe Day struck a pickup from behind and fled the scene.

MPD Lt. Brian Bogart said she struck the truck with enough force that the gray 2002 two-door Honda Civic she was driving slid off the road and was facing the opposite direction across from the parking lot of Bob's Better Burger.

She steered the vehicle back onto the right side of the road, went straight through the intersection and struck a light pole one block away at the intersection of Thomason Drive and Wall Street, he said.

The four people in the pickup were transported with non-life threatening injuries to MMH, Bogart said. Day was taken to MMH and died five hours later from her injuries.

Day was the only person in her vehicle. If the light pole had not been there, Bogart said the vehicle would have stopped in the middle of the Honda of Midland dealership building.

This is the sixth traffic fatality in the city of Midland and the eighth within Midland County this year — a significant reduction from the county's 27 in 2010 and 17 in 2009, according to Reporter-Telegram records.

While police do not have official results from the toxicology report, Bogart said investigators are looking into alcohol as a factor based on observations and eyewitness reports of Day at the scene and information authorities received from the hospital.

The bloodwork and lab tests could take a couple of weeks to be completed, Bogart said.

This is the first alcohol-related fatality police have investigated this holiday season

"They tend to be fairly frequent this time of the year," Bogart said.

Bogart said while officers see a lot of people partying for the New Year's and Christmas holidays, they also are seeing more designated drivers.

Extra patrols have been assigned to work the streets this holiday weekend, and several officers have been designated to target specifically DWI drivers.

"People who are normally working are now directly assigned to look for drunks," Bogart said.

Audrie Palmer can be reached at apalmer@mrt.com.

Remaining resolute about not doing resolutions



TERRY WILLIAMSON
Real-life columnist

I have to admit that the New Year's celebration is not my favorite time of year. Instead of looking forward, I can't help but to keep looking backward.

In fact, I can get downright depressed on New Year's Day if I don't watch it. When I was a kid, New Year's Day pretty much signaled the end of the football season. You had all the college bowl games on Jan. 1, and that was it.

I couldn't even enjoy all the New Year's Day games because I knew it was the end of football season. Now, football goes all the way to February, so that anxiety has been diminished somewhat. But today I'm depressed because there are no bowl games. They will be played Monday and beyond. How am I supposed to keep up with these new fangled schedules every year when I don't even have a smartphone?

There used to be a day when it said Jan. 1 on the calendar, you watched bowl games. Now, I have to wait until a week or more for the so-called national championship before I get depressed, I'd just as soon get the depression over with on Jan. 1 and be done with it. Now, my agony is prolonged.

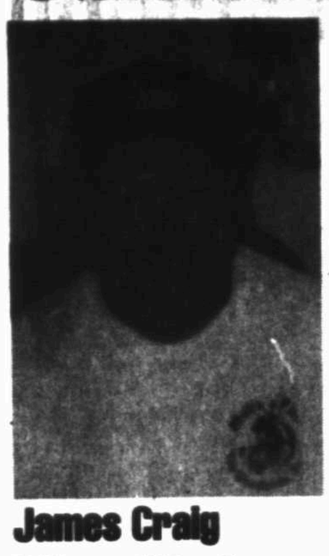
But there is another reason I hate Jan. 1. I don't do resolutions because I am an abject failure when it comes to keeping resolutions. I don't read self-help books, nor do I promise things I can't deliver on. And believe me, I never follow through with New Year's resolutions.

Statistics tell us that 40 to 45 percent of American adults make one or more resolutions each year. I'm among the 55 to 60 percent of Americans that won't touch a resolution. I don't like to fail, and the easiest way to fail is to make a promise that you have no intention of keeping.

The top New Year's resolutions are about losing weight, exercise and stopping the smoking habit. Also popular are resolutions dealing with better money management and debt reduction. Other

Please see WILLIAMSON/4B

Obituaries



James Craig "Jimmy" Porter

James Craig "Jimmy" Porter, 61, of Midland, passed away on December 26, 2011. Jimmy was born in Midland on December 12, 1950, to J. C. Porter and Emma Lavern Shults Porter. He was a graduate of Midland Lee High. After high school, he went on to UTPB and received a Bachelor's of Arts, with a concentration in Creative Writing, after which he continued his education at UT Austin and received his Master's degree. He was a lifelong resident of Midland. He also maintained a lake residence in Colorado City, and he loved to fish. Jimmy was a part of the Labrador Retrievers' Breeders Association and the American Legion. He was Texas' youngest published author in the year of 1974. During his lifetime, he worked as a building contractor, a custom painter, an oil & gas operator in Texas and Mississippi, and as a professor at Midland College. Also, Jimmy was strong in his Christian faith.

Jimmy is preceded in death by both his parents, and his sister, Linda Porter Rice.

He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret Porter of Midland; his step-daughter, Meagan Springer; his niece, Angie Rice; and the Shults family.

A memorial service is scheduled for Monday, January 2, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Midland. Condolences may be made at: www.ellisfunerals.com.

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Jean Margaret Cappadonna Nichols

Jean Margaret Cappadonna Nichols, passed away unexpectedly on December 17, 2011, at Shands Healthcare hospital, associated with the University of Florida Health Science Center in Gainesville, Florida, from complications associated with both viral and bacterial pneumonia, which developed into Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

Jean was a graduate of the Midland High School, class of 1959; she earned her Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree from Texas Tech University and a Master's of Fine Arts from the University of Mississippi. Jean was a member of the Junior Leagues of both Midland and Odessa, Texas, for many years, and served as the first president of the Art Institute for the Permian Basin in Odessa, Texas, now known as the Ellen Noel Museum.

Jean was an active professional artist and clay sculptor, whose life-size figurative work engaged issues associated with the human condition, seasoned with her personal experiences and generously sprinkled with her unique sense of humor. Jean enjoyed professional success through numerous solo and group exhibitions, both locally and nationally. Her art work has been recognized in books, scholarly journals, and professional trade publications, and is owned by several museums and numerous individuals. Her professional website is:
jeancappadonnanichols.com.

Jean is survived by her high school sweetheart and husband of 49 years, James Larry Nichols of Fort Myers, Florida; two daughters, Stephanie Ruth Blackwell of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and Phyllis Jean Henderson of Gainesville, Florida; and six grandchildren, Leslie Nicole Baker and Derek Leslie Baker of Fort Worth, Texas, Calloway Nichols Ellis "Callie" and Melvin Calloway Ellis, IV "Beau" of Mayhew, Mississippi, and Sadie Kay Henderson and Macy Jean Henderson of Gainesville, Florida. Jean is also survived by her sister, Phyllis Marie Cappadonna Short, and brother John Philip Cappadonna, both of Midland, Texas, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jean was an active supporter of the Alzheimer's Association and the family requests that any memoriams be made to this association at: www.alz.org.

Arrangements under the care of Williams-Thomas Funeral Home, Downtown, (352) 376-7556.

Lisa Faye Neal-Mitchell

Lisa Faye Neal-Mitchell was born November 23, 1964 in Lamesa, Texas to Plummer Braziel and Essie Bee Neal.

She went to be with the Lord on December 26, 2011.

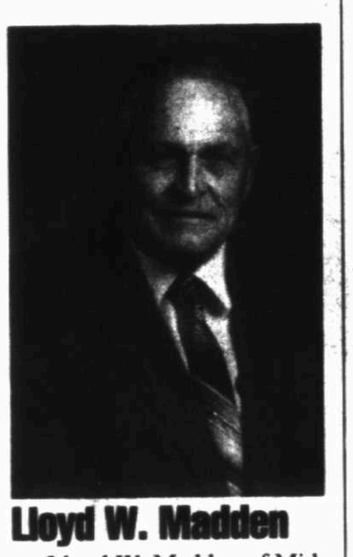
Preceding her in death were her parents, and two sisters, Hazel L Gentry,and Willie J.Rose, her brothers Norman Braziel, and Jimmy Braziel

She leaves to cherish her memory her Husband: William F Mitchell, her sons, Herman L Braziel of Lamesa, and Roy R Neal of Midland, Terrance E Neal of Ft. Stockton, Torrance J Neal and Plummer D. Neal of Midland. Brothers, James Rose of Tyler, Texas, Willie L Braziel of Huntsville, land Cornell Hawkins of Lamesa, and Jeffery Braziel of Midland. Eight grandchildren who were her world, and many other relatives and friends.

The Family will greet family and friends at the Thomas Chapel Monday 7-8 pm.

Funeral Services will be Tuesday at 1:00 pm True Lite Christian Fellowship Church, 3001 N "A" Street, Rev. Roy Smith officiating, burial will be in Serenity Memorial Park, under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home.

Thomas Funeral Home
Funerals & Cremations
1502 N. Lamesa Rd.
(432) 263-7377



Lloyd W. Madden

Lloyd W. Madden of Midland, TX, was born on August 27, 1918, in Lewis, KS, to Oscar and Grace Madden, and passed peacefully at Midland Memorial Hospital on December 26, 2011, at the age of 93.

He attended various primary and secondary schools in western Kansas, and graduated in 1936 from Manhattan High School. In 1937 he moved to Golden, CO and entered the Colorado School of Mines ("CSM"). While attending college, he proved to be an exceptional athlete in track and football, and was recognized as an AP All-American, as a football halfback with the most points scored nationally (141) in 1939, and was presented the Blanchard trophy by the Governor of Colorado for his outstanding football achievements. In his last year of college, he was drafted to play a season of professional football with the Chicago Cardinals in 1940. At season's end, he returned to CSM, graduating 5th in his class of Geological Engineering in 1941.

After graduation he joined the Exploration Department of Shell Oil Company in Abilene, TX, where he was called for duty by the Army Air Force at Camp Barkley, Abilene. After infantry training, he was sent as a cadet to UCLA and later the University of Chicago for advanced physics and meteorological training. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, he served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, as a weather officer responsible for tactical briefing of airmen and ship captains. He was discharged as a Captain in 1946, and subsequently served 9 years in the Air Force Reserve, receiving an Honorable Discharge in 1955.

He rejoined Shell Oil Company, while serving in the Air Force Reserve, and worked in Texas as a geologist in the Houston, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Wichita Falls offices. Upon leaving Shell in 1951, he joined the McElroy Ranch Co. in Fort Worth as a geologist. In that same year, he met and married his life-long love, Shirley A. Bergstrom, and they relocated permanently to Midland, Texas, where he became West Texas Division Manager for McElroy Ranch. After many years with the McElroy Ranch and subsequently Mobil Oil Company, he became a Consulting Geologist until retiring approximately 10 years ago. Lloyd had an extensive knowledge of the sub-surfaces in Texas and New Mexico, and was involved in mapping and drilling of numerous oil and gas wells in the Central and West Texas area.

As the first graduate to be inducted into the CSM Athletic Hall of Fame, a Bob Coffee designed statue was donated to the school by his good friend and alumnus, Stewart Chuber, memorializing the event. On February 9, 1998, Lloyd was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, in ceremonies at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, for achievements in college football and track, and professional football. In 2005 he was elected to the Rocky Mountain Conference Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs. Exhibits of past accomplishments are now on permanent display at Mile High Stadium and Hall of Fame Library in Denver. Notable friends and former players of the time include the honorable former Supreme Court Justice Byron "Whizzer" White, Sammy Baugh, and Glenn Morris. Several notable alumni and close associates include John Moody (deceased) and Stewart Chuber.

Lloyd was a member of Tau Beta Pi, for scholastic achievement in Engineering, and his career spanned more than 50 years as a Registered Engineer and Exploration Geologist in Texas and New Mexico. He is listed in the First Edition of Who's Who in Texas in 1973-1974, the First Edition of Outstanding Americans in the South-1975, and serves as a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, Midland Masonic Lodge No. 623, and 32nd Degree Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ Dallas, TX.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley A. Madden; sons, Steven D. (Paula) Madden of Frisco, TX, and Kim A. (Darleen) Madden of Bedford, TX; and daughters, Deborah K. (Robert) Barker of Midland, TX, and Victoria A. (John) Akos of Rowlett, TX. There are 9 grand-children and 5 great grand-children, all of whom held a special place in his heart.

Private funeral services were held on December 30, 2011, at the First United Methodist Church in Midland, with Associate Pastor Mackey Pitts officiating. Burial followed at Resthaven Memorial Park, with Ellis Funeral home in charge of funeral arrangements.

The family has requested donations be made to HospiceMidland, First United Methodist Church of Midland, or a charity of choice.

Sincere appreciation goes out to HospiceMidland, with special thanks by the family to Richard and Amy.

Condolences may be made at: www.ellisfunerals.com.

Ellis Funeral Home
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Dignity 801 Andrews Hwy. (432) 683-5555



Ronald L. Coughlin

Ron Coughlin passed away on December 28, 2011. He was born in Austin, Texas, on December 30, 1952, to John and Eleanor Coughlin. Ron and his twin brother, Roger Coughlin, were raised in Massena, New York, where they were both active in football and wrestling.

After high school, Ron joined the Navy, in 1973, and served his country for four years. Ron moved to Midland in 1979, where he worked for Jerry's Perfect Pets. For the last fifteen years, he worked with his brother, Roger, at AV Workshop Productions.

Ron is survived by his parents; two brothers, Roger and Keith Coughlin; and two sisters, Kathy Coughlin and Karen Bresnick; as well as several nieces and nephews. Ron was preceded in death by his brother, Dale Coughlin.

The family will have a gathering from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at the funeral home.

Memorials for Ron may be made to Helping Hands of Midland, 1301 Brinson Ln., Midland, TX 79703, or to West Texas Opportunities Inc., 3510 North A St., Midland, TX 79705.

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

Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory (432) 550-5000

Questions about death notices or online Guest Books? Email: obits@mrt.com

Death Notices

Leonard Lee Twiggs

Leonard Lee Twiggs passed away December 28, 2011 in Odessa.

Survivors include his son Leonard Lee Twiggs; Grand kids, Jennifer Lee Fox and Kenneth James Twiggs; Great grandson, Gavin Lee Perez; Bothers, William Twiggs and Douglas Twiggs.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers or donations please send to hospice house.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home. To sign the guest book, go to our website at www.sunsetodessa.com

Ronnie C. Shackelford

Ronnie C. Shackelford, age 64, of Odessa, passed away Thursday, December 29, 2011 in Odessa.

He was born November 3, 1947. He married Delories Stevens.

Survivors include his wife, Delories Shackelford of Odessa; his son, Eddie Williams of Midland; his daughters, Brenda Williams of Midland and Connie Wallace of Winnona, Texas; his brother, Jimmy Shackleford of Odessa, Texas; his sister, Norma Jean Shackleford; 6 grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home. To sign the guest book, go to our website at www.sunsetodessa.com

Simona Mancha

Simona Mancha, 84, of Odessa, passed away Friday, December 30, 2011, in Odessa.

Visitation with the family will be 6:00-7:00 p.m., Monday, January 2, 2012, at Sunset Funeral Home. Rosary will follow at 7:00 p.m., Monday, at Sunset Funeral Home Chapel. Services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sunset Funeral Home.

mywesttexas.com
Questions about death notices or online Guest Books? Email to obits@mrt.com

Rancher in East Mountain trains dogs to tend to cattle

By Glenn Evans
Longview News-Journal

EAST MOUNTAIN — Mike Wright looks for two things in a cowdog — presence and eye.

"It's very similar to the way people are," the lifelong cattleman and dog trainer said. "If you've got three people giving you lip, and you walk up there, are you looking at all three of them? Or, are you looking at the one that's closest to you?"

The 30 or 35 border collies and hangin' tree dogs in a kennel outside Wright's East Mountain home know the answer to that.

"These dogs, they are looking at that cow that's closest to them," he said. "I want the one that's going to look at the one that's the closest — 'You move, I'm gonna get you.' That's presence. Presence, presence — presence is a huge word. It's everything. It's everything, and lots of eye."

Wright, 47, has worked with both cattle and dogs since he was a boy in Mount Pleasant.

"They take the place of three or four hands for us," he said, describing his niche in the cattle world, getting herds in optimum shape for market.

Starting his dogs at 7 or 8 months old, Wright puts each through training beginning with getting them used to humans and horses.

"We take a young dog. We teach them to follow, to go with us (while we are) horseback," he said. "We teach them their names — the basic stuff. And then they go through a 30-day period of what we call collar training."

Commands are learned in that month, and he didn't mean sit, stay and shake.

The terms Wright's dogs master include, "down," a command to hunch down and be still; "come," if the dogs are to your right, and, "here," if they are to the left. "Come by," tells them to circle back clockwise, while, "way to me," sends them counterclockwise.

"They learn to associate what side you call them from," Wright said. "They start understanding what you mean, and then it all kind of goes together like a puzzle. ... It's all a system, very systematic."

Short, medium and a longer, 60-foot, jerk lines, the electric collar, cheerful voice inflection and hearty pats are Wright's tools of positive and negative reinforcement.

"A lot of people use force; we use collars," he said. "It's a lot in the way you use your voice. That's why a lot of people can't operate a dog, is they don't use their voice correctly. You have to use a lot of tone."

Soon enough, the dogs get to work in a pen — first with sheep, then young cattle and finally the big bossies. Once they've matriculated behind the wire, it's out to pasture — time for the real work, gathering and driving.

"A hangin' tree and a border collie are more gathering type dogs," Wright said. "In other words, they bring cattle to you instead of push them away. Mine'll do both. I don't usually teach the driving part till they get a little aging on them — I call that a broker dog.

"In gathering, a dog is taught to bunch (the cattle together) — they balance with you. Where you are, they are not. They are on the opposite side of the cattle. That's their natural instinct, is to gather. They have to be taught to stay back there. You have to teach these dogs to stay back there and balance (your presence) and bring the cattle to you."

When a cow or bull sticks its nose outside the herd's perimeter, it's the dog's job to snap it back with a bite to the nose or leg. Eventually, presence and eye are enough.

Driving has its own hazards. Cattle tend to keep doing whatever they are doing at the time, which means once they get the idea they are moving a direction they kind of fix on that and a cowboy can soon have 1,500 head off to the races.

Stop the dogs, he knows, and the cattle will chill.

That command sounds sort of like a long, "here," without the, "h." "Down" won't do, he said, "Because they'll hurt themselves if they 'down' from a run."

"The pushing of the cattle is where the dog really gets to driving," he said. "They have to be more, robotic, is the word. In their heart and in their mind, they're wanting to go yonder. But we use them to flank the cattle. If the cattle get too trotty, if they look like they are going to get ahead of us too much, then we roll them up."

A cowboy might want to stop the herd to tend to one cow that needs field doctoring. The rest of the herd stays put while that takes place because of presence and eye.

To a cowboy, dogs and horses are tools. Wright doesn't make those tools, he just teaches them how to fulfill their destiny.

"It's gaining control of what they have the desire to do (naturally)," he said. "That's what they're bred to do, that's what they want to do."

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ABOVE: Treasurer Mitzi Woehlking and County Court at Law Judge Kyle Peeler pose during a New Year's celebration at the Midland County Courthouse on Friday.

RIGHT: District Attorney Teresa Clingman, left, and District Clerk Ross Bush serve food during a black-eyed peas lunch at the Midland County Courthouse on Friday.

Courtesy photos

As San Antonio grows, so does its confidence

By Morgan Smith
Texas Tribune

SAN ANTONIO — In 2008, after 15 years as the Alamo City's largest corporate resident, AT&T announced it was moving its headquarters to Dallas — and taking 700 executives along with it. In the past, that San Antonio's first Fortune 500 company had outgrown its home might have seemed an insurmountable blow for this city with a pre-existing inferiority complex. But these days, it is not easy to shake the city's confidence.

In the last decade, companies have flocked to San Antonio, making it an economic center rivaling Houston and Dallas. With business expansion has come energetic population growth: According to U.S. census numbers, in the past 10 years, San Antonio has added more people within its city boundaries than any other major city in the state. It has attracted demographers' attention, at home and across the nation.

"San Antonio is sometimes seen as that sleepy southern city of Texas," said Steve H. Murdock, a former director of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Texas state demographer. "If you look at its growth, if you look at its changes in the last two decades, it is a city that may be changing more in nature than the other two larger cities."

San Antonio recently topped the Milken Institute's annual list of the best-performing cities, a ranking that measures American metropolitan areas based on their ability to create and sustain jobs. The city, which for the past five years has made it to No. 7 among the largest metropolitan areas in the country, has been "incredibly resilient" in the economic downturn, said Kevin Klowden, an economist with Milken, a California-based economic think tank.

Houston and Dallas — ranked fourth and ninth, respectively, among the top cities in the country — have seen their development gradually slow. And the jobs that those cities have added have tended to be lower paying, Klowden said. By contrast, San Antonio has attracted high-wage jobs, capitalizing on its booming medical research industry.

"This is San Antonio's finest moment," said Henry Cisneros, the city's former mayor and the secretary of housing and urban development in the Clinton administration.

Part of that is good fortune. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure proposal, which consolidated military bases across the country, has greatly benefited San Antonio's Air Force and Army bases. It has brought more than 10,000 jobs and $13 billion to the city's economy, according to numbers from Joint Base San Antonio, which includes the country's largest military battlefield health and trauma hospital. That comes as the University of Texas Health Science Center to the north is rapidly growing, adding more than 225 new faculty members a year and deploying more than $230 million in annual research financing.

Cisneros, who is now the founding chairman of BioMedSA, a nonprofit organization of community and business leaders that promotes medical research in the city, said the current momentum in San Antonio has been a long time in the making — a result of "about 40 years of refining and honing economic cooperation."

He said that in addition to its thriving medical research community, the city is poised to benefit from the South Texas Eagle Ford Shale energy boom, the relocation of Mexican professionals with significant capital to invest, increased tourism because of extensive civic improvements and a growing aerospace industry.

San Antonio aggressively courts the business of top companies. The city is home to the world headquarters of Valero Energy, Clear Channel Communications, USAA and H-E-B supermarkets. In recent years the city has focused on luring biomedical firms. InCube, a life sciences research lab, chose San Antonio over Houston and Dallas for its first expansion outside of Silicon Valley. It joins Medtronic, a medical technology company, as the two latest bioscience firms to move to the city.

Mir Imran, InCube's chairman and chief executive, said that after learning about the medical research institutions, universities and military bases in San Antonio — and after receiving a $10 million economic incentive grant from the city — he was sold.

"San Antonio is the best-kept secret in Texas," he said. "I don't think it will stay that way for very long."

The pending multibillion-dollar reduction in federal military spending triggered by the failure of the congressional "supercommittee" to make a deal on the budget is a possible wrinkle in the rosy prognostications. Lawmakers have vowed to propose legislation to undo the cuts, but no matter what, military spending will most likely fall with the return of American troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Klowden said San Antonio's growth has been diverse enough that it may be able to avoid any debilitating effects from a reduction in federal spending. He added that even as troops return, they will probably be funneled through San Antonio's bases as they head home.

Railroad station nears the end of the line

By John MacCormack
San Antonio Express-News

SANDERSON — With Chinese crews laying track from the west and mostly Irish working from the east, the two rail gangs met about 50 miles east of here in 1883, with a silver spike marking completion of the California-to-Louisiana line.

Shortly afterward, Sanderson, about 280 miles west of San Antonio, was established as the switching point for Southern Pacific train crews working between Del Rio and El Paso.

A large stone roundhouse and a modern station complete with cafe were built, and for the next century this was a bustling railroad town.

In the early days, train holdups always were a threat. In 1912, locals posed outside the station for photographs with the pale bodies of two failed train robbers, Ben Kilpatrick and Ole Hobek.

But the last of the Southern Pacific train crews left about 15 years back, triggering a long-term economic and population decline in Terrell County.

About all that remains are the ruins of the once-magnificent depot with its 12-foot ceilings, where locals once dined with passengers.

Mostly abandoned by the Union Pacific, which took over the Southern Pacific, the old station now awaits demolition, despite sporadic local efforts over the past decade to save it.

"To me, this depot represents the heart of Sanderson, our beginnings. It represents the Wild West, where people carved an existence here out of nothing. They started coming here before the Indians moved out. There were still lodge poles and buffalo skulls on the ground," said Bill Smith, 63, a local historian who was born in nearby Marathon.

"It just amazes me that we have quite a few people in town who are in favor of not saving it. I do not understand that attitude," he added.

A spokesman for Union Pacific said demolition could come early next year, and that the contractor will work with preservationists to salvage important elements.

"We've worked for the possible donation of the depot over the past 10 years," Raquel Espinoza said.

"We've really tried to make this work, but unfortunately at this point, we have to move forward," she said.

No one faults the railroad, which about nine years ago was willing to give the depot to a local group that had secured a $500,000 grant to create a railroad museum. That effort crashed on the rocks of local politics and uncertainty over the county's potential financial exposure.

More recently, the railroad has given Smith and other preservationists repeated extensions of demolition deadlines.

Another recent short-lived scheme, to save the depot by moving it 110 miles west to Marfa, died a quick death because of logistics.

"It's a moot issue. We tried every which way to get it through Alpine. Cost-effectively, it can't be done," said Tex Toler, the Marfa director of tourism, who years ago worked in Sanderson and was involved with the failed museum plan.

And now, since fundraising efforts have fallen woefully short, Smith said the best the preservationists can hope for is to salvage some doors, windows and lumber from the wreckage to construct a smaller replica structure.

The plight of the Sanderson depot has come to the attention to Henry Bender, 74, of San Jose, Calif., who recently completed a book about Southern Pacific Railroad train stations.

"My thought is that $100,000 would save it, and that is not a lot of money. Someone somewhere must have the wherewithal. It's finding that person," Bender said.

"I believe the Sanderson depot was built in Oakland in kit form, and shipped there. Of that particular style, with the lunch room, there were only five or six built," he added.

While structurally intact, the 180-foot-long building has been vandalized. The roof tin and paint are peeling, and windows are broken.

These days, the only occupants are occasional illegal immigrants, hiding out in hopes of jumping a passing train. In bad weather, the rare Amtrak passengers wait in the nearby post office.

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Thanks to your generosity, the following financial assistance was given to the poor last week:

Electricity	2 families	$ 658.66
Rent	20 families	$ 18,858.66
Medical	2 families	$ 2,748.94
Home Repairs	2 families	$ 959.99
TOTAL		$ 23,226.25

Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity we were able to provide Christmas and Thanksgiving to 300 families for each holiday this year. Not only did each family receive a turkey for Thanksgiving and a ham for Christmas, but the food boxes contained the complete fixings for each of those meals plus food to last the family for the week. The boxes also contained many cooking staples such as sugar, flour and cooking oil.

Well over 700 children were also given at least 4 toys each along with a complete set of clothing: shirt, pants, socks and underwear, shoes, pajamas and a coat. These families were selected by Midland Independent School District Project Head Start Counselors who work with these families on a regular basis and determined that they fell well below poverty level.

What a joy it was to be a part of this project! From the tears, the looks of gratitude, and the never ending "thank you's" that we received we could tell that these families were genuinely grateful for the help they received.

Help that would not have been possible without all of you! Special thanks to ***Midland Independent School District,*** to ***Midland Memorial Hospital*** for partnering with us in adopting many of our "angels" and for holding a toy drive for the children, to parishioners of ***St. Ann's Catholic Church, St. Ann's School*** and the ***Natural Gas Society*** for their outstanding toy drives; to ***Club Arriba, Weight Watchers of Midland, Genghis Grill, Midland RV Campground Bible Study,*** and ***MHS ROTC*** for their food drives/donations; to ***St. Stephen's Knights of Columbus, Solid Rock Fellowship, Stepping Stone Ministries, Secular Franciscans*** and ***Crisis Intervention Unit of the Sheriff's Department*** for their help in assembling and distributing the food boxes, to the ***St. Stephen's Youth Groups*** for setting up and coordinating the toy giveaway and for assembling the Thanksgiving food boxes, and to the ***Women's Organization from St. Stephen's*** for coordinating the Angel Tree program. Again, you were a blessing to over 700 children. And to all of the friends of Helping Hands who came in just to lend their own helping hands to this project: thank you! We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without your constant care and support. God bless you and may you have a very safe, blessed and prosperous New Year!

Black women go to college in big numbers

By Holly K. Hacker
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Lillian Gibson returned to college so she could become a special education teacher and be walking proof for her two boys that education matters.

Tonya Stafford, a grandmother, wants to finish her degree and run a child-care business.

Gibson and Stafford represent an increasingly dominant force in Texas higher education: African-American women.

Black women attend college at a higher rate than any other group in Texas. Last year, 8.1 percent of the state's black females attended college in Texas. They're more likely to attend college than white females (6.3 percent), Hispanic females (5.4 percent), white males (5.1 percent), black males (5 percent) and Hispanic males (3.7 percent).

And participation rates for black women have risen faster in the past decade than for any other group in Texas.

Experts say black women, in particular, realize the value of a college degree.

"For our community, education has always been a means of social mobility," said Kimberly Moore, an advising director at the University of North Texas at Dallas who is black. She said many black female students at University of North Texas-Dallas have something in common: "They are the head of the household, and in their mind a degree equals more opportunity."

At UNT-Dallas, black women make up 30 percent of the student body (women overall make up 70 percent). About half of all students go part time, and the average age is 30.



MCT file photo

UT-Arlington President James D. Spaniolo, right, helps April Hortt, 17, an incoming freshman from Dallas, move her dorm room necessities into Kalpana Chawla hall, at UT-Arlington on Aug. More students than ever are living on some Texas university campuses, with dormitory expansions planned in upcoming years at two other UT-system schools and at Texas A&M.

Gibson, 36, always meant to get a college degree. She started community college right after graduating from Skyline High School and transferred to the University of Houston.

Then, as Gibson put it, "life happened." She married, had two boys and went to work in the insurance industry. But over the years, she found volunteering at her boys' school far more fulfilling than handling workers' compensation claims.

Now she's studying at UNT-Dallas to become a special education teacher.

Gibson said her husband, who works in airline safety management, attended technical college but doesn't have a degree. "He feels like he can get to the next level on his work experience," she said. And while he'd like to return to college, Gibson said, he believes he needs to focus on being the primary provider in the family.

Gibson isn't sure her sons, now 7 and 12, will have the same career options without a college degree. And she wants to be a role model for them.

"How can I tell them to go to college if I don't do it myself?" she asked.

GUILTY PLEAS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Guilty pleas accepted and sentences imposed Dec. 19-23 by District Judges George D. Gilles, Robin Malone Darr and Rodney W. Satterwhite:

Anthony Paul Aleman, 24, aggravated assault, four years on probation, $500 fine and pay $9,167.22 in restitution.

Jason Jessie Barrientes, 39, theft by repetition, one year state jail and pay $996 in restitution.

Melinda Gayle Bougeus, 46, theft, two years state jail suspended for five years on probation, $1,200 fine and pay $3,854 in restitution.

Maria Alicia Carrera, 55, misapplication of fiduciary property over $1,500 under $20,000, two years state jail suspended for four years on probation, $1,500 fine and pay $1,947.99 in restitution.

Daniel Brito Cuellar, 36, failure to appear for felony charge, five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice suspended for five years on probation.

Martin Flores, 36, possession of cocaine, two years on probation, $500 fine and pay $140 in restitution.

Corey Glenn Gossett, 26, unlawfully carrying a weapon on licensed premises, five years on probation and $2,000 fine.

Giorgio Dejon Hayden, 25, forgery by passing, two years state jail suspended for five years on probation, $1,000 fine and pay $4,106.01 in restitution.

Dillon Grant James, 23, possession of heroin, one year state jail and pay $140 in restitution.

Davorrin Dquan McAfee, 18, possession of cocaine, five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and driver's license suspended for 180 days.

Jason Allen Mauldin, 41, assault, 10 in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice suspended for three years on probation, $1,000 fine and an anger management class.

Gregory Allen Moats, 20, burglary of a habitation, two years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Christopher Roy Meek, 21, assault on a public servant, three years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Mark Rui Reyes, 46, assault family violence, 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice suspended for two years on probation, $1,000 fine and attend an anger management class.

Abel Epimenio Rodriguez, 31, felony driving while intoxicated, 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice suspended for five years on probation, attend a treatment program, $1,500 fine, 30 days Midland County Jail and driver's license suspended for 365 days.

Jorge Rodriguez, a.k.a. George Rodriguez, 25, driving while intoxicated with child passenger, two years state jail suspended for three years on probation, $1,000 fine, driver's license suspended for 365 days, 30 days Midland County Jail and attend a treatment program.

Misty Tarrance Reynolds, aka Misty Michelle Harvey, aka Misty Tarrance, 32, injury to a child, five years on probation and $1,500 fine.

Robert Jerome Thomas, 46, theft by repetition, 15 months state jail.

Adrian Madrid Villa, 22, felony driving while intoxicated, three years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, driver's license suspended for 365 days and pay $140 in restitution.

Lisa Lucio Villa, 46, prescription fraud, 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice suspended for four years on probation, attend a treatment program and $1,500 fine.

Shawn Dale Willis, 42, possession of cocaine, two years on probation, $1,000 fine, attend a treatment program and pay $140 in restitution.

Berwin Fitzgerald Wilson, 49, burglary of a building, 12 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Guilty pleas accepted and sentences imposed Dec. 26-30 by District Judge Rodney W. Satterwhite:

Benjamin Kirk Akins, 52, injury to a child, two years on probation and $500 fine.

Kyle Scott Burt, 21, possession of cocaine, two years state jail suspended for five years on probation, $1,200 fine, driver's license suspended for 180 days, attend a treatment program and pay $140 in restitution.

Francisco Balderam Castaneda, 41, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Davin Don Duran, 30, injury to a child and assault family violence, three years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Kristopher Rico Hille-Valadez, 20, racing on a highway, 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice suspended for five years on probation and $1,500 fine.

Stephen Henry Salcido, 30, theft, two years state jail suspended for five years on probation, $1,000 fine and pay $4,140 in restitution.

Source: Midland County District Attorney's Office

WILLIAMSON

From 1B

top resolutions are about spending more time with the family, reducing stress, eating healthier, learning something new and ... did I say losing weight?

I don't need a New Year's resolution to lose weight. I have a doctor for that kind of motivation. But there are resolutions I could keep, but the wife never approves. I could make a resolution to gain enough weight to be on the "Biggest Loser," or just find more accurate scales. Also, I could stop buttering my doughnuts.

For those of you that do make resolutions, I found some statistics on the Internet (I'm sure they are reliable) that say resolution makers have a 75 percent chance of making it through the first week without breaking any given resolution. You have a 71 percent chance of completing two weeks, 64 percent chance of going one month and 46 percent chance of going six months.

However, less that 25 percent will complete the year having kept a New Year's resolution. The sad fact is that more than three-fourths of Americans are failures. Basically, we can't put the sandwich down or keep the credit card in the purse.

But there are a few good things left for New Year's Day. For instance, if you look at it closely, the new year is a chance to start anew on some old habits. It's a chance to dust off some old resolutions to see if you can get it right the second time around.

I still hold to the theory that if you make no New Year's resolutions to improve yourself, you'll be a dead-beat just like me.

Thought for the Week: I like what Jay Leno once said: "Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average ... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution.

BEER

From 1B

warehouse. That opportunity came up suddenly, he said, and could delay plans to begin bottling beers next summer.

No Label also more than doubled its presence on draft after signing on with the craft-beer-focused Duff Beer Distribution in September. The brewery's three year-round beers, plus its most recent seasonal release, the Elda M milk stout, are in more than 60 bars and restaurants.

The newest entrant in the Houston beer community, Karbach Brewing Co., launched to much fanfare in late summer. The company exceeded its own high expectations for a strong start, spokesman David Graham said.

"It's been insane," he said, noting the positive reaction to each of its five year-round beers on sale thus far. Karbach's second seasonal release, a black India pale ale, made its debut on Thursday.

Graham said Karbach beers are available in 115 accounts, which is 15 percent ahead of projections. The brewery has canning equipment on site and expects to begin packaging March 1. Graham said the brewery forecasts production of 3,100 barrels for the 12 months ending Aug. 31.

Two other local companies began selling alcoholic brews in 2011, although their products are made elsewhere under contract. Bvner Beer began showing up in the spring and Leprechaun Cider Co. in mid-September. Both reported a strong beginning. Bvner founder Bob Lesch said production was close to projections and the first few months of 2012 will include expansions to Louisiana and the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the release of a second wheat-based beer, this one in cans.

Meanwhile, A-B InBev has launched a major overhaul of its packaging lines in Houston, which could lead to further increases down the road. The $30 million project, to be completed late next year, includes upgrades to a canning line and two bottling lines and the addition of a line dedicated to 24-ounce cans.

Looking ahead, at least three more craft breweries could begin production next year.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Midland Army Airfield Target Range #6

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former Midland Army Airfield Target Range #6 (Midland AAF TR #6). This site was used as a practice bombing range for training bombardiers at Midland Army Airfield between 1942 and 1946.

The former Midland AAF TR #6 is one of many former military installations throughout the United States that are being reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions and/or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at the Andrews County Library, 109 NW 1st Street, Andrews, TX 79714.

For more information or if you have additional information about past activities related to the former Midland AAF TR #6, please contact:

Patience Nwanna
Project Manager
(817) 886-1470
USACE, Fort Worth District
ATTN: CESWF-PER-D
819 Taylor Street, Room 3B06
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300
Patience.N.Nwanna@usace.army.mil

or

Clayton Church
Public Affairs Officer
(817) 886-1314
USACE, Fort Worth District
ATTN: CESWF
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A24
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300
Clayton.A.Church@usace.army.mil

Texas Gulf Coast gains retirees despite weak economy

Associated Press

ROCKPORT — Linda Vander Woude spent one winter in Florida — and then headed West.

The price of staying in Florida's popular Fort Myers area when her husband's job went overseas — forcing an earlier-than-expected retirement — was too high. The crowds were too large. And the couple did not feel welcomed by the locals. So, they looked for an alternative warm destination to flee to when frigid winter descended on their hometown, Kentwood, Mich.

"We were looking for something cheaper and warm, and we found Rockport," on the Texas Gulf Coast, the 63-year-old Vander Woude said, settling down for a night of country music and dancing at the Drifters Resort community hall.

For years, it seemed, the charms of the Texas Gulf Coast were largely a secret — much to the chagrin of the locals, the business owners and the few outsiders aware of its magic. Now though, that is changing as baby boomers seek cheaper, less-crowded winter destinations and flock to small towns that dot the South Texas coast.

The water is not as blue as Florida's. The winters are slightly less mild. The shopping is not as highfalutin. It's not nearly as hip as popular spring break destination South Padre Island along the Texas-Mexico border.

But the price is right, the economy is weak, and Texans are winning these folks over with Southern charm.

"Here, we're called Winter Texans. In Florida, we're snowbirds," explained Jan Evenson, a Waterloo, Iowa native who spent two-and-a-half winters in Florida and never felt comfortable.

Evenson, 73, has been coming to Texas for 11 years, though until about six years ago, she and her husband would drive down to "the Valley" — the popular winter destination along Texas' border with Mexico.

Now, with gas prices rising and the border getting more violent, Evenson and her husband prefer Rockport — one of many small villages along the central portion of the Texas Gulf Coast.

This appears to be the trend, says Ann Vaughan, president and CEO of the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau. Port Aransas is about 18 miles and a ferry ride away from Rockport. The chamber hasn't done an official survey since 2004, but participation in community events and activities show the numbers of Winter Texans steadily increasing.

Gary Mysorski, director of parks and recreation in Port Aransas, says the number of people participating in his department's activities has gone up from just over 1,300 in the winter of 2009-10 to 1,700 last winter.

Activities range from arts and crafts to catamaran cruises. This year, he even offered one activity before Thanksgiving — usually too early for the Winter Texans — and it was full.

STATE BRIEFS
FROM WIRE REPORTS

FORT WORTH

Deputy slashed, suspect shot in confrontation

A Tarrant County sheriff's deputy working off-duty as a security officer and a bank robber have both been seriously injured in a confrontation that followed a chase.

Authorities say the deputy pursued the robber, who left the Fort Worth Community Credit Union about 9:30 a.m. Saturday with an undetermined amount of money. The deputy confronted him in a parking lot. Investigators say the suspect slashed the deputy in the neck as the deputy simultaneously shot the man in the head.

The deputy was hospitalized, and a Sheriff's Department spokesman said officials were "cautiously optimistic" about his condition. The man who robbed the bank was in critical condition.

Authorities say the incident began after the suspect approached a bank teller and passed a note demanding money.

NEW JERSEY

Texas man killed, 2nd injured in hotel stabbing

A Texas man was fatally stabbed and another was critically injured during an attack at a central New Jersey hotel.

Somerset County Prosecutor Geoffrey Soriano said 30-year-old Chad Everette Robertson of Shoreacres and a 29-year-old Houston man were found at the Franklin Township site around 1:25 a.m. Saturday.

Robertson, who had been stabbed multiple times, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The other man, whose name was not released, was stabbed in the abdomen. He underwent surgery and was hospitalized in critical condition.

Soriano said the men have been in the area for a few weeks working on an environmental project. But it's not clear if they were staying at the hotel where the stabbings occurred or what may have prompted the stabbings.

DALLAS

NYE celebrations planned across state

As many as 35,000 people were expected to descend on the area around the American Airlines Center in Dallas on New Year's Eve for the fifth annual Big D NYE party.

Four bands were scheduled to play on two stages, and a fireworks display was set for midnight.

Meanwhile, more than 25,000 were anticipated at Houston's downtown New Year's Eve party, headlined by country singer Delbert McClinton and featuring a 3D light show.

Austin city officials planned a family-friendly celebration at Auditorium Shores ending with fireworks at 10 p.m. Events were to include a food court, a wordless comedy play and a meditative installation where visitors could reflect on the new year.

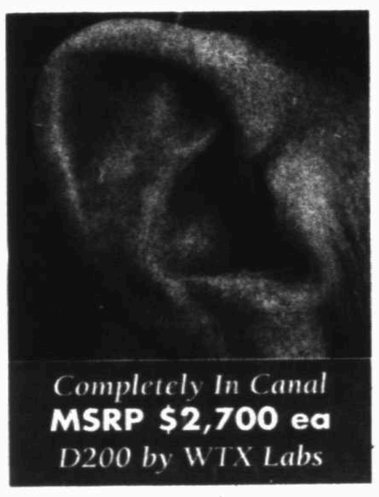
Celebrate San Antonio gave partiers the option of enjoying entertainment on six stages and fireworks at midnight.

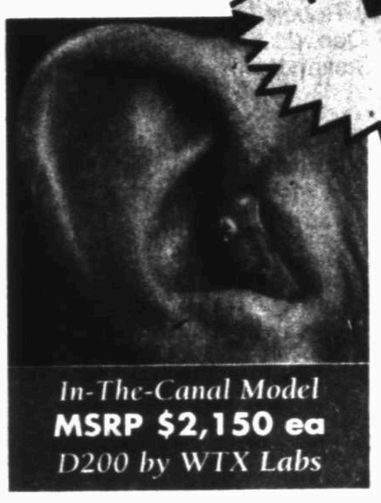
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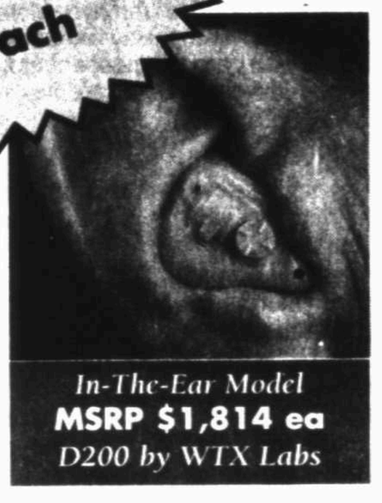
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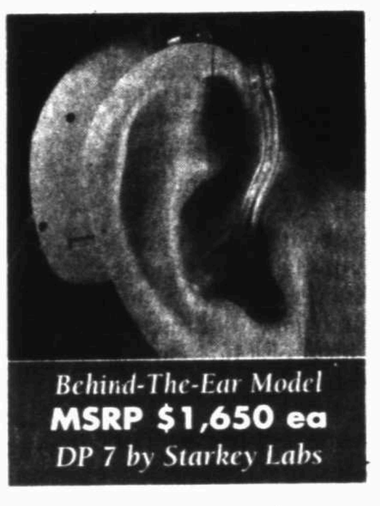
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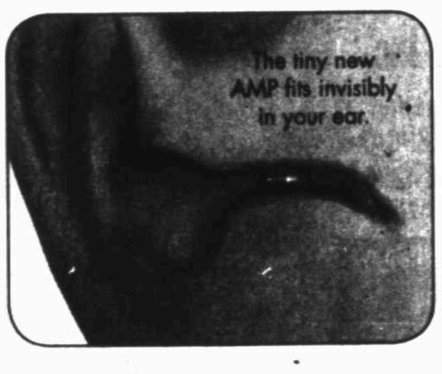

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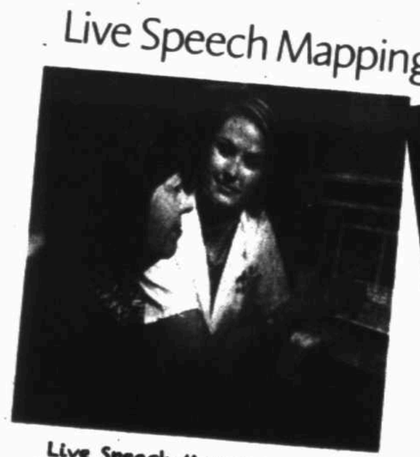


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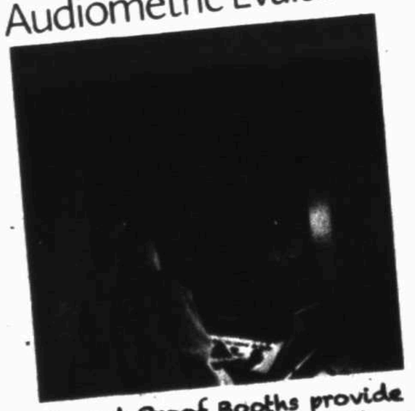
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Galveston ferry may be Texas' best tourist bargain

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

GALVESTON — Galveston's Bolivar Ferry, Texas' version of the famous New York Staten Island Ferry, may be the best tourist bargain in the Lone Star State.

It's free, and the roughly 20-minute ride each way between Port Bolivar and Galveston is an entertaining diversion from the beaches and historic districts that are the biggest local tourist draw. Nowhere else in the vast state of Texas can you cross and share a waterway with ships on one of the world's busiest channels, feed scores of sea gulls eager for bread or popcorn, and spot dolphins swimming and diving within shouting distance of the boat.

"The scenery, looking at everything, I've enjoyed it since I was a child," Destiny Perry-Inman, 30, of Kirbyville, said on a recent trip. "I'd come here every summer with my dad. I would recommend it to people who enjoy this sort of thing."

Passengers standing on the bow can get a saltwater shower as the nearly football-field-long ferry plows through a swell or the wake of a ship. At night, the lights and flares of gigantic petrochemical plants in nearby Texas City burn on the horizon to the northwest. A line of ocean-going freighters and tankers dot the horizon leading into the open Gulf of Mexico.

"We just love it," Millie Garfield, of Victorville, Calif., said, as she accompanied her daughter and 5-year-old grandson. "It's a neat experience for kids."

Garfield's daughter, Sarah Emerson, from Silsbee, about 90 miles northeast of Galveston, said whenever she gets visitors come from out of town, the ferry is a must-do trip.

You don't get to see the Statue of Liberty on this crossing, but like its East Coast counterpart, which for decades has been hauling passengers between Staten Island and Manhattan, the Bolivar Ferry for generations has been carrying vehicles and passengers the nearly three miles across Galveston Bay from the island to the Bolivar Peninsula, a sliver of land separating the bay from the Gulf of Mexico in Southeast Texas about 50 miles from Houston. The ferry runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, halted only by the approach of a hurricane or tropical storm.

Officially, the ferry run by the Texas Department of Transportation is an extension of Texas Highway 87, which parallels the coastline northeast out of Galveston. It saves motorists a three-hour, 140-mile drive around the bay to Bolivar from Galveston.

"It is a state highway," department spokesman Hank Glamann says of the ferry. "It's just a chunk that happens to float."

The boats carried 1.4 million vehicles and nearly 4.4 million passengers in the past year. People can remain in their cars, get out and stand on the deck at the bow or stern or climb stairs to a second deck for a seagull's eye view. The fleet's newest $23 million vessel is undergoing final preparations before entering service to expand the number of boats to six.

The busiest time of the year is June, July and August, and hours-long waits to drive aboard a boat are not uncommon. People merely wanting to take the boat ride can walk aboard and avoid the lines after parking at the ferry landing, where dozens of pelicans normally roost on the pilings with hundreds of sea gulls.

Each boat can carry up to about 70 vehicles and 500 people. Those vehicles can include up to eight 80,000-pound 18-wheeler trucks.

Most of the ferries are named for former members of the Texas Transportation Commission and are painted the colors of the school they attended. They travel at a top speed of 10 to 12 knots but don't turn around. Their crews do. Each ferry is double-ended, meaning the captain and his first mate walk across the roof of the ferry's upper deck from one pilothouse to a second matching control room on the other side for the return trips.

"The best job I ever had," Capt. William Maxey, who's been piloting the ferries for 10 years, said from the pilothouse of the orange-painted M/V Robert C. Lanier. University of Texas alumnus Lanier was Transportation Commission chairman in the 1980s, then three-term mayor of Houston.

Maxey says weather is always a concern during his normal eight daily round trips, particularly fog.

"That's when we earn our money," he said. "It makes it interesting."

He remembers one instance where a lightning bolt struck the water near the vessel during a storm.

"There was fire coming out of the water," he said. "I've worked on a ship all my life and I'd never seen anything like that. You could feel the intensity."

The first ferry service began in the 19th century, when Galveston was the premier city in Texas, only to be crippled by the great hurricane of 1900 and subsequent construction of the Houston Ship Channel that fueled Houston's ascendancy as a metropolis. It's that channel, gateway to the world's busiest inland port, the ferries cross.

A private company that first ran scheduled regular ferry service sold its two vessels to Galveston County in 1929. The following year, the county sold the ferries to the state. The first state-operated ferry went into operation July 1, 1934 and became so popular a 25-cent toll was imposed.

The fee was dropped in 1949.

"One hundred percent free public transportation," department spokesman Glamann says.



Associated Press photos

A sea gull snags a piece of bread out of a passenger's hand aboard a ferry boat as it crosses Galveston Bay in Galveston on Dec. 21. Galveston's Bolivar Ferry, Texas' version of the famous New York Staten Island Ferry, may be the best tourist bargain in the Lone Star State. It's free, and the roughly 20-minute ride each way between Port Bolivar and Galveston is an entertaining diversion from the beaches and historic districts.

Know before you go

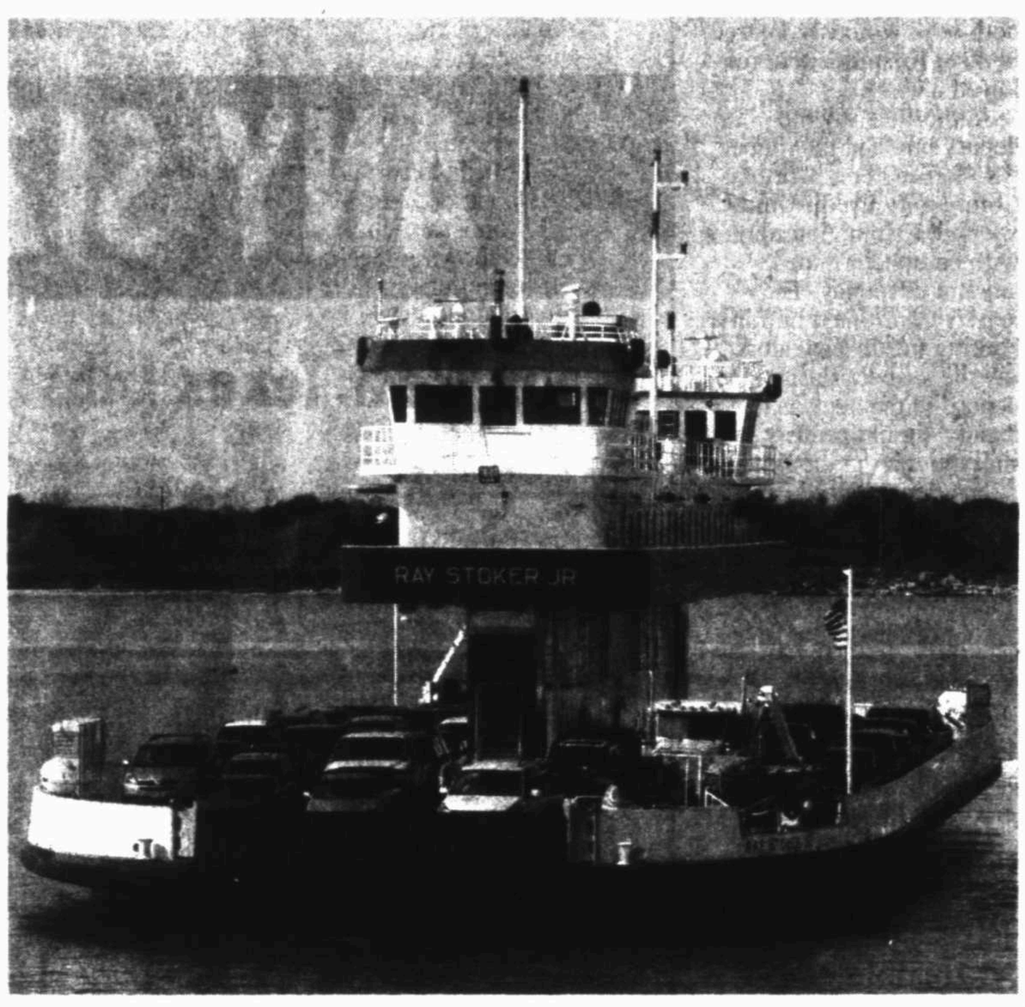
Cost and schedule: Free ferry runs daily, 24 hours a day, between Port Bolivar and Galveston.

Getting there: From Houston, Interstate 45 south ends at Galveston and becomes Broadway Avenue, also designated Texas Highway 87. Continue following Highway 87 for four miles, crossing Seawall Boulevard, and turn left where Highway 87 becomes Ferry Road. The ferry landing is about one mile later.

From Louisiana and far Southeast Texas, take Interstate 10 to Texas Highway 124 at Winnie, go 20 miles south to High Island, then west 27 miles on Texas Highway 87 to the Port Bolivar ferry landing.

Online: www.galveston.com/galvestonferry





ABOVE: First mate Jose Tamayo pilots the ferry Robert Lanier across Galveston Bay in Galveston on Dec. 21. **RIGHT:** Filled with cars and passengers, the Ray Stoker Jr. glides across Galveston Bay.

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Meet Paloma!

She is a 6 month old Chocolate Lab that was dropped off at the Midland SPCA. Paloma has hip dysplasia. We are raising money to treat Paloma. Please consider making a donation to the Midland SPCA in Paloma's name.

Happy New Year from all of us at the Midland SPCA!

Hip dysplasia is an abnormal formation of the hip socket that, in its more severe form, can severely cause crippling, lameness and painful arthritis of the joints. It is a genetic (polygenic) trait that is affected by environmental factors. It can be found in many animals and occasionally in humans, but is most commonly associated with dogs, and is common in many dog breeds, particularly the larger breeds.

To Adopt A Pet From The Midland SPCA Call 432-684-7582

Attention Readers
In Observance Of
New Year's

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, January 2, 2012

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 30th	Thur., Dec. 29th, 3 PM
Sat., Dec. 31st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st	Fri., Dec. 30th, 12 PM
Mon., Jan. 2nd	Fri., Dec. 30th, 3 PM
Tues., Jan. 3rd	Fri., Dec. 30th, 5 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 30th	Wed., Dec. 28th, 3 PM
Sat., Dec. 31st	Wed., Dec. 28th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 12 PM
Mon., Jan. 2nd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 3 PM
Tues., Jan. 3rd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 30th	Wed., Dec. 28th, 5 PM
Sat., Dec. 31st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 12 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 3 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st (Oil Report/Lifestyles/Arts & Entertainment)	Tues., Dec. 27th, 5 PM
Mon., Jan. 2nd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM
Tues., Jan. 3rd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM

Circulation Hours

Customer Service calls will be taken Saturday, December 31st and Monday, January 2nd from 7 AM-11 AM only.

We will re-open Tuesday, January 3rd for regular business hours.

ALPHA ZONE

All of us at Alpha Tech Zone wish Everyone a very Safe and Prosperous 2012!

Happy New Year!

Contests

We will start up the "Trivia Question of the Week" Contest again after the first of the year. Stay tuned. Happy Holidays to all!

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info@alphatechzone.com - www.alphatechzone.com

Weather extremes dominated NM headlines in 2011

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — It was a year of extremes for New Mexico, with dramatic weather dominating the headlines from start to finish in 2011.

The year began with a deep freeze that plunged the state into a subzero tundra for several days, leaving an estimated 32,000 homes and businesses without natural gas. The double whammy of record cold temperatures and the natural gas shortage cost insurance companies more than $55 million in claims.

Then came the drought, which turned New Mexico into a tinderbox, forcing the closure of much of the state's outdoor recreation centers as wildfires raged.

The biggest story of the year was no doubt the massive Las Conchas fire, which burned more than 244 square miles to become the largest in New Mexico history.

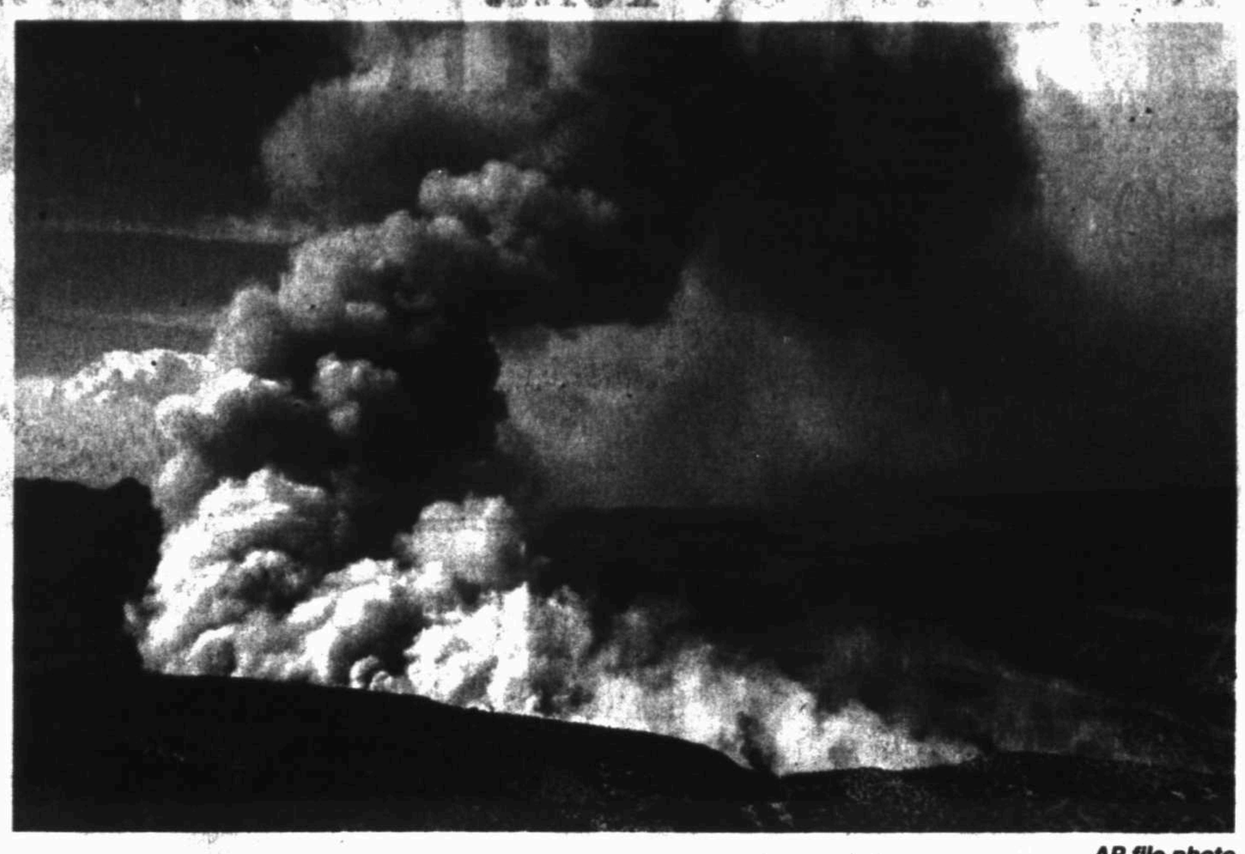
For nearly a week, the fire raged on the outskirts of Los Alamos, forcing the evacuation of the town and one of the nation's premier nuclear facilities, Los Alamos National Laboratory. At one point, the flames lapped at lab property, raising safety concerns about the thousands of barrels of radioactive waste stored there temporarily.

It took almost six weeks for hundreds of firefighters to contain the blaze. More than five dozen homes were destroyed, and a significant portion of Bandelier National Monument was forever changed, along with lands held sacred by nearby Santa Clara Pueblo.

But even as the fire died out, the rest of the state still had to deal with one of the worst droughts to hit in decades.

Farmers along the lower Pecos and Rio Grande had to pump groundwater to irrigate their crops, and ranchers had to sell off cattle because their pastures never greened up. Municipal utilities around the state began implementing watering restrictions early and, in Albuquerque, officials extended their drought advisory through March 2012.

The sting of the drought began to ease in late November with the first of a series of storms that brought snow and rain. Northeastern New Mexico was hit hardest with a blizzard that left dozens of travelers stranded, including a Texas family that had to be rescued after their vehicle was buried under 4 feet of snow and ice.



AP file photo

The Las Conchas fire burns through a canyon near Los Alamos, N.M., June 29. The Las Conchas fire was the largest in New Mexico history.

Besides setting records with the weather, New Mexico made political history when it inaugurated its first female Hispanic governor.

Republican Gov. Susana Martinez won over voters with campaign promises such as the repeal of a law allowing illegal immigrants to get driver's licenses, but the Democrat-controlled Legislature killed those key measures. She managed to hold her own on what she considered important issues: curbing government waste and excess spending.

Martinez's push to pass the driver's license bill during regular and special legislative sessions made her a target of immigrant rights groups, which questioned the immigration status of her paternal grandfather, who came from Mexico. She made national headlines after telling Univision her grandfather was an illegal immigrant. But research revealed the grandfather, who she said she never knew, came to the country legally.

Her administration also found itself tied up in court as environment groups fought over what they considered rollbacks of air and water quality protections that passed at the end of Democratic Gov. Bill Richardson's tenure. The fight over whether New Mexico will regulate greenhouse gas emissions has yet to be settled.

And things wouldn't be right in New Mexico without a political scandal. Richardson remained in the headlines, first with allegations that state District Judge Michael Murphy told a judicial candidate she had to make contributions to a Democratic activist close to Richardson if she wanted to be considered for a judgeship.

A report accompanying Murphy's indictment on bribery charges in May claimed those contributions were funneled to Richardson, who as governor had the final say on all judicial appointments. Richardson has called the accusations "outrageous and defamatory." Murphy is set to go to trial next year.

In December, the Albuquerque Journal broke the news that a grand jury was investigating whether money from campaign supporters was used to settle a threatened lawsuit against Richardson in 2007 by a woman who formerly worked in state government. Richardson and federal prosecutors have declined to comment about the probe.

In another judicial scandal, Albuquerque's chief criminal judge, Pat Murdoch, resigned in disgrace after he was accused of raping a prostitute. And one of the state's most respected political professors and a former president of the University of New Mexico, F. Chris Garcia, was suspended after he was arrested on charges he recruited women for an elaborate online prostitution ring run by another college professor, David Flory of Farleigh Dickinson University, who has homes in New York and Santa Fe.

Although all three were arrested and charged, none have been indicted yet.

Among elected officials, former Public Regulatory Commissioner Jerome Block was forced from office and pleaded guilty to charges including fraudulent use of a state-issued credit card and other felonies for violating campaigning finance laws.

Under a plea deal, Block was expected to avoid prison time if he completed a court-supervised treatment program for an addiction to prescription painkillers. He has been jailed three times for violating the agreement and was kicked out of the drug program.

Albuquerque police came under fire for a rash of shootings and other questionable actions by officers, including inflammatory social media postings. An officer involved in a fatal shooting had described his occupation on Facebook as "human waste disposal."

Twenty suspects were shot by officers in almost as many months, 14 fatally. In June, then-Public Safety Director Darren White admitted the department was plagued by misconduct. The shootings declined shortly after the department began implementing recommendations from a think tank the city hired, but the Justice Department is reviewing whether to launch a formal investigation.

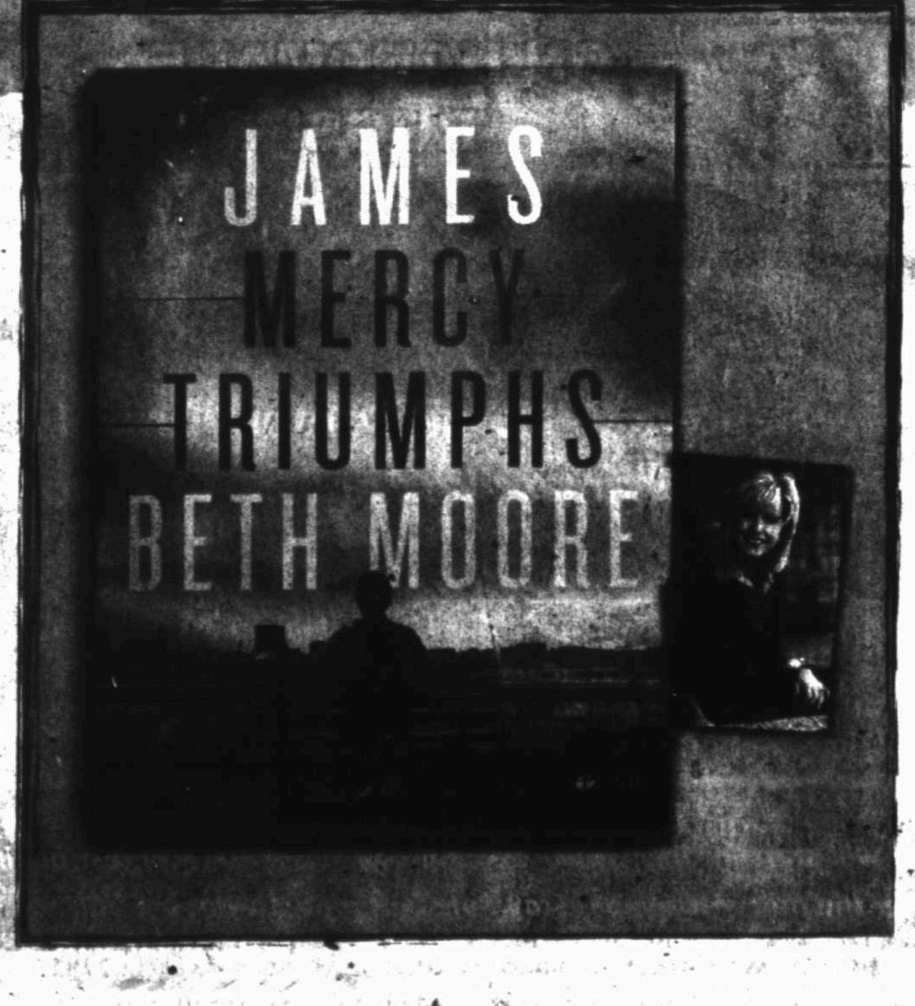
Back at Los Alamos National Laboratory, a renewed focus on cleanup and progress followed the fire. After nearly three decades, the lab completed a public review process and issued the necessary orders to finalize designs and begin construction on a controversial new plutonium lab, the $6 billion Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility.

But Congress cut funding for the project in December and prohibited officials from starting construction this year. Watchdogs contended it's an unnecessary attempt to expand the lab's nuclear weapons mission and questioned whether it would be safe given new seismic assessments showing an increased potential for a strong earthquake in the area.

The state's other scientific endeavor, however, moved one step closer to solidifying New Mexico's place in the burgeoning space tourism race. Martinez and British billionaire Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Galactic spaceline, celebrated the dedication of Spaceport America's terminal hangar facility in southern New Mexico in October.

Branson's prediction that day: Test flights by the end of 2012.





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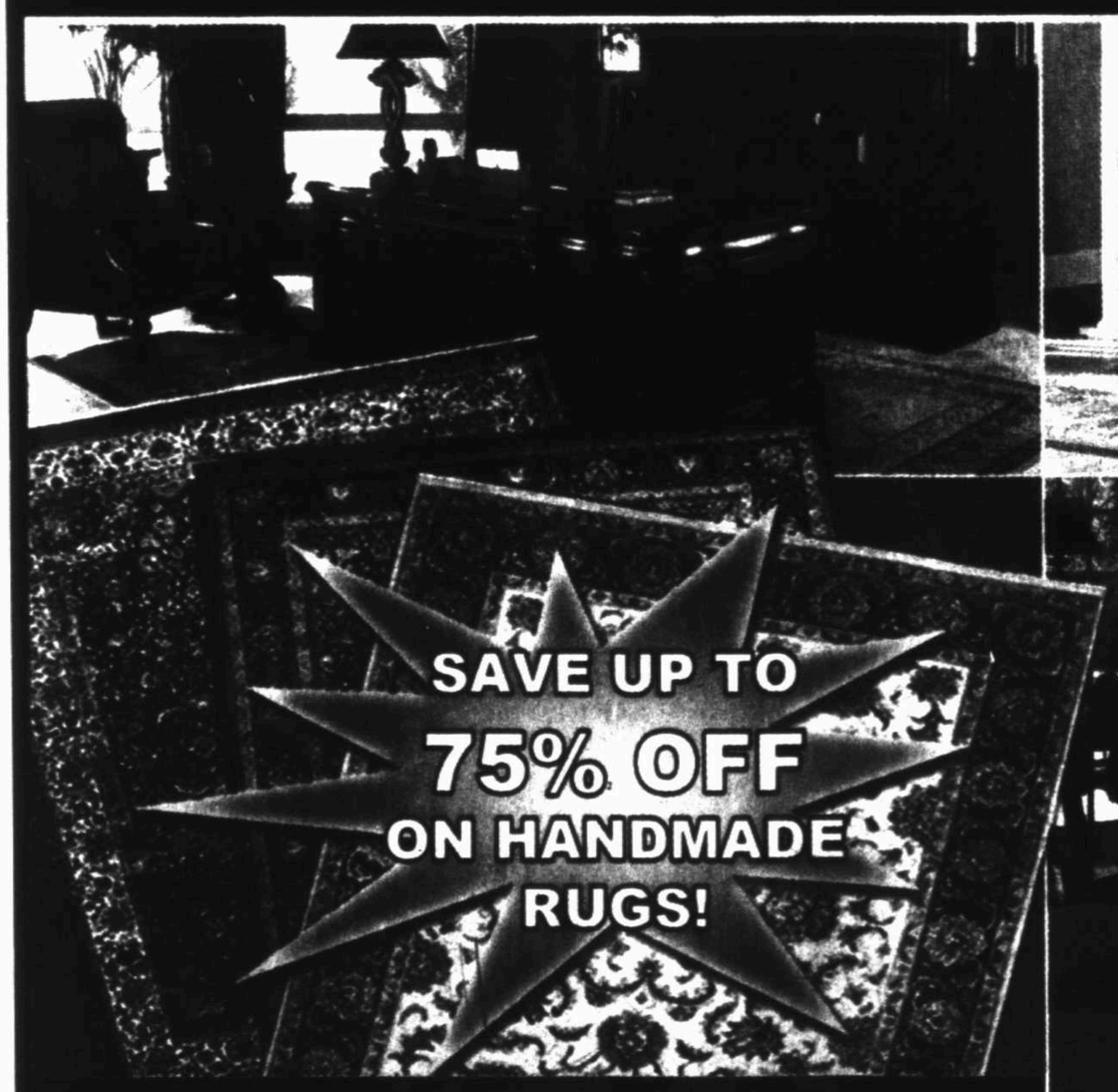
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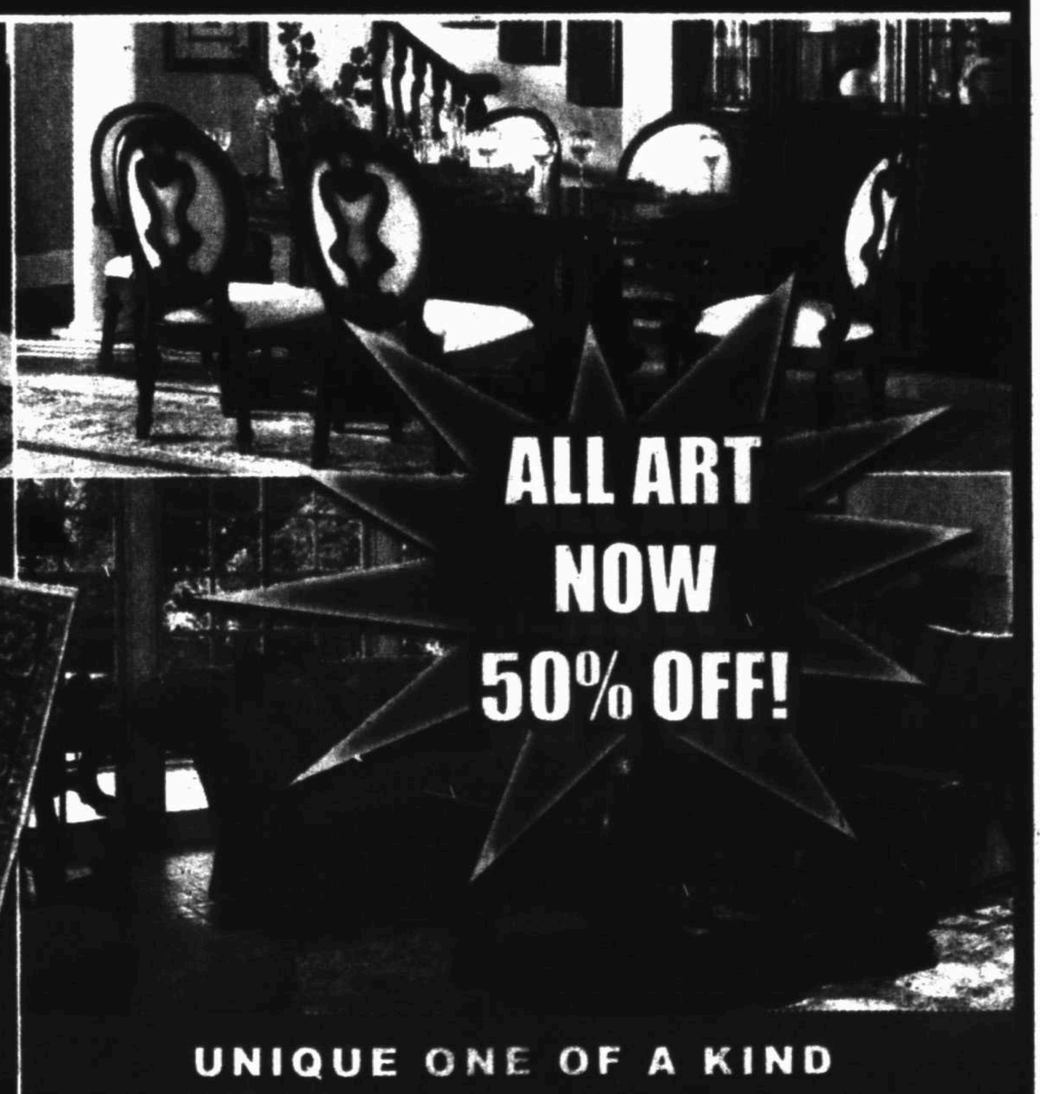
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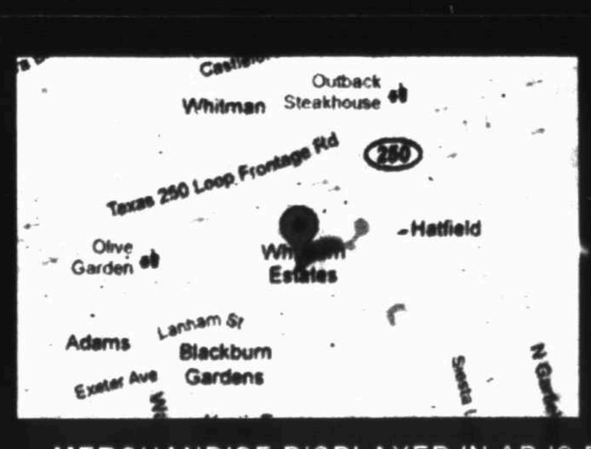
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Sports

Aggies hang on for Meineke Bowl win

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — After everything Texas A&M had been through in the last month, interim coach Tim DeRuyter worried how the Aggies would respond in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

Aggies	33
Wildcats	22

It didn't take long for DeRuyter to see that his team was going to be just fine.

Ryan Tannehill threw for 329 yards and a touchdown and Ben Malena ran for two more scores to lead Texas A&M to a 33-22 win over Northwestern on Saturday.

Northwestern led 7-3 early in the second quarter before A&M reeled off 27 straight points to take a decisive lead and then fight off a late rally to capture its first bowl victory since 2001.

Texas A&M (7-6) broke a five-game bowl losing streak in a win the team dedicated to fired coach Mike Sherman and offensive lineman Joseph Villavisencio, who was killed in a car accident last week.

"When you go through the adversity our guys have been through ... there was just a sense that things weren't quite right," DeRuyter said. "As a coach you're a little bit unsettled. But when we came out and started fast, I thought: 'These guys are really ready to play.'"

A&M won a bowl for the first time since a 28-9 victory over TCU after the 2001 season. That also came in Houston, when this game was called the Galleryfurniture.com bowl and played next door at the Astrodome.

Tannehill said all of the adversity simply gave them extra motivation.

"It's been a long year with a lot of ups and downs," Tannehill said. "To get a bowl win for the first time in 10 years, to play for Joey V. most importantly and his family and coach Sherman — there's many different levels to it, but a win satisfies them all."

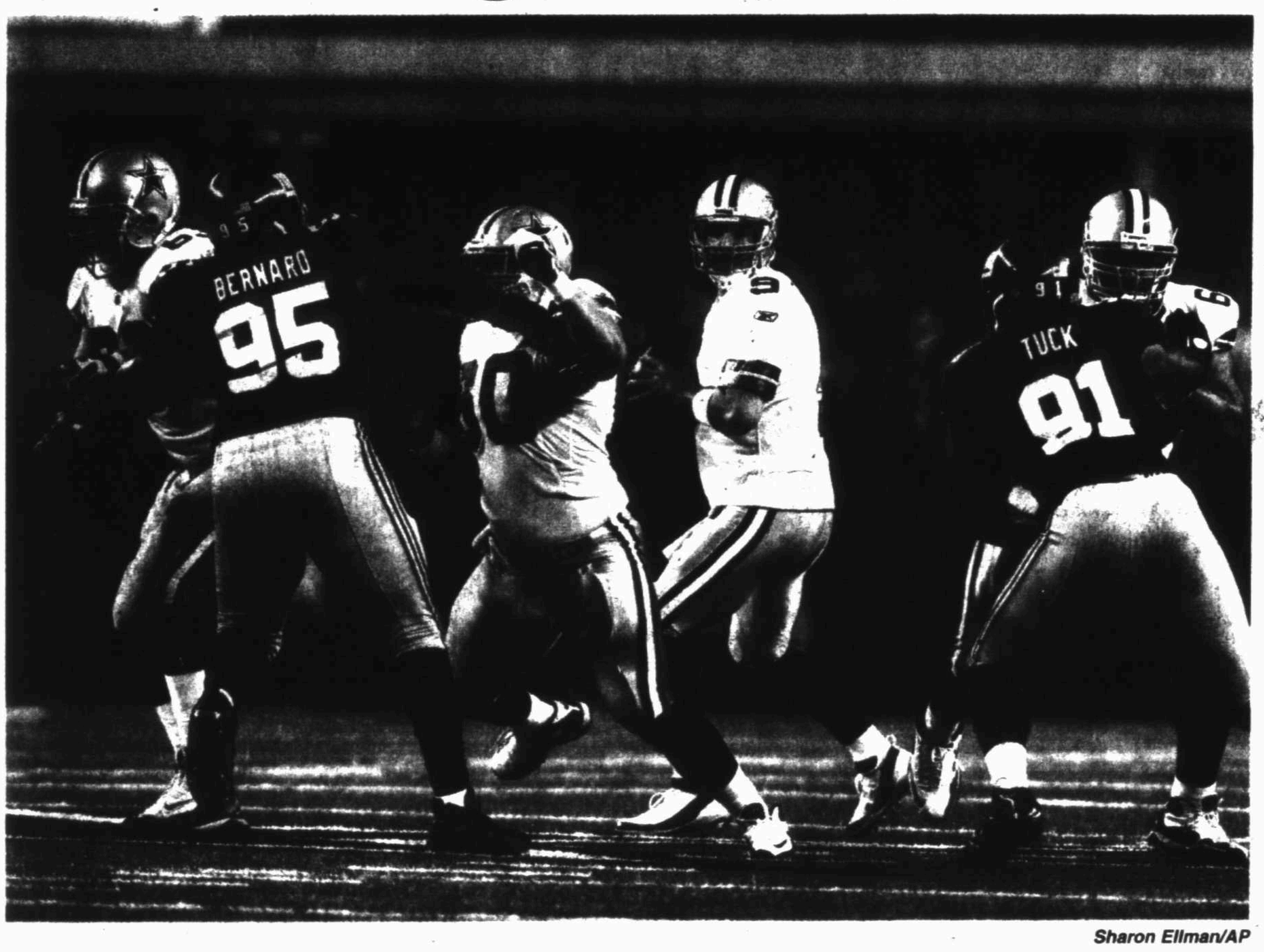
Please see **AGGIES**/4C



David J. Phillip/AP

Texas A&M running back Ben Malena (23) celebrates his touchdown run against Northwestern during the second quarter of the Meineke Bowl on Saturday in Houston.

A fitting conclusion



Sharon Ellman/AP

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) looks to pass on Dec. 11 during the first meeting between the Cowboys and N.Y. Giants in Arlington. Dallas and the Giants play today to decide who wins the NFC East and goes to the playoffs.

Archrivals Giants, Cowboys vie for NFC East and postseason

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — For the NFL schedule maker, this is perfection.

After a season of inconsistency and disappointments, the Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants play one game that will make the winner forget the frustrations of the regular season and send the other home for a long rest.

Archrivals facing off for a division title in prime time. Delicious.

The Cowboys (8-7) and Giants (8-7) close the regular season tonight at MetLife Stadium, the winner getting a first-round home game against either Atlanta or Detroit. Oh, in case of a tie, which hasn't happened all season in the NFL, the Giants capture the division and return to the playoffs for the first time since 2008 based on head-to-head play.

"I think everyone knows this is the most important game of the season," Giants veteran left tackle David Diehl said. "We all know what's at stake. We know what we are playing for. When we started this season our No. 1 goal was to win the division and here we are. It's right in front of us."

Dallas at N.Y. Giants

- **When:** 7:20 p.m. today
- **Where:** MetLife Stadium, East Ruthedord, N.J.
- **Radio:** KNFM 92.3 FM
- **TV:** NBC

The division title has been in front of both teams all season, and neither has grabbed hold of it.

The Giants won six of their first eight games, then went on a four-game losing streak to fall a game behind the Cowboys in early December. New York, however, rallied from a 12-point deficit on Dec. 11 to beat Dallas 37-34 and regain first place on a tiebreaker.

The momentum lasted a week. New York put in a no-show in losing to Washington on Dec. 18, putting Dallas back in first. Of course, the inconsistency continued last week as the Giants played one of their best games of the season in knocking off and shutting up the local rival Jets, 29-14. Meanwhile, Dallas lost to Philadelphia for the second time this season and quarterback Tony Romo bruised his right hand — his passing hand.

So who shows up this week with everything on the line? Who knows?

"I think these two teams are very comparable team-wise, not only in record but the types of seasons we have had," said Romo, who plans on playing. "I suspect that talent-wise, we are pretty close so there will be a few plays here or there that will decide this game. We have to be ready to make those plays."

Coincidentally, both teams have been in similar situations in recent years as far as making the playoffs and came up short.

The Giants have had late-season collapses the past two years. They lost to Carolina and Minnesota in the final two games of the '09 season to miss the playoffs and they were beaten by Philadelphia and Green Bay in the 14th and 15th games last season — blowing

Please see **COWBOYS**/4C

Titans, Texans have different incentives in finale

By Chris Duncan
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Tennessee Titans and Houston Texans have different objectives in mind heading into todya's regular-season finale.

For the Titans (8-7), the goal is clear-cut — win at Reliant Stadium and then hope for the magic combination of losses involving Cincinnati, Denver, Oakland and the New York Jets to earn their first playoff berth since 2008.

And that would set up a rematch with the Texans in the first round of the postseason right back in Houston.

"If we don't take care of our business, there will be no scoreboard watching," kicker Rob Bironas said. "We'll be on the couch watching — for all of January."

For the Texans (10-5), the incentive is more intangible — regaining the momentum they seem to have lost in two consecutive defeats after reeling off seven straight wins to clinch their first AFC South title.

Tennessee at Houston

- **When:** Noon today
- **Where:** Reliant Stadium, Houston
- **Radio:** KCRS 550 AM
- **TV:** CBS

Houston has nothing at stake in terms of postseason positioning. The Texans are locked into the No. 3 seed in the AFC, and will host a game on the first weekend of the playoffs, no matter what happens.

But no one in the locker room wants to go into the franchise's first postseason game riding a losing streak.

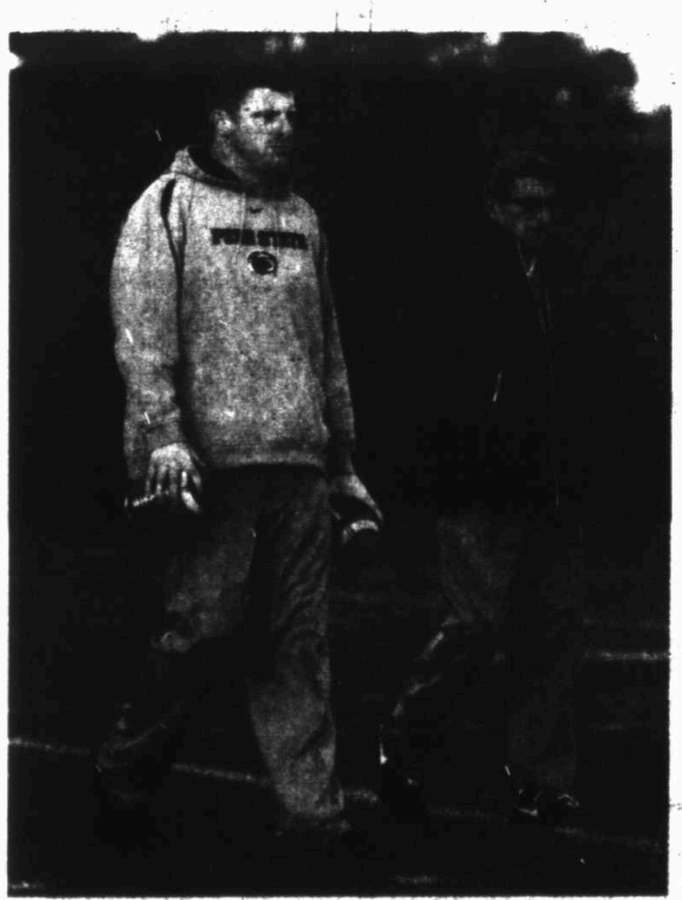
"This game is more important than most people will ever know," defensive end Antonio Smith said. "You think that since it doesn't hurt us or help us as far as the playoff run, that it doesn't matter.

"You've got to be firing on all cylinders when you go into the playoffs," he said. "If not, man, ain't no telling what will happen."

The Texans kick-started their regular season with a 41-7 victory in Nashville on Oct. 23. They stayed in first place for the rest of the regular season, despite playing most of their games without star receiver Andre Johnson.

The five-time Pro Bowl selection has been practicing this week, and coach Gary Kubiak expects Johnson to play in the finale. Johnson sat out six games with a right hamstring injury that required minor surgery.

Please see **TEXANS**/4C



Michael R. Sistak/The Citizens' Voice

Joe Paterno, right, and Mike McQueary walk the field during practice on Nov. 9 in State College, Pa.

Scandal, labor woes give sports a rough 2011

By Nancy Armour
Associated Press

Even after all the turmoil 2011 brought to sports, what with the NBA and NFL players and owners huddling with lawyers and accountants, more unsettling reports of brains ravaged by hard hits, and college players being given cash, tattoos, access to strip clubs and pretty much anything else you can imagine, the games still mattered.

Until November.

In less than two weeks, allegations of child sex abuse at Penn State and then at Syracuse shook both schools to the core, cost Joe Paterno his job and left us all with the searing question of whether our love for sports has helped corrupt what were once such simple games.

"I think there is a disillusionment there, but I think it's reality. We haven't seen behind the curtain before," said Jarrod Chin, director for training and curriculum at the Center for Sport in Society at Northeastern University. "We've used sport as a way to ignore problems. But now what we're seeing is they exist there, too.

"That's what makes it the worst year in sports. What people are coming to realize is the thing we thought was such a great escape has a lot of the same issues we're trying to escape from."

In sports, most years are defined by their triumphs. Golf's latest phenom, Rory McIlroy, winning his first major at the U.S. Open, perhaps. Or Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers following up their Super Bowl victory by flirting with a perfect season. Maybe Novak Djokovic's utter dominance of the tennis world, a 70-6 record that included victories at the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open.

Even in years tainted by steroids or labor strife, there was always someone or some performance that stood tall.

Not this year.

The lasting memories of 2011 will be of mug shots and court rooms, millionaires squabbling with billionaires, and big red Xs drawn through the first two months of the NBA schedule. Sixteen games were pared off each NBA team's schedule because of drawn-out labor negotiations, while the NFL wasted its summer vacation in conference rooms and mediation sessions.

"We have this arena where sport is pure, sport has been sanitized," said Gary Sailes, a professor of sport sociology at Indiana University. "That's just not the case."

That illusion was shattered for good by the charges against former Penn State defensive coordinator and one-time Paterno heir apparent Jerry Sandusky.

Once cherished in the Penn State community for his ferocious defenses and apparent devotion to at-risk children, Sandusky now faces more than 50 charges of sexually abusing 10 boys over a 12-year span. Prosecutors say Sandusky used his Nittany Lions connections to groom his victims, and some of the alleged assaults occurred on Penn State property.

Sandusky has denied the allegations, telling NBC and The New York Times that he showered and horsed around with boys but never sexually abused them. An emotional and lurid trial is a safe bet for 2012.

The shock of the initial charges quickly turned to anger as details emerged that Penn State officials — Paterno included — knew of an alleged assault in 2002 but never called police.

Receivers coach Mike McQueary testified that, as a graduate assistant, he believes he saw Sandusky raping a

Please see **SPORTS**/2C

Page 2

Sunday Morning Line

LEN HAYWARD
Sports Editor

This and that as I'm not into cute year-end columns that wrap up the sporting year or predicting the next year because if you've seen my football picks record you'll know why, so I will do what I usually do:

Somewhere deep down I really abhor all these bowl games being played, but as a football fan they serve a needed purpose this time of year.

The sports year may look busy but really, who watches regular season NBA games anyway?

That's where the bowl games come in. This time of year, you are home a little more often because of the holidays and during the week they offer a nice respite from the continuing re-runs on network television and those reality shows I despise so much.

So while, a matchup between Toledo and Air Force or Wake Forest and Mississippi State may not be what the average college football fan wants to see, it's still football.

Somebody is making money off these bowl games or they wouldn't have so many.

■ OK, Cowboys fans let's not overreact too much if Dallas loses today to the rival New York Giants. Oh wait, that's asking too much.

Like I said last week, the Cowboys should not have even been in this position, but they are and will need to show some resolve to get this done.

■ As far as the other Texas NFL team, the Texans, they need a win today ... bad. Yes, Houston has had its share of injuries and it clinched the division earlier this month, but heading into the playoffs on this kind of slide is not good.

The Texans need to establish the run early and have their defense play a little better to keep Tennessee from even having a chance at sniffing the playoffs. Playing the Titans is always a motivating factor for the Texans, so maybe that will help.

■ Looks like Kasey Kahne is learning the lesson that you don't have to tweet everything you think.

■ High school basketball will hit the stretch run this week as 3-5A gets back into gear and a number of area districts have either started or will start. While the 5A teams will be a primary focus here in Midland, there's some area teams to look out for as the season progresses.

The Greenwood boys won the Caprock Tournament on Saturday, and expect this team to be making a trip to Lubbock in early March for the regional tournament. Also, look out for the Greenwood girls and the Big Spring girls squad.

And of the small schools both Grady and Garden City's boys teams are good again, and Garden City's girls squad is rolling again. And by the way, I took a box score on Friday that had five different Halfmann's scoring points.

■ It's OK, Mavericks' fans you still have 63 more games to go.

■ Is there anyone better at stonewalling the media on an injury than Bill Belichick?

■ Let me be clear, I think that Art Briles is a good coach and has done wonders at the two college programs he has coached at, but man where in the world is the defense?

Struggling on defense in Houston I could understand some, but at Baylor I just don't get it. During Baylor's heyday they had good defenses.

I know the proliferation of the spread offense has changed things for defense where it's not about stopping teams but getting stops, but for Baylor to be consistently good and not rely on a once-in-a-lifetime player they've got to play better defense.

Hey, TCU has found out how to play defense.

Although, it seems defense in high school football these days is lacking somewhat as well. That's for another column.

■ And finally, I hope everyone has a Happy New Year, and let's hope that Mayan calendar thing doesn't come to pass.

Len Hayward can be reached at lhayward@mrt.com.

On the air today

WHAT'S ON TV

MOTORSPORTS

Dakar Rally, Mar del Plata to Santa Rosa de la Pampa, Argentina (delayed tape), 12:30 a.m.

NFL

Tennessee at Houston, Noon, CBS

Carolina at New Orleans or Detroit at Green Bay, Noon, Fox

Kansas City at Denver, 3:15 p.m., CBS

Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 3:15 p.m., Fox

Dallas at New York Giants, 7 p.m., NBC

LOCALSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

BASHAM ACES AT RANCHLAND

Troy Basham recorded a hole-in-one on No. 3 at Ranchland Hills Golf Club on Thursday. Basham used a 9-iron from 148 yards.

No witnesses were reported.

RAPP RECORDS HOLE-IN-ONE AT NUEVA VISTA

Darin Rapp scored a hole-in-one on No. 16 at Nueva Vista Golf Club on Friday. Rapp recorded the ace from 137 yards.

Witnesses were Steve Marlowe, Nathan Lamb, Jessie Madrid and Larry Madrid.

YOUTH SPORTS

Basketball

Freshman

Lee 44, Andrews 30

For Lee: Savannah Sutton, 18 points, 7 steals; Jenna Morton, 10 points; Lauren Sims, 6 steals

MIDLAND HIGH 35, LEE 22

For Lee: Morgan Barr, 8 points; Savannah Sutton, 6 points; Jenna Morton, 5 points

Andy Murray hires Ivan Lendl

LONDON (AP) — Andy Murray hired eight-time Grand Slam winner Ivan Lendl as his coach Saturday in a bid to finally win a major title.

The fourth-ranked Scot will begin working with the Czech-born Lendl as he prepares for the Australian Open, which starts Jan. 16.

"It was important to me that any new person joining my team was able to add fresh insight," Murray said in a statement. "Ivan's impact on the game is unquestionable and he brings experience and knowledge that few others have, particularly in major tournaments. I look forward to working with him going forward."

SPORTS DEATHS IN 2011

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Agents

Ken Nolan, 48; Gary Wichard, 60.

Auto Racing

Mark Bridges, 60; Tom Carnegie, 91; Betty Skelton Erde, 85; Chris Griffis, 46; Mary Hendrick, 88; Rick Huseman, 38; Jim Rathmann, 83; Dan Wheldon, 33.

Baseball

Ricky Adams, 52; Bill Alhouse, 85; Matty Alou, 72; Andrew Baur, 66; Bill Bergesch, 89; Harvey Dorfman, 75; George Crowe, 89; Ryne Duren, 81; Mike Flanagan, 59; Bob Forsch, 61; Howard Fox, 90; Joe Frazier, 88; Woodie Fryman, 70; Greg Goossen, 65; Lou Gorman, 82; Greg Halman, 24; Roy Hartsfield, 85; Hideki Irabu, 42; Ernie Johnson Sr., 87; Andy Jurinko, 71; Cecil Kaiser, 94; Harmon Killebrew, 74; Charlie Lea, 54; Carl Lindner Jr., 92; Danny Litwhiler, 95; Tony Malinosky, 101; Marty Marion, 93; Emilio Navarro, 105; Jim Northrup, 71; Jose Pagan, 76; Mitchell Page, 59; Mel Queen, 69; Larry Shepard, 92; David Sisler, 79; Duke Snider, 84; Paul Splittorff, 64; Chuck Tanner, 82; Dick Williams, 82; Wally Yonamine, 85; Gus Zernial, 87.

Basketball

Mike Barrett, 67; Lewis Brown, 56; Kurt Budke, 50; Lorenzo Charles, 47; Neil Dougherty, 50; Margo Dydek, 37; Thomas Emma, 49; Larry Finch, 60; Dave Gavitt, 73; Armen Gilliam, 47; Joe Dan Gold, 68; Chauncey Harcy, 23; Walt Hazzard, 69; Troy Jackson, 35; Carl Kraushaar, 84; Jim Lennon, 85; Wes Leonard, 16; Ed Macauley, 83; Ed Manning, 68; Mike Mitchell, 55; Ray Patterson, 89; Mauro Potestio, 86; Troy Raymond, 46; Scotty Robertson, 81; Miranda Serna, 38; Tina Stewart, 21; Henry Taub, 83; Robert "Tractor" Traylor, 34; Zeke Sinicola, 82; Sherman White, 82.

Boxing

George Benton, 78; Gil Clancy, 88; Henry Cooper, 76; Billy Costello, 55; Joe Frazier, 67; Genaro Hernandez, 45; Scott LeDoux, 62; Butch Lewis, 65; Ron Lyle, 70; Gary Mason, 48; Tom McNeeley, 74; Lionel Rose, 62; Alice Ward, 79.

Cricket

Franz "Gerry" Alexander, 82; Basil D'Oliveira, 80.

Croquet

William Ellery McClatchy, 86.

Cycling

Patrick Guay, 59; Alberto Leon, 37; Peter Post, 77; Carla Swart, 23; Xavier Tondo, 32; Wouter Weylandt, 26.

Equestrian

Pierre Jonqueres d'Oriola, 91.

Fishing

Stanley Bogdan, 92.

Fitness

Jack LaLanne, 96.

Football

Houston Antwine, 72; Ricky Bell, 36; Emory Bellard, 83; Ken Bishop, 73; Forrest Blue, 65; Austin Box, 22; Orlando Brown, 40; Lew Bush, 42; Don Chandler, 76; Lynn Chandnois, 86; Bob Cook, 79; Royal Copeland, 86; Dominique Corder, 20; Joe Daniels, 69; Al Davis, 82; Aaron Douglas, 21; Dave Duerson, 50; Pete Duranko, 67; Ed Dyas, 71; Brandon Everage, 30; Don Fambrough, 86; Greg Gantt, 59; Cookie Gilchrist, 75; Gale Gillingham, 67; Ralph Goldston, 82; Gene Gossage, 76; Garland Gregory, 92; Elmore Hackney, 95; Bill Hampton Jr., 51; Mike Heimerdinger, 58; Larry Hennessey, 81; Barry Hill, 57; Drew Hill, 54; Wilson Holloway, 22; Kent Hull, 50; Kordero Hunter, 21; Bill Johnson, 84; John Henry Johnson, 81; Nolan Luhn, 90; Leonard Lyles, 74; John Mackey, 69; Jim Mandich, 62; Ollie Matson, 80; Tim McCaskey, 65; Chester McGlockton, 42; Godfrey Myles, 42; David Parry, 76; Hal Patterson, 79; Joe Perry, 84; Pete Pihos, 87; Bob Pittello, 83; Joe Restic, 85; Andy Robustelli, 85; Lee Roy Selmon, 56; Harley Sewell, 80; Jim Seymour, 64; Derek Sheely, 22; Bubba Smith, 66; Homer Smith, 79; Jerry Smith, 80; Ron Springs, 54; Joe Steffy, 85; Fred Thompson, 19; Joe Tofflemire, 46; David Lee Turner, 56; Garrett Uekman, 19; Joseph Villavisencio, 22; Murray Warmath, 98; Tommy Watkins, 74; Norm Willey, 83.

Golf

Seve Ballesteros, 54; Bettye Danoff, 88; Dave Hill, 74; Joseph "Bud" Lewis, 103; Tom Ramsey, 75; Mason Rudolph, 76.

Gymnastics

Nikolai Andrianov, 58; Frank Bare, 80.

Handball

Bernd Methe, 47; Reiner Methe, 47.

Hockey

Wade Belak, 35; Derek Boogaard, 28; Roger Christian, 75; Pavol Demitra, 36; Nick Harbaruk, 67; Harley Hotchkiss, 83; Jaroslav Jirik, 71; Alexander Karpovtsev, 41; Igor Korolev, 41; Stefan Liv, 30; Rick Martin, 59; Brad McCrimmon, 52; EJ McGuire, 58; Eddy Palchak, 71; Karel Rachunek, 32; Rick Rypien, 27; Ruslan Salei, 36; Mandi Schwartz, 23; Karlis Skrastins, 37; Sven Tumba, 80; Josef Vasicek, 30; Alexander Vasyunov, 23; Les "Doc" Widdifield, 86; Johnny Wilson, 82.

Horse Racing

Nancy Alberts, 65; Michael Baze, 24; Stan Bergstein, 87; Benjamin Boutin, 21; J. Elliott Burch, 88; Dianne Carpenter, 68; Joseph Comacchia, 78; Philip Dunn, 81; Pete Ferriola, 69; Mark Gerard, 76; Doc Gilman, 91; Carl Hanford, 95; Louis Hildebrandt, 93; Bob Holthus, 77; Jess Jackson, 81; Ginger McCain, 80; Mace Siegel, 86; Julian "Buck" Wheat, 78. Horses: Miesque, 27; Sadler's Wells, 30; Strike the Gold, 23.

Lacrosse

Michael Racanelli, 20.

Marathon

John J. Kelley, 80; Grete Waitz, 57; Sammy Wanjiru, 24.

Media

Joe Aceti, 76; Bob Barry Sr., 80; Bill Brill, 79; Nick Charles, 64; Frank Chirkinian, 84; John Curran, 54; Bill Gallo, 88; George Kimball, 67; Brian Lanker, 63; Tom McEwen, 88; Larry Munson, 89; Jesse Outlar, 87; Ed Reinke, 60.

Motorcycling

Marco Simoncelli, 24; Swian Zanoni, 23.

Mountaineering

Walter Bonatti, 81; Nawang Gombu, 79; Takashi Ozaki, 59.

Music:
Paul Leka, 68.

Olympics

Carl-Gustav Anderberg, 85; Claudia Heill, 29; Abrar Hussain, 50; Roque Napoleon Munoz, 83; Francis Nyangweso, 72; Jeret Peterson, 29; Sergio Rodriguez Jaramillo, 52; Cesare Rubini, 87; Ben Solaita, 61; Dick Thornett, 71; Phil Wolff, 95; James Worrall, 97.

Power Boating

Joey Gratton, 59; Robert Morgan, 74; Jeffrey Tillman, 47.

Rugby

Arthur Beetson, 66.

Skateboarding

Eric Swenson, 64.

Skiing

Pavel Karelin, 21; Mika Myllyla, 41; Ed Pauls, 80; Jamie Pierre, 38.

Soccer

Florian Albert, 70; Theyab Awana, 21; Robert Ballaman, 85; Richard Butcher, 29; Mike Doyle, 64; Bobsam Elejiko, 30; Valentin Ivanov, 76; Tomislav Ivic, 77; Roman Kukleta, 46; Nat Lofthouse, 85; Coen Moulijn, 73; Uche Okafor, 43; Jan Popluhar, 75; Carl Aage Praest, 89; Bobby Rhine, 35; Isaac Sasso Sasso, 85; Socrates, 57; Gary Speed, 42.

Swimming

Ragnhild Hveger, 90; Michael Lohberg, 61; Bill Matson, 72; Mark Taylor, 50.

Table Tennis

George Hendry, 90; Kjell Johansson, 65.

Tennis

Pauline Betz Addie, 91; Jim McManus, 70.

Track & Field

Howard Aris, 75; Sunday Bada, 42; Cosimo Caliandro, 29; Jimmy Carnes, 76; Mark Colligan, 47; Danny Kassap, 28; Sally Meyerhoff, 27.

Weightlifting

Vasily Alekseyev, 69; Arvid Andersson, 92; Waldemar Baszanowski, 75; Gyozo Veres, 74.

Wrestling

Amateur: Doug Blubaugh, 76; Lindsey Durlacher, 36. **Pro:** Randy Savage, 58.



Carolyn Kaster/AP

NFL Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, left, looks on as New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, center, embraces Indianapolis Colts center Jeff Saturday, right, during a news conference in Washington on July 25 after the NFLPA executive board and 32 team reps voted unanimously to approve the terms of a deal with owners to end the 4 1/2-month lockout, the league's first work stoppage since 1987.

SPORTS

From 1C

boy of about 10 or 12 in the Penn State showers. McQueary reported the incident to Paterno, who in turn told Penn State athletic director Tim Curley and university vice president Gary Schultz.

Though Paterno said McQueary was not as explicit in his description of what happened as he was in his grand jury testimony, criticism over the now 85-year-old coach's failure to do more intensified before Penn State's board of trustees fired him Nov. 9.

The dismissal came just 10 days after Paterno celebrated his 409th career victory, making him major college football's winningest coach.

"This is a tragedy. It is one of the great sorrows of my life," Paterno said in a statement announcing his intention to retire at the end of the season, issued a few hours before he was fired. "With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more."

Paterno was diagnosed with lung cancer a few days later, and has undergone radiation and chemotherapy. He also re-fractured his pelvis earlier this month.

Curley and Schultz face charges of perjury and failing to properly report suspected abuse. The scandal also cost Penn State president Graham Spanier his job and tarnished the Nittany Lions' squeaky clean reputation.

And it wasn't just Penn State. The very next week, two former ball boys accused longtime Syracuse basketball assistant Bernie Fine of molesting them.

Bobby Davis, now 39, told ESPN that Fine molested him beginning in 1984 and that the sexual contact continued until he was around 27. A ball boy for six years, Davis said that the abuse occurred at Fine's home, at Syracuse basketball facilities and on team road trips, including the 1987 Final Four.

Davis' stepbrother, Lang, 45, who also was a ball boy, told ESPN that Fine began molesting him while he was in fifth or sixth grade.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim was defiant in his initial defense of Fine, his top assistant since 1976, dismissing Davis and Long as opportunistic liars looking to capitalize on the misery at Penn State. But Boeheim's tone changed after ESPN aired a tape Nov. 27 in which a woman it identified as Fine's wife tells Davis she knew "everything" that was going on.

Syracuse fired Fine that day.

Still, Davis and Lang are suing Boeheim and Syracuse for defamation. And the district attorney in Syracuse has said the two are credible but that Fine cannot be charged because the statute of limitations has expired.

Federal authorities are still investigating claims by a third accuser. A fourth man, a prison inmate in New York state, also has accused Fine of abuse starting decades ago.

There also were plenty of scandals that, any other year, would have seemed reprehensible.

The NCAA came down on Ohio State, slapping the Buckeyes with that dreaded "failure to monitor" tag, banning them from a bowl game in 2012 and reducing scholarships for a series of misdeeds that had already cost former coach Jim Tressel his job and forced some players to sit out games this season.

And Tressel may as well carry a "Damaged Goods" sign after the NCAA hit him with a "show cause" penalty, making it almost impossible for another school to hire him.

Miami is sitting out the bowl season in hopes of sparing itself similar pain from the NCAA, which is investigating allegations a booster gave cash, cars, yacht rides, access to strip clubs, even prostitutes, to 72 athletes over a nine-year span. Twelve Hurricanes have already been punished by the NCAA, with penalties ranging from making restitution to lengthy suspensions.

Southern California was stripped of its 2004 BCS title in June for the shenanigans involving Reggie Bush, and defending champion Auburn and runner-up Oregon had to spend some quality time with NCAA investigators after questions about players' eligibility. And don't forget Tennessee, Boise State, Connecticut, West Virginia, Michigan, LSU and North Carolina, all of whom wound up on the NCAA's naughty list this year.

"We have had a heck of a year of scandals and disruptions," NCAA president Mark Emmert said earlier this month. "To have really good success on the one hand and all these grenades blowing up has been frustrating."

Meanwhile, NFL and NBA fans spent months watching players and owners bicker as they tried to divvy up their billion-dollar industries.

"I'd like on behalf of both sides to apologize to the fans," New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft said when the NFL and its players reached a new contract July 25 after a 4 1/2 month lockout, the league's first work stoppage since 1987. "For the last five, six months we've been talking about the business of football and not what goes on on the field and building the teams in each market."

Or not talking. Early negotiations were downright ugly, with Tom Brady and Drew Brees leading a lawsuit against the NFL and the players trying to do an end run of the lockout by decertifying their union. Even a federal mediator couldn't get the sides to budge over the first few months.

"We have some work to do to make sure (fans) understand we are sorry for the frustration we put them through over the last six months," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said.

Hey, at least the NFL had the good sense to settle its labor war before any of the season was lost. The NBA finally tipped off on Christmas Day after reaching agreement on a 10-year deal that, so far, seems only to have produced more gripes.

The NBA locked the players out for 161 days, insisting a new deal was necessary because owners were losing buckets of money — $300 million last season alone and hundreds of millions more in the years before that — and small-market teams could no longer compete with free-spending franchises like the Miami Heat and Los Angeles Lakers.

The new deal cut player salaries by 12 percent and includes a significant increase in revenue sharing. But players refused to budge on a hard salary cap, meaning there is still little to stop teams from throwing money at big-name players so long as they're willing to pay the luxury tax.

Which explains why, with the ink barely dry on the new agreement, the league-owned New Orleans Hornets shipped All-Star Chris Paul to Los Angeles and Dwight Howard was asking for a ticket out of Orlando.

"Just like the regular fan out there, just like you guys, you do wonder why stuff happened. You look at it and say, 'Why did the lockout happen?'" Miami guard Dwyane Wade said. "I don't see it helping right now. Maybe in a few years we'll all look back and see why this lockout happened. But right now it's not showing its face at all."

Troubling events in a year seemed filled with little else.

"In our society we create these myths around athletes and athletics," said Sport in Society's Chin. "But they're myths, and that's the whole issue."



NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	1	2	.333	—
Toronto	1	2	.333	—
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	—
New Jersey	1	3	.250	1/2
Boston	1	3	.250	1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	0	1.000	—
Atlanta	3	0	1.000	1/2
Orlando	3	1	.750	1
Charlotte	1	2	.333	2 1/2
Washington	0	3	.000	3 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	3	0	1.000	—
Chicago	3	1	.750	1/2
Milwaukee	2	1	.667	1
Cleveland	1	2	.333	2
Detroit	0	3	.000	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	2	1	.667	—
New Orleans	2	1	.667	—
Memphis	1	2	.333	1
Houston	1	2	.333	1
Dallas	1	3	.250	1 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	4	0	1.000	—
Portland	3	0	1.000	1/2
Denver	2	2	.500	2
Utah	1	2	.333	2 1/2
Minnesota	0	3	.000	3 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	2	1	.667	—
L.A. Lakers	3	2	.600	—
L.A. Clippers	1	2	.333	1
Sacramento	1	2	.333	1
Phoenix	1	2	.333	1

Saturday's Scores

L.A. Lakers 92, Denver 89
Indiana at Detroit, late
Atlanta at Houston, late
New York at Sacramento, late
Phoenix at Oklahoma City, late
Utah at San Antonio, late
Philadelphia at Golden State, late

Today's Games

New Jersey at Cleveland, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Miami, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Orlando, 5 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 5 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Chicago, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Clippers, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S BOX SCORE

LAKERS 92, NUGGETS 89

DENVER (89): Gallinari 3-12 1-2 7, Nene 5-10 3-5 13, Mozgov 4-7 0-0 8, Lawson 3-8 2-4 9, Afflalo 4-10 3-5 13, Miller 5-9 3-4 13, Harrington 8-17 2-2 21, Fernandez 1-6 0-0 3, Andersen 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 34-80 14-22 89.

L.A. LAKERS (92): Barnes 3-7 0-0 7, Gasol 7-10 3-4 17, Bynum 13-18 3-3 29, Fisher 3-7 0-0 6, Bryant 6-18 5-6 17, Murphy 0-0 0-0 0, World Peace 0-8 0-0 0, Blake 2-9 1-2 5, Kapono 2-6 0-0 5, McRoberts 3-3 0-0 6. Totals 39-86 12-15 92.

Denver	23	22	26	18	— 89
L.A. Lakers	22	24	23	23	— 92

3-Point Goals—Denver 7-26 (Harrington 3-8, Afflalo 2-5, Lawson 1-3, Fernandez 1-5, Miller 0-1, Gallinari 0-4), L.A. Lakers 2-24 (Barnes 1-3, Kapono 1-4, Gasol 0-1, Fisher 0-2, World Peace 0-3, Bryant 0-5, Blake 0-6). Fouled Out—Fisher. Rebounds—Denver 44 (Mozgov 10), L.A. Lakers 60 (Bynum 13). Assists—Denver 22 (Lawson 8), L.A. Lakers 24 (Bryant 9). Total Fouls—Denver 17, L.A. Lakers 20. Technicals—Bryant. A—18,997 (18,997).

LEADERS

THROUGH DEC. 30

Scoring

Player	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, MIA	4	49	34	132	33.0
Durant, OKC	4	43	30	125	31.3
Griffin, LAC	3	34	16	84	28.0
Bryant, LAL	4	39	29	111	27.8
Love, MIN	3	22	32	78	26.0
Anthony, NYK	3	21	29	77	25.7
Jennings, MIL	3	23	17	68	22.7
Lawson, DEN	3	26	10	67	22.3
Nowitzki, DAL	4	29	29	88	22.0
Bargnani, TOR	3	25	10	64	21.3
Ellis, GOL	3	24	12	63	21.0
Rose, CHI	4	28	19	83	20.8
Aldridge, POR	3	27	8	62	20.7
Thornton, SAC	3	22	8	61	20.3
Allen, BOS	4	25	16	80	20.0
Wade, MIA	4	32	15	79	19.8
Wallace, POR	3	21	15	59	19.7
Granger, IND	3	22	9	59	19.7
Anderson, ORL	4	27	8	78	19.5
Williams, PHL	3	17	19	58	19.3

FG Percentage

Player	FG	FGA	PCT
Wallace, POR	21	31	.677
Gasol, MEM	16	24	.667
Hawes, PHL	16	25	.640
Lawson, DEN	26	42	.619
Mullens, CHA	14	23	.609
Teague, ATL	18	30	.600
James, MIA	49	82	.598
Monroe, DET	17	29	.586
Blair, SAN	21	36	.583
Allen, BOS	25	43	.581

Rebounds

Player	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	4	18	52	70	17.5
Love, MIN	3	18	26	44	14.7
Hawes, PHL	3	7	31	38	12.7
Hibbert, IND	3	12	25	37	12.3
Cousins, SAC	3	17	17	34	11.3
Camby, POR	3	9	25	34	11.3
Humphries, NJN	4	15	30	45	11.3
Hansbrough, IND	3	11	22	33	11.0
Diaw, CHA	3	8	25	33	11.0
Bogut, MIL	3	7	26	33	11.0

Assists

Player	G	AST	AVG
Paul, LAC	3	32	10.7
Lowry, HOU	3	28	9.3
Rose, CHI	4	37	9.3
Rondo, BOS	4	36	9.0
Miller, DEN	3	25	8.3
Nash, PHX	3	25	8.3
Calderon, TOR	3	24	8.0
Diaw, CHA	3	23	7.7
Ellis, GOL	3	23	7.7
Rubio, MIN	3	22	7.3

CALENDAR

Feb. 6 — 10-day contracts can be signed
Feb. 10 — All contracts guaranteed for remainder of the season
Feb. 24-26 — All-Star game, Orlando, Fla.
April 26 — Regular season ends
April 27 — Rosters set for playoffs, 3 p.m. EDT
April 28 — Playoffs begin.
April 29 — Draft early entry eligibility deadline, 11:59 p.m. EDT
May 30 — Draft lottery
June 12 — NBA Finals begin (possible move up to June 10)
June 18 — Draft early entry withdrawal deadline, 5 p.m. EDT
June 26 — Last possible date for the finals
June 28 — NBA draft
July 1-10 — Moratorium period
July 11 — Teams may begin signing free agents.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men

SATURDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

Lamar 102, Lyon 58
SMU 73, Louisiana Tech 65
Texas 73, Rice 59
Tulane 53, Texas-Pan American 42
Virginia Tech 67, Oklahoma St. 61

EAST

Army 79, St. Francis (NY) 70
Bucknell 63, Cornell 60
Drexel 63, St. Francis (Pa.) 42
George Washington 77, Delaware St. 59
Georgetown 49, Providence 40
Holy Cross 65, Dartmouth 61
La Salle 73, Hartford 55
Lehigh 72, Bryant 55
New Hampshire 71, Colgate 64
Quinnipiac 59, Boston U. 53
UConn 83, St. John's 69

SOUTH

Charleston Southern 81, Liberty 76
E. Kentucky 73, Tennessee St. 68
East Carolina 91, Virginia-Wise 56
FIU 81, W. Kentucky 63
Florida 90, Yale 70
Gardner-Webb 61, Radford 55
Kentucky 69, Louisville 62
Maryland 75, Samford 63
Mississippi St. 66, Utah St. 64
Morehead St. 68, Austin Peay 64
NC State 82, W. Carolina 55
South Carolina 72, SC-Upstate 66
Southern Miss. 65, McNeese St. 56
UAB 92, Alabama A&M 58
VMI 78, Presbyterian 70, OT

MIDWEST

Ball St. 86, Chicago St. 58
Butler 54, Milwaukee 50
Detroit 65, Loyola of Chicago 54
Indiana St. 77, Bradley 66
Iowa 72, Wisconsin 65
Iowa St. 67, MVSU 65
Kansas St. 82, Howard 46
Missouri St. 72, Drake 61
Wright St. 74, Ill.-Chicago 70, OT
Youngstown St. 73, Cleveland St. 67

FAR WEST

Idaho 76, Boise St. 73
New Mexico St. 81, Ark.-Pine Bluff 65

TOP 25 FARED

Saturday

1. Syracuse (14-0) did not play. Next: at Providence, Wednesday.
2. Ohio State (13-1) at No. 13 Indiana. Next: vs. Nebraska, Tuesday.
3. Kentucky (13-1) beat No. 4 Louisville 69-62. Next: vs. UALR, Tuesday.
4. Louisville (12-2) lost to No. 3 Kentucky 69-62. Next: at St. John's, Tuesday.
5. North Carolina (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Monmouth (NJ), Sunday.
6. Baylor (13-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas A&M, Monday.
7. Duke (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Pennsylvania, Sunday.
8. Missouri (13-0) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Tuesday.
9. UConn (12-1) beat St. John's 83-69. Next: at Seton Hall, Tuesday.
10. Florida (11-3) beat Yale 90-70. Next: vs. UAB, Tuesday.
11. Wisconsin (12-3) lost to Iowa 72-65. Next: vs. No. 16 Michigan State, Tuesday.
12. Georgetown (12-1) beat Providence 49-40. Next: vs. No. 14 Marquette, Wednesday.
13. Indiana (12-1) vs. No. 2 Ohio State. Next: vs. No. 18 Michigan, Thursday.
14. Marquette (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Villanova, Sunday.
15. Mississippi State (12-2) vs. Utah. Next: at Arkansas, Saturday.
16. Michigan State (12-2) at Nebraska. Next: at No. 11 Wisconsin, Tuesday.
17. Kansas (9-3) vs. North Dakota. Next: vs. Kansas State, Wednesday.
18. Michigan (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Sunday.
19. UNLV (14-2) at Hawaii. Next: at Cal State Bakersfield, Thursday.
20. Murray State (14-0) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Kentucky, Wednesday.
21. Creighton (10-2) at Wichita State. Next: vs. Drake, Tuesday.
22. Pittsburgh (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Sunday.
23. Virginia (12-1) did not play. Next: at LSU, Monday.
24. Harvard (11-1) vs. Saint Joseph's. Next: vs. Dartmouth, Saturday.
25. San Diego State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego Christian, Thursday.

SATURDAY'S BOX SCORES

TEXAS 73, RICE 59

RICE (9-5): Kazemi 2-4 7-8 11, Kuipers 1-4 0-0 3, Jackson 5-19 7-10 19, Frizzelle 5-10 1-1 14, Ennis 1-3 1-2 3, Ibrahim 1-4 0-0 3, Reischel 0-2 2-3 2, DeBose 1-3 1-2 4, Chadwick 0-1 0-0 0, Oraby 0-1 0-0 0, Gearhart 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 16-52 19-26 59.

TEXAS (10-3): Bond 1-3 2-4 4, Chapman 0-0 2-2 2, McClellan 5-10 8-9 19, Kabongo 2-6 4-6 9, Brown 7-16 6-6 23, Holmes 2-3 1-1 5, Gibbs 3-3 0-0 9, Wangmene 1-3 0-2 2. Totals 21-44 23-30 73.

Halftime—Texas 35-27. 3-Point Goals—Rice 8-19 (Frizzelle 3-5, Jackson 2-6, DeBose 1-1, Kuipers 1-2, Ibrahim 1-2, Gearhart 0-1, Ennis 0-1, Chadwick 0-1), Texas 8-18 (Gibbs 3-3, Brown 3-7, Kabongo 1-4, McClellan 1-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Rice 27 (Kazemi 10), Texas 37 (Kabongo 9). Assists—Rice 7 (Ennis, Frizzelle, Jackson 2), Texas 9 (Kabongo 4). Total Fouls—Rice 24, Texas 23. A—14,506.

LAMAR 102, LYON 58

LYON (6-5): Blount 7-11 2-5 16, Belew 1-4 0-0 2, Young 8-14 0-0 20, Cowart 3-6 0-0 8, Leeks 3-14 0-0 8, LaBellarte 1-2 0-0 2, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Thomas 1-2 0-0 2, B. Worlow 0-2 0-2 0, J. Worlow 0-1 0-0 0, Farris 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 24-59 2-7 58.

LAMAR (9-5): Harper 5-8 2-2 12, Brown 2-3 2-4 6, Miles 1-4 4-6 6, Lamb 6-9 0-0 15, James 5-10 0-0 11, Acosta 1-3 0-2 2, Lynch 3-5 4-6 10, Davis 3-7 2-2 11, Minor 5-8 2-2 12, Nelson 6-7 0-2 13, Ebgmwonyi 0-1 2-2 2, Norman 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 37-65 20-28 102.

Halftime—Lamar 49-28. 3-Point Goals—Lyon 8-20 (Young 4-8, Cowart 2-3, Leeks 2-8, Thomas 0-1), Lamar 8-17 (Lamb 3-5, Davis 3-6, Nelson 1-2, James 1-2, Miles 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Lyon 29 (Leeks 9), Lamar 41 (Nelson 6). Assists—Lyon 10 (Blount 4), Lamar 23 (Miles 7). Total Fouls—Lyon 20, Lamar 11. A—2,178.

SCHEDULE

TODAY

SOUTHWEST

Bowling Green at UTSA, 2 p.m.

EAST

Canisius at Fairfield, Noon
Norfolk St. at Navy, 3 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

SOUTH

Rutgers at South Florida, 11 a.m.
Princeton at Florida A&M, 2 p.m.
Monmouth (NJ) at North Carolina, 2 p.m.
ETSU at Clemson, 3 p.m.
Akron at Marshall, 3 p.m.
Penn at Duke, 4 p.m.

MIDWEST

Villanova at Marquette, Noon
Illinois St. at S. Illinois, 2 p.m.
Minnesota at Michigan, 3 p.m.
Syracuse at DePaul, 4 p.m.
Penn St. at Northwestern, 6 p.m.
Evansville at N. Iowa, 8 p.m.

MONDAY

SOUTHWEST

Texas A&M at Baylor, 6 p.m.
Jarvis Christian at Sam Houston St., 7 p.m.

EAST

Rhode Island at Boston College, Noon
American U. at Brown, Noon
Hartford at Albany (NY), 6 p.m.
Maine at Binghamton, 6 p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson at Columbia, 6 p.m.
VCU at Hofstra, 6 p.m.
Rider at Manhattan, 6 p.m.
St. Peter's at Marist, 6 p.m.
Lafayette at NJIT, 6 p.m.
UMBC at New Hampshire, 6 p.m.
Vermont at Stony Brook, 6 p.m.
Northeastern at Towson, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Loyola (Md.), 6:30 p.m.

SOUTH

William & Mary at George Mason, 11 a.m.
Old Dominion at James Madison, 2 p.m.
Drexel at Georgia St., 6 p.m.
Charleston Southern at High Point, 6 p.m.
Stetson at Kennesaw St., 6 p.m.
Virginia at LSU, 6 p.m.
Presbyterian at Liberty, 6 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Radford, 6 p.m.
Chattanooga at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
Delaware at UNC Wilmington, 6 p.m.
Gardner-Webb at VMI, 6 p.m.
Wofford at Wake Forest, 6 p.m.
Virginia-Wise at The Citadel, 6:05 p.m.
Lipscomb at Jacksonville, 6:15 p.m.
Brewton-Parker at Gia Southern, 6:30 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at Mercer, 6:30 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at Campbell, 6:45 p.m.
Belmont at North Florida, 6:45 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman at Auburn, 7 p.m.
Miami (Ohio) at Vanderbilt, 7 p.m.
UNC Greensboro at Miami, 8 p.m.

MIDWEST

Shawnee St. at Kent St., 6 p.m.
Robert Morris at Ohio, 6 p.m.
Jacksonville St. at SE Missouri, 7:30 p.m.

FAR WEST

Idaho St. at N. Colorado, 8:05 p.m.
New Mexico St. at CS Bakersfield, 9 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara at Cal Poly, 9 p.m.
Boise St. at Fresno St., 9 p.m.
Long Beach St. at UC Irvine, 9 p.m.
CS Northridge at UC Riverside, 9 p.m.
Pacific at Cal St.-Fullerton, 9:05 p.m.

Women

SATURDAY'S SCORES

SOUTHWEST

North Texas 57, Troy 36
Texas-Arlington 78, Houston Baptist 61

EAST

Duquesne 66, Robert Morris 63
Mount St. Mary's 58, Bucknell 46
Pittsburgh 74, Lafayette 69, OT
Princeton 63, Drexel 51
Providence 63, Hartford 46
Syracuse 83, Colgate 32
West Virginia 84, Elon 36

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 64, Longwood 54
Charleston Southern 76, Presbyterian 67
Coastal Carolina 58, Winthrop 54
Middle Tennessee 80, South Alabama 39
Wake Forest 68, Davidson 66

MIDWEST

Detroit 68, Valparaiso 52
Marquette 69, Toledo 60
Murray St. 80, SE Missouri 75
SIU-Edwardsville 79, Jacksonville St. 39
W. Illinois 65, IUPUI 60
Youngstown St. 70, Cleveland St. 48

FAR WEST

Arizona St. 60, Arizona 45
Southern Cal 74, California 54

SCHEDULE

TODAY

EAST

Army at Yale, 3 p.m.

SOUTH

Kentucky at Florida, Noon
Arkansas at Georgia, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Auburn, 2 p.m.
LSU at Mississippi, 2 p.m.
Alabama at South Carolina, 2 p.m.

MIDWEST

Evansville at Illinois St., 12:05 p.m.
S. Illinois at Indiana St., 1:05 p.m.

SOUTHWEST

Stephen F. Austin at Tulsa, 2 p.m.

FAR WEST

St. Francis (Pa.) at Gonzaga, 4 p.m.
Shaw at New Mexico St., 4 p.m.

MONDAY

SOUTHWEST

Philander Smith at Cent. Arkansas, 7 p.m.
Rice at Lamar, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of the Lake at Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.

EAST

American U. at George Washington, 1 p.m.
Niagara at Loyola (Md.), 3:30 p.m.
Maine at Binghamton, 4 p.m.
Rider at Manhattan, 4 p.m.
CCSU at Boston College, 6 p.m.
Iona at Fairfield, 6 p.m.
Cornell at Fordham, 6 p.m.
Albany (N.Y.) at Hartford, 6 p.m.
La Salle at Northeastern, 6 p.m.
Miami (Ohio) at Robert Morris, 6 p.m.
Marist at St. Peter's, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Siena, 6 p.m.
New Hampshire at UMBC, 6 p.m.
Stony Brook at Vermont, 6 p.m.

SOUTH

Coppin St. at Longwood, Noon
Gardner-Webb at High Point, 3 p.m.
UNC Wilmington at NC A&T, 3 p.m.
Stetson at Kennesaw St., 3:45 p.m.
Wofford at Georgia Southern, 4 p.m.
Bethune-Cookman at Georgia St., 4 p.m.
Lipscomb at Jacksonville, 4 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at Mercer, 4 p.m.
UNC Asheville at Campbell, 4:15 p.m.
Belmont at North Florida, 4:30 p.m.
Md.-Eastern Shore at Elizabeth City St., 5 p.m.
George Mason at Norfolk St., 5 p.m.
Jacksonville St. at SE Missouri, 5:30 p.m.
Winthrop at Charleston Southern, 6 p.m.
Virginia Tech at Clemson, 6 p.m.
Presbyterian at Coastal Carolina, 6 p.m.
Wingate at Coll. of Charleston, 6 p.m.
Virginia at Duke, 6 p.m.
Austin Peay at E. Kentucky, 6 p.m.
UAB at Florida A&M, 6 p.m.
Maryland at Florida St., 6 p.m.
East Carolina at Hampton, 6 p.m.
Miami at North Carolina, 6 p.m.
Georgia Tech at NC State, 6 p.m.
W. Carolina at SC-Upstate, 6 p.m.
LSU-Shreveport at Northwestern St., 7 p.m.
UT-Martin at Tennessee St., 7 p.m.

MIDWEST

Iowa at Ohio St., 11 a.m.
Purdue at Illinois, Noon
Indiana at Minnesota, Noon
Penn St. at Wisconsin, Noon
Wyoming at E. Michigan, 1 p.m.
Temple at W. Michigan, 6 p.m.
Murray St. at E. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Tennessee Tech at SIU Edwardsville, 7 p.m.

FAR WEST

BYU at Portland, 4 p.m.
UNLV at Nevada, 8 p.m.
Houston at New Mexico, 8 p.m.
Montana at E. Washington, 8:05 p.m.
N. Colorado at Idaho St., 8:05 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	36	23	9	4	50	107	77
Philadelphia	36	22	10	4	48	123	106
Pittsburgh	38	21	13	4	46	121	100
New Jersey	37	21	15	1	43	103	105
N.Y. Islanders	36	13	17	6	32	84	113

Northeast Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	34	24	9	1	49	121	64
Toronto	37	18	14	5	41	116	122
Ottawa	38	18	15	5	41	117	131
Buffalo	37	17	17	3	37	98	109
Montreal	38	14	17	7	35	97	107

Southeast Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	38	19	12	7	45	100	105
Winnipeg	37	18	14	5	41	101	105
Washington	36	19	15	2	40	107	107
Tampa Bay	36	16	17	3	35	99	120
Carolina	39	13	20	6	32	101	130

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	38	24	10	4	52	125	107
Detroit	37	23	13	1	47	120	84
St. Louis	37	21	11	5	47	95	82
Nashville	38	20	14	4	44	100	105
Columbus	37	10	22	5	25	91	124

Northwest Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	38	24	12	2	50	128	92
Minnesota	39	21	12	6	48	93	91
Calgary	39	18	16	5	41	96	106
Colorado	39	20	18	1	41	104	113
Edmonton	37	15	19	3	33	100	104

Pacific Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	34	19	11	4	42	99	83
Los Angeles	38	18	14	6	42	82	89
Dallas	36	20	15	1	41	96	105
Phoenix	38	18	16	4	40	98	101
Anaheim	36	10	20	6	26	85	120

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

Saturday's Scores

N.Y. Islanders 4, Edmonton 1
New Jersey 3, Pittsburgh 1
Carolina at Tampa Bay, late
Phoenix at Minnesota, late
Montreal at Florida, late
Ottawa at Buffalo, late
Toronto at Winnipeg, late
St. Louis at Detroit, late
Washington at Columbus, late
Boston at Dallas, late
Colorado at Anaheim, late
Vancouver at Los Angeles, late

Today's Game

Calgary at Nashville, 5 p.m.

Monday's Games

N.Y. Rangers vs. Philadelphia at Philadelphia, PA, Noon
New Jersey at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S SUMMARY

ISLANDERS 4, OILERS 1

Edmonton	1	0	0	— 1
N.Y. Islanders	2	2	0	— 4

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 13 (Parenteau, Moulson), 3:44 (pp). 2, Edmonton, Gagner 4 (Potter, Sutton), 12:58. 3, N.Y. Islanders, Moulson 17 (Tavares, Okposo), 17:55.
Second Period—4, N.Y. Islanders, Parenteau 7 (Moulson, Nielsen), 3:19 (pp). 5, N.Y. Islanders, Martin 4 (Bailey, Grabner), 4:05.
Third Period—None.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 11-10-8—29. N.Y. Islanders 7-6-16—29.
Goalies—Edmonton, Dubnyk. N.Y. Islanders, Nabokov. A—13,807 (16,234). T—2:18.

DEVILS 3, PENGUINS 1

Pittsburgh	0	0	1	— 1
New Jersey	2	0	1	— 3

First Period—1, New Jersey, Kovalchuk 12 (penalty shot), 14:43. 2, New Jersey, Clarkson 13 (Elias, Kovalchuk), 19:36 (pp).
Second Period—None.
Third Period—3, Pittsburgh, Kunitz 13 (Niskanen, Sullivan), 9:25 (pp). 4, New Jersey, Parise 13 (Elias, Kovalchuk), 19:10 (en).
Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 9-12-9—30. New Jersey 10-5-6—21.
Goalies—Pittsburgh, Fleury. New Jersey, Brodeur. A—17,625 (17,625). T—2:19.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Dec. 30

Player	GP	G	A	PTS
Claude Giroux, Phi	32	17	28	45
Henrik Sedin, Van	38	10	35	45
Phil Kessel, Tor	37	20	23	43
Daniel Sedin, Van	37	17	26	43
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	30	15	28	43
Marian Hossa, Chi	37	17	24	41
Steven Stamkos, TB	36	23	17	40
Joffrey Lupul, Tor	37	17	23	40
Thomas Vanek, Buf	37	18	21	39
Jordan Eberle, Edm	36	16	23	39
Jason Pominville, Buf	37	12	27	39

6 tied with 38 pts.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

American League

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Signed LHP Aaron Laffey, RHP Jerry Gil, RHP Garret Mock, RHP Robert Coello and SS Brian Bocock to minor league contracts.

National League

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Acquired OF Carlos Quentin from the Chicago White Sox for RHP Simon Castro and LHP Pedro Hernandez.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Re-signed C Hamed Haddadi.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed LB Brandon Siler to a one-year contract extension.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL—Fined Phoenix F Raffi Torres $2,500 for elbowing Colorado D Jan Hejda in a Dec. 29 game. Fined New York Rangers D Michael Del Zotto and Florida F Tomas Kopecky $2,500 apiece, for their respective actions during an altercation in a Dec. 30 game.

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Recalled D David Savard from Springfield (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS—Announced C Sean Avery cleared waivers and assigned him to Connecticut (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES—Assigned F Adam Cracknell to Peoria (AHL).

American Hockey League

GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS—Announced G Tom McCollum was assigned to the team from Toledo (ECHL).

ECHL

ECHL—Suspended Colorado's Michael Forney one game as a result of his actions in a Dec. 30 game at Alaska. Fined Colorado assistant coach Greg Pankewicz an undisclosed amount as a result of his actions in a Dec. 30 game at Alaska.

COLLEGE

CONNECTICUT—Named Phil Chardis assistant director of athletic communications.

MARSHALL—Suspended freshman men's basketball G Justin Coleman indefinitely.

WASHINGTON—Fired defensive coordinator Nick Holt, linebackers coach Mike Cox and safeties coach Jeff Mills.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

NCAA FOOTBALL

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
MONDAY				
TicketCity Bowl — At Dallas				
Houston	7	7	(57)	Penn St.
Outback Bowl — At Tampa, Fla.				
Georgia	3	3	(50 1/2)	Michigan St.
Capital One Bowl — At Orlando, Fla				
South Carolina	1	2 1/2	(46)	Nebraska
Gator Bowl — At Jacksonville, Fla.				
Florida	1	2	(44)	Ohio St.
Rose Bowl — At Pasadena, Calif.				
Oregon	4 1/2	6	(71 1/2)	Wisconsin
Fiesta Bowl — At Glendale, Ariz.				
Oklahoma St.	3	3 1/2	(74)	Stanford
Tuesday				
Sugar Bowl — At New Orleans				
Michigan	1	2 1/2	(51)	Virginia Tech
Wednesday				
Orange Bowl — At Miami				
Clemson	Pk	3	(61)	West Virginia
Friday				
Cotton Bowl — At Arlington				
Arkansas	7 1/2	7 1/2	(62 1/2)	Kansas St.
Saturday				
BBVA Compass Bowl — At Birmingham, Ala.				
Pittsburgh	5 1/2	3 1/2	(47)	SMU
Jan. 8				
GoDaddy.com Bowl — At Mobile, Ala.				
Arkansas St.	1	1 1/2	(63)	N. Illinois
Jan. 9				
BCS National Championship — At New Orleans				
Alabama	+1	1	(40)	LSU

NFL

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Philadelphia	9	8 1/2	(45 1/2)	Washington
at Atlanta	10 1/2	10 1/2	(45 1/2)	Tampa Bay
San Francisco	10 1/2	10 1/2	(35 1/2)	at St. Louis
at Minnesota	+1	1 1/2	(41)	Chicago
Detroit	+3	4	(43)	at Green Bay
at N.Y. Giants	3	3	(47)	Dallas
at New Orleans	9	8	(54 1/2)	Carolina
Tennessee	1 1/2	2	(39 1/2)	at Houston
Baltimore	3	2	(38 1/2)	at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh	6 1/2	6 1/2	(34 1/2)	at Cleveland
at Jacksonville	5	3 1/2	(37)	Indianapolis
at Miami	2	3	(39 1/2)	N.Y. Jets
at New England	13	10 1/2	(50)	Buffalo
at Oakland	3	3	(48 1/2)	San Diego
at Denver	3	3	(37)	Kansas City
at Arizona	3	3	(41)	Seattle

SKI REPORT

New Mexico

Angel Fire — Wed 6:58 am packed powder machine groomed 35-35 base 67 of 75 trails 93% open, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Pajarito — Wed 5:32 am packed powder machine groomed 58-58 base 33 of 44 trails, 75% open 4 of 7 lifts, Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p; Dec 28-29: Open; Open Fri-Sun;

Red River — Thu 8:22 am packed powder machine groomed 40-45 base 57 of 57 trails 99% open, 6 of 7 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Sandia Peak — Wed 5:34 am packed powder machine groomed 61-61 base 35 of 35 trails 100% open, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Sipapu — Wed 10:23 pm packed powder machine groomed 21-29 base 31 of 41 trails, 76% open 5 of 5 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Ski Apache — Thu 8:01 am powder machine groomed 60-63 base 54 of 55 trails 99% open, 27 miles, 749 acres, 10 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Ski Santa Fe — Wed 5:35 am packed powder machine groomed 42-42 base 75 of 77 trails 98% open, 7 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Taos — Thu 6:02 am packed powder machine groomed 42-50 base 92 of 110 trails, 90% open 13 of 13 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Colorado

Arapahoe Basin — Thu 5:26 am loose granular machine groomed 25-25 base 10 of 105 trails 16% open, 140 acres, 4 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p;

Aspen Highlands — Thu 4:05 am packed powder machine groomed 22-34 base 81 of 124 trails 77% open, 792 acres, 4 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p; Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p;

Aspen Mountain — Thu 4:02 am packed powder machine groomed 16-19 base 63 of 76 trails 81% open, 547 acres, 6 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p; Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p;

Beaver Creek — Thu 7:37 am packed powder machine groomed 18-18 base 113 of 149 trails 73% open, 1325 acres, 25 of 25 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-3:30p;

Breckenridge — Thu 7:42 am packed powder machine groomed 27-27 base 59 of 155 trails 43% open, 1007 acres, 15 of 31 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Buttermilk — Thu 4:03 am packed powder machine groomed 20-20 base 33 of 44 trails 86% open, 400 acres, 5 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p; Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p;

Copper Mountain — Thu 5:02 am hard packed machine groomed 21-21 base 67 of 126 trails 49% open, 726 acres, 16 of 22 lifts; sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p Dec 29-Jan2: 8:30a-4p;

Crested Butte — Thu 7:09 am packed powder machine groomed 14-20 base 60 of 121 trails 71% open, 469 acres, 12 of 16 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Echo Mountain — Thu 4:18 am packed powder machine groomed 25-40 base 14 of 16 trails 98% open, 3 of 3 lifts, Mon, Wed-Fri: 10a-9p; Sat: 9a-9p, Sun: 9a-4p Dec 31: 9a-4p;

Eldora — Thu 12:40 pm 3 new packed powder machine groomed 32-32 base 30 of 53 trails 57% open, 11 of 12 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Irwin — Operating, no details 4 new Mon-Fri: 8a-5p Sat/Sun: 8a-5p;

Kendall Mountain — Operating, no details

Keystone — Thu 7:40 am packed powder machine groomed 19-19 base 61 of 135 trails 37% open, 1152 acres, 20 of 20 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Loveland — Thu 5:53 am packed powder 27-27 base 26 of 93 trails, 20% open 339 acres, 5 of 9 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p;

Monarch — Thu 12:49 pm powder machine groomed 24-24 base 38 of 64 trails 71% open, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Powderhorn — Thu 6:07 am packed powder 32-32 base 42 of 44 trails 96% open, 4 of 4 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Purgatory at Durango — Thu 4:56 am packed powder machine groomed 32-36 base 85 of 88 trails, 95% open, 9 of 10 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Silverton Mountain — Thu 6:58 am powder 40-60 base 40 of 69 trails, 99% open, 1500 acres, 1 of 1 lift Thu-Fri: 9a-3p; Sat/Sun: 9a-3p Jan 2: 9a-3p;

Ski Cooper — Thu 5:10 am hard packed 21-22 base 26 of 26 trails 100% open, 360 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8a-4p;

Ski Hesperus — Mon 8:50 pm packed powder 18-18 base 13 of 13 trails 100% open, 7 miles, 62 acres, 1 of 1 lift Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Snowmass — Thu 4:01 am packed powder machine groomed 21-32 base 61 of 91 trails, 59% open 1827 acres, 15 of 21 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8a-4p;

SolVista Basin — Thu 11:51 am packed powder 15-16 base 19 of 37 trails 52% open, 4 of 6 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Steamboat — Thu 5:24 am packed powder machine groomed 21-23 base 122 of 165 trails 67% open, 1982 acres, 15 of 18 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p;

Sunlight — Thu 5:22 am packed powder machine groomed 20-22 base 40 of 67 trails, 60% open 3 of 3 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Telluride — Thu 5:25 am hard packed machine groomed 31-31 base 77 of 127 trails 61% open, 17 of 18 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Vail — Thu 7:35 am packed powder machine groomed 18-18 base 112 of 193 trails, 29% open 1510 acres, 21 of 31 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p;

Winter Park — Thu 6:00 am packed powder 24-26 base 67 of 145 trails 20% open, 629 acres, 15 of 26 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p;

Wolf Creek — Thu 6:47 am powder machine groomed 53-58 base 77 of 77 trails 100% open, 42 miles, 1600 acres, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p;

Ashcroft XC — Fri No Recent Information packed powder machine groomed 18-22 base 4 of 20 trails, 6 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4p; Sat/Sun: 9a-4p;

Aspen/Snowmass XC — Thu 6:20 am packed powder 1-4 base 2 of 15 trails Mon-Fri: 7a-5p; Sat/Sun: 7a-5p;

NFL INJURY REPORT

NEW YORK — The updated National Football League injury report, as provided by the league:

BUFFALO BILLS at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — BILLS: OUT: T Demetrius Bell (knee), WR Brad Smith (hamstring), G Kraig Urbik (knee). PROBABLE: WR Ruvell Martin (hamstring), RB Johnny White (concussion). PATRIOTS: OUT: G Logan Mankins (knee), T Sebastian Vollmer (back, foot). QUESTIONABLE: CB Kyle Arrington (foot), WR Deion Branch (groin), S Patrick Chung (foot), G Dan Connolly (groin), WR Julian Edelman (back), LB Dane Fletcher (thumb), S James Ihedigbo (shoulder), T Matt Light (ankle), CB Devin McCourty (shoulder), LB Rob Ninkovich (hip), WR Matthew Slater (shoulder), LB Brandon Spikes (knee), RB Shane Vereen (hamstring), G Brian Waters (ankle), WR Wes Welker (knee), LB Tracy White (abdomen). PROBABLE: QB Tom Brady (left shoulder).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS at ATLANTA FALCONS — BUCCANEERS: OUT: T Jeremy Trueblood (concussion). QUESTIONABLE: WR Arrelious Benn (neck), DE Michael Bennett (toe), DT Albert Haynesworth (knee), DT Brian Price (ankle). PROBABLE: DE Adrian Clayborn (hamstring), LB Geno Hayes (finger), LB Adam Hayward (foot), DT Roy Miller (back), WR Preston Parker (concussion), WR Sammie Stroughter (knee). FALCONS: DOUBTFUL: WR Kerry Meier (groin), LB Stephen Nicholas (toe). QUESTIONABLE: DE Ray Edwards (knee), CB Brent Grimes (knee), QB Chris Redman (illness). PROBABLE: DE John Abraham (not injury related), WR Harry Douglas (groin, shoulder), TE Tony Gonzalez (not injury related), WR Julio Jones (ankle), TE Reggie Kelly (back), LB Curtis Lofton (ankle), C Todd McClure (not injury related), CB Christopher Owens (hand), TE Michael Palmer (knee), T Will Svitek (groin), RB Michael Turner (groin).

CHICAGO BEARS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — BEARS: DOUBTFUL: RB Marion Barber (calf). QUESTIONABLE: LB Brian Urlacher (knee). PROBABLE: LB Lance Briggs (ankle), TE Kellen Davis (illness), WR Devin Hester (ankle), LB Nick Roach (shin), C Chris Spencer (back), DE Corey Wootton (concussion). VIKINGS: OUT: CB Chris Cook (not injury related). DOUBTFUL: TE Mickey Shuler (ankle). PROBABLE: CB Asher Allen (shoulder, concussion), G Anthony Herrera (back), QB Christian Ponder (concussion), S Jamarca Sanford (shoulder), CB Benny Sapp (shoulder).

CAROLINA PANTHERS at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — PANTHERS: OUT: WR Legedu Naanee (foot), DT Andre Neblett (head), S Jordan Pugh (head). DOUBTFUL: DE Charles Johnson (back). PROBABLE: S Charles Godfrey (shoulder), G Travelle Wharton (not injury related). SAINTS: OUT: TE John Gilmore (toe), RB Mark Ingram (toe), WR Lance Moore (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: S Malcolm Jenkins (neck), LB Jonathan Vilma (knee). PROBABLE: LB Jonathan Casillas (knee), CB Patrick Robinson (hip).

NEW YORK JETS at MIAMI DOLPHINS — JETS: QUESTIONABLE: LB Garrett McIntyre (knee). PROBABLE: CB Marquice Cole (knee), CB Antonio Cromartie (hamstring), DE Mike DeVito (knee), T D'Brickashaw Ferguson (foot), RB Shonn Greene (rib), RB Joe McKnight (shoulder, elbow), G Brandon Moore (hip), DE Ropati Pitoitua (hand), S Eric Smith (knee), RB LaDainian Tomlinson (quadriceps), DE Muhammad Wilkerson (knee). DOLPHINS: OUT: RB Reggie Bush (knee). DOUBTFUL: CB Jimmy Wilson (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: WR Clyde Gates (groin). PROBABLE: T Marc Colombo (ankle), LB Karlos Dansby (not injury related), CB Vontae Davis (elbow), TE Anthony Fasano (head), WR Brandon Marshall (knee), RB Daniel Thomas (knee).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — COLTS: OUT: LB A.J. Edds (ankle), QB Peyton Manning (neck), T Joe Reitz (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: TE Dallas Clark (neck), WR Anthony Gonzalez (illness). JAGUARS: OUT: WR Cecil Shorts (hamstring). DOUBTFUL: S Dwight Lowery (shoulder), TE Zach Potter (calf). QUESTIONABLE: T Eugene Monroe (ankle). PROBABLE: DT Tyson Alualu (not injury related), RB Maurice Jones-Drew (ankle), RB Greg Jones (hamstring), S Dawan Landry (illness), TE Marcedes Lewis (hamstring), CB Kevin Rutland (calf), T Guy Whimper (knee).

BALTIMORE RAVENS at CINCINNATI BENGALS — RAVENS: DOUBTFUL: WR Anquan Boldin (knee), LB Dannell Ellerbe (head), G Marshal Yanda (chest). QUESTIONABLE: K Billy Cundiff (left calf), DE Cory Redding (ankle), CB Cary Williams (head). BENGALS: DOUBTFUL: S Taylor Mays (hamstring), LB Dontay Moch (illness). QUESTIONABLE: DE Carlos Dunlap (hamstring). PROBABLE: T Anthony Collins (not injury related), S Chris Crocker (knee), CB Brandon Ghee (toe), WR A.J. Green (shoulder), DE Frostee Rucker (neck), T Andrew Whitworth (knee).

DETROIT LIONS at GREEN BAY PACKERS — LIONS: DOUBTFUL: CB Aaron Berry (shoulder), S Louis Delmas (knee). QUESTIONABLE: DT Nick Fairley (foot), CB Chris Houston (hand, knee), S Amari Spievey (knee), DT Corey Williams (hip), DE Willie Young (ankle). PROBABLE: DE Cliff Avril (back), WR Calvin Johnson (Achilles), RB Kevin Smith (ankle), S John Wendling (illness). PACKERS: OUT: WR Randall Cobb (groin), WR Greg Jennings (knee), RB James Starks (knee, ankle). DOUBTFUL: T Bryan Bulaga (knee). QUESTIONABLE: LB Clay Matthews (ankle), CB Charles Woodson (knee). PROBABLE: T Chad Clifton (hamstring, back), TE Jermichael Finley (knee), DE Ryan Pickett (concussion).

PITTSBURGH STEELERS at CLEVELAND BROWNS — STEELERS: OUT: C Doug Legursky (shoulder), RB Mewelde Moore (knee). DOUBTFUL: LB LaMarr Woodley (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: LB Chris Carter (hamstring). PROBABLE: LB James Harrison (neck), S Troy Polamalu (knee), C Maurkice Pouncey (ankle), QB Ben Roethlisberger (ankle), WR Emmanuel Sanders (foot), WR Mike Wallace (ankle). BROWNS: OUT: QB Colt McCoy (head), WR Jordan Norwood (head), T Tony Pashos (ankle, illness). QUESTIONABLE: LB Kaluka Maiava (hand), DT Scott Paxson (hand, calf). PROBABLE: WR Joshua Cribbs (groin), RB Peyton Hillis (elbow), T Shawn Lauvao (ankle), RB Owen Marecic (ankle), WR Mohamed Massaquoi (foot), CB Dimitri Patterson (hand), LB Quinton Spears (head).

DALLAS COWBOYS at NEW YORK GIANTS — COWBOYS: QUESTIONABLE: NT Josh Brent (knee), WR Andre Holmes (hamstring), RB Felix Jones (hamstring), LB Sean Lee (wrist, illness), S Danny McCray (ankle), WR Kevin Ogletree (knee). PROBABLE: CB Mike Jenkins (shoulder), P Mat McBriar (left foot), NT Jay Ratliff (ribs), WR Laurent Robinson (shoulder), QB Tony Romo (right hand), LB DeMarcus Ware (neck). GIANTS: OUT: TE Jake Ballard (knee), LB Mark Herzlich (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: DE Osi Umenyiora (ankle, knee). PROBABLE: RB Ahmad Bradshaw (foot), WR Mario Manningham (knee), WR Hakeem Nicks (hamstring).

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS at ST. LOUIS RAMS — 49ERS: OUT: TE Delanie Walker (jaw). QUESTIONABLE: CB Chris Culliver (shoulder), WR Ted Ginn Jr. (ankle), RB Bruce Miller (knee), CB Carlos Rogers (knee), WR Kyle Williams (concussion), LB Patrick Willis (hamstring). RAMS: DOUBTFUL: QB Sam Bradford (ankle), QB A.J. Feeley (right thumb). QUESTIONABLE: DE Chris Long (ankle). PROBABLE: CB Josh Gordy (abdomen), RB Jerious Norwood (illness), LB Brady Poppinga (illness).

WASHINGTON REDSKINS at PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — REDSKINS: QUESTIONABLE: T Jammal Brown (hip), RB Roy Helu (toe, knee). PROBABLE: DE Adam Carriker (chest), LB London Fletcher (ankle), S DeJon Gomes (knee), WR Niles Paul (shoulder), P Sav Rocca (left ankle), WR Donte' Stallworth (ankle). EAGLES: OUT: CB Asante Samuel (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: RB LeSean McCoy (ankle). PROBABLE: G Todd Herremans (ankle), DT Trevor Laws (knee).

TENNESSEE TITANS at HOUSTON TEXANS — TITANS: DOUBTFUL: DE Jason Jones (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: TE Daniel Graham (illness), WR Lavelle Hawkins (ankle), RB Chris Johnson (ankle), LB Gerald McRath (knee, ankle), DT Shaun Smith (knee). TEXANS: OUT: G Mike Brisiel (ankle), CB Sherrick McManis (ankle), S Troy Nolan (ankle). PROBABLE: CB Jason Allen (thumb), NT Shaun Cody (knee), TE Owen Daniels (knee), TE Joel Dreessen (knee), RB Arian Foster (knee), WR Andre Johnson (hamstring), WR Bryant Johnson (thigh), WR Jeff Maehl (hamstring), NT Earl Mitchell (knee), C Chris Myers (knee), T Derek Newton (knee), T Eric Winston (calf), QB T.J. Yates (right shoulder).

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS at DENVER BRONCOS — CHIEFS: OUT: RB Jackie Battle (foot). DOUBTFUL: S Jon McGraw (ankle). PROBABLE: WR Jeremy Horne (illness). BRONCOS: DOUBTFUL: S Brian Dawkins (neck). PROBABLE: S David Bruton (Achilles), S Quinton Carter (hip), CB Chris Harris (neck), LB Von Miller (thumb).

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS at OAKLAND RAIDERS — CHARGERS: OUT: LB Travis LaBoy (knee). QUESTIONABLE: RB Ryan Mathews (calf). PROBABLE: LB Andrew Gachkar (hamstring), T Jared Gaither (ankle), TE Antonio Gates (not injury related), WR Vincent Jackson (groin), LB Shaun Phillips (back), RB Mike Tolbert (hamstring). RAIDERS: OUT: QB Jason Campbell (collarbone), DT John Henderson (knee), RB Darren McFadden (foot). QUESTIONABLE: WR Jacoby Ford (foot), S Michael Huff (hamstring), RB Taiwan Jones (hamstring). PROBABLE: WR Louis Murphy (groin), DT Richard Seymour (illness), CB DeMarcus Van Dyke (concussion).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at ARIZONA CARDINALS — SEAHAWKS: QUESTIONABLE: T Breno Giacomini (abdominal), DE Anthony Hargrove (calf). PROBABLE: CB Kennard Cox (hamstring), LB David Hawthorne (knee), QB Tarvaris Jackson (pectoral), S Jeron Johnson (illness), DT Clinton McDonald (concussion), WR Ben Obomanu (knee), LB Malcolm Smith (concussion). CARDINALS: OUT: T Brandon Keith (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: S Rashad Johnson (knee), QB Kevin Kolb (head), CB Patrick Peterson (Achilles), S Kerry Rhodes (ankle), RB LaRod Stephens-Howling (hamstring), RB Beanie Wells (knee). PROBABLE: CB Michael Adams (shoulder), S Sean Considine (foot).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bowls

Texas A&M Bowl History

Record: 14-19

Dec. 31, 2011 Meineke Car Care Bowl—Texas A&M 33, Northwestern 22
Jan. 7, 2011 Cotton Bowl—LSU 41, Texas A&M 24
Dec. 28, 2009 Independence Bowl—Georgia 44, Texas A&M 20
Dec. 29, 2007 Alamo Bowl—Penn State 24, Texas A&M 17
Dec. 28, 2006 Holiday Bowl—California 45, Texas A&M 10
Jan. 1, 2005 Cotton Bowl—Tennessee 38, Texas A&M 7
Dec. 28, 2001 Galleryfurniture.com Bowl—Texas A&M 28, TCU 9
Dec. 31, 2000 Independence Bowl—Mississippi State 43, Texas A&M 41, OT
Dec. 28, 1999 Alamo Bowl—Penn State 24, Texas A&M 0
Jan. 1, 1999 Sugar Bowl—Ohio State 24, Texas A&M 14
Jan. 1, 1998 Cotton Bowl—UCLA 29, Texas A&M 23
Dec. 28, 1995 Alamo Bowl—Texas A&M 22, Michigan 20
Jan. 1, 1994 Cotton Bowl—Notre Dame 24, Texas A&M 21
Jan. 1, 1993 Cotton Bowl—Notre Dame 28, Texas A&M 3
Jan. 1, 1992 Cotton Bowl—Florida State 10, Texas A&M 2
Dec. 29, 1990 Holiday Bowl—Texas A&M 65, Brigham Young 14
Dec. 30, 1989 John Hancock Bowl—Pittsburgh 31, Texas A&M 28
Jan. 1, 1988 Cotton Bowl—Texas A&M 35, Notre Dame 10
Jan. 1, 1987 Cotton Bowl—Ohio State 28, Texas A&M 12
Jan. 1, 1986 Cotton Bowl—Texas A&M 36, Auburn 16
Dec. 12, 1981 Independence Bowl—Texas A&M 33, Oklahoma State 16
Dec. 20, 1978 Hall of Fame Bowl—Texas A&M 28, Iowa State 12
Dec. 31, 1977 Bluebonnet Bowl—Southern Cal 47, Texas A&M 28
Jan. 2, 1977 Sun Bowl—Texas A&M 37, Florida 14
Dec. 22, 1975 Liberty Bowl—Southern Cal 20, Texas A&M 0
Jan. 1, 1968 Cotton Bowl—Texas A&M 20, Alabama 16
Dec. 28, 1957 Gator Bowl—Tennessee 3, Texas A&M 0
Dec. 9, 1950 Presidential Cup—Texas A&M 40, Georgia 20
Jan. 1, 1944 Orange Bowl—LSU 19, Texas A&M 14
Jan. 1, 1942 Cotton Bowl—Alabama 29, Texas A&M 21
Jan. 1, 1941 Cotton Bowl—Texas A&M 13, Fordham 12
Jan. 1, 1940 Sugar Bowl—Texas A&M 14, Tulane 13
Jan. 2, 1922 Dixie Classic—Texas A&M 22, Centre 14

Baylor Bowl History

Record: 9-9

Dec. 29, 2011 Alamo Bowl—Baylor 67, Washington 56
Dec. 29, 2010 Texas Bowl—Illinois 38, Baylor 14
Dec. 31, 1994 Alamo Bowl—Washington St. 10, Baylor 3
Dec. 31, 1992 John Hancock Bowl—Baylor 20, Arizona 15
Dec. 31, 1991 Copper Bowl—Indiana 24, Baylor 0
Dec. 31, 1986 Bluebonnet Bowl—Baylor 21, Colorado 9
Dec. 27, 1985 Liberty Bowl—Baylor 21, LSU 7
Dec. 31, 1983 Bluebonnet Bowl—Oklahoma St. 24, Baylor 14
Jan. 1, 1981 Cotton Bowl—Alabama 30, Baylor 2
Dec. 31, 1979 Peach Bowl—Baylor 24, Clemson 18
Jan. 1, 1975 Cotton Bowl—Penn St. 41, Baylor 20
Dec. 21, 1963 Bluebonnet Bowl—Baylor 14, LSU 7
Dec. 9, 1961 Gotham Bowl—Baylor 24, Utah St. 9
Dec. 31, 1960 Gator Bowl—Florida 13, Baylor 12
Jan. 1, 1957 Sugar Bowl—Baylor 13, Tennessee 7
Dec. 31, 1954 Gator Bowl—Auburn 33, Baylor 13
Jan. 1, 1952 Orange Bowl—Georgia Tech 17, Baylor 14
Jan. 1, 1949 Dixie Bowl—Baylor 20, Wake Forest 7

Texas Bowl History

Record: 26-22-2

Dec. 28, 2011 Holiday Bowl—Texas 21, California 10
Jan. 7, 2010 BCS Championship—Alabama 37, Texas 21
Jan. 5, 2009 Fiesta Bowl—Texas 24, Ohio State 21
Dec. 27, 2007 Holiday Bowl—Texas 52, Arizona State 34
Dec. 30, 2006 Alamo Bowl—Texas 26, Iowa 24
Jan. 4, 2006 Rose Bowl—Texas 41, Southern Cal 38
Jan. 1, 2005 Rose Bowl—Texas 38, Michigan 37
Dec. 30, 2003 Holiday Bowl—Washington State 28, Texas 20
Jan. 1, 2003 Cotton Bowl—Texas 35, LSU 20
Dec. 28, 2001 Holiday Bowl—Texas 47, Washington 43
Dec. 29, 2000 Holiday Bowl—Oregon 35, Texas 30
Jan. 1, 2000 Cotton Bowl—Arkansas 27, Texas 6
Jan. 1, 1999 Cotton Bowl—Texas 38, Mississippi State 11
Jan. 1, 1997 Fiesta Bowl—Penn State 38, Texas 15
Dec. 31, 1995 Sugar Bowl—Virginia Tech 28, Texas 10
Dec. 30, 1994 Sun Bowl—Texas 35, North Carolina 31
Jan. 1, 1991 Cotton Bowl—Miami 46, Texas 3
Dec. 31, 1987 Bluebonnet Bowl—Texas 32, Pittsburgh 27
Dec. 31, 1985 Bluebonnet Bowl—Air Force 24, Texas 16
Dec. 26, 1984 Freedom Bowl—Iowa 55, Texas 17
Jan. 2, 1984 Cotton Bowl—Georgia 10, Texas 9
Dec. 25, 1982 Sun Bowl—North Carolina 26, Texas 10
Jan. 1, 1982 Cotton Bowl—Texas 14, Alabama 12
Dec. 31, 1980 Bluebonnet Bowl—North Carolina 16, Texas 7
Dec. 22, 1979 Sun Bowl—Washington 14, Texas 7
Dec. 23, 1978 Sun Bowl—Texas 42, Maryland 0
Jan. 2, 1978 Cotton Bowl—Notre Dame 38, Texas 10
Dec. 27, 1975 Bluebonnet Bowl—Texas 38, Colorado 21
Dec. 30, 1974 Gator Bowl—Auburn 27, Texas 3
Jan. 1, 1974 Cotton Bowl—Nebraska 19, Texas 3
Jan. 1, 1973 Cotton Bowl—Texas 17, Alabama 13
Jan. 1, 1972 Cotton Bowl—Penn State 30, Texas 6
Jan. 1, 1971 Cotton Bowl—Notre Dame 24, Texas 11
Jan. 1, 1970 Cotton Bowl—Texas 21, Notre Dame 17
Jan. 1, 1969 Cotton Bowl—Texas 36, Tennessee 13
Dec. 17, 1966 Bluebonnet Bowl—Texas 19, Mississippi 0
Jan. 1, 1965 Orange Bowl—Texas 21, Alabama 17
Jan. 1, 1964 Cotton Bowl—Texas 28, Navy 6
Jan. 1, 1963 Cotton Bowl—LSU 13, Texas 0
Jan. 1, 1962 Cotton Bowl—Texas 12, Mississippi 7
Dec. 17, 1960 Bluebonnet Bowl—Texas 3, Alabama 3, tie
Jan. 1, 1960 Cotton Bowl—Syracuse 23, Texas 14
Jan. 1, 1958 Sugar Bowl—Mississippi 39, Texas 7
Jan. 1, 1953 Cotton Bowl—Texas 16, Tennessee 0
Jan. 1, 1951 Cotton Bowl—Tennessee 20 Texas 14
Jan. 1, 1949 Orange Bowl—Texas 41, Georgia 28
Jan. 1, 1948 Sugar Bowl—Texas 27, Alabama 7
Jan. 1, 1946 Cotton Bowl—Texas 40, Missouri 27
Jan. 1, 1944 Cotton Bowl—Texas 7, Randolph Field 7, tie
Jan. 1, 1943 Cotton Bowl—Texas 14, Georgia Tech 7

Texas Christian Bowl History

Record: 13-14-1

Dec. 21, 2011 Poinsettia Bowl—TCU 31, Louisiana Tech 24
Jan. 1, 2011 Rose Bowl—TCU 21, Wisconsin 19
Jan. 4, 2010 Fiesta Bowl—Boise State 17, TCU 10
Dec. 23, 2008 Poinsettia Bowl—TCU 17, Boise State 16
Dec. 28, 2007 Texas Bowl—TCU 20, Houston 13
Dec. 19, 2006 Poinsettia Bowl—TCU 37, Northern Illinois 7
Dec. 31, 2005 Houston Bowl—TCU 27, Iowa State 24
Dec. 23, 2003 Fort Worth Bowl—Boise State 34, TCU 31
Dec. 31, 2002 Liberty Bowl—TCU 17, Colorado State 3
Dec. 28, 2001 Galleryfurniture.com Bowl—Texas A&M 28, TCU 9
Dec. 20, 2000 Mobile Alabama Bowl—Southern Miss. 28, TCU 21
Dec. 22, 1999 Mobile Alabama Bowl—TCU 28, East Carolina 14
Dec. 31, 1998 Sun Bowl—TCU 28, Southern California 19
Dec. 28, 1994 Independence Bowl—Virginia 20, TCU 10
Dec. 31, 1984 Bluebonnet Bowl—West Virginia 31, TCU 14
Dec. 31, 1965 Sun Bowl—Texas-El Paso 13, TCU 12
Dec. 19, 1959 Bluebonnet Bowl—Clemson 23, TCU 7
Jan. 1, 1959 Cotton Bowl—TCU 0, Air Force 0, tie
Jan. 1, 1957 Cotton Bowl—TCU 28, Syracuse 27
Jan. 2, 1956 Cotton Bowl—Mississippi 14, TCU 13
Jan. 1, 1952 Cotton Bowl—Kentucky 20, TCU 7
Jan. 1, 1948 Delta Bowl—Mississippi 13, TCU 9
Jan. 1, 1945 Cotton Bowl—Oklahoma State 34, TCU 0
Jan. 1, 1942 Orange Bowl—Georgia 40, TCU 26
Jan. 2, 1939 Sugar Bowl—TCU 15, Carnegie Mellon 7
Jan. 1, 1937 Cotton Bowl—TCU 16, Marquette 6
Jan. 1, 1936 Sugar Bowl—TCU 3, LSU 2
Jan. 1, 1921 Fort Worth Classic—Centre 63, TCU 7

FRIDAY'S LATE BOX

NO. 19 OKLAHOMA 31, IOWA 14

Iowa	0	0	0	14	—14
Oklahoma	7	7	7	10	—31

First Quarter

Okl—B.Bell 4 run (Hunnicutt kick), 10:19.

Second Quarter

Okl—B.Bell 4 run (Hunnicutt kick), 6:56.

Third Quarter

Okl—Ratterree 3 pass from L.Jones (Hunnicutt kick), 7:42.

Fourth Quarter

Iowa—Fiedorowicz 5 pass from Vandenberg (Meyer kick), 14:46.
Iowa—Canzeri 9 pass from Vandenberg (Meyer kick), 6:56.
Okl—FG Hunnicutt 35, 2:28.
Okl—B.Bell 21 run (Hunnicutt kick), :45.
A—54,247.

	Iowa	Okl
First downs	21	16
Rushes-yards	37-76	37-114
Passing	216	161
Comp-Att-Int	23-45-2	16-25-1
Return Yards	18	29
Punts-Avg.	6-44.3	6-50.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-36	6-45
Time of Possession	33:14	26:46

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Iowa, Canzeri 22-58, White 4-20, Rogers 2-6, Vandenberg 6-0, Bullock 2-(minus 2), Team 1-(minus 6). Oklahoma, B.Bell 10-51, Clay 9-44, Millard 4-21, R.Finch 6-4, Franks 3-3, Team 1-(minus 1), L.Jones 4-(minus 8).

PASSING—Iowa, Vandenberg 23-44-1-216, Wienke 0-1-1-0. Oklahoma, L.Jones 16-25-1-161.

RECEIVING—Iowa, Canzeri 6-28, K.Davis 5-76, McNutt 4-46, Fiedorowicz 4-23, Martin-Manley 1-21, Bullock 1-11, Staggs 1-6, White 1-5. Oklahoma, Jackson 3-45, Stills 3-31, Clay 3-23, R.Finch 2-32, Hanna 2-18, Franks 2-9, Ratterree 1-3.

FCS Playoffs

NCAA Football Championship Subdivision Playoff Glance

First Round

Saturday, Nov. 26

James Madison 20, Eastern Kentucky 17
Old Dominion 35, Norfolk State 18
Stony Brook 31, Albany (N.Y.) 28
Central Arkansas 34, Tennessee Tech 14

Second Round

Saturday, Dec. 3

Georgia Southern 55, Old Dominion 48
Montana 41, Central Arkansas 14
Maine 34, Appalachian State 12
Sam Houston State 34, Stony Brook 27
Montana State 26, New Hampshire 25
Lehigh 40, Towson 38
North Dakota State 26, James Madison 14
Northern Iowa 28, Wofford 21

Quarterfinals

Friday, Dec. 9

Montana 48, Northern Iowa 10

Saturday, Dec. 10

Sam Houston State 49, Montana State 13
Georgia Southern 35, Maine 23
North Dakota State 24, Lehigh 0

Semifinals

Friday, Dec. 16

Sam Houston State 31, Montana 28

Saturday, Dec. 17

North Dakota State 35, Ga Southern 7

Championship

Saturday, Jan. 7

At Pizza Hut Park

Frisco

Sam Houston State (14-0) vs. North Dakota State (13-1), Noon

No. 19 Oklahoma caps painful year with Insight Bowl win

By John Marshall
Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Oklahoma was gaining yards in bits instead of its usual chunks. Its defense was solid before giving up a pair of touchdowns in the fourth quarter to lose nearly all of a 21-point lead.

Then a camera fell from the sky.

It wasn't always pretty, but the Sooners grinded out a win, closing out a difficult year that included the death of a teammate and failed national title aspirations.

Blake Bell ran for his third touchdown in the closing seconds and No. 19 Oklahoma survived a late rally, not to mention the crashing camera, to beat Iowa, 31-14, in the Insight Bowl on Friday night.

"We did exactly what we wanted to: end this with a win," Oklahoma running back Brennan Clay said.

Oklahoma (10-3) didn't get a particularly great game from quarterback Landry Jones and wasn't effective on the ground, either. Once considered national-title contenders, the Sooners held off the gritty Hawkeyes, capping a painful year that started with the death of linebacker Austin Box in the offseason.

Sooners	31
Hawkeyes	14

Jones threw for 161 yards with a touchdown and an interception, and Bell put the game away with a 21-yard touchdown run with 45 seconds left.

"It means a lot; these guys persevered," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said. "(They) came out here (Friday night) and played an excellent game."

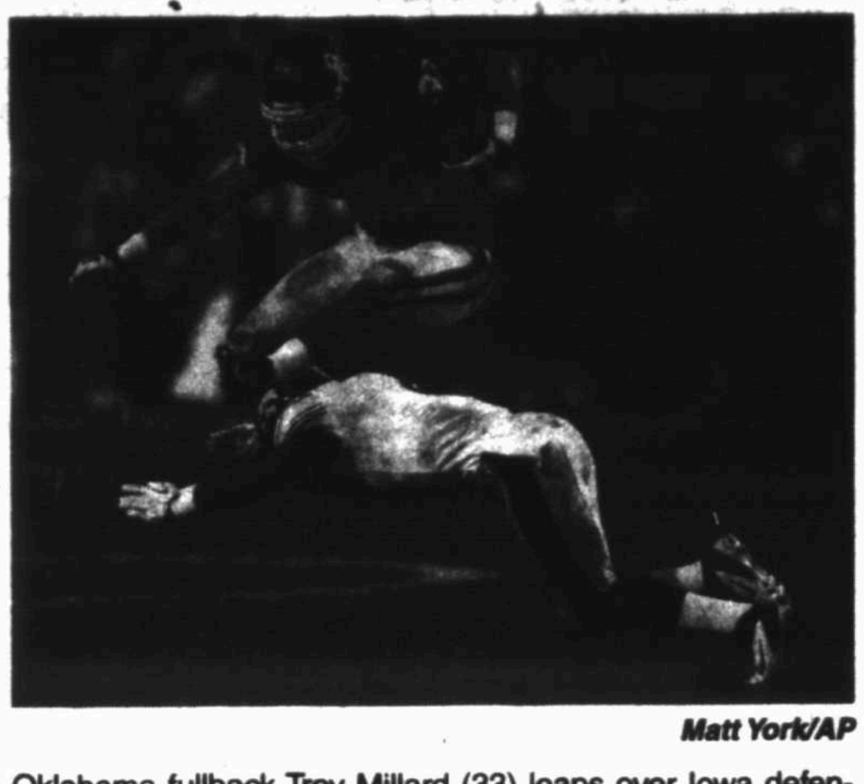
Iowa (7-6) fell into a 21-0 hole before rallying behind two touchdown passes from James Vandenberg.

The Hawkeyes came up just short and dodged a potential disaster when an overhead camera crashed to the field next to receiver Marvin McNutt in the closing minutes. McNutt became tangled in the wire after the camera landed a few yards behind him, but wasn't hurt. The game was delayed 5 minutes while the camera was dragged off the field.

"First, I looked: What is it that fell from the sky?'" McNutt said. "The next thing I know, the camera kind of scratched me a little bit. It was just pulling me and I knew I didn't want to keep going with it."

McNutt didn't have the only near-miss.

Vandenberg overcame an early interception to throw for 216 yards, and hit C.J Fiedorowicz and Jordan Canzeri on touchdown passes in the fourth quarter. He also had two interceptions — one early and one late — and Iowa's short-handed running game managed just 76 yards on 37 carries.



Matt York/AP

Oklahoma fullback Trey Millard (33) leaps over Iowa defensive back Jordan Bernstine during the second half of the Insight Bowl on Friday in Tempe, Ariz. Oklahoma won, 31-14.

Aggies

From 1C

Malena ran for 77 yards, filling in ably for Cyrus Gray, who missed his second straight game with a stress fracture in his left shoulder.

Northwestern (6-7) hasn't won a bowl game since the 1949 Rose Bowl, a span of nine losses.

Dan Persa, who finished with 213 yards passing, was disappointed he couldn't help the team break its bowl win drought.

"We failed in that regard," he said. "We let everyone down and we know it."

Persa set an NCAA record for career completion percentage (73.6) by going 25 of 37 to end his career 460 of 633. He entered the game needing 19 attempts to meet the minimum standards to qualify for the record.

The Aggies were up 30-7 before Brian Peters intercepted Tannehill early in the fourth quarter and the Wildcats took advantage of that mistake when Kain Colter scored on a 1-yard run for Northwestern's first points since early in the second quarter. The 2-point conversion left A&M ahead 30-15.

Colter found Tim Riley in the corner of the end zone for on a 2-yard touchdown pass to get Northwestern within 30-22 with less than six minutes remaining.

A&M responded with a clock-eating drive capped by a 31-yard field goal to secure the win. Senior Jeff Fuller, who has had a disappointing and injury-plagued year, had a key third down catch for 29 yards on that drive and finished with a season-high 119 yards receiving.

DeRuyter was with the team for his last game before leaving to become Fresno State's coach. The Aggies hired former Houston coach Kevin Sumlin earlier this month to replace Sherman, but he wasn't involved in bowl preparations.

Texas A&M wore helmet decals honoring Villavisencio, who died Dec. 22. The black and white decal, which says 'Joey V.,' had his No. 67 and the Texas A&M logo. There was a moment of silence for Villavisencio before the game and fellow offensive lineman Danny Baker wore his number and greeted his father before the game.

"Hopefully we were able to give some comfort to Joey V's family," DeRuyter said. "I think it was uplifting for them to be here."

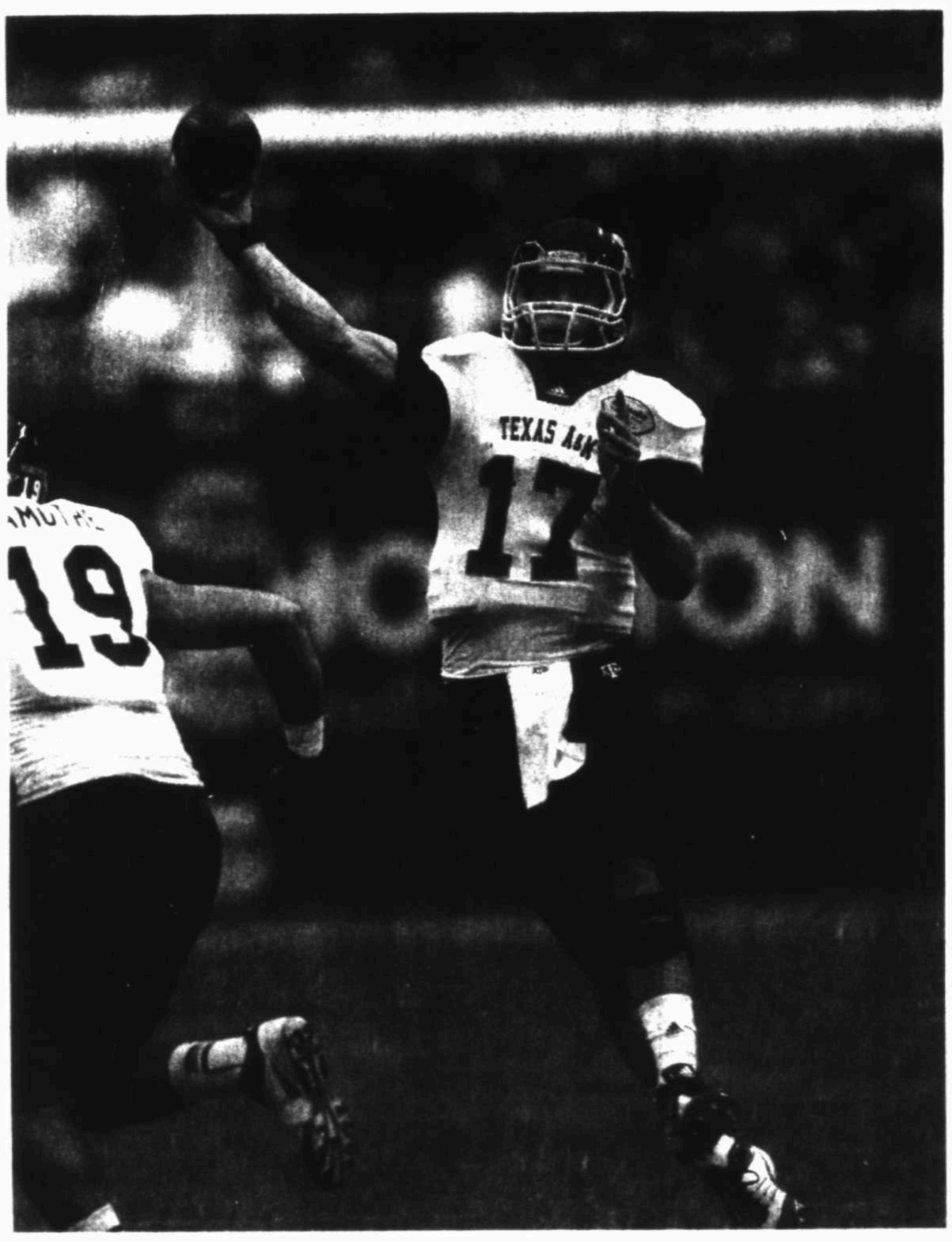
Texas A&M erased a 7-3 second quarter deficit thanks to touchdowns by Malena and Fuller and a field goal by Randy Bullock to lead 20-7 at halftime.

Malena's second touchdown came on a 19-yard run early in the third quarter that made it 27-7. Another field goal by Bullock, this one from 47 yards, pushed A&M's advantage to 30-7.

The Wildcats alternated quarterbacks for much of the day with Dan Persa leading the more traditional offense and Colter directing the wildcat offense. But neither player could generate much offense while often under heavy pressure from the Aggies, who finished with eight sacks.

Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald said the loud, heavily A&M crowd made things difficult for his offense.

"My ears are still ringing because of the noise," he said. "The roof was closed, so it went from a home game to a super home game. I thought we were prepared for it, but obviously, I didn't do a good enough job."



David J. Phillip/AP

Texas A&M quarterback Ryan Tannehill (17) throws a pass against Northwestern during the first quarter of the Meineke Bowl on Saturday in Houston.

TEXAS A&M 33, NORTHWESTERN 22

Texas A&M	3	17	10	3	—33
Northwestern	0	7	0	15	—22

First Quarter

TAM—FG Bullock 24, 5:46.

Second Quarter

NU—Mark 2 run (Budzien kick), 10:12.
TAM—Malena 1 run (Bullock kick), 7:58.
TAM—Fuller 26 pass from Tannehill (Bullock kick), 1:31.
TAM—FG Bullock 40, :00.

Third Quarter

TAM—Malena 19 run (Bullock kick), 10:00.
TAM—FG Bullock 47, 5:59.

Fourth Quarter

NU—Colter 1 run (Fields pass from Ebert), 11:15.
NU—Riley 2 pass from Colter (Budzien kick), 5:22.
TAM—FG Bullock 31, :30.
A—68,395.

	TAM	NU
First downs	22	24
Rushes-yards	27-80	38-52
Passing	329	226
Comp-Att-Int	27-40-1	27-40-0
Return Yards	54	50
Punts-Avg.	4-45.0	8-42.1
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	7-67	8-67
Time of Possession	26:41	33:19

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Texas A&M, Malena 23-77, Tannehill 3-10, R.Swope 1-(minus 7). Northwestern, Colter 17-65, Green 3-13, Mark 3-7, Schmidt 5-6, Persa 10-(minus 39).

PASSING—Texas A&M, Tannehill 27-40-1-329. Northwestern, Persa 25-37-0-213, Colter 2-3-0-13.

RECEIVING—Texas A&M, R.Swope 8-105, Fuller 7-119, Malena 6-36, Nwachukwu 5-67, Prioleau 1-2. Northwestern, Fields 7-73, Ebert 4-35, Schmidt 4-32, Lawrence 3-28, Colter 3-12, Dunsmore 2-13, Jensen 1-12, Moulton 1-11, Green 1-8, Riley 1-2.

BOWLGLANCE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Saturday, Dec. 17
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Temple 37, Wyoming 15
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Ohio 24, Utah State 23
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 32, San Diego State 30

Tuesday, Dec. 20
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall 20, FIU 10

Wednesday, Dec. 21
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
TCU 31, Louisiana Tech 24

Thursday, Dec. 22
MAACO Bowl
At Las Vegas
Boise State 56, Arizona State 24

Saturday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Southern Mississippi 24, Nevada 17

Monday, Dec. 26
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Missouri 41, North Carolina 24

Tuesday, Dec. 27
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Purdue 37, Western Michigan 32
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
North Carolina State 31, Louisville 24

Wednesday, Dec. 28
Military Bowl
At Washington
Toledo 42, Air Force 41
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Texas 21, California 10

Thursday, Dec. 29
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Florida State 18, Notre Dame 14
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Baylor 67, Washington 56

Friday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Dallas
BYU 24, Tulsa 21
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Rutgers 27, Iowa State 13
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi State 23, Wake Forest 17
Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma 31, Iowa 14

Saturday, Dec. 31
Meineke Car Care Bowl
At Houston
Texas A&M 33, Northwestern 22
Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Utah 30, Georgia Tech 27, OT
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Cincinnati (9-3), late
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
UCLA (6-7) vs. Illinois (6-6), late
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Virginia (8-4) vs. Auburn (7-5), late

Monday, Jan. 2
TicketCity Bowl
At Dallas
Penn State (9-3) vs. Houston (12-1), 11 a.m. (ESPNU)
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Nebraska (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), Noon (ESPN)
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Georgia (10-3) vs. Michigan State (10-3), Noon (ABC)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Florida (6-6) vs. Ohio State (6-6), Noon (ESPN2)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (11-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Stanford (11-1) vs. Oklahoma State (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Michigan (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
West Virginia (9-3) vs. Clemson (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 6
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington
Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arkansas (10-2), 7 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 7
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 8
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 9
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
LSU (13-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 21
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m., (NFLN)

Saturday, Jan. 28
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

Saturday, Feb. 5
Texas vs. Nation At San Antonio
Texas vs. Nation, 1 p.m. (CBSSN)



Mark Lambie/El Paso Times

Utah tight end Kendrick Moeai (81) dives for a pass in the end zone in front of Georgia Tech defensive back Rod Sweeting on Saturday during the Sun Bowl in El Paso. Utah beat Georgia Tech, 30-27 in overtime.

Cowboys

From 1C

a 21-point fourth-quarter lead against the Eagles — to also go home early.

The Cowboys, who last went to the playoffs in the 2009 season, had another win-and-in game on the road in 2008 against the Eagles and were blown out, 44-6.

"I think it's the same thing," Cowboys Pro Bowl linebacker DeMarcus Ware said of the parallel to 2008. "Going into this game, this is an opportunity where you can sort of get a birth, an opportunity where you can catapult yourself sort of where you need to be, showcase what we actually have. We haven't been the most consistent team this year, but if you get this game and get to the playoffs, that's like rebirth, a rebirth of the team. I think it'd be great to just keep going."

Giants linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka said this is an easy game to get ready to play because the picture is so clear, the teams know each other so well after having played only three weeks ago — and having played each other twice a year for decades.



Sharon Ellman/AP

Dallas' Chauncey Washington, center, races down field followed by Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Trent Cole (58) and Dallas tackle Doug Free (68) on Dec. 24 in Arlington.

"There is only one game we have to focus on and only one game we have to win to get to what our next goal is," Kiwanuka said. "We have one game and one opportunity to continue on our way to accomplishing our goal, which is winning a national title."

The Giants could get a lift on defense with two-time Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora expected to play for the first time since suffering a high ankle sprain late last month.

The Cowboys might be a little fresher because they rested several players after the Giants beat the Jets, with the outcome of their game against the Eagles having no effect on the showdown nature of today's game.

Giants coach Tom Coughlin or Cowboys coach Jason Garrett will be under the microscope if their team fails to make the playoffs.

Coughlin, who hurt his left leg when run into on the sideline by Giants running back D.J. Ware in the fourth quarter last week, might be in a better position after the win over the Jets, a result that had co-owner John Mara signing his praises.

Garrett has seen his team blow fourth-quarter leads of at least 12 points three times this season, and might be in a little more trouble if Jerry Jones' team misses the playoffs a second straight year.

"It's do or die," Dallas linebacker Bradie James said. "We can all sit here. The coaches talk about the Xs and Os, and my job is just to go out there and really, it's just sheer determination. Coach Garrett talks about will. It's heart, determination. We can get in there and talk about execution and what we plan against this guy. They know us, we know them. It's really going to be whoever outlasts the other. That's how you break it down. I like to keep it as simple as possible."

This will be the first time the NFC East winner has less than 10 wins since the division was created in 1970. The lone exception was the strike-shortened 1982 season, when teams played nine games.

Texans

From 1C

started the next two games and then strained his left hamstring. He's been sidelined for the last three games, and he's eager to see some action today, just so he can regain some stamina and timing.

"I'm excited," Johnson said. "I feel like I haven't played football all year. It'll be fun to get back out there and run around a little bit."

Houston also hopes to have defensive coordinator Wade Phillips back calling the plays, but from the press box instead of on the sideline. Phillips, 64, returned to practice this week after undergoing kidney and gall bladder surgery on Dec. 15.

"It's awesome to have him back," rookie outside linebacker Brooks Reed said. "He just has that personality where no matter what goes wrong, he's always calm and I think that is kind of contagious throughout."

The Titans, meanwhile, only have flickering playoff hopes because of a 23-17 victory over Jacksonville last week. They lost to the previously winless Colts on Dec. 18, a setback that now looms large.

And they also remember how the Texans manhandled them on their home field, holding Tennessee to 148 yards and 11 first downs. Quarterback Matt Hasselbeck conceded that the Titans took their divisional rivals too lightly the first time around.

"I think we probably underestimated how good they were physically," Hasselbeck said. "They're one of the premier teams in the NFL this year and it just hasn't been the case sometimes in the past.

"They were fantastic that game we played against them here," he said. "They were making plays all over the field in all phases and they really took it to us. I think that's probably the toughest game we've played this year in terms of just; we were feeling one thing and they really disrupted what our thoughts were and took it to us."

Chris Johnson rushed for only 18 yards in that game, but he's had three 100-yard games since, all Tennessee victories. Johnson needs only 14 yards rushing today to reach 1,000 yards for the fourth consecutive season.

TODAY'S NFL GAMES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS (8-7) AT NEW YORK GIANTS (8-7)
7:20 p.m., NBC

OPENING LINE — Giants by 3
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Dallas 5-9-1; New York 6-8-1.
SERIES RECORD — Cowboys lead 56-41-2
LAST MEETING — Giants beat Cowboys 37-34, Dec. 11
LAST WEEK — Cowboys lost to Eagles 20-7; Giants beat Jets 29-14
COWBOYS OFFENSE — OVERALL (9), RUSH (15), PASS (8)
COWBOYS DEFENSE — OVERALL (14), RUSH (7), PASS (23)
GIANTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (8), RUSH (32), PASS (4)
GIANTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (28), RUSH (22), PASS (27)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Winner takes NFC East title and get conference's No. 4 seed and first-round home game vs. either Atlanta or Detroit. ... Will be first time NFC East winner has less than 10 wins since division created in 1970. The lone exception was strike-shortened 1982 season, when teams played nine games and division champ won eight. ...Cowboys QB Tony Romo, who bruised right hand in last week's loss, needs 105 yards to reach 4,000 for third time in career. He is only Dallas quarterback to throw for that much. ...In last six starts against Giants, he has 112.4 quarterback rating, including five greater than 100. ...RB Felix Jones rushed for 106 yards against New York earlier this month. ...TE Jason Witten needs 127 yards receiving to reach 1,000 for third consecutive season. ...WR Laurent Robinson has nine touchdowns in last nine games. ...LB DeMarcus Ware has 24 sacks in last 18 games and 90 since 2006, most in NFL. ...Sean Lee's four interceptions tied for most among NFL linebackers. ...Giants QB Eli Manning has won four of last five games vs. Dallas. He has franchise-record 4,587 yards passing this season and his 14 fourth-quarter TDs are tied for most in league history. ...Manning passed for 400 yards and rallied New York from 12-point deficit with two TD passes in the final 3:14 on Dec. 11. ...RB Ahmad Bradshaw had two touchdown runs last week. ...RB Brandon Jacobs rushed for 101 yards and two touchdowns in game in Dallas. ...WR Victor Cruz has team-record 1,358 yards receiving this season, and set team-record with 99-yard catch and run vs. Jets last week. ....WR Hakeem Nicks, battling hamstring injury, has 22 catches for 353 yards (117.7 per game) and two touchdowns in last three games vs. Dallas. ...DE Jason Pierre-Paul, fourth in NFL with 15 1/2 sacks, blocked game-tying field goal attempt on final play of last game with Cowboys. ...CB Corey Webster has career-high six interceptions.

TENNESSEE (8-7) AT HOUSTON (10-5)
Noon, CBS

OPENING LINE — Titans by 1 1/2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Tennessee 6-8-1; Houston 9-5-1
SERIES RECORD — Titans lead 13-6
LAST MEETING — Texans beat Titans 41-7, Oct. 23
LAST WEEK — Titans beat Jaguars 23-17; Texans lost to Colts 19-16
TITANS OFFENSE — OVERALL (17), RUSH (31), PASS (12)
TITANS DEFENSE — OVERALL (17), RUSH (24), PASS (16)
TEXANS OFFENSE — OVERALL (11), RUSH (2), PASS (19)
TEXANS DEFENSE — OVERALL (2), RUSH (4), PASS (2t)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Titans seeking 400th victory in franchise history. ... Titans can earn first winning record since 2008 (13-3). ... K Rob Bironas set NFL record last week by kicking field goal of 40 yards or longer in ninth consecutive game. ... RB Chris Johnson needs 14 yards rushing to reach 1,000 for fourth straight season. Johnson would be third player in team history to accomplish feat, joining Eddie George (1996-2000) and Earl Campbell (1978-81). ... Titans not flagged in victory over Jacksonville last week, their first game without a penalty since 1972. ... Tennessee has allowed 21 sacks, tied with Buffalo for league's fewest. ... QB Matt Hasselbeck has 16 touchdown passes, most by Tennessee quarterback since Steve McNair threw 16 in 2005. ... Texans defensive coordinator Wade Phillips expects to work from press box after missing two games following kidney and gall bladder surgery. ... WR Andre Johnson expected to see limited action after missing three games with left hamstring strain. ... Texans seeking first season sweep of Titans since 2004. ... Texans 5-0 in regular-season finales under Gary Kubiak. ... RBs Arian Foster topped 100 yards rushing and receiving in first meeting. Foster has rushed for over 100 yards in Houston's last two season finales. ... OLB Connor Barwin has 11 1/2 sacks and needs three more to set franchise single-season record. Mario Williams had 14 sacks in 2007. ... CB Johnathan Joseph, named to first Pro Bowl this week, has four interceptions this season, all on road. ... LB Brian Cushing has led team in tackles in 11 of 15 games. ... Rookie QB T.J. Yates makes fifth career start. ... Game will be No. 100 for Texans at Reliant Stadium.

CHICAGO (7-8) AT MINNESOTA (3-12)
Noon

OPENING LINE — Bears by 1
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Chicago 7-8; Minnesota 6-8-1
SERIES RECORD — Vikings lead 52-47-2
LAST MEETING — Bears beat Vikings 39-10, Oct. 16
LAST WEEK — Bears lost to Packers 35-21; Vikings beat Redskins 33-26
BEARS OFFENSE — OVERALL (20), RUSH (8), PASS (26)
BEARS DEFENSE — OVERALL (18), RUSH (6), PASS (28)
VIKINGS OFFENSE — OVERALL (18), RUSH (4), PASS (28)
VIKINGS DEFENSE — OVERALL (25), RUSH (12), PASS (29)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Bears have won four straight in series, their longest since six in a row from 1983-86 and longest overall in this rivalry since Vikings won four straight over 1997 and 1998 seasons. ... Bears have only won at Metrodome once since 2002, 19-16 in 2006. These teams didn't play at site, now known as Mall of America Field, last season because of roof collapse that forced game outside to TCF Bank Stadium on University of Minnesota campus. ... Home team has won 16 of last 19 meetings. ... Bears averaging 35.5 points in last four games against Vikings. ... In 10 games against Vikings, WR/KR/PR Devin Hester has nine of his 30 career TDs, five receiving and four returning. He scored twice in last meeting. ... RB Kahlil Bell, filling in for injured Matt Forte (sprained right knee), had career-high 121 yards rushing last week. Vikings have given up 302 yards rushing in last two games.

CAROLINA (6-9) AT NEW ORLEANS (12-3)
Noon

OPENING LINE — Saints by 9
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Carolina 9-5-1; New Orleans 11-4
SERIES RECORD — Panthers lead 17-16
LAST MEETING — Saints beat Panthers 30-27, Oct. 9
LAST WEEK — Saints beat Falcons 45-16; Panthers beat Buccaneers 48-16
PANTHERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (4), RUSH (3), PASS (11)
PANTHERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (22), RUSH (21), PASS (21)
SAINTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (1), RUSH (9), PASS (1)
SAINTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (26), RUSH (10), PASS (30)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Panthers have won four of five games. .. Panthers QB Cam Newton has 34 total TDs (20 passing, 14 rushing), most by rookie in NFL history. ... Newton's 14 TDs rushing are most in a season by a QB. ... Newton has 3,893 yards passing, a record for a rookie. ... In last meeting, Newton had two TD's passing and one rushing. ... Newton has both passed and run for TD in eight games, tied for most in a season in NFL history. ... Panthers WR Steve Smith ranks third in NFC with 1,308 yards receiving and needs 92 yards to reach 1,400 for third time. ... Smith leads NFL with 27 catches of 20 or more yards. ... Smith had 54-yard TD in last meeting. .. WR Brandon LaFell had career-long 91-yard TD catch last week and finished with 103 yards, his first career 100-yard game. ... Saints QB Drew Brees has NFL single-season record 5,087 yards passing and enters season finale 190 yards ahead of New England's Tom Brady.

DETROIT (10-5) AT GREEN BAY (14-1)
Noon, Fox

OPENING LINE — Lions by 3
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Detroit 7-6-2; Green Bay 10-5
SERIES RECORD — Packers lead 92-65-7
LAST MEETING — Packers beat Lions 27-15, Nov. 24
LAST WEEK — Lions beat Chargers 38-10; Packers beat Bears 35-21
LIONS OFFENSE — OVERALL (7), RUSH (29), PASS (5)
LIONS DEFENSE — OVERALL (20), RUSH (26), PASS (14)
PACKERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (5), RUSH (27), PASS (3)
PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (31), RUSH (16), PASS (31)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Packers have clinched home-field advantage in NFC. ... Packers QB Aaron Rodgers threw for 307 yards and two TDs in Thanksgiving Day victory at Detroit. Packers scored 17 straight points in third quarter to break game open. ... Lions DT Ndamukong Suh ejected from that game, then suspended two games, after stomping Packers OL Evan Dietrich-Smith. ... Lions have clinched first playoff berth since 1999 and will try to secure No. 5 seed. ... Detroit has won four games after trailing by 13-plus points, most in NFL history. ... Lions QB Matthew Stafford has passed for 4,518 yards and team-record 36 TDs, becoming second-youngest QB in NFL history to pass for 4,000-plus yards and 30-plus TDs in season, after Dan Marino. ... RB Kevin Smith had touchdowns rushing and receiving last week. ... WR Calvin Johnson leads NFC with 1,437 yards and 15 touchdowns receiving. Since start of 2008 season, Johnson has 44 TD catches, most in NFL. ... TE Brandon Pettigrew has 76 catches, most by TE in team history.

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
East											
x-New England	12	3	0	.800	464	321	6-1-0	6-2-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	360	344	6-2-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	351	385	5-3-0	1-6-0	4-7-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
Miami	5	10	0	.333	310	296	3-4-0	2-6-0	4-7-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
South											
y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-3-0	5-2-0	8-3-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-3-0	3-4-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	[illegible]	316	3-4-0	1-7-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230	411	2-6-0	0-7-0	2-9-0	0-4-0	2-3-0
North											
x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	354	250	8-0-0	3-4-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	5-0-0
x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	312	218	7-1-0	4-3-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	3-2-0
Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	328	299	4-3-0	5-3-0	6-5-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	209	294	3-4-0	1-7-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	0-5-0
West											
Denver	8	7	0	.533	306	383	3-4-0	5-3-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Oakland	8	7	0	.533	333	395	3-4-0	5-3-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
San Diego	7	8	0	.467	368	351	5-3-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Kansas City	6	9	0	.400	205	335	3-5-0	3-4-0	3-8-0	3-1-0	2-3-0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
East											
N.Y. Giants	8	7	0	.533	363	386	3-4-0	5-3-0	4-7-0	4-0-0	2-3-0
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	355	316	5-3-0	3-4-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Philadelphia	7	8	0	.467	362	318	2-5-0	5-3-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Washington	5	10	0	.333	278	333	2-6-0	3-4-0	5-6-0	0-4-0	2-3-0
South											
y-New Orleans	12	3	0	.800	502	322	7-0-0	5-3-0	8-3-0	4-0-0	4-1-0
x-Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	357	326	5-2-0	4-4-0	6-5-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Carolina	6	9	0	.400	389	384	3-5-0	3-4-0	3-8-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	263	449	3-5-0	1-6-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
North											
y-Green Bay	14	1	0	.933	515	318	7-0-0	7-1-0	11-0-0	3-1-0	5-0-0
x-Detroit	10	5	0	.667	433	342	5-3-0	5-2-0	6-5-0	4-0-0	3-2-0
Chicago	7	8	0	.467	336	328	5-3-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Minnesota	3	12	0	.200	327	432	1-6-0	2-6-0	3-8-0	0-4-0	0-5-0
West											
y-San Francisco	12	3	0	.800	346	202	7-1-0	5-2-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Seattle	7	8	0	.467	301	292	4-4-0	3-4-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	289	328	5-2-0	2-6-0	6-5-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
St. Louis	2	13	0	.133	166	373	1-6-0	1-7-0	1-10-0	1-3-0	0-5-0

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday, Dec. 22
Indianapolis 19, Houston 16
Saturday, Dec. 24
Oakland 16, Kansas City 13, OT
Tennessee 23, Jacksonville 17
Pittsburgh 27, St. Louis 0
Buffalo 40, Denver 14
Carolina 48, Tampa Bay 16
Minnesota 33, Washington 26
Baltimore 20, Cleveland 14
New England 27, Miami 24
N.Y. Giants 29, N.Y. Jets 14
Cincinnati 23, Arizona 16
Detroit 38, San Diego 10
San Francisco 19, Seattle 17
Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7
Sunday's Score
Green Bay 35, Chicago 21
Monday's Score
New Orleans 45, Atlanta 16

Today's Games
Chicago at Minnesota, Noon
Carolina at New Orleans, Noon
Detroit at Green Bay, Noon
San Francisco at St. Louis, Noon
Tennessee at Houston, Noon
Buffalo at New England, Noon
N.Y. Jets at Miami, Noon
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, Noon
Washington at Philadelphia, Noon
San Diego at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 3:15 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 3:15 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 3:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 3:15 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 7:30 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO (12-3) AT ST. LOUIS (2-13)
Noon

OPENING LINE — 49ers by 10 1/2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — San Francisco 11-3-1; St. Louis 2-12-1
SERIES RECORD — Tied 61-61-2
LAST MEETING — 49ers beat Rams 26-0, Dec. 4
LAST WEEK — 49ers beat Seahawks 19-17; Rams lost to Steelers 27-0
49ERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (26), RUSH (7), PASS (29)
49ERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (4), RUSH (1), PASS (17)
RAMS OFFENSE — OVERALL (31), RUSH (23), PASS (30)
RAMS DEFENSE — OVERALL (21), RUSH (32), PASS (6)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — 49ers have won six of seven in series, two by shutout. ... Rams coach Steve Spagnuolo 10-37 winding up third season with one year to go on contract. If Rams lose and Colts win, St. Louis will get No. 1 pick for second time in three seasons. ... Mike Singletary was fired after last season's loss at St. Louis, leading to 49ers' high-profile Jim Harbaugh hire for $25 million over five years. If Harbaugh wins finale, 13-win season would be one shy of George Seifert's franchise record rookie year of 14-2 in 1989.

BUFFALO (6-9) AT NEW ENGLAND (12-3)
Noon

OPENING LINE — Patriots by 11 1/2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Buffalo 7-7-1; New England 8-7
SERIES RECORD — Patriots lead 61-41-1
LAST MEETING — Bills beat Patriots 34-31, Sept. 25
LAST WEEK — Bills beat Broncos 40-14; Patriots beat Dolphins 27-24
BILLS OFFENSE — OVERALL (14), RUSH (11), PASS (15)
BILLS DEFENSE — OVERALL (24), RUSH (28), PASS (15)
PATRIOTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (2), RUSH (19), PASS (2)
PATRIOTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (32), RUSH (17), PASS (32)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — In first meeting in Week 3, Tom Brady threw four interceptions and Bills won on last play on Rian Lindell's 28-yard field goal. That broke Patriots 15-game winning streak over Bills. ... Patriots lead AFC with plus-14 turnover differential. Bills third at plus-4. ... Bills snapped seven-game losing streak in last game, in which they returned a punt, an interception and a fumble for touchdowns. ... C.J. Spiller rushed for 111 yards against Denver, first 100-yard rushing performance of his two-year career. He's rushed for three touchdowns in his last four games. ... Ryan Fitzpatrick needs three scoring passes to tie Joe Ferguson and Jim Kelly for third most in one season in team history with 25. ... Bills guaranteed seventh straight losing season, dating to 9-7 finish in 2004. ... Buffalo's defense improved in last two games with three interceptions, four fumble recoveries and six sacks. In previous six games, it totaled two interceptions, three fumble recoveries and five sacks. ... Patriots would clinch home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs with win or tie. If they lose, they can clinch if Baltimore and Pittsburgh lose or tie. ... Brady needs 103 yards passing to reach 5,000 for season and has chance to pass Drew Brees for NFL record.

NEW YORK JETS (8-7) AT MIAMI (5-10)
Noon

OPENING LINE — Dolphins by 2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Miami 9-6; New York 6-9
SERIES RECORD — Jets lead 46-43-1
LAST MEETING — Jets beat Dolphins 24-6, Oct. 17
LAST WEEK — Dolphins lost at Patriots, 27-24; Jets lost at Giants, 29-14
DOLPHINS OFFENSE — OVERALL (19), RUSH (10), PASS (22)
DOLPHINS DEFENSE — OVERALL (16), RUSH (3), PASS (26)
JETS OFFENSE — OVERALL (27), RUSH (22), PASS (21)
JETS DEFENSE — OVERALL (7), RUSH (15), PASS (5)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Mark Sanchez 2-3 against Dolphins, but has thrown seven touchdown passes and one interception in those games. ... Jason Taylor, who plans to retire after season, has 16 1/2 sacks, three interceptions, three forced fumbles and three fumbles recovered against Jets. He has faced them 25 times. ... LaDainian Tomlinson has scored only two of his 145 touchdowns against Miami. ... Victory would allow Jets to finish with winning record for fourth consecutive season, a franchise record. ... Shonn Greene needs 1 yard rushing for first 1,000-yard season. ... Jets have scored TDs on 67 percent of red-zone chances, best in NFL.

INDIANAPOLIS (2-13) AT JACKSONVILLE (4-11)
Noon

OPENING LINE — Jaguars by 5
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Indianapolis 6-9; Jacksonville 5-9-1
SERIES RECORD — Colts lead 15-6
LAST MEETING — Jaguars beat Colts 17-3, Nov. 13
LAST WEEK — Colts beat Texans 19-16; Jaguars lost to Titans 23-17
COLTS OFFENSE — OVERALL (30), RUSH (24), PASS (27)
COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (27), RUSH (29), PASS (22)
JAGUARS OFFENSE — OVERALL (32), RUSH (13), PASS (32)
JAGUARS DEFENSE — OVERALL (5), RUSH (11), PASS (7)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — After seemingly having No. 1 pick in the 2012 draft wrapped up earlier this month, victory in Jacksonville could land the Colts the No. 2 spot and diminish chances of drafting Stanford QB Andrew Luck. It's been the talk this week: Should Colts rest starters and lose on purpose? Should Jaguars, who have had little success against Peyton Manning, tank in hopes of keeping Indy out of top draft spot? "It's just talk," Jaguars RB Maurice Jones-Drew said. "When I was in college (at UCLA), Stanford wasn't all that anyways, so I don't know what all the hype is. You know what I mean? I'm just saying." ... Colts have won two in row, both at home and with QB Dan Orlovsky starting. Orlovsky threw for 326 yards, with two touchdowns and no interceptions in wins against AFC South opponents Tennessee and Houston.

WASHINGTON (5-10) AT PHILADELPHIA (7-8)
Noon

OPENING LINE — Eagles by 9
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Washington 7-8; Philadelphia 7-8
SERIES RECORD — Redskins lead 80-68-5
LAST MEETING — Eagles beat Redskins 20-13, Oct. 16
LAST WEEK — Redskins lost to Vikings 33-26; Eagles beat Cowboys 20-7
REDSKINS OFFENSE — OVERALL (16) RUSH (26), PASS (14)
REDSKINS DEFENSE — OVERALL (13), RUSH (19) PASS (11)
EAGLES OFFENSE — OVERALL (3), RUSH (5), PASS (10)
EAGLES DEFENSE — OVERALL (8), RUSH (14), PASS (8)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Eagles will finish 5-1 against NFC East with victory. ... In last three games, Eagles have held opponents to 36 points, 683 total net yards, 12 for 45 (26.7 percent) on third downs and 1 for 6 on fourth downs. Their 16 sacks are their highest three-game total since also posting 16 in first three games of 2006 season. ... Rookie K Alex Henery has connected on 14 consecutive field-goal attempts, which is fifth-longest streak in team history. Henery is 22 for 25 this season (88 percent), which is second-highest percentage in team history behind David Akers' 88.2 percent (30 for 34) in 2002.

SAN DIEGO (7-8) AT OAKLAND (8-7)
3:15 p.m.

OPENING LINE — Raiders by 3
RECORD VS. SPREAD — San Diego 5-10; Oakland 8-5-2
SERIES RECORD — Raiders lead 58-44-2
LAST MEETING — Raiders beat Chargers 24-17, Nov. 10
LAST WEEK — Chargers lost to Lions 38-10; Raiders beat Chiefs 16-13 OT
CHARGERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (6), RUSH (17), PASS (6)
CHARGERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (11), RUSH (20), PASS (10)
RAIDERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (13), RUSH (6), PASS (13)
RAIDERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH (27), PASS (25)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Raiders have won last three meetings between AFC West rivals after losing previous 13. ... Oakland can win division with win and Denver loss or make wild-card with win, Cincinnati loss and either Tennessee loss or Jets win. ... San Diego trying to avoid first losing season since 2003. ... QB Philip Rivers needs 186 yards passing to become fifth player with back-to-back 4,500-yard seasons. ... Chargers have allowed opponents to convert 48.4 percent of third downs, worst rate in the league. ... Raiders have won 10 of 12 division games but 0-2 at home against AFC West teams this season. ... QB Carson Palmer has completed 71.5 percent of passes for 1,322 yards, 11 TDs and two INTs for 129.5 passer rating in four starts vs. Chargers.

KANSAS CITY (6-9) AT DENVER (8-7)
3:15 p.m. CBS

OPENING LINE — Broncos by 3
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Kansas City 8-7; Denver 7-8
SERIES RECORD — Chiefs lead 55-48
LAST MEETING — Broncos won 17-10, Nov. 13
LAST WEEK — Chiefs lost to Raiders 16-13 OT; Broncos lost to Bills 40-14
CHIEFS OFFENSE — OVERALL (25), RUSH (12), PASS (25)
CHIEFS DEFENSE — OVERALL (15), RUSH (20), PASS (9)
BRONCOS OFFENSE — OVERALL (23), RUSH (1), PASS (31)
BRONCOS DEFENSE — OVERALL (23), RUSH (25), PASS (20)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Romeo Crennel 0-2 lifetime against Denver and John Fox 3-0 in his career against Kansas City. ... Last time teams met in Denver, on Nov. 14, 2010, Kyle Orton threw career-high four TDs against Chiefs and Tim Tebow also threw first career TD pass. ... Orton started 33 games with Broncos before release Nov. 22, passing for 8,263 yards with 49 TDs, 27 INTs and 86.4 passer rating. In two starts with KC, Orton averaging 299.5 yards passing. ... Chiefs RB Dexter McCluster had career-high 89 yards receiving last week. ... Dwayne Bowe (1,066) has topped 1,000 yards receiving for third time. ... LB Tamba Hali needs two sacks to join Neil Smith and Derrick Thomas as only Chiefs to register 14 sacks in two seasons. ... With win, Broncos reach playoffs for first time since '05. ... Tebow 7-3 as starter in '11 with 16 TDs. In two career games vs. Chiefs, Tebow has two TD passes, no INTs and passer rating of 102.8 with two TD runs. ... Broncos averaging NFL-best 161.1 yards on ground.

SEATTLE (7-8) AT ARIZONA (7-8)
3:15 p.m.

OPENING LINE — Cardinals by 3
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Seattle 10-4-1; Arizona 7-7-1
SERIES RECORD — Cardinals lead 13-12
LAST MEETING — Seahawks beat Cardinals 13-10, Sept. 25
LAST WEEK — 49ers beat Seahawks 19-17, Bengals beat Cardinals 23-16
SEAHAWKS OFFENSE — OVERALL (28), RUSH (21), PASS (24)
SEAHAWKS DEFENSE — OVERALL (9), RUSH (13), PASS (13)
CARDINALS OFFENSE — OVERALL (23), RUSH (25), PASS (17)
CARDINALS DEFENSE — OVERALL (19), RUSH (18), PASS (18)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Seattle has beaten Arizona three times in a row. ... Last year Seahawks won at Arizona for first time in five tries. ... Seahawks have allowed 10 touchdowns in second half, second-fewest in NFL. ... RB Marshawn Lynch has scored TDs in last 11 games, a franchise record. ... With victory, Seattle would have its best regular-season record (8-8) since 2007. ... Seahawks have rushed for 100 yards or more in seven of last eight games.

TAMPA BAY (4-11) AT ATLANTA (9-6)
3:15 p.m., Fox

OPENING LINE — Falcons by 10 1/2
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Atlanta 7-7-1; Tampa Bay 4-11
SERIES RECORD — Buccaneers lead 19-17
LAST MEETING — Buccaneers beat Falcons 6-13, Sept. 25
LAST WEEK — Falcons lost to Saints 45-16; Buccaneers lost to Panthers 48-16
BUCS OFFENSE — OVERALL (21), RUSH (30), PASS (16)
BUCS DEFENSE — OVERALL (30), RUSH (21), PASS (24)
FALCONS OFFENSE — OVERALL (10), RUSH (20), PASS (7)
FALCONS DEFENSE — OVERALL (12), RUSH (8), PASS (19)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Falcons 25-6 at Georgia Dome since Mike Smith hired as coach in 2008. Only New England and Baltimore have won more home games during that stretch. ... Atlanta in playoffs two straight years for first time in franchise history. ... Tampa Bay will attempt to sweep Falcons for fourth time since NFC South created in 2002. ... Bucs victory in September snapped five-game series losing streak. ... Tampa Bay has lost nine straight overall. ... Josh Freeman needs 82 yards passing to become first Tampa Bay QB with consecutive 3,400-yard seasons. He is 1-4 against Falcons with 56.8 passer rating that includes pair of interceptions in Week 3.

BALTIMORE (11-4) AT CINCINNATI (9-6)
3:15 p.m.

OPENING LINE — Ravens by 3
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Baltimore 7-7-1; Cincinnati 8-5-2
SERIES RECORD — Ravens lead 17-14
LAST MEETING — Ravens beat Bengals 31-24, Nov. 20
LAST WEEK — Ravens beat Browns 20-14; Bengals beat Cardinals 23-16
RAVENS OFFENSE — OVERALL (15), RUSH (14), PASS (18)
RAVENS DEFENSE — OVERALL (3), RUSH (2), PASS (4)
BENGALS OFFENSE — OVERALL (24), RUSH (18), PASS (20)
BENGALS DEFENSE — OVERALL (6), RUSH (5), PASS (12)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — With win, Ravens can clinch third AFC North title (2003, 2006) and go 6-0 in division for first time. ... Bengals can clinch wild card and third playoff appearance in last 21 years with win. ... Ravens have lost five of last six in Cincinnati. Overall this season, they went 8-0 at home and 3-4 on road. ... A win would give Ravens 12 regular season victories for second straight season and third time in club history. ... Baltimore has 47 sacks, most in AFC. Cincinnati has 44, four short of club record. ... Joe Flacco can set club record with ninth career 300-yard passing game, moving one ahead of Vinny Testaverde. Flacco also would tie club's single-season record of five. He has thrown a career-high 523 passes this season, 27 shy of Testaverde's club record from 1996. ... RB Ray Rice leads NFL with 1,869 yards from scrimmage.

PITTSBURGH (11-4) At CLEVELAND (4-11)
3:15 p.m.

OPENING LINE — Off
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Pittsburgh 7-8; Cleveland 6-8-1
SERIES RECORD — Pittsburgh leads 63-56
LAST MEETING — Steelers beat Browns 14-3, Dec. 8
LAST WEEK — Steelers beat Rams 27-0; Browns lost to Ravens 20-14
STEELERS OFFENSE — OVERALL (11), RUSH (16), PASS (9)
STEELERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (1), RUSH (9), PASS (1)
BROWNS OFFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH (28), PASS (23)
BROWNS DEFENSE — OVERALL (10), RUSH (30), PASS (2T)
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — AFC North rivals meet with much on line for Steelers. ... Steelers can win division title for fourth time in five years with win and Baltimore loss at Cincinnati. ... Steelers can clinch home-field advantage throughout playoffs with win and losses by Ravens and New England Patriots. ... Steelers have won 15 of last 16 vs. Browns. ... Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger may not play because of high ankle sprain suffered on sack against Browns three weeks ago. ... Backup QB Charlie Batch will start if Roethlisberger's not ready. ... Steelers coach Mike Tomlin is 8-1 vs. Browns. ... Steelers RB Rashard Mendenhall needs 110 yards rushing for third straight 1,000-yard season. ... Steelers WR Hines Ward needs five receptions to become eighth player in NFL history with 1,000 career catches.

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bmwpermianbasin.com

RVs

2010 5TH WHEEL, 37' 3 slides, W/D, many extras, $26,000, 817-875-0374.

2011 TRAVEL Trailer, Luxury By Design, located in Big Spring, 38 ft. self-contained, double slideout, 2 A/C's, washer, dryer, immaculate, $26,500. Call 281-924-7125

FLEETWOOD 2007 Excursion 39V. 2 slides, 350 diesel, 20k miles, $128,000. Call 432-686-7949.

IF YOU want a well maintained, smoke-free, pet free, Class A, top of the line motor home, this 1994 38FT Holiday Rambler Navigator could be it. 190K miles, $35,000. Call 432-553-7004.

ROCKWOOD 2002 1540 LTD Pop-up Camper, great condition, heated bed covers, fridge, sleeps six, $3000, 432-352-1126, leave message before 5:00p.

SANDPIPER 2011 5th Wheel, 39ft. Fiberglass, 3 slideouts, 2 A/C'S, Washer/Dryer, Perfect condition, must see! $36,500 call 956-239-1647

YAMAHA 2009 R6. Black/Gold!! Only 655 miles!! $5,500. (432) 631-1214.

Auto Services and Parts

4 WHEELS WITH excellent BFG, A/T, 265/70/17 tires, $1250 OBO, 432-697-5119.

BUYING/Hauling Off Junk Or Unwanted Vehicles. Dependable Junk Removal. 432-352-5031

What's Read!
Classifieds are.
Studies show that more readers turn to Classifieds everyday than almost any other section of the newspaper.
Call Classifieds Today!
432-682-6222

Pickup Trucks

FORD 2008 F-250, super duty, crew cab, power stroke V-8 diesel, tow package, power seats, power tow mirrors, power windows, audiophile AM-FM, CD, Sirius, premium stereo package, Pueblo gold metalic with tan interior, 53K miles, some warranty remaining, Yokohama new tires & factory alloy wheels, still smells & looks new! **NADA $32,900 give away price $27,900.** Call 432-258-6250

Attention Readers
In Observance Of
New Year's

The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, January 2, 2012

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 30th	Thur., Dec. 29th, 3 PM
Sat., Dec. 31st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st	Fri., Dec. 30th, 12 PM
Mon., Jan. 2nd	Fri., Dec. 30th, 3 PM
Tues., Jan. 3rd	Fri., Dec. 30th, 5 PM

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 30th	Wed., Dec. 28th, 3 PM
Sat., Dec. 31st	Wed., Dec. 28th, 5 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 12 PM
Mon., Jan. 2nd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 3 PM
Tues., Jan. 3rd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Fri., Dec. 30th	Wed., Dec. 28th, 5 PM
Sat., Dec. 31st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 12 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st	Thur., Dec. 29th, 3 PM
Sun., Jan. 1st, (Off Report/Lifestyles, Arts & Entertainment)	Tues., Dec. 27th, 5 PM
Mon., Jan. 2nd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM
Tues., Jan. 3rd	Thur., Dec. 29th, 5 PM

Circulation Hours

Customer Service calls will be taken Saturday, December 31st and Monday, January 2nd from 7 AM-11 AM only.

We will re-open Tuesday, January 3rd for regular business hours.

Sudoku Is Brought To You Daily By:

BASIN Foundation Repair
Midland, TX 79702
432-210-1126
Serving The Permian Basin
BBB
REALTOR
• Concrete Slab/Pier & Beam Foundation Repair
• Window & Door Caulking
• Drainage Sytems
• Cosmetic Brick & Mortar, Matching & Repair
FREE Evaluations & Lifetime Transferable Warranty!

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 **3** 4

	4				2	6		
7	5				1		2	
					8		4	
		9					6	
	3	2				8		
	1		9				3	
	9		7				8	2
		3	4			9	7	

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 LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

3	4	5	9	2	8	7	1	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	4	2	8
8	7	2	1	4	6	3	9	5
7	3	6	4	8	9	1	5	2
1	8	4	7	5	2	6	3	9
2	5	9	3	6	1	8	7	4
4	9	3	8	1	5	2	6	7
6	1	7	2	9	4	5	8	3
5	2	8	6	7	3	9	4	1

1/1/12

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Driving Sales

When it comes to cars, nothing has more horsepower than newspaper advertising to ignite consumers. Auto shoppers absorb a great deal of information from a cornucopia of sources but rely on newspapers to help them make a sound choice.



#1: National dealership entry and exit polls conducted by CNW Research asked consumers for the reason for visiting a dealership on a particular day. Newspaper (print and online) was the number one reason. At 56.8%, more consumers cite newspapers than all other media combined.

Primary: Local newspaper advertising (print and online) is The Primary Source of information for consumers during the critical last stages of the decision making process. 16.59% rely on newspaper advertising as the main source during the last two weeks before buying. More than any other information source.

Pricing information: 96% of new car buyers agree that newspapers are most helpful as a source for pricing information.

Where to buy: 97% of new car buyers agree that newspapers are most helpful as a source of information on where to buy.

Local selection: 97% of new car buyers agree that newspapers are most helpful as a source of information on local selections.

61% of used car buyers selected newspapers (print and online) as their primary information source, more than all other media combined.

3/4 of all U.S. Adults read a newspaper, print or online in the past week.170 million adults rely on newspapers.

CNW Research 2009 and Scarborough Research 2008

Newspaper advertising.
A destination, not a distraction.

www.newspapermedia.com

Newspaper Association of America 4401 Wilson Blvd., Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22203 571.366.1000

NETWORKING

WHAT WOULD DALE DO?

By PATRICIA RIVERA
CTW Features



Dale Carnegie, who rocketed to fame with his 1936 book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People," preached a gospel of self-confidence, positive thinking and effective communication as a means to achieve personal and business success.

While he died long before the dawn of the Internet, Carnegie no doubt would have been an enthusiastic online networker, using the power of social media to broaden his influence far beyond face-to-face encounters.

The principles established in Carnegie's blockbuster book haven't changed, says Michael Crom, executive vice-president of Dale Carnegie Training. "We're using other media to communicate."

That's the thinking behind an update of the classic self-help tome. "How to Win Friends and Influence People in the Digital Age" (Simon & Schuster, 2011) offers suggestion on how to make a lasting impression in the virtual world.

Now, more than ever, we have access to resources that can help us learn more about each other. Carnegie always talked about taking an interest in others. Social networking tools such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn allow us the opportunity to express an interest for those we don't see face to face.

Other tips on making a lasting impression:

• Smile. Research shows that people who smile more often have more friends and they're more central to social networks, Crom says. "Likewise, if you smile, you are less likely to be on the periphery of the online world," he adds.

You should also smile as you communicate virtually. Do that simply by beginning and ending a message on a positive note.

> Carnegie no doubt would have been an enthusiastic online networker.

You can even "smile" through emoticons with the smiling face symbols that can be inserted in the body of emails or texts. Although these may not be appropriate in formal memos and letters, they do lighten informal conversations, Crom says.

• Listen longer. We're so busy nowadays that we listen much less than before. That's why Crom says it's crucial to develop the patience needed to become better listeners.

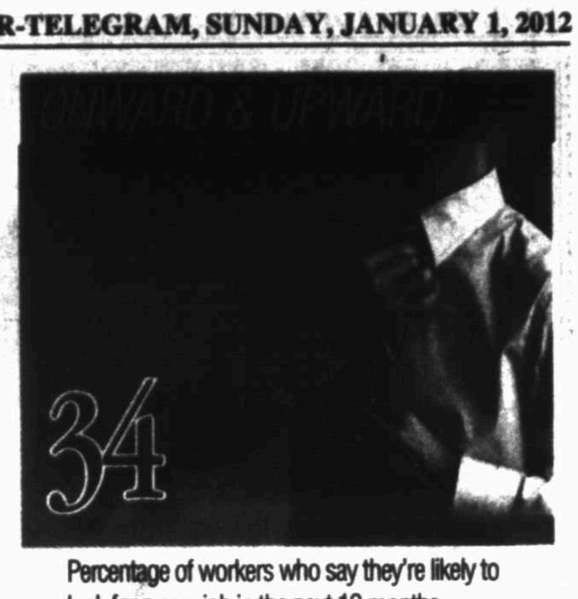
Disconnect from electronics and listen longer to those around you. Ask questions. Take an interest. Likewise, on Facebook and Twitter, read others' posts and messages with more attention and make comments on others' postings.

• Discuss what matters to others. Don't focus so much on how many people you are connected to; worry instead about what you are doing to value and honor them. "In an age when the mass of messages multiplies daily, only a small number really matter," the new Carnegie book advises. "To influence others, make sure yours are among them."

© CTW Features

JOB WEEK

MYWESTTEXAS.COM/JOBS



Percentage of workers who say they're likely to look for a new job in the next 12 months.

Source: Randstad survey of 1,219 employed adults in Oct. 2011

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 01, 2012 | CONTACT: (432) 682-5311



By PATRICIA RIVERA | CTW Features

Your company may be downsizing but that doesn't mean you should kiss your chances of getting a raise goodbye.

Experts say employees who are performing well should make sure they are being taken care of, even in bad times.

"If your company has downsized and you're still left standing, that means that they value you," says Jack Chapman, a salary negotiation expert in Wilmette, Ill., and author of "Negotiating Your Salary: How To Make $1,000 a Minute." (7th edition, Mount Vernon Press, 2011). Don't confuse yourself with the statistics and don't limit your potential by what you hear in the news.

"You shouldn't be scared to ask for more, particularly if you are being asked to do more," he says.

Timing may also be on your side in another regard. LinkedIn, the professional networking site, reported earlier this year that January is one of the top three months to get promoted within a company (followed by June and July). So this is the time to do the legwork. You may have to work on it a little longer than expected, but if you're determined to receive a raise, take note of how to prepare to ask for one.

"Even if you don't get what you want now, if you've made some solid arguments, it will be hard to leave you out of the next round of increases," says Nicole Williams, a career coach in New York and author of "Earn What You're Worth" (Penguin, 2005).

Here are some do's and don'ts for how to get ready:

• Don't make emotional pleas. Chapman advises against using personal circumstances – such as needing extra income to cover medical bills for an ailing child – to ask for a raise. You can't be self-centered, he says. Pity is not the emotion you want to evoke.

• Do prepare your case. Give yourself one to two months of preparation time to build your case. Chapman suggests that you always keep a job journal and document accomplishments: "Keep a journal or notes of things you've done well, and show them the evidence with a one-page memo of highlights." If you don't have one, think about your successes at work in the last six months to one year.

• Don't wait for your annual evaluation. Ask and develop a plan of attack to eliminate weaknesses early in the game. "Get training, rehearse, read books – do whatever it takes to get better at the skills you're lacking," Williams says. Chapman suggests that to avoid bad evaluations, which could negate the possibility of getting a raise, you should make a list of your job description and your top five to 10 duties. Then score yourself on how well you are accomplishing each task. Ask your supervisor to do the same and then compare notes.

• Don't forget other incentives. You may find it easier to ask for benefits such as additional vacation time rather than more money. Says Williams: "If these perks appeal to you, give them that option."

• Do prepare on an ongoing basis for promotions. You might have to do some extra work but it will get you noticed. Williams suggests being proactive. "If you're unsure where to start, ask your boss what areas of the company she'd like to improve upon. Then come up with a plan of attack and pitch it to her," she says. Every time someone new depends on you, your "irreplaceability factor" increases, she adds. Also continue to develop yourself by learning new skills. There is no better way to "raise your value and up your chances of a raise," she says.

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BOTTOM LINE

HOW TO NOT TALK MONEY

In a job interview, the color of money is not green, but invisible – at least when it comes to salary.



At a certain stage, the subject of earnings will come up. However, before a job offer is on the table, a candidate should "never, ever disclose to the interviewer what you are looking to earn," even if asked directly, says Scott J. Foley, principal of financial contracting for the staffing firm Winter Wyman, headquartered in Waltham, Mass.

"You don't want to leave money on the table by throwing out a number that is potentially lower than what the employer is thinking of offering, and you don't want to eliminate yourself as a candidate by asking for a higher salary that is more than the employer was considering," he advises.

Sit tight and see what the employer offers for the entire benefits package, including health care coverage and perks like working from home, since this may influence what you're willing to accept as take-home pay.

In the meantime, Foley advises, tell an insistent interviewer that you need to consider the entire package and that you're confident that the company will make a fair offer if you are indeed the candidate of choice. – *Dawn Klingensmith*

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Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & PUBLISHING

Promotion Manager
KPEJ TV FT
KPEJ TV (FOX WEST TEXAS) has a hire opening for a talented Promotion Manager. If you consider yourself an expert with Adobe Photoshop, After Effects and Final Cut Pro, then we are looking for you. This position will create and edit promotional and commercial production spots for KPEJ-TV, as well as maintaining creative on our website and digital display. We are looking for that individual who thinks big and has a keen eye for creating spots and promotional campaigns that will make a splash, both on air and online. If you are that person, please send your resume to Kyle King, kking@kpejtv.com No phone calls please. KPEJ TV is an equal opportunity employer.

AUTOMOTIVE

SALES REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Experience in used car sales required

Industry Top Pay!
Great Benefits!

All American Chevrolet

Contact LaDonna or Cleve for an interview at
432-694-9601

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Assistant & Processors
Select Energy Services FT
Looking for a career, not just a job! Join our fast-growing company. We have current openings for an administrative assistant and processors. Must be detail-oriented, able to multi-task, proficient in Microsoft Office (qualified candidates will be tested), and effective communicators. Please submit resumes to mcaideron@selectenergyservices.com.

Administrative Assistant
Secorp Industries FT
Oilfield Service Company located in Odessa, TX. has an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant. Duties include: answering telephone, processing new employees, invoicing, purchase orders and payroll. Proficient in use of Microsoft Office. Mail or fax resume and salary requirements to: PO Box 53912, Lafayette, LA 70505-3912 Phone: 337-237-3471 Fax – 337-235-6278 Email – brandon.hebert@secorpindustries.com.

A/P Clerk
Endure Products Corp. FT
Immediate opening. Qualified applicant must have experience with A/P and the use of Microsoft Office. Must be detail oriented and able to meet deadlines in a multi-task environment. Competitive salary and a benefits package including company paid medical/dental insurance and 401(k) retirement plan with 100% matching. Forward resume including references and salary experience to: NovaStar LP, P.O. BOX 252, Midland, TX 79702 or nlpmtx@novastarlp.com. EOE.

AP/PO Clerk
Company Confidential FT
Experience in QB and MS office. Comp salary and benefits. Resumes by 1-10-12 to fax: 432-685-1745 or PO Box 10494 Midland TX 79702 or appoclerk@gmail.com

General Office
Levinge Freight Lines FT
Levinge Freight Lines is now hiring someone to perform general office and accounting duties at our Midland Terminal. Must have office/clerical experience, transportation experience a plus.
Apply online at www.levingefreightlines.com



Quail Tools, LP
A PARKER COMPANY

NOW HIRING
Billing Clerk in Odessa, TX.
Quail Tools is looking for an enthusiastic, team oriented individual. Must have good organizational and computer skills. Must be able to handle high volume of billing.

- Review, prepare and bill tickets during and at end of month.
-Issue credits as necessary.
-Make copies and file as necessary.
-Other various clerical duties.

Quail Tools offers top pay and an excellent benefits package including health insurance, 401K, paid and scheduled time off and more!

Apply in person @ 400 Alabama St, Odessa, TX 79764,
Fax resume to: 432-366-1304 or
e-mail resume to apply@quailtools.com
EOE. Drug Screen Required.

Office Clerical
Bobbye Cheryl Smith CPA P/T
CPA office looking for part time clerical help. Position entails receptionist and secretarial duties as well as computer data entry. Experience with word and Excel a plus. Call to schedule interview at 432-697-7588 or send resume to PO Box 8110, Midland, TX. 79708. Will work with school schedule.

Payroll Assistant
Confidential FT
Payroll assistant needed for busy drilling company. Excellent data entry skills, proficient in Excel and 10 key by touch. Must be organized and able to work well with others. Payroll experience a plus. Excellent company benefits. Send resume to 432-617-3207 Attn: Payroll

Receptionist-Fulltime
Ellis Funeral Home FT
Duties include answering phones, running errands and general clerical. Hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Come by 801 Andrews Highway to fill out an application.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Commercial Workers Needed
L & L Construction FT
Drywall mechanics, hangers, trim carpenters and labors. Must be dependable with a neat appearance. Pay based on experience. Apply in person M-F 10-2, 619 W Texas, Ste 106, 570-4879.

Construction Help
Campbell Construction Co. FT
Campbell Construction Company seeking a Superintendent, Carpenter and Laborer. Pre-employment drug test required. Good Benefits & Salary DOE. Apply at 241-A Spring Park Drive, Midland or send resume to PO Box 11293, Midland, TX 79702 or fax to (432)683-5943.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Cashier/Customer Service
Midland College Bookstore is taking applications for temporary cashiers and floor clerks to work the spring semester rush starting January 3. Successful applicants should be customer service oriented and have prior cash register and/or cash handling experience. Attention to detail is a must. Applications are available at Midland College Bookstore. No Phone Calls Please.

Counter Help
Credit World FT
Now hiring for Counter Help. We have excellent benefits including paid vacation, 401K and health insurance. Opportunity for advancement. Apply in person at 2304 North Big Spring, Midland, TX 79705.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

BASIC ENERGY SERVICES

OUR LIFE'S WORK IS THE LIFE OF THE WELL

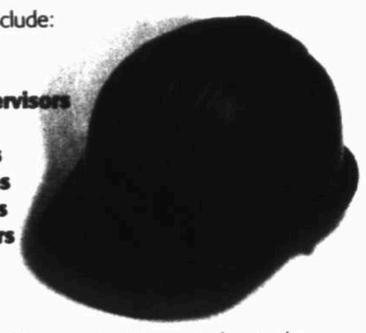
Basic is a leader in the oil and gas well servicing business with corporate headquarters in Midland. We offer competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; affordable medical, dental, and life insurance; paid holidays; and paid time off based on length of service.

We have a continuing need in our corporate office for skilled professional and administrative support employees in these areas:

- **Accounting**
- **Safety & Health**
- **Human Resources**
- **Information Technology**

Field opportunities usually include:

- **Staff Assistants**
- **Rig Operators**
- **Rig and Trucking Supervisors**
- **CDL Drivers**
- **Floor & Derrick Hands**
- **Safety Representatives**
- **Fishing Tool Operators**
- **Reverse Unit Operators**
- **And more**



To learn more about specific opportunities, or to locate the Basic office nearest you, visit our website at **www.basicenergyservices.com** or submit resumes to
Basic Energy Services
Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 10460
Midland, TX 79702

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BASIC ENERGY SERVICES **NOW HIRING**

Mechanics & Welders

A well service industry leader is currently recruiting for experienced Mechanics & Welders located in Midland, TX.

Job Responsibilities
- Tear down and rebuild rigs
- Steam clean and weld equipment
- Sand blast equipment
- Other duties as assigned

Job Requirements
- High School Diploma, GED or equivalent education
- Must be able to read blueprints
- Must be able to weld 7018 vertical
- Must be able to fabricate items to complete repairs
- Must pass Basic vertical plate test

We offer competitive pay; 401(k) with company match; medical, dental, and life insurance; paid time off based on length of service; paid holidays

Email resumes to: staffing@basicenergyservices.com,
Fax to: 432.620.5501 or Apply in Person at:
Basic Energy Services
Attn: Adrian Robles
5805A East Hwy 80
Midland, TX 79706

Equal Opportunity Employer • Drug Free Environment

H2S Safety Technicians
Secorp Industries FT
Established Oilfield Service Company located in Odessa, TX. has immediate openings for H2S Safety Technicians. Oilfield experience a plus. Mechanical abilities and medical certification helpful. Job consists of both shop and field work, must be able to work extended hitches on locations. Good Driving Record and Reliable transportation recommended. Include references and salary requirements on resume. Send Resume and Salary Requirements to PO Box 53912, Lafayette, LA 70505-3912 Phone: 337-237-3471 Fax – 337-235-6278 Email – brandon.hebert@secorpindustries.com

Journeyman Electrician
Confidential FT
Looking for career minded Journeyman electricians. Oilfield experience is preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Must have valid Texas Journeyman Electrician License and hold a valid driver license with a clean record. Full drug screening and background check will be required. We are a strong, well established Company with an excellent benefit package and competitive compensation. Benefits include paid vacation and holidays. Health, dental, vision and life insurance packages as well as 401k plan. We are looking for individuals that are team oriented and self motivated, ready to learn and teach. Send resume to jwaltrip@eeronline.com or call 432/563-5000

MEASUREMENT COORDINATOR
Kinder Morgan is seeking a **Measurement Coordinator** with 10 years of experience in the Midland, Texas area. The Measurement Coordinator will provide leadership, and Measurement technical support for all the field CO2 and Crude Oil pipeline operations for Kinder Morgan S&T. Necessary skills include: knowledge of API, AGA, and GPA standards and guidelines, knowledge of Coriolis metering, orifice meters, PD meters and gas chromatography, and proficiency in the programming and installation of various types of PLC's. Associate's degree or technical certification in an applicable discipline required. Apply online at: www.kindermorgan.com/work/careers. Click job postings and reference requisition #4143. EOE

Oil Field Cable Spooler
Horizon Cable FT
Willing to train the right person. Must have or be able to obtain a Class B CDL. Uniforms and benefits available after 90 days of employment. Please apply in person: Horizon Cable 12215 WCR 129, Odessa, TX. 79765 Between 8am - 4pm or call 432-563-5552.

Tubing Tester
Confidential FT
Experienced Tubing Tester, CDL with tank endorsement required. Call 432-557-2809 or 432-557-2807.

HEALTHCARE

Home Hospice

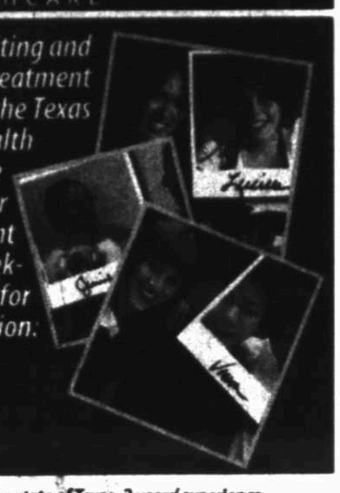
FULL-TIME SOCIAL WORKER TO SERVE ODESSA.
Must be Licensed. We offer an excellent salary, a comprehensive benefits package including paid vacation, insurance and retirement.

If interested please email adrumm@homehospicewtx.com or fax your resume to (432) 560-7980.
Home Hospise is an equal opportunity employer.

Sitters/CNA'S
Nurses Unlimited, INC FT
Nurses Unlimited, INC seeking experienced Sitters/CNA'S to work for private duty clients. Hourly rate. Call 432-522-5080. All shifts available. E.O.E.

HEALTHCARE

BCA Permian Basin is an exciting and vibrant Community Treatment Center which is certified by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Accredited through The Joint Commission. We offer in-patient and outpatient services. We are currently seeking qualified professionals for the following position.



Weekend House Supervisor

This position requires an RN license in the state of Texas, 2 years' experience including psych, geriatrics and/or med/surge experience. Supervisory experience is required. Hours are negotiable.

To apply online and for more information about this and other great opportunities at BCA Permian Basin, please visit:
www.bca-corp.com

BCA PERMIAN BASIN

EOE

West Texas Centers
Promoting Behavioral & Developmental Health

Are you a Registered Nurse who is looking for something different. Do you love working with children? The Little Lives ECI program has an opportunity for a registered nurse to be a Family Service Coordinator in our program. This position functions in two capacities. One is as a licensed Registered Nurse performing assessments as outlined by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and the other for assisting families who are eligible for Early Childhood Intervention services. This person is the primary contact for each family assigned and must have considerable knowledge in the functioning of social services, medical treatment facilities, and community resources. This individual is a key professional who will participate with the child's interdisciplinary team to provide appropriate services and supports to the child and family. Position will involve some travel, but there is a great deal of flexibility in the work schedule, with telecommuting, four day work week, no on call and no weekends. Employee is required to use their personal vehicle and/or an agency/rental vehicle. All employees are required to have a personal vehicle available for work purposes and maintain current, valid vehicle liability on the personal vehicle. Determination regarding whether an employee utilizes a personal/agency or rental vehicle is at the discretion of the ECI program director. Personal vehicle usage is subject to Center authorized mileage reimbursement rates. Headquartered location, Midland. Odessa or Andrews. Salary range 35,000 to 50,000.

Applications available at www.wtcmhmr.org or by calling JOBLINE 800-687-2769. EOE

Attendants
Nurses Unlimited, Inc. PT
Nurses Unlimited, Inc is seeking enthusiastic Attendants to assist children in the home for Wed's & Sundays. Call: Ruth Ann orTerry H. @ 1-800-458-3257. E.O.E.

Business Technician/Accounting (Victim Services)
Midland Judicial District CSCD seeking to hire:

BUSINESS TECHINCIAN/ACCOUNTING (Victim Services)

Performs in a highly skilled technical work environment involving telecommunications and fiscal criminal justice data management. Acts in the capacity as agency's victim services coordinator with its related tasks. Maintains Agency/CRTC Asset Inventory control, performs daily cashier/mail pick up duties as scheduled. Assist in quality assurance duties in a timely expedient manner as assigned. Must have minimum of high school diploma and be proficient in Microsoft Office. Applications may be obtained: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 200 N. Main, Midland, TX 79701 ph# (432)688-4104.

Caregiver PRN & Cook
Legacy Ranch FT
Now hiring caregiver PRN and full time Cook. Apply in person at 4800 Briarwood Ave. Hours available as soon as possible.

Dental Assistant
The Kids Place FT
Seeking an experienced certified Dental Assistant. Candidate must be a team player, have an excellent attitude and great work ethic. Minimum 2 year work experience. Please send resume and references to 4410 North Midkiff suite D1 Midland, Tx. 79705.

HEALTHSOUTH.

Rehabilitation Hospital of Midland
1800 Heritage Boulevard, Midland, TX 79707

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Midland is a 60-bed acute medical rehabilitation hospital that offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services. Providing the latest technology, HealthSouth Midland serves patients throughout the Permian Basin. HealthSouth uses an interdisciplinary team approach, offering patients a more intense regimen and higher level of care. Work at a place that allows you to practice the heart of your profession to advance the patient's progress throughout their stay. Take pleasure in seeing the results of your efforts when patients return to independence within their everyday lives. A combination of experienced staff and innovative technology but, most importantly, quality patient care, is what makes HealthSouth a leader that you can count on!!

We are currently seeking:

Physical Therapists – FT/PT/PRN (Inpatient/Home Health)
Occupational Therapist – FT/PT/PRN (Inpatient/Home Health)
COTA – FT/PT/PRN
Speech Pathologist – PRN (Inpatient/Home Health)
Maintenance Mechanic – FT
Env. Service Aide (floors/waxing/buffing) – FT
Rehab Nurse Tech – FT/PRN (days/nights)
RN/LVN – FT/PRN (days/nights)
Nurse Supervisor – FT (days/nights)
Food Service Aide – PRN
PBX Operator – PRN (weekends only)
Pharmacy Tech – PRN
HIMS tech – PRN
Infection Control/Employee Health – FT
Administrative Assistant – FT
Dietary Manager - FT

Total Compensation Package for Full Time Employees includes:
- EXCELLENT Sign on Bonus of 20K for PT/OT positions
- Sign on Bonus of 5K for COTA positions
- Loan Forgiveness Program for PT/OT/COTA/SLP positions
- Fantastic PTO Plan- starting day one
- Day 1 coverage – Medical, Dental, and Vision Plans
- Day 1 coverage – Short & Long Term Disability, Life Insurance
- Day 1 coverage – 5 different AFLAC Plans
- Day 1 coverage – Group Prepaid Legal
- 401k & 529 College Savings Plans
- Continuing Educational Opportunities
- And we haven't even discussed all the plan options

We offer competitive salaries and a great working environment!

For Immediate Consideration, Please E-mail Your Resume Directly To:

Tina Parker
Director of Human Resources
E-mail: tina.mparker@healthsouth.com
Phone: 432-520-1607 — Fax: 432-520-1704
Website: www.HealthSouth.com/careers

Not Looking For An Opportunity? Please Share This Information With Anyone Who Might Be Interested!
Check Us Out On:

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT and LVN
Midland Community Healthcare Services is hiring. Qualified candidates are well-rounded, detail oriented, able to multi-task in a fast paced environment, and possess excellent phone and customer service skills. Cross training with the other departments, computer skills, competency in Microsoft Office, and adaptability to technological changes are required. Complete Benefits Package Offered.
Interested applicants can print an application at **www.midlandchs.org** and fax it to **432-699-3815**, or come by our office at **600 N. Marienfeld, Ste. 1090, Midland.**

GREAT EMPLOYEES ARE THE FOUNDATION OF ANY COMPANY.

AND WE'VE JUST BACKED UP THE CEMENT TRUCK.

Now that Midland Reporter-Telegram has partnered with Monster, the way you hire is about to change. With more candidates than ever and our 6Sense® search technology, you'll be able to match the best candidates to your qualifications with unprecedented precision. So you can find the great hires that will help your company succeed.

Midland Reporter-Telegram monster

To learn more or to find your next great hire, visit mywesttexas.com/jobs

mywesttexas jobs

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

FRONT DESK CLERK

Seeking an experienced Front Desk Clerk for a busy physicians office, this will be a fulltime position (MSO5000) Please fax or mail your resume to ATTN: Alesha McCoy P.O. Box 5291 Midland, TX 79704 or fax to 432-682-2284. NO WALK-IN'S PLEASE.

General Dentist

Confidential FT/PT

High volume Dental office seeking motivated General Dentist for immediate hire. Established patent base (Medicaid/CHIP, insurance and cash), all aspects of dentistry. Strong earnings opportunity in both Midland and Odessa offices. Please contact by email, careers@midlandmaildental.com

INHOME CARE, INC. RN

For Salaried Position needed to Join our dynamic team of health care professionals. Home Health or related experience a plus.

We offer:

- **Full-Time Position**
- **Excellent Pay**
- **Paid Vacation & Sick Leave**
- **PAID Health Insurance**
- **Life Insurance**
- **Great Work Environment**
- **Mileage Reimbursement**
- **Prescription drug card**

Please mail or fax resume to:
Attn: Mary Vasquez
InHome Care, Inc.
608 West Indiana
Midland, Texas 79701
Fax: (432) 686-3960

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Looking for an experienced Medical Assistant for a busy physicians office for a PRN position (PCB5053). Please fax or mail your resume to ATTN: Alesha McCoy P.O. Box 5291 Midland, TX 79704 or fax to 432-682-2284. NO WALK-IN'S PLEASE.

MEDICAL RECORDS CLERK

Busy medical facility needs a responsible Medical Records Clerk(PP-5276). Responsibilities include data transfer of medical records to electronic health records. Applicant should be detailed oriented. Will train the right person. Growth opportunities with employer. Fax or mail resume to 432-682-2284 or mail to P.O. Box 5291 Midland, TX 79704 Attn: Alesha McCoy. NO WALK-IN'S PLEASE OR PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

MEDICATION AIDE

Full time position for small assisted living facility. Assist with medications for elderly ladies. Please Call 432-687-2503.

Mobile Dentist and Assistant

Mid-cities Dental Management FT

Mobile Dentist and Assistant for Geriatric Care in West Texas. Full or Part-time, Experience Preferred, License to Practice in Texas. Lucrative Pay, Benefits for Full Time, Large Established Base w/ Fantastic Potential. **MID-CITIES DENTAL MANAGEMENT. Val@ 972-800-9191.**

Office Help

Busy medical practice looking for Office Help. Experience required. Please mail resume to: PO BOX 8729, Midland, TX 79708.

Permain Basin Community Centers



A great place to work

Salary positions enjoy a full benefit package with health coverage, retirement, life insurance, scheduled pay increases, optional cafeteria coverage, paid leave. Hourly positions enjoy flexible work schedules and retirement.

Salary positions available

Community Service Aide – Midland and Odessa– Three positions available. Directly supervise clients in the CLEW workshop and the Skills Development Program through the teaching of vocational skills, personal and social adjustment skills, and involvement in community activities.

Employment Specialist – Midland – To train and assist individuals with disabilities to learn and keep a job in the community

Provider Coordinator – Midland - Non-degreed full time position that ensures compliance with consumer treatment and support plijanning, documentation and monitors progress

Service Coordinator(TCOOMMI)– Odessa – provide intensive case management to adult offenders, on criminal justice supervision, who suffer with mental illness.

Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) – Odessa – provide medical oversight of treatment in conjunction with the Medical Director

Substance Abuse Counselor or Counselor Intern – Midland and Odessa – **Four positions available**. Provide outpatient substance abuse treatment services for adults, youth, or a specialized female population and provide prevention services to pregnant and post-partum females who have reached reproductive maturity

Hourly positions available

Counselor Intern or Residential Monitor - Odessa – Provide daily support to individuals in a residential treatment setting. Earn valuable hours towards your chemical dependency counselor license.

Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) – Odessa – Responsible for medical oversight of inpatient substance abuse treatment in conjunction with the Medical Director.

Community Living Instructor-Midland and Odessa – Provide day to day assistance for individuals with developmental disabilities.

All applicants must have a valid Texas Driver's License, proof of auto liability insurance coverage, and will be subject to a criminal history background check. For additional information and qualifications for all positions, see our electronic application and current job listing available at www.pbmhmr.com. For questions, contact the Human Resources Department at 432-570-3322.

Personal Care Attendants

is needed for the Midland and Odessa area. Apply in person at 1311 West Florida, 79701.

Private Caregivers

HomeCare Plus FT

Now hiring private caregivers. All shifts available. Contact Karen Still at 570-7587 or come by 501 Andrews Hwy in Midland. If you can not pass our drug screening or criminal background check, do not apply.

Snelling Medical Staffing

• Medical Assistant

Apply online at: www.snelling.com/odessa
432-520-6140 * 800-296-7106
delia@snellingodessa.com
EEOC Employer

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Various Positions

Travel Lodge #10082 FT/PT

Immediate opening for Housekeepers and Laundry for Day shifts and Front Desk Clerks for rotating shifts. Apply at: 2500 Commerce Dr, Midland, TX.

MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Operations Manager

Operations Manager for heavy equipment rental and sales yard. Equipment knowledge a must. Salary D.O.E., good communication skills and clean driving record. Please call 432-694-4530.

OTHER JOBS

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Fast Freddy's is seeking an experienced **Assistant Manager** with a minimum of 1-2 years experience. Position is salary plus cash daily, 30-40 hours a week. Please send resumes to **fastfreddysmid@gmail.com.**

DATA COLLECTORS

Field Interviewers Aspen of DC/ICF International is seeking Data Collectors for a 5-6 month survey of HUD-assisted households in Brewster, Culberson, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler, and Yoakum counties in TX. Collect data and conduct in-person, computer-assisted interviews. Local travel required (costs will be reimbursed). Some weekend and evening hours likely. Flexibility and ability to work independently a must. Computer proficiency required. College degree or 2-3 years experience preferred. Background check will be conducted. Hourly rate $12.75. Must attend 10-day paid training this February in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. You must indicate Cluster 50 in "SUBJECT" line of email, or in cover of fax. Send resume to: E-Mail: HUD@aspenofdc.com Fax: 1-800-883-7023.

Detailers

UNSEAL FT

Detailers needed for Local new car dealership. Used experience is helpful. Good pay. Please call 832-498-9574

FLOWERLAND

Experienced Floral Designer Needed. We offer a smoke-free environment, 401K , Insurance, & paid vacation. Will need to be able to work holidays & weekends. Fax resume to 432-682-8949 or email resume to tomwilliams@flowerlandmidland.com

Funeral Assistant - Part-Time as Needed

Ellis Funeral Home FT

Duties include assisting Directors with setting up for funeral services and making sure they run smoothly, driving funeral vehicles, running errands. Come by 801 Andrews Highway to fill out an application.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

1st Staffing Group is now hiring Pipe Inspectors, Meat processor packaging, Hot Sauce Packaging, CDL drivers Class A, Warehouse with flexible schedule, Mechanics, must have own tools, Overnight Delivery Drivers, no CDL required, Event Staffing/Concessions, Property Manager, Receptionist, Overnight Driver- HazMat, Customer Service Rep, Shop Hand and Clerical Data Entry positions available also. Please apply online at www.1stsgusa.com or in person at New Location 4400 N. Big Spring St., Ste C 26, Midland, TX 79705. 432-550-4059

LAND Gaugers & Production Clerks

ISLAND OPERATING COMPANY is seeking LAND Gaugers with a minimal experience of 3 years, and also production clerks with clerical experience, some knowledge of Excel to be responsible for daily production reporting. These positions will require the candidates to work in the Big Lake, Texas area. Island Operating offers great benefits and pay. All interested parties should contact Kim Istre @ 337-852-2516 for more information on this position. Island Operating Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Landman

Hilliard Companies FT

Hilliard energy has an opening for an oil and gas landman. Candidate must have a minimum of 5 years title and negotiations experience (running mineral, lease hold and surface title: acquiring leases and surface agreements), willingness to travel, and a clean driving record. To apply, send resume to sterlingh@mmbo.com or for more info call 432-683-9100

Landscape Laborers

Confidential FT

Landscape Laborers, 4 temporary pos, Caleb Steven Hartley, Midland. 3/1/12-12/15/12. Moves soil, equipment, & materials; dig holes for plants, trees, shrubs; cut, trim, edge, water lawns & flower beds; weed, plant, spread mulch; rake & blow leaves, clean up; install & maintain landscape materials & sprinkler systems. Must be able to lift 75lbs. Transportation provided for multiple worksites within Midland County. No exp req'd will train. $8.96/hr, $13.44/hr OT, 40 hrs/wk, OT varies, 7:30a-4:30p, M-F some Saturdays req'd. Actual rate of pay may be different. To apply call 432-694-3500 or bring resume to 1402 N. Loop 250, Midland, TX. Refer to JO#8166304.

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES

Midland Reporter-Telegram



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

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Clerical - must be computer literate, multi-task, time management, professional, and handle stress well.

Trophy Department - must be computer literate, multi-task, personable, professional, and creative. Corel Draw experience a plus. Apply in person at **2040 W. Cuthbert, Midland, TX 79701.**

Photographers

Lifetouch National Schools Studio FT/PT

LNSS has immediate openings for seasonal/full time photographers. We provide training to prepare our employees to perform exceptional work. Experience is great but not necessary. Must be early riser, have a car and insurance. Background check is required. Great benefits. Please call 432-570-5514 Mon. 2nd - Tues 3rd, 9am to 4pm to set up interview.

Roustabout Crew Pushers and Hands

Golden Triangle Energy Services FT

Must have clean driving record. Also Backhoe Operator needed with CDL license. Salary depending on experience. Must pass Drug test. 432-853-9188

Route Person Needed

Jordan Amusements FT

Route Person Needed - Must have valid driver's license, communication skills, trustworthy and pass drug test. Apply in person or fax resume to Jordan Amusement Co. 10100 W. Hwy 80 432-563-2740

Seasonal Sales Position & Parts Head Position

TRACKER BOAT CENTER FT
1920 N Loop 250 W **432-697-3261**
Midland, TX 79707 **Apply in Person**
"Will Train" Experience not necessary. Drug screening and background

SERVICE TECH

All Clear Pool Treatment is looking for a **service tech.** Job responsibilities: check level of chemicals in residential swimming pools; then service pool w/ chemicals needed. Requirements: valid DL and able to lift 60lbs. cylinders. Mon-Friday. Hours each day varies on the daily route and your pace. Average hours in the winter months are usually 4-6 per day. Salary - $500/wk; eligible for raise after 90 days. Please apply at **7606 W. Hwy 80, Midland, TX.**

Shop Hand

Dean's Machine FT

Shop help wanted. Looking for dependable person willing to work. Will train. Apply in person at: **1906 Rhode Island, Midland, TX 79702** between Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.

Snelling Staffing Services

• Site Manager • Machinist • Forklift • CNC Programmer
• General Laborers • Draftsman • Plant Operator
Apply online at: www.snelling.com/odessa
* 699-4799 * 520-6140 * 800-296-7106
Snelling@snellingodessa.com
EEOC Employer

Video Journalist

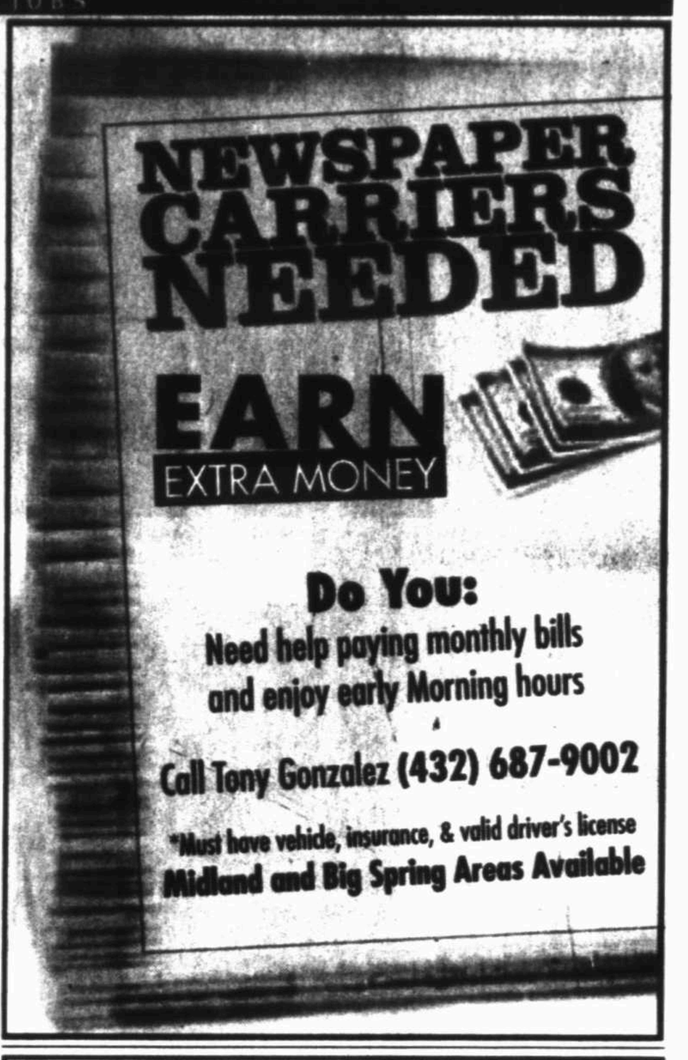
CB-7 FT

Looking for someone with experience but willing to train someone with a great attitude. Send resume ASAP to David Huertas-Director of Photography 4101 E. 42nd St. Ste J-7 Odessa, Texas 79762 or dhuertas@cbs7.com. CBS7 is an ICA Company. EOE

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.



Weekend Laundry, Janitorial & Youth Fitness Attendant

YMCA of Midland has PT for weekend laundry and janitorial positions. Apply in person at 800 N. Big Spring. No phone calls please.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WANTED: FIREFIGHTERS

Submit Applications to:
The City of Big Spring
Human Resources Office
310 Nolan Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Phone: 432.264.2346

Job application and information available online at www.mybigspring.com

- **City pays for the Fire Academy**
- **Get paid while training & attending the Fire Academy**
- **Great health & retirement benefits**
- **Testing Date– February 18, 2012 at 9 a.m.**
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE February 13, 2012.**

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All PT/FT Positions

Domino's Pizza, Join the busiest and best Pizza Delivery Co. Now hiring for all PT/FT positions. CSR's, drivers, and shift management. Competitive pay and fun work environment. Drivers earn great tips and full hourly wage. No split wages! Apply at any Midland Domino's Pizza locations. 3300 W. Illinois Ave., 604 N. Big Spring St., 4519 N. Garfield St., 2410 Rankin Hwy.

RETAIL JOBS

In-Store Account Reps

Dei-Tex Marketing, Inc. FT/PT

New Year/New Career! In store Account Rep. $600 plus weekly
No felonies/paid training! Call jenny 432-349-7207

SALES JOBS

DRIVER-SALESPERSON

Looking for a rock solid company to grow and retire with? **Blue Bell Creameries** is accepting applications for a **full time driver-salesperson** in the Midland-Odessa Area. Route Sale Experience and Commercial Drivers License helpful. Good driving record required. Will train the right person. Blue Bell is a market leading company with a 104 year proven history. Competitive Salary + benefits. Apply in Person at Workforce Solutions, 3510 North A. Building A.

Sales

Fender Truck Access. FT

Midland, TX 79701

Position open for person knowledgeable in truck accessories or automotive industry. Salary plus commission, Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm, vacation, insurance option. Bilingual a plus. Salary DOE. Send resume to: kerry@fendergroup.com

SALES OPPORTUNITY

Are you Driven, Independent, A Goal Setter? We offer:
• Intensive Training
• 4-Day Work Week
• Top Incentives and Bonuses
• $65K+ First Year Earning Potential
Overnight Travel Required (Mon-Thurs). Contact Michael Gende at **(866) 232-2814** or **mgende@pltnm.com**

Schlumberger REDA

Sales Specialist

Schlumberger-REDA is seeking an individual with good computer skills to interface with the sales staff and customer service. Job duties include assisting with various reports, quotes and putting together billing packages.

Package:

- Attractive salary
- Attractive benefits (medical/dental, 401k, stock purchase plan, profit sharing)

Education and qualifications:

- High School Graduate
- Good Computer Skills
- Team Player

Please mail resumes to:
Schlumberger-REDA,
4709 Seminole Drive, Midland Texas 79703

SKILLED LABOR

Shop Hand

Crescent Directional Drilling, L.P. FT

Crescent Directional Drilling, L.P. is currently seeking a full-time **Shop Hand** for the **Midland, TX** district. The person selected for this position will need to be experienced with mud motors, forklift, dispatch, maintenance duties in the shop/yard and will handle shipping and receiving. This position may also require some after hours, weekend work and candidate will need a valid driver's license.

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package including medical, vision and dental coverage, life insurance, 401(k). For consideration, please submit your resume to **mtarkey@crescentdirectional.com** or fax to 432-618-1138. EOE

Shop Mechanic

Basin Engine and Pump FT

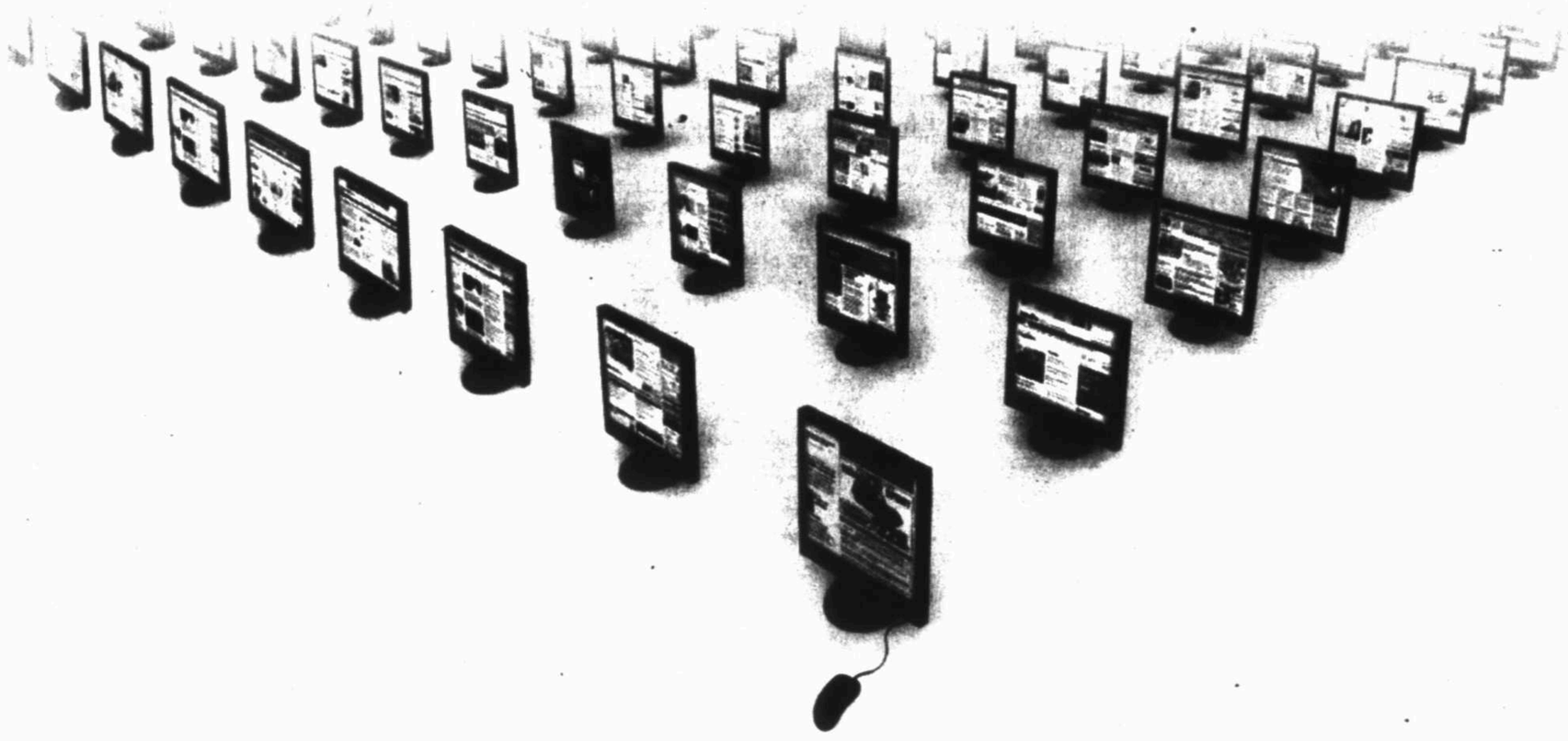
Shop/Field Mechanic Needed for an Industrial Oilfield Shop. Tools, Uniforms provided. Benefits package, Pay DOE. Please call Shawn 432/570-1114, fax resume 432/570-1115 or email shawn@basinengine.com.

Slickline Operators/Helpers

Diamond D Slickline Service Co. Inc.

Established slickline company is looking for experienced Slickline Operators and Helpers. Valid Drivers License and pass drug & alcohol test. Contact Willie 325-207-8258 or Keith 432-661-8122

Site Matters



The results are in. Consumers value and trust the premium-quality content found at newspaper Web sites as well as the advertising on those sites according to a just-released comScore survey.

Newspaper Web Sites continue to be the most used and valued sites for consumers seeking credible and trustworthy local content and advertising online.

Top Online Source 57percent of consumers identified local newspaper Web sites as the top online source for local information, ahead of the totals for all other media.

Source for Local Information Newspaper sites ranked first as a source for local information (29%), local sports (27%), local entertainment (26%) and local classifieds (39%), ahead of both local television Web sites and online portals. And, consumers value local content with 57% indicating that local information is very important.

Trustworthiness of Advertising Consumers agree that their opinion of online advertising is influenced by the type of Web site on which the ad appears. Local newspaper sites ranked first in trustworthiness of advertising.

Current, Credible and Relevant Consumers consider local newspaper Web sites to be the most trusted source of online advertising, with ads that are perceived to be more current, credible and relevant to them.

75 million unique visitors 37% of all active Internet users went to newspaper Web sites in January 2010, accessing more than 3.5 billion pages.

Local Matters, the Content Matters, the Site Matters.

Source: comScore 2010, Nielsen Online

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A destination, not a distraction.

www.newspapermedia.com

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SKILLED LABOR

AST

Advanced Stimulation Technologies, Inc.

Apply at AST if you are searching for a dynamic company that offers career advancement opportunities. We do develop individual skills and challenge all team members to be their best.

Immediate openings for:

DOT (Class A CDL Licensed) Equipment Operators,
Hydraulic Fracturing Experience Preferred--we will train inexperienced applicants

***Also: Experienced Mechanics & Fluid Technicians**

AST offers: * Competitive wages *Medical-Vision-Dental-Life benefits * 401 K plan with company match * Paid vacation * Personal time off plan * Continued education assistance * Advancement opportunities

Must be willing to relocate to Midland/Odessa

Apply in person: 2903 I-20 Midland Texas 79706
(432) 617-3250 or www.advstimtech.com

Chemical Blender/Reactor Operators
NovaStar, LP FT
NovaStar LP is now hiring for Chemical Blenders and Chemical Reactor Operators. Experience with chemical manufacturing and production is a plus, but will train the right candidate. Shift work will be required. Benefits to include a generous 401K, accrued vacation, medical and dental insurance. Salary DOE. Forward resume to: NovaStar LP, P.O. BOX 252, Midland, TX 79702 or nlpmtx@novastarlp.com. EOE.

Chemist
Environmental Laboratory FT
Fax resume-432-689-6313 0-1 Exp
Midland, TX Bachelor's Degree
Science or Science related field. Fax or email: agomez@traceanalysis.com

Lead Maintenance
Summerhill Apartments FT
Now hiring **Lead Maintenance**. Must be HVAC certified. Apply in person only at: **3001 North Midland Dr. Midland, TX 79707**.

Licensed Experienced Journeyman Electrician
Now hiring! Email resume with references & salary requirements to: **journeymanelectrican-resume@yahoo.com**.

Licensed Plumber, Plumber Helpers, Office Assist.
Apply in person at **1101 W. Florida** or fax resume to **682-2939**. Salary DOE. We offer benefits, paid holidays, paid vacation & 401k.

RIG HANDS - MIDLAND, TX
Wireline company now hiring! Call **432-894-0712** for an excellent opportunity. We offer top pay, job bonus, insurance, 401k and uniforms. Must have CDL, Haz-Mat a plus, pass drug screen & background check.

Sand Blasters, Painters & Helpers
Accurate, Inc. FT
Hiring sand blasters, painters, helpers. Please call Accurate, Inc. at 432-563-1224 or 512-352-5278 or apply at 9504W CR 127, Midland.

Technician Needed
Jordan Amusements FT
Must have Electronics experience, have valid driver's license, communication skills, trustworthy and pass drug test. Apply in person or fax resume to Jordan Amusement Co. 10100 W. Hwy 80 432-563-2740 fax

TIRE TECHNICIANS
Discount Tire is now hiring! We offer flexible schedules, benefits, and great starting pay. No experience needed; we will train. If you have a great attitude and you are a hard, reliable worker, please apply in person at one of our three Discount Tire Stores: **3100 N. Loop 250 (Midland), 2201 Rankin Highway (Midland),** or **4211 Grandview Ave. (Odessa)** No phone calls please.

Welders
Energy Fabrication FT
Now accepting applications for Welders.Top pay, 401K and paid vacation. Please send resume to: 3750 Kermit Highway, Odessa, TX 79764, or apply in person.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL A Drivers
Select Energy Services FT
CDL A drivers needed for a fast-growing company. We offer a full range of benefits including medical/dental insurance, vacation, holidays, etc. Have a career, not just a job! Email resume to kmeadows@selectenergyservices.com , fax 432.686.2768, or apply in person at: Select Energy Services, 2911 SCR 1260, Midland, TX 79706.

CDL/VAC Tank Drivers
Texas Freight Relocators
Must have valid Class A CDL with endorsement. $17/hour-Dayshift. $18/hour-Nightshift. Health, dental and vision benefits after 60 days of employment. Call (432) 684-6000.

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Silverline Transportation 432-563-1894
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com** Also hiring for Field Coordinators.

Company Driver Positions
Schwerman Trucking in business almost 100 years, is looking for Class A Drivers. Local area drivers out approx. 3 nights per week. ***Ask about our Safety/Longevity Pay*** Paid % of Line-Haul Revenue Weekly. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Benefits ($16-$65/week) Paid Weekly/Reliable Assigned Equipment. Call Brian today! 866-556-5173.

Delivery Driver
Catalyst Oilfield Services FT/PT
Delivery Driver needed for oilfield chemical company. CDL with Hazmat required. Excellent pay and benefits. Please call Roman, 432-894-1416.

DRIVERS
$2,000 SIGN-ON BONUS!
LOCAL (COMBO) DRIVERS
- Full-time Position
- Home Daily!
- Low-cost Benefits
- Competitive Pay
- CDL-A w/ 1yr exp. & HM req.

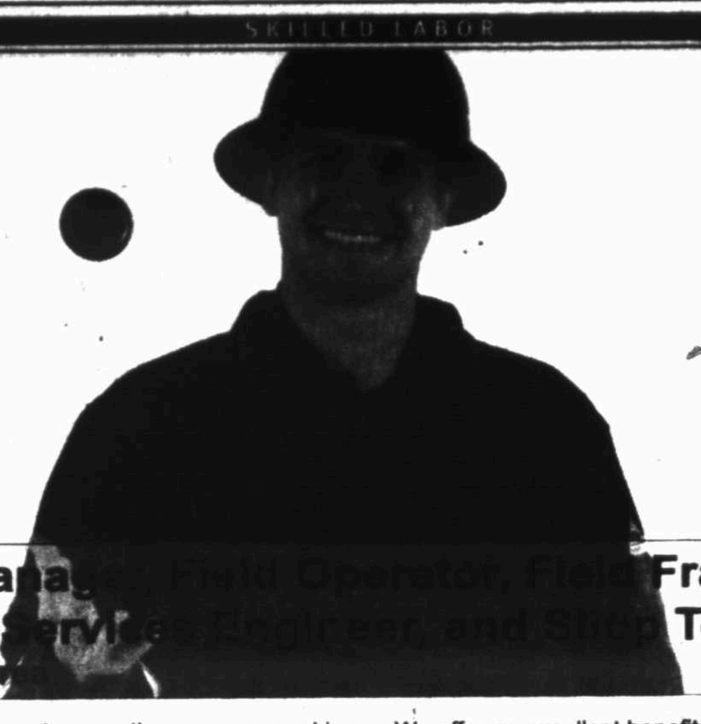
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AVERITT
Equal Opportunity Employer

Drivers
Drivers wanted asap. Class A with Tanker required. Competitive wages. Call 719-859-1589 or 719-859-8449..

Drivers Needed
Professional Transportation, Inc. FT
Professional Transportation, Inc. is seeking local drivers for 7-passenger mini-vans in the Odessa, TX area. Drug screen, driving record, and criminal background check required. 1-800-471-2440 www.professionaltransportationinc.com EOE

Drivers Wanted
Reagent Chemical & Research, Inc FT
Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Tx. Requirements include Class A CDL with tank and Hazmat Endorsement. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

SKILLED LABOR



District Manager, Field Operators, Field Frac Specialist, Technical Services Engineer, and Shop Technician
Midland, TX area

To support our dynamic growth, we are seeking world-class professionals for the following positions in the Midland, TX area:

- **District Manager**
- **Field Operator**
- **Field Frac Specialist**
- **Technical Services Engineer**
- **Shop Technician**

We offer an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental and vision as well as 401k.

To apply, forward your resume and cover letter to uscareers@packersplus.com and indicate which position you are interested in.

About Packers Plus

Packers Plus Energy Services is a high-value provider of technology-based solutions to the oil and gas industry. We are pioneers of multi-stage fracturing systems and we specialize in open hole, HPHT, high pressure retrievable packers, and specialty service tools.

Packers Plus started operations in 2000 and created the revolutionary StackFRAC® system in 2001. This technology has completely transformed the oil and gas industry enabling companies to maximize production in tight rock formations and mature oil fields.

Today, Packers Plus is working in numerous formations in the United States, Canada, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America.

For more information go to our website www.packersplus.com and click on Careers.

Packers Plus Do It Once Do It Right

www.packersplus.com

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

DRIVERS CRUDE OIL TANKER HAULING

Sunoco Logistics™



GARDEN CITY AREA HIRING EVENT

Meet and interview with our hiring team!!
"Drive4Sunoco" Job Fairs

Tuesday	Wednesday
January 10, 2012	January 11, 2012
9:00AM - 6:00PM	9:00AM - 6:00PM
Holiday Inn Express and Suites	Hampton Inn and Suites
5309 W. Loop 250 N.	605 W I-20 Hwy
Midland, TX 79701	Big Spring, TX 97920

$3,000 Relocation Bonus! • $2,000 Tuition Assistance!
For Eligible Truck Driving School Graduates

Visit our Career Center and learn more about
Our company • Our benefits, and • Our driving careers
http://drive4sunoco.com
Job #6257

www.sunocologistics.com
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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.

Ten Reasons to Advertise on a Newspaper Web site

1. Frequency: The online newspaper Web site user spends more than twice as many hours online than the general user. Online newspaper users are three times as likely as general 'Net users to be online during the workday when out of reach of other media-8-11 a.m. is a new "primetime" for media consumption. (Source: "Power Users," 2006, MORI Research)

2. Credibility: Branded content brings a higher quality audience. A study from the Online Publishers Association (OPA) showed that OPA audiences were more like to buy products and services in a number of key categories, including automotive, entertainment, financial, home, travel and business to business.

3. Targeted: If you want to focus on a particular backyard, advertising in an online newspaper is more personal, and more relevant because it is local. Newspapers also publish a plethora of niche sites (youth, women, movie fans, Hispanics) for virtually any demographic advertisers could possibly hope to reach. "Newspapers know more than ever about their Web audience because of online registration programs and audience segmentation software."

4. Purchasing Power: Eighty-nine percent of newspaper Web site users purchase online compared with 56 percent of general users. Forty percent of online newspaper users have incomes higher than $75,000; 69 percent own their homes. Eighteen percent of online newspaper users have spent more than $2,000 online in the last six months.

5. Content: Excluding e-mail, the most popular online activities and content categories include national and local news, sports, financial information, entertainment news and things-to-do. Fifty-four percent of general Internet users visit online newspapers for local news, compared with 40 percent who visit the local TV station Web site and 20 percent for the local radio station site. Not even Yahoo! can top online newspapers as a local news source. ("Power Users," 2006, MORI Research)

6. Newspaper online audience keeps growing: Nationally, online newspapers keep growing their audiences. In an average month during the first quarter of 2010, more than 72 million visited a newspaper Web site, which is more than 36% of the active Internet universe. (Nielsen Online)

7. High Profile: Online newspapers generate very large gains in Online Ad Awareness among C-level and other higher-management job holders. C-level managers showed a 23 percent increase in Aided Brand Awareness, VP/director-level managers showed a 38 percent increase and other management showed a 37 percent increase following their exposure to an ad campaign in online newspapers (across all industries.) When the brand metric shifts to Message Association, C-level execs showed the largest increase in lift after exposure to campaigns at 88 percent. No management category showed less than a 51 percent increase. (Dynamic Logics Validation Database, 2006)

8. Reinforcement: Fifty-six percent of online newspaper users also read the newspaper in the past five days. Repetition helps increase brand awareness.

9. Cutting Edge: Newspaper Web site users are more likely (by almost twenty-percent) to own some kind of portable electronic device. They are also more interested in receiving advertising and product offers through those devices. Forty percent of online newspaper users are aged 18 to 34. (Source: "Power Users," 2006, MORI Research)

10. Mix: A variety of recent studies have demonstrated the power of online, when included in a mix with traditional media, to elaborate the brand message. When combined, Newspaper print and online products have the highest penetration and most desirable audience of any other local medium.

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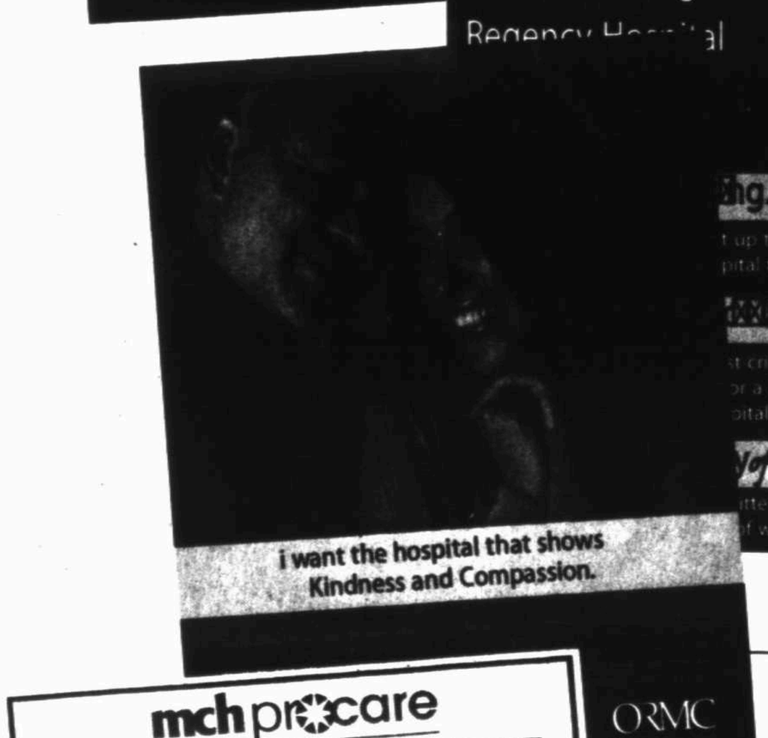
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

HOSPITALS

Acadia Abilene Hospital
4225 Woods Place
Abilene 79602 ... 325-698-6800

Big Spring State Hospital
1901 N Hwy 87
BSP 79720 ... 267-8226

BCA Permian Basin
3300 South FM 1788
Midland 79711 ... 561-5915

Crane Memorial Hospital
1310 S Alford
Crane 79731 ... 558-3555

East Loop Surgery Center of the Permian Basin
155 SE Loop 338 #500
OD 79762 ... 367-3906

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Midland
1800 Heritage Blvd
MID 79701 ... 520-1600

HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Odessa at Alliance Hospital
515 N Adams
OD 79761 ... 550-1800

Irazn General Hospital
305 W 5th St
IRA 79744 ... 432 639-2871
Emergencies ... 432 639-2311
Physical Therapy ... 432 639-2575

Iraan Medical Clinic
303 W 5th
IRA 79744 ... 432-639-2580

Martin County Hospital District
610 N St Peter
STN 79782 ... 756-3345
McCamey Hospital
2500 Hwy 305 S
MCC 79752 ... 652-8626

Medical Center Hospital
500 W 4th St
OD TX 79761 ... 640-4000
Admitting ... 640-1001
Bariatric Services ... 640-3551
Billing Inquiries ... 640-2034
Blood Transfusion Serv ... 640-1334
Business Office ... 640-1000
Cardio/Pulmonary ... 640-1235
Center for Heart Disease ... 640-1170
Central Supply ... 640-1080
Children's Miracle Network ... 640-1247
Community Relations ... 640-1242
Day Surgery Post Op Recovery ... 640-3370
Day Surgery Pre-Op ... 640-3390
Diabetes Center ... 640-2128
Dialysis ... 640-1270
Emergency Dept ... 640-1190
Financial Admin ... 640-1045
Gift Shop ... 640-1136
Health Info Mgmnt ... 640-1105
Human Resources ... 640-1150
Inpatient Rehab ... 640-1380
Laboratory ... 640-1330
Mammography Regis ... 640-2908
Materials Mngmnt ... 640-1070
Medical Oncology ... 640-1575
Nursing Admin ... 640-1135
Nutrition Services ... 640-1145
Occupational Therapy ... 640-1238
Outpatient Registration ... 640-1028
Pastoral Care ... 640-1113
Pathology ... 640-1333
Patient Accounts ... 640-1000
Payroll ... 640-1095
Performance Improvmt ... 640-1240
Pharmacy ... 640-1357
Pharmacy (Out Patient) ... 640-1353
Physical Therapy ... 640-1230
Pre-Op Express ... 640-3310
Radiology ... 640-1285
Ronald McDonald Family Rm ... 640-3090
Security ... 640-2239
Speech Pathology ... 640-1248
Spirit of Women ... 640-2727
Support of Services ... 640-2800
Utilization & Outcomes Management ... 640-2830
Volunteer Services ... 640-1100
Dr. Wheatley Stewart Medical Pavilion ... 640-3300

Memorial Hospital
209 NW 8th
SEM 79360 ... 758-5811

Memorial Hospital
821 Jeffee Dr
KER 79745 ... 586-5864

Midland Memorial Hospital
2200 W Illinois Ave
MID TX 79701
Administration ... 685-1111
Admitting ... 685-1534
Auxiliary ... 685-1525
Billing Inquiries ... 685-1542
Cardio-Pulmonary & Neurology ... 685-1522
Community Relations ... 685-1623
Emergency Dept ... 685-1541
Heart Institute ... 685-1595
Hospice Midland ... 685-4875
Human Resources/Personnel ... 685-5300
Laboratory ... 685-1538
Medical Records ... 685-1632
Midland Memorial Foundation ... 685-1600
Pastoral Care ... 685-1569
Pharmacy-Inpatient ... 685-1586
Pharmacy-Outpatient ... 685-1549
Planning & Development ... 571-4070
Purchasing/Materials Management ... 688-5288
Radiology ... 685-1585
Speech Pathologists ... 685-1580
Sports Care ... 685-4953
Abel-Hanger Medical Pavilion ... 685-1657
Occupational & Physical Therapy ... 685-4921
200 Andrews Hwy ... 685-4915
MRI-Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center ... 685-4911

Midland Memorial-West Campus
4214 Andrews Hwy MID TX
Admitting ... 522-3001
Auxiliary ... 522-3084
Allison Women's Imag ... 522-3040
Scheduling ... 682-9729
The BirthPlace ... 523-3260
Cardio-Pulmonary ... 523-3072
Childbirth Education ... 523-3283
Davidson Pediatric Ctr ... 522-3365
Emergency Department Level IV ... 522-3043
Surgery-West Campus

Odessa Regional Medical Ctr
520 E 6th St
OD TX 79761 ... 334-8200
Admitting ... 582-8261
Breast feeding ... 582-8235
Cardiology ... 582-8468
Childbirth Classes ... 582-8399
Community Relations ... 582-8399
Dietary ... 582-8381
Emergency Room ... 582-8535
Engineering/Maint ... 582-8222
Gift Shop ... 582-8399
Human Resources ... 582-8397
Labor & Delivery ... 582-8280
Laboratory ... 582-8467
Medical Records ... 582-8487
Outpatient Registration ... 582-8270
Patient Accounts ... 582-8242
Purchasing ... 582-8380
Radiology ... 582-8280
Reg. Breast Care Ctr ... 582-8480
Regional Fertility Lab ... 582-8436
Regional Perinatal Ctr ... 582-8757
Respiratory ... 582-8385
Stork Tours ... 582-8280

Permian Regional Medical Ctr
720 Hospital Dr Andrews TX
79714 ... 432 464-2200
Administration ... 432 464-2103
Admissions ... 432 464-2154
Central Supply ... 432 464-2140
Credit ... 432 464-2110
Health Information Management ... 432 464-2121
Home Health ... 432 523-3637
Human Resources ... 432 464-2305
Information Desk ... 432 464-2113
Insurance ... 432 464-2117
Med/Surgical Waiting Rm ... 432 464-2390
Nursing Admin ... 432 464-2366
Snack Bar ... 432 464-2116
Social Services ... 432 464-2293
Wellness Center ... 432 464-2199

Permian Residential Care Center
Administrator ... 432 464-2433
Business Office Manager ... 432 464-2430
Director of Nursing ... 432 464-2432
Physical Therapy ... 432 464-2125
Respiratory Home Health ... 432 464-2124

Rankin District Hospital
1105 Elizabeth
RAN 79778 ... 693-2443

Reflections Program ... 800-725-3642

Regency Hospital of Odessa
500 W 4th St
OD 79761 ... 552-4000

River Crest Hospital ... 800-777-5722
1636 Hunters Glen
SAN 76901 ... 325-949-5722

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
1601 W 11th Pl BSP 79720

Select Specialty Hospital Midland Inc
4214 Andrews Hwy 3rd Floor
MID 79703 ... 522-3044

Ward Memorial Hospital
408 S Gary Ave MON 79756
Administrative Offices ... 943-3063
Pharmacy ... 943-5468
Physical Therapy
408 S Ike Ave
MON 79756 ... 943-6722
Home Health
408 S Ike Ave
MON 79756 ... 943-6721

Look for it January 29, 2012 in your Sunday Edition of the Midland Reporter-Telegram

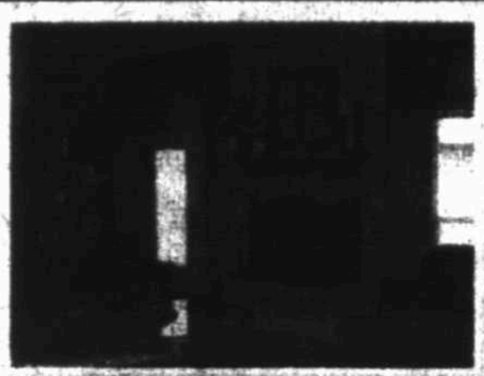
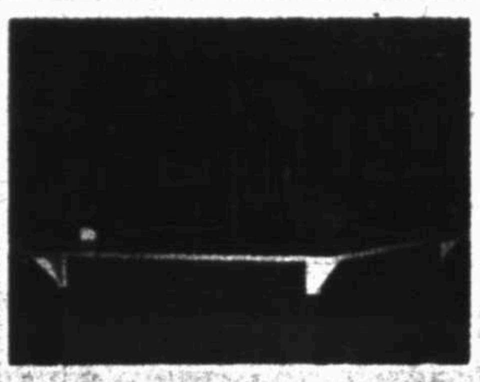
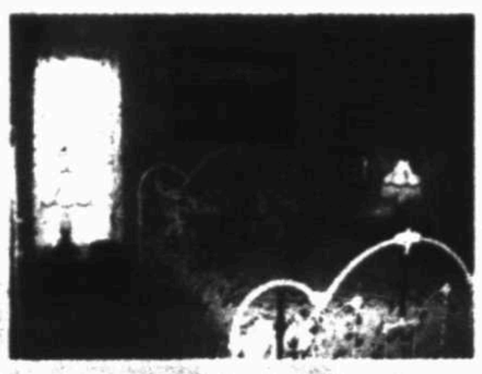
17th Annual

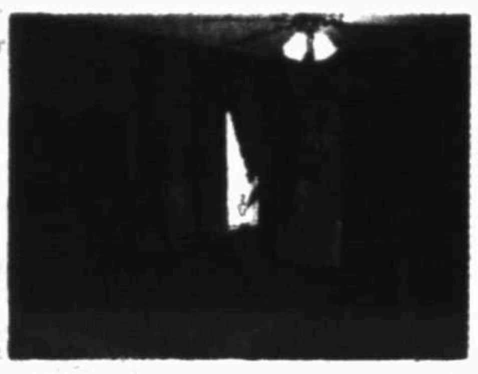
MEDICAL DIRECTORY

DD SUNDAY

January 1, 2012

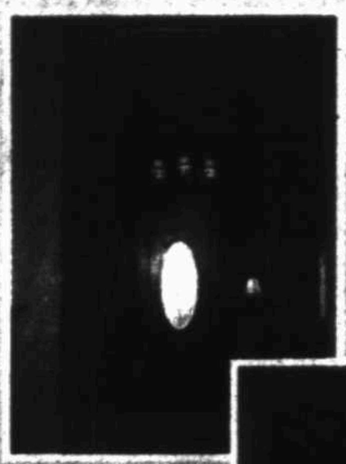
homes *real estate*



Start your new year off right with a decorator's dream home in the popular Greentree area! Imagine purchasing a house where all the decorative touches have been done for you and the house is just waiting on your furniture. 4976 Rustic Trail has faux painting on the walls, doors and mouldings as well as beautiful fabric, which has been used to soften the interior of the home. You will enjoy tall ceilings, sparkling tile in the main areas, carpet in the bedrooms and wood floors in the office and hallway. Built in 1997 and offering 2,173 square feet (MCAD), the house features three bedrooms, two bathrooms, one dining area, one living area and a two-car garage. Schools for this area include Greathouse Elementary, Abell Junior High and Lee High School.

Exterior brick on the house has been painted a rich taupe and the front door is a deep red; the two combine to make a warm and inviting entry. You will also notice they have used xeriscaping on the yard, not only saving on water but making it virtually maintenance free in front and back except for pruning several shrubs. Decorative touches extend out here as well to two deck and sitting areas that have been created.





The front door opens to beautiful tile floors, tall ceilings and modern ornamental lighting. To the right is an office or formal dining area depending on how you would like to furnish the room. Plantation shutters cover the front windows and the arched ceiling adds space to the room. Ahead of the entry is the living area, also with an arched ceiling and floor to ceiling fireplace and mantle. Windows surround the fireplace and a door leads out to the backyard and trellis covered deck.

In the kitchen during the party? No problem as this one opens up to the living area. A bar divides the room, also providing additional seating. Warm Italian colors of gold and deep reds permeate this area making it feel cozy. This kitchen has a large corner pantry, miles of countertops in addition to an immense amount of storage space in all the cabinets. Above the cabinets you can display favorite items. A pocket doors leads to the laundry room where there is a storage closet, hanging space for clothing and more cabinets. The dining area is off the kitchen and out the windows you will see a tiled semi-enclosed porch. A black iron chandelier hangs over the table and modern lighting is over the bar.

Down the hallway off the den, there are three bedrooms. All rooms in this house feature a continuation of the beautiful and creative faux painting, are carpeted and have ceiling fans and large walk-in closets. The first two bedrooms are on the right and in the hallway a full bathroom separates them. The spacious master bedroom features an arched ceiling making it feel even larger. A doorway leads outside to yet another deck for warm summer evening enjoyment. The bathroom includes dual sinks, his and hers walk-in closets and a bonus storage closet.

Additional amenities to this home include: sprinkler system, two fountains in the backyard, virtually zero maintenance on the yard and located in a coveted area. Make a move in the New Year! Priced at $269,900, more information may be obtained by calling Kay Sutton at (432) 416-0289, or by visiting www.kaysutton.com, or e-mail kay@kaysutton.com.



4976 Rustic Trail

MOPE INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CALLING KAY SUTTON AT (432) 416-0289, OR BY VISITING WWW.KAYSUTTON.COM, OR E-MAIL KAY@KAYSUTTON.COM.

520-5151

4410 N. Midkiff, Ste. B2, Midland, Tx. 79705

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Midland's fastest growing real estate office!

KELLER WILLIAMS® REALTY

New & Reduced Listings

1327 Terra Court .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$367,500
3 living, 2-dining areas, plus home office, gorgeous updated kitchen with huge pantry, walk up attic with huge cedar closet, and 3 car garage

5211 Greathouse Ave .... *Call Renee Salas 638-8083* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$305,000
2516 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, Open Floor plan-tile floors throughout except bedrooms, great kitchen, granite countertops, stainless steal appliances, double oven, sequestered master with wrap around closet.

3304 Marble Lane .... *Call Kay Sutton/Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* $269,500
2313 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, almost new, in great condition! High ceiling, open living, kitchen with granite counter tops, double ovens, seq. master with huge closet. Tile all through living area, dining, kitchen. Neutral carpet in bedrooms, neutral paint all through.

2415 Culpeper Dr .... *Call Kandi Bagwell 352-4134* $255,000
3557 sq. ft. 5 bedroooms, 3 bath, what a find! So much potential in this spacious home in a super neighborhood close to all your shopping needs. etc. Space for a gameroom. office/study, formal living, den and an in-law plan on the westside of the home. Has wonderful curb appeal, back drive with extra parking area, lots of storage and great sun porch with many windows overlooking a dazzling pool and a small area for pets.

808 Harvard .... *Call Bill Lanier/ Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *REDUCED*...$229,900
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3260 sq. ft. Charming Old Midland home! 3 living areas and 2 dining areas.

1700 W. Illinois .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *REDUCED*...$219,900
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3414 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 3 bath with 2 dining. Guest house and pool!

3207 Boyd .... *Call Charlotte Dalton 352-7298* .... *REDUCED*...$219,000
3 bedroom, 2 bath 2365 sq ft. Wow! What a find, bright and airy with agreat backyard.

3706 Stanolind Ave. .... *Call Cherith Hamilton 556-0306* $169,900
1900 sq ft. – 3 BR, 2 Bath, Adorable house in Wedgewood Park! Many unseen updates. Great backyard with covered patio!

1 La Paz Circle, Odessa .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $160,000
1.337 acres of land. Exclusive area!

2915 Aurora .... *Call Alan Glascock 934-1690* .... *REDUCED*...$165,000
3 Bedroom, 2 bath 2126 sq ft. Corner lot with a pool and workshop, close to schools

1309 S. Co. Rd. 1083 .... *Call Taylor Looney 889-6402* $150,000
1848 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, beautiful country property in Greenwood school district on two acres, has a barn and stalls for livestock. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, breakfast bar, office, nice black appliances, corner fireplace for those wintery nights. seq. master offers a spacious bath with jacuzzi tub, above ground pool, beautifully landscaped proeprty with nice mature trees, 3 car covered parking.

2100 W. Wadley Ave. # 6 .... *Call Mary Lynn Parsley 413-4248* .... *REDUCED*...$136,500
3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1846 sq ft. Three large bedrooms, updated bathrooms, hardwood floors lower level, carpet in bedrooms, tile in baths.

3219 Louisiana Ave. .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* $129,800
1883 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, a wonderful home on a corner lot. Water well, man cave in the back, plenty of room!

4311 Roosevelt .... *Call Sandy Copeland 813-5722* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$124,405
3 bedroom, 2 bath 1390 sq ft. Nice size kitchen open living and dining. New paint and full of tile!

1204 Hickory Ave., Odessa .... *Call Taylor Looney 889-6402* $105,000
1408 sq. ft. Cute house, great starter home, well maintained, updated 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 car garage, nice size backyard, neutral colors, large master bed with his and her master closets. Bring your buyers!!

806 Devonian .... *Call Patti Woolard 967-1846* .... *REDUCED*...$104,900
3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath 1615 sq ft. Custom kitchen cabinets, wonderful second living area!

310 Carpenter Stanton, Tx. .... *Call Charlotte Dalton 352-7298* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$89,500
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1901 sq. ft. Drastically reduced! Bring your best offer.

4+ Bedrooms

502 Solomon .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* ... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$1,350,000
4 bedroom 5 bath 6958 sqft. Coveted Solomon Lane! Pool, barn, room for horses with huge workshop!

3910 Tanforan .... *Call Kay Sutton / Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* .... *UC/OPTIONED*...$999,950
4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 5170 sq. ft. Custom quality. Beautiful wood flooring, dream kitchen with island and granite countertops. Located on 1 1/2 lots, plenty of space for a pool!

2004 Missouri .... *Call Sandy Tucker 894-1400* $425,000
6 bedroom 4 bath 3235sqft. Fabulous! Museum district 6 bedrooms, 4 baths 2 living and 2 dining. Pool, deck, gazebo, and waterfall!

4433 Verde Glen .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *SOLD*...$399,900
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3601 sq. ft. Gorgeous home in Green Tree North. 3 living areas in a private location

1327 Terra Court .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$367,500
3 living, 2 dining areas, plus home office, gorgeous updated kitchen with huge pantry, walk up attic with huge cedar closet, and 3 car garage.

3207 Reo .... *Call Kay Sutton / Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* $349,500
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3300 sq. ft. Large rooms with sequestered game room! Kitchen is all tile. Low maintenance!

5211 Greathouse Ave. .... *Call Renee Salas 638-8083* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$305,000
2516 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 3 bath, Open Floor plan-tile floors throughout except bedrooms, great kitchen, granite countertops, stainless steal appliances, double oven, sequestered master with wrap around closet.

2415 Culpeper Dr .... *Call Kandi Bagwell 352-4134* $255,000
3557 sq. ft. 5 bedrooms, 3 bath, what a find! So much potential in this spacious home in a super neighborhood close to all your shopping needs, etc. Space for a gameroom, office/study, formal living, den and an in-law plan on the westside of the home. Has wonderful curb appeal, back drive with extra parking area, lots of storage and great sun porch with many windows overlooking a dazzling pool and a small area for pets.

808 Harvard .... *Call Bill Lanier/ Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *REDUCED*...$229,900
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3260 sq. ft. Charming Old Midland home! 3 living areas and 2 dining areas.

3 Bedrooms

1211 WCR 138 .... *Call Kay Sutton/ Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* $339,000
3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath 2840 sq ft. wonderful home with covered porch wrapping around 3 sides. Sautillo tile everywhere except bedrooms and office. Office is off master bedroom and makes great for a work out room. Master bath is very large, jetted tub, HUGE closet. Palm tree landscape and oversized rooms, great for entertaining!

2609 W. County Rd. 130 .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* .... *SOLD*...$319,900
3 bedroom 21/2 bath 3460 sq ft. Exspansive living area with stunning fireplace. Very large sequestered master with his and hers everything.

3304 Marble Lane .... *Call Kay Sutton/Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* $269,500
2313 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, almost new, in great condition! High ceiling, open living, kitchen with granite counter tops, double ovens, seq. master with huge closet. Tile all through living area, dining, kitchen. Neutral carpet in bedrooms, neutral paint all through.

2605 Haynes Ave .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $229,000
Great investment property!

1700 W. Illinois .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Bakér 889-7001* .... *REDUCED*...$219,900
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3414 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 3 bath with 2 dining. Guest house and pool!

3207 Boyd .... *Call Charlotte Dalton 352-7298* .... *REDUCED*...$219,000
3 bedroom, 2 bath 2365 sq ft. Wow! What a find, bright and airy with agreat backyard.

2615 Haynes Ave .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $215,000
Great investment property!

2705 Dofa Place .... *Call Kay Sutton / Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* .... *SOLD*...$179,500
Huge living area with high ceiling & lots of tile ! Great fireplace in the living area w/ hearth & brick mantle. Recent paint on exterior & most of interior. Cul-de sac-no thu traffic, very quiet neighborhood.

3803 Roosevelt .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *SOLD*...$174,500
3 bedroom, 2 baths, 1771 sq. ft. Like new with flowing floor plan!

3706 Stanolind Ave. .... *Call Cherith Hamilton 556-0306* $169,900
1900 sq ft. – 3 BR, 2 Bath, Adorable house in Wedgewood Park! Many unseen updates. Great backyard with covered patio!

3408 Sincalir .... *Call Ann Flatt 638-4074* .... *SOLD*...$165,500
3 bedroom 2 bath 1749 sq ft. Beautiful home with so much class. Fresh neutral paint, tile and so much more.

2915 Aurora .... *Call Alan Glascock 934-1690* .... *REDUCED*...$165,000
3 Bedroom, 2 bath 2126 sq ft. Corner lot with a pool and workshop, close to schools

1309 S. Co. Rd. 1083 .... *Call Taylor Looney 889-6402* $150,000
1848 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, beautiful country property in Greenwood school district on two acres, has a barn and stalls for livestock. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, breakfast bar, office, nice black appliances, corner fireplace for those wintery nights. seq. master offers a spacious bath with jacuzzi tub, above ground pool, beautifully landscaped proeprty with nice mature trees, 3 car covered parking.

4616 Pasadena .... *Call Kay Sutton/Hilary Hale Brown 416-0289* .... *UC/OPTIONED*...$149,900
1563 sq ft., 3br, 2bath, Huge shop plus storage, garage door opens to alley. Separate garden area is ready for planting, water well for outside watering. Lots of updating inside, tile flooring in kitchen, recent counter tops, appliances, neutral carpet. Exterior trim is no maintenance.

1907 Oaklawn Dr. .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$142,500
1438 sq ft. – Updated 3 bed/2 bath in a great neighborhood! Completely remodeled kitchen in 2011! Recent int/ext paint! Fabulous master suite with step-in shower! Incredible backyard! Auto-sprinkler, too!

2100 W. Wadley Ave. # 6 .... *Call Mary Lynn Parsley 413-4248* .... *REDUCED*...$136,500
3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1846 sq ft. Three large bedrooms, updated bathrooms, hardwood floors lower level, carpet in bedrooms, tile in baths.

111 S. Bentwood .... *Call Kandi Bagwell 352-4134* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$130,000
1228 sq ft, 3BR 2 bath. Nice home in good neighborhood with large kitchen, updated, 2 car garage. 20x25 shop and 12x24 storeroom.

3219 Louisiana Ave. .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* $129,800
1883 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, a wonderful home on a corner lot. Water well, man cave in the back, plenty of room!

4603 Parkdale .... *Call Les Wood 557-1454* $114,900
1391 sq ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, very nice, large living area with open kitchen and dining area, single car garage, great curb appeal with huge back yard for kids, pool, pets, etc.

2606 Kessler Ave. .... *Call Leo Salcido 557-4487* $110,000
1647 sq ft., 3 BR, 2 bath, 2 living areas. Fireplace and bay window in the separate living area, along with a separate dining room. Ceremic tile in kitchen, living room, dining room, and bathrooms. A great big backyard!

806 Devonian .... *Call Patti Woolard 967-1846* .... *REDUCED*...$104,900
3 bedroom 1 1/2 bath 1615 sq ft. Custom kitchen cabinets, wonderful second living area!

1211 E. Oak Ave. .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$84,900
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1150 sq. ft., cute 3 bedroom!! Kitchen has great cabinet space! Completely remodeled! Pool size backyard!

1215 E. Oak Ave .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $79,900
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Cute 3 bedroom! This house has great sized bedrooms & bathrooms. Great cabinet space in kitchen, pool sized backyard. Fantastic starter home!!

410 Hickory Ave .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $79,900
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1240 sq. ft.

1 & 2 Bedrooms

2603 Haynes Ave. .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $195,000
Great investment property!

1506 Big Spring .... *Call Sandy Copeland 813-5722* $110,000
2 bedroom 1 bath 1360 sq ft. This property is currently being used as a 2 bedroom 1 bath home. This property is zoned LR1 and can be used for business property.

Condominiums

Fairmont Condominiums-4700 Boulder - *Call Cameron Willmann 978-4298 for more information*
1 bed-2 bed 2 bath townhomes .... ranging from $29,900-$64,900

Odessa & Surrounding Areas

10739 E Goldenrod Dr, Gardendale ... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* . *UNDER CONTRACT*...$990,000
1 bedroom 1 bathroom 1500 sq ft. 143 acres, barn and water well!

64 Oak Canyon on Lake Allan Henry .... *Call Taylor Looney 889-6402* $275,000
1992 sq ft. 3 BR, 2 Bath. This isn't your typical lake house! The kitchen includes granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, lots of cabinets, pantry, and is open to the living area. The master suite features a huge walk in closet, garden tub, and walk in shower. The bonus area would make a great play room for the kids or a nice office for the adults. Enjoy the view by the outdoor fireplace under the covered patio!

400 W. School Dr Stanton, Tx ..... *Call Charlotte Dalton 352-7298* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$189,500
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3740 sq. ft. Historical home in Stanton, recently added tile, stainless appliances. Will add new roof.

306 S Seals in Ft Stockton .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* $155,000
3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2149 sq ft. Large sequestered master bedroom, 2 living areas and dining areas, larged covered patio for entertaining!

2401 Eastover .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* .... *UNDER CONTRACT*...$115,000
5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2010 sq. ft. Bonus room could be possible 6th bedroom with attached bath and lots of updates.

1604 N Ave. G, Lamesa .... *Call Charlotte Dalton 352-7298* .... *REDUCED*...$110,000
So much storage. Family room has built in cabinets & gas fireplace, large utility room with sink. Great place to call home!

1204 Hickory Ave., Odessa .... *Call Taylor Looney 889-6402* $105,000
1408 sq. ft. Cute house, great starter home, well maintained, updated 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 car garage, nice size backyard, neutral colors, large master bed with his and her master closets. Bring your buyers!!

1608 E Crenshaw Dr, McCamey .. *Call Leo Salcido 557-4487* $96,000
1584 Sq ft. Great bricked house to call your own! Updated 3/2 bedroom. 2 Bath 1 Car garage. 1 Carport on back with an additional parking Storage room can be converted into a workshop Big yard front and back. House is ready to move in. Tiled floors Bay window in breakfast area large kitchen Small office space by kitchen. Also there is an additional lot behind house included in sale of house. Great town to live!

310 Carpenter Stanton, Tx .... *Call Charlotte Dalton 352-7298* .... *REDUCED*...$89,500
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1901 sq. ft. Drastically reduced! Bring your best offer.

1403 Tucson in Big Spring .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* $62,000
3 bedrooms 1 bathroom 1201 sq ft. New carpet and paint, updated kitchen, move in ready!

Commercial

1501 N. Fairgrounds, Midland .... *Call Norman Neyman 894-6104* $1,750,000
38,676 sq. ft. Commercial property on 2.635 acres with numerous applications for a business.

418 N. Lamesa Rd .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $69,500
1882 sq ft. Great location for Woodworkers! Previously a cabinet shop. With an acceptable offer, all equipment will remain with the property.

Land & Lots

7613 Trenton .... *Call Bill Lanier/ Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $225,000
3.59 acres near Saddle Club Ranch Estates. 5,000 sq ft. workshop with partial heat and A/C. Approximatley 5,000 sq ft metal barn/workshop that is partially heated & cooled with plumbing!!! Great Location to build your new home!! May be combined with land on 7607 Trenton!!!

7607 Trenton .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $144,900
3.95 acres near Saddle Club Ranch Estates. (Please see property above)

1 La Paz Circle, Odessa .... *Call Bill Lanier/Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $169,000
1.337 acres of land. Exclusive area!

800 Neely .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $80,000
.553 acres / Land & Lots

5310 Ellen Janye Way .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $69,900
New subdivision in Green Tree North

5312 Ellen Jayne Way .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $69,000
New subdivision in Green Tree North

5327 Bella PL .... *Call Bill Lanier / Charmaine Baker 889-7001* $69,000
New subdivision in Green Tree North

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New subdivision in Green Tree North

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Great country property for a manufactured home!

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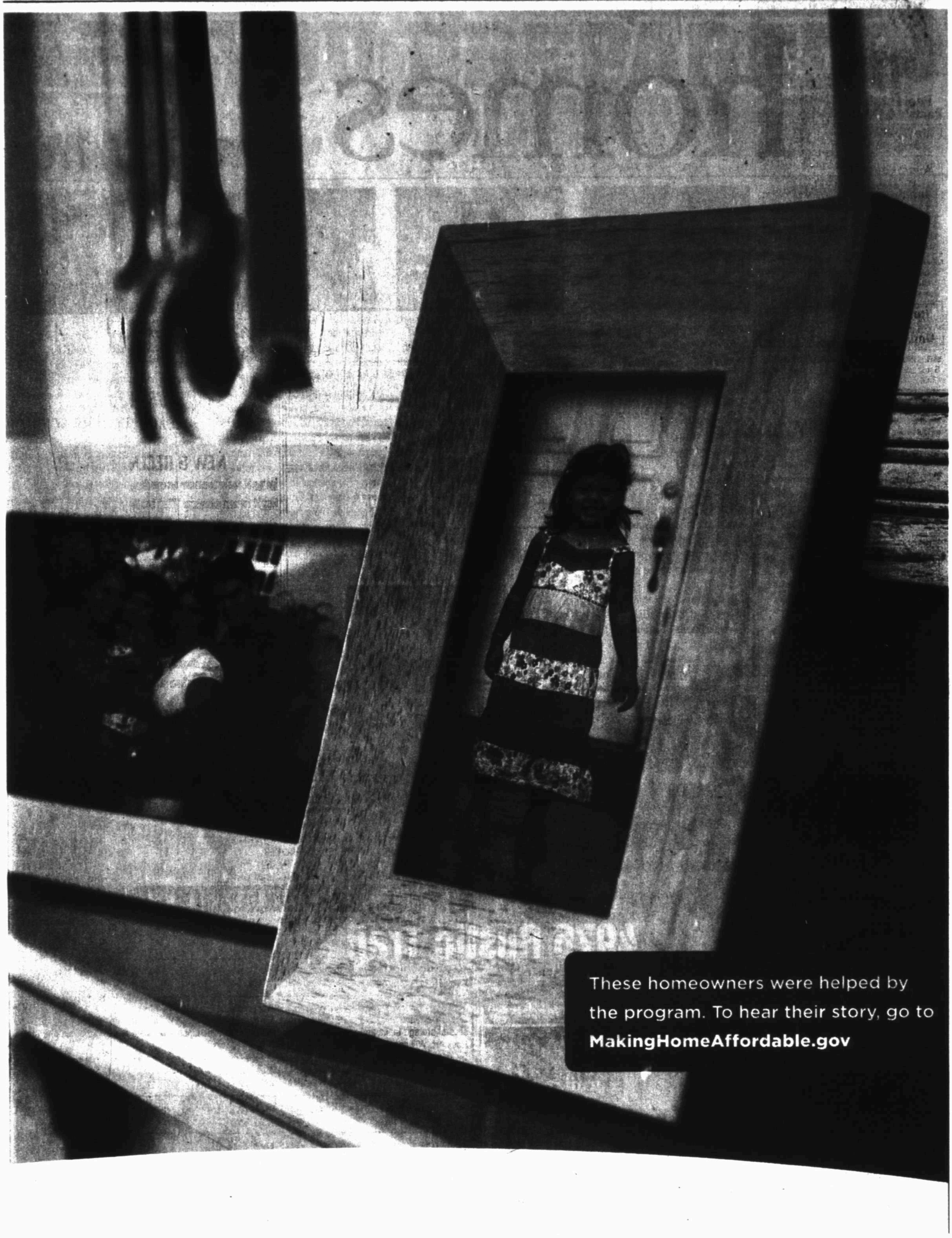
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Homes for Sale

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BY OWNER Wallace Patio Townhouse, 1410 W. Pine, 3BD, 2BTH, 2 car 2430 sq ft, 1 owner, new roof, lrg living area, huge master bdrm and 2 fireplaces. For appointment call 432-697-4010.

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Residential Sales

Homes for Sale

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The Bottom Line

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Source: Scarborough Research, 2005

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• Chandelle Condominiums #85 1 bedroom .... $[illegible]

Happy New Year!

Homes for Sale

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16,342 Acres-Val Verde County, Texas. Langtry Pecos River Ranch with 14 miles of river frontage (the west side), five miles of county road and one mile railroad frontage. Two headquarters with three water wells and several storage tanks and pipelines for abundant water all over ranch. Two state registered caves and Indian Rock Art. Will convey 1/2 minerals owned.

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803 Acres-Schleicher County, Texas, eleven miles southeast in very prestigious live oak property with solar pump, concrete storage and pond. Two miles county road frontage. Excellent Protein Fed Deer & Turkey.

200± Acres-Bandera, Texas. Subdivide, south of Bandera.

255 Acres-Crockett County, Texas. 15 miles southwest Ozona, Ranch Road 2083 frontage. Excellent hunting opportunity.

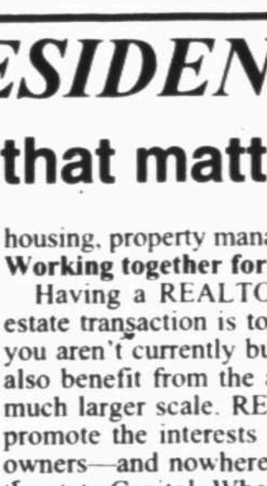
170 Acres-Tom Green County, Ridge Lane, North of Christoval. Good hunting, very good home site.

250 Acres-Concho County, near Lake Ivie. Good hunting, Highway frontage.

Homes for Sale

A Special Gift

Over the past few days we have opened lots of gifts and all of them have been very special and appreciated. But we are reminded of other gifts, the ones that come into our lives daily – the people we meet through our real estate business. We can view people as gifts which are sent to us wrapped. Some are beautiful with attractive wrapping and shiny ribbons and bows. Some come wrapped in plain brown paper, tied with string. Others have been mishandled or dropped and may be broken or crushed. Occasionally there is a special delivery. Others are very tightly wrapped, requiring effort and patience before what is inside is revealed. Perhaps these are people with fear in their lives or people who have experienced hurts. We must always remember that the wrapping is not the gift; there are often many surprises inside. We should always look for a special gift inside each person. You are a gift too, a gift to yourself and a gift to others. We appreciate you, as our customer, and all you are willing to give of yourself to your family, your friends, and your neighbors. You will always be a special gift to us.



Pine & Beckett

****

This story was submitted by Norma Pine, ABR, CRS, ASR, Broker/Owner, & Chris Beckett, ABR, CRS, e-Pro, GRI, ASR, Broker/Owner of Pine & Beckett, REALTORS.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

A difference that matters

Many people use the word REALTOR® to describe someone who is a real estate agent or broker. However, there is a difference between a real estate agent or broker who is a REALTOR® and one who is not. As a REALTOR® myself, I believe there are significant advantages for clients who hire a REALTOR®.

Ethical practices

All real estate agents and brokers must be licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission to assist consumers with buying and selling property. However, only those licensed agents and brokers who choose to become REALTOR® commit themselves to a higher standard of professional conduct known as the REALTOR® Code of Ethics. The code consists of 17 articles that outline a REALTORS® obligations to clients, the public and other REALTORS®. Each article is broken down into several standards of practice that outline the conduct expected of a REALTOR®. The Code of Ethics is more than a list of goals. It is actually enforced through the REALTOR® organization to ensure the interests of clients, the public and other REALTORS® are protected. As a matter of fact, anyone can charge a REALTOR® with violating the Code of Ethics, and procedures are in place to determine if the code has indeed been broken. If the REALTOR® is found to have violated the code, punishments range from mandatory education to hefty fines and sometimes even suspension of membership in the organization.

Head of the class

Another distinguishing feature of REALTORS® is how much value we place on education. You may have seen a business card or Web page and noticed a string of letters, such as GRI, CRS or ABR, after a REALTOR®'s name. Those letters represent professional designations offered through the REALTOR® or organization or affiliated institutions. As a buyer or seller, you can benefit from a REALTOR®'s in-depth industry knowledge gained from earning designations. Each designation represents a different type of expertise such as buyer representation, affordable housing, property management and others.

Working together for Texas

Having a REALTOR® represent you in a real estate transaction is to your advantage. But even if you aren't currently buying or selling property, you also benefit from the actions of REALTOR® on a much larger scale. REALTORS® work together to promote the interests of homebuyers and property owners—and nowhere is this more evident than at the state Capitol. When the 82nd Texas Legislature concluded in 2011, Texas REALTORS® counted several successes on behalf of private-property rights and the interests of Texas homeowners. Bills that give homeowners association members more rights became law during the session. A law was passed that increases restrictions on the government's use of eminent domain. And legislation prohibiting private transfer fees and requiring better disclosure also became law this session.

A difference that matters

So, REALTORS® are more than just real estate agents and brokers. They are professionals who abide by a strict ethical code, are obliged to treat all parties fairly, pursue education beyond what the law requires and work for your benefit at the state Capitol. I hope you'll consider hiring a REALTOR® for your next real estate transaction. It's a difference that matters—for many reasons.

****



Ivey

Warren Ivey
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Ask our broker



WITH PETER G. MILLER
peter@ctwfeatures.com

#OCCUPY THE HOUSE?

QUESTION:

We have neighbors facing foreclosure. Is it possible for them to stay in the home once the lender takes the property? This would be better for the neighborhood because at least the home would be occupied.

ANSWER:

Most lenders do not want borrowers to remain in the property. Instead the usual idea is to get the borrowers out so the property can be resold quickly. In fact, under the government's Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives program borrowers who agree to a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure – a quick way to transfer title back to the lender – can receive as much as $3,000 in relocation assistance.

A notable exception is Fannie Mae's Deed-For-Lease plan. Under this program the borrower accepts a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure and can stay as long as they're able to rent at a fair market rate and the rental does not exceed 31 percent of their income.

The Fannie Mae plan brings in income and keeps the property occupied, which keeps vandals out. It also works for borrowers who can no longer afford mortgage costs but can pay rent. The program generally will not work for those who have lost their jobs or suffered a substantial income loss.

QUESTION:

Is it true that 30-year mortgages might be discontinued?

ANSWER:

It's hugely unlikely that the availability of 30-year mortgages will end, although a Senate committee actually held hearings on this issue in October.

Long-term mortgages were unknown at the time of the Great Depression. Most homes were then financed with five-year "term" loans. That means every few years you had to get a replacement mortgage, something that could be difficult if you had lost a job or the value of your property had declined.

The introduction of the FHA program in the 1930s made long-term financing popular. It meant borrowers could get a mortgage and not worry that a loan application might be declined a few years later.

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E-mail peter@ctwfeatures.com.

REAL ESTATE



Percentage of American consumers who say the kitchen is the most-used room during the holidays.

SOURCE: Coldwell Banker survey

INVESTING

MARKETS LURING LANDLORDS



RENTAL DEMAND FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES IS HIGH, BUT THERE'S PLENTY FOR OWNERS TO LEARN BEFORE THEY CAN PROFIT

By MARILYN KENNEDY MELIA
CTW FEATURES

Optimistic investors are drawn to silver linings.

With the outlook for home sales still dark, investors – as well as frustrated home sellers – are focusing on a bright spot: more demand to rent single-family homes. Indeed, market forecaster Local Market Monitor and cash homebuyer HomeVestors of America recently listed metro areas that are rental "sweet spots" where rental charges for are rising even as home prices fall.

But not every property will bring landlords a profit.

Even in those "sweet" rental areas, like Grand Rapids, Mich., Rochester, N.Y., and Houston, "you can make bad investments," notes Ingo Winzer, real estate analyst and founder of Local Market Monitor. Like buyers, renters want homes in neighborhoods with good schools and near vibrant downtowns, says Jim McClelland, president of Tinley Park, Ill.-based MACK Companies, which rents single family homes.

Moreover, areas where home prices have sunk especially low, such as Detroit and Las Vegas, may have cheap properties that attract investors, but their weak labor markets translate into low rental demands.

If there's one lesson this painful economy has taught, it's that there's no sure thing. Even desperate home sellers who look to rent temporarily to cover heavy mortgage bills should examine the strategy. Here, experts advise how to examine this bright spot without blinders on:

Squeeze Play

Lots more investors are buying single-family homes to rent out, but ordinary owners are reluctant to leave their home and let tenants move in, notes Tony Geraci, broker-owner of Century 21 HomeStar, Cleveland.

"If someone just want to downsize or get another home, they are not looking to rent," he says. Rather, "it's the people who have to move" and seek renters to relieve the pressure of paying for two residence.

It's wise for homeowners to rent reluctantly, says Carol Friedhoff, a financial planner in Dublin, Ohio. For one thing, you may miss a buyer while the home is being leased. Moreover, "tenants may not care for the home, and when it is time to put it on the market, they may not be cooperative," Friedhoff says.

It may be impossible for some owners to rent if their homeowner's association forbids it, adds Geraci. And, owners of single-family homes may be required to register their intent to rent with their municipality, which may then inspect the property for health and safety, and you'll also have to upgrade your homeowner's insurance, he adds.

Professional Help

Although sellers are motivated by a cash squeeze to rent, they should sacrifice part of their rental income to a management association, says Geraci. "There are lots of people looking to rent, some might have bad credit because of a single issue like a medical problem and will be good tenants," he says.

For a set fee, many rental management companies will find a tenant and help owners screen creditworthiness, says Jim Evans, president of the Institute of Real Estate Management. Such management companies also offer a variety of services like dealing with tenant questions and collecting rents.

The market for potential tenants and the probable rental income can be difficult for ordinary owners to discern. Management companies can provide advice.

Not Just a Quick Buck

Just as only certain sellers should turn to renting, individual investors should be very careful about putting their savings into buying rental property, cautions Steven Weydert, an Irvine, Calif., financial planner.

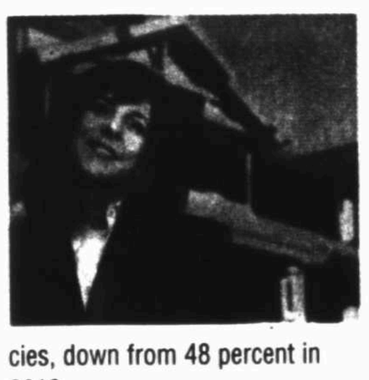
"The best candidates for real estate investment are already on solid financial footing, are looking to diversify, can afford to take on the additional risk and potential increased return of a concentrated position – which is what real estate is," Weydert explains.

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RENTALS

WHERE THE RENTER'S ARE

Survey of property managers take look how the economy is affecting renters – and their rental worthiness



It's tough out there, but looking to 2012, landlords are optimistic, according to a recent Rent.com survey of property managers representing approximately 29,000 apartment communities.

THE VACANCY ECONOMY

Job market conditions remain the greatest factor in determining vacancies. In 2011, just 52 percent of property managers reported job loss as a significant factor affecting vacancy rates, down from 70 percent last year and 90 percent in 2009. Beyond that, 46 percent of property managers said vacancies were affected by tenants who could not afford their rent or were trying to save more money, down from 59 percent the year before. Just 23 percent of property managers cited tenants doubling up or taking on roommates as factors driving vacancies, down from 48 percent in 2010.

THE CONCESSION STAND

The number of property managers offering concessions to attract renters also is on the decline. Twenty percent reported reducing deposit amounts (versus 44 percent in 2010), and 16 percent of property managers are still willing to lower rent or provide one or more months' rent free as a concession (versus 37 and 36 percent, respectively, in 2010).

GOT CREDIT?

Property managers continue to see year-over-year declines in creditworthiness among prospective applicants, with 43 percent citing a decline in creditworthiness in 2011, down from 53 percent in 2010 and 78 percent in 2011. An additional 43 percent say creditworthiness has remained flat, with 14 percent citing an uptick.

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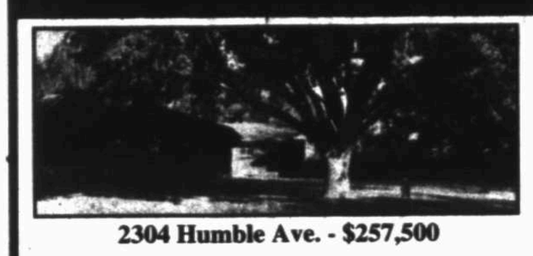
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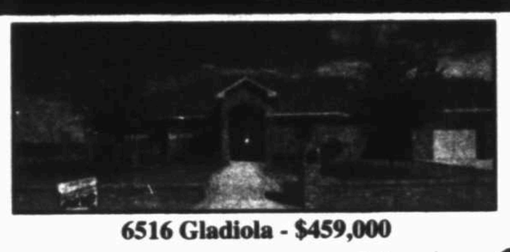
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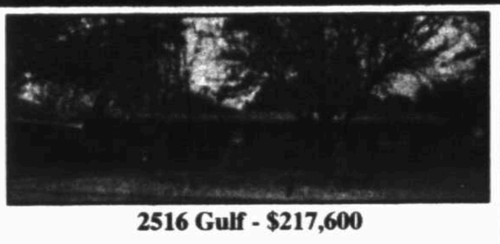
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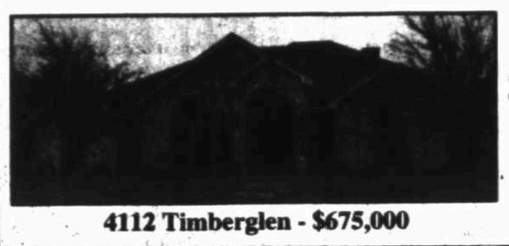
Featured Homes

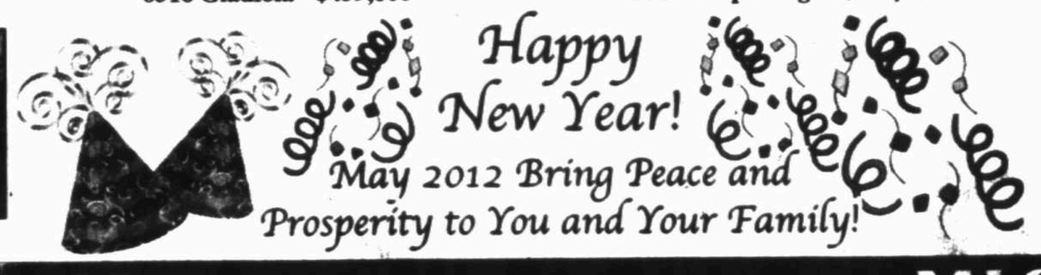

2304 Humble Ave. - $257,500

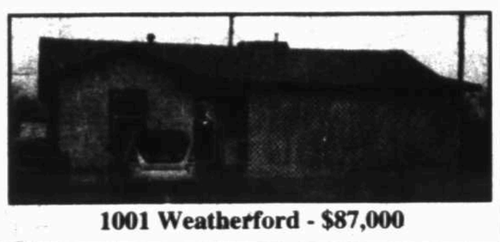

6516 Gladiola - $459,000


2812 Purple Sage - $209,000


2516 Gulf - $217,600


4112 Timberglen - $675,000




1001 Weatherford - $87,000

www.RE1Midland.com to view all MLS Listings

New and Reduced Listings

2680 N. H Street-4bed/3bath/pool/3 car garage! $384,900
2703 Parton Way-Beautiful new construction by Bernal Homes. 4/3/3 ..... $329,500
5004 Monticello Ct.-Super clean & fresh with large master, 3 car garage $274,900
2304 Humble-Lovely "Old Midland" 4/2/2, updated, spacious home across from Fasken Park. A Must see! $257,500
2516 Gulf-Fabulous four in Fannin w/2LA/48d w/sep. master. 2 large walk-in closets. This fantastic home demands your immediate attention! $217,600
2812 Purple Sage Tr.-4/3, well maintained $209,000
2904 N. Garfield-Updated 2BR townhome $196,000
1918 N. Tyler-Gorgeous designer home. 3bd/2bth/2DG. A must see! $172,800

Two Bedrooms

2604 N. Garfield-Move in ready townhome, new paint, carpet, updated kitchen $196,000

Three Bedrooms

6516 Gladiola-3/3 new construction with RV garage & workshop $468,000
806 Canonero-Custom One Owner Saddle Club Townhome ..... U/C- $410,000
3005 Cardinal-Location. Location. 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath on 3+ acres. Enjoy the convenience of cuntry living in the city ..... U/C- $325,000
3208 S. Co. Rd. 1298-3bd, 2bth, miles of tile, stable facilities, light & bright ..... U/C- $290,000
5004 Monticello Ct.-Great cul-de-sac, loads of new & fresh, wonderful storage $274,900
404 Springwood Ct.-3BR, 2\1/2BA in Meadowland Estates. HOA $269,900
3001 Moss-3/2 1/2/2 lovely updated townhouse. Don't miss this one! Great price! $239,500
1616 W. Dengar-2 living, 2 dining & large shop $239,000
1801 Western-Tile floors, great drive-up, good plan, nicely maintained $192,500
5300 Anetta-Great home built in 2007 with 16x24 shop $182,500
4510 St. Andrews-Fantastic 3BR, 2BA, formal/study ..... U/C IN 1 DAY- $179,900
1918 N. Tyler-Gorgeous Designer Home. Must See! $172,800
2608 Holloway-3/1, well kept! Garage/workshop $125,000
3305 W. Louisiana Ave.-Clean, well maintained 3br, 2ba, spacious Living/dining, garage ..... U/C- $114,900
1001 S. Weatherford-3bd, 2ba $87,000
4403 Harlowe Dr.-3 bed/1 bath ..... U/C- $49,900

Four Bedrooms

6003 E. Co. Rd. 102-Reata Ranch 4BR, 3 1/2BA, 2LA's, 3 garage on 2.5 acres. 30x30 workshop, 10x30 tackroom and 12x30 stalls. Hurry! ..... U/C- $419,900

Four Bedrooms

2703 Parton Way-Beautiful Bernal Home new construction, 4/3/3, formal dining, gas stove, still time to make selections $329,500
3220 Patrick-Fabulous new construction in Mayfield Place $304,900
5215 Quicksand-Gorgeous 4br, 2.5ba, formal dining, granite, newer appliances, so many upgrades ..... U/C- $299,900
2304 Humble-Lovely "Old Midland" 4/2/2, updated, spacious home across from Fasken Park. A Must see! $257,500
2610 Shandee-Remodeled kitchen, pretty floors, 2 car garage, workshop ..... U/C- $229,000
2516 Gulf-Fabulous four in Fannin w/2LA/48d w/sep. master. 2 large walk-in closets. This fantastic home demands your immediate attention! $217,600
2812 Purple Sage Tr.-Well maintained home $209,000
1707 Western Dr.-This 4 bed/3 bath home has recent paint, carpet, appliances and fixtures. Hurry won't last long ..... U/C- $197,000

Five or More Bedrooms

3009 Cardinal-Fabulous 5+ BR, 2.7 acres, fabulous guest/pool house, pool. 30x80 steel workshop, beautifully updated, new kitchen March 2011 ..... $1,150,000
208 Bayberry Parkway-Grand 6 BR Home, gourmet kitchen, attached guest suite can also become fantastic game room! Best workshop in Midland! $995,000
3900 Baybrook Ct.-Fabulous home in Mockingbird Heights! Game room, guest suite, pool & spa $789,000

Town Houses and Patio Homes

806 Canonero-Custom One Owner Saddle Club Townhome ..... U/C- $410,000
1005 W. Pine-Simply fabulous! Totally updated, spacious 3/3 1/2/2 townhouse in Highland Park. Don't Miss it! ..... U/C IN 2 DAYS- $329,900
3001 Moss 3/2 1/2/2 lovely, updated patio home. Centrally located, next to park $239,500
2903 Golf Course-True bargain, approx. 2895 sqft, super $200,000
2904 N. Garfield-2BR, 2BA townhome, loads of new & fresh $196,000

Lots, Land and Acreage

Loop 250 & I-20-approx. 20 acres, call Bill Scott $650,000
84 Lincoln Park-San Angelo lot & boat house. Lake Nasworthy $179,000
900 W. Cuthbert-Build new in Old Midland, hard to find location $125,000
1008 W. Texas-Good downtown lot, loads of possibilities $50,500

New Construction

6516 Gladiola-3/3 new construction with RV garage & workshop $459,000
2703 Parton Way-Beautiful new construction by Bernal Homes. 4/3/3 ..... $329,500
3100 Patrick Pl.-Beautiful Mike Jackson Const. 4BR, 3BA, 3GA ..... S/L/D- $319,000
3220 Patrick-Beautiful 4/3/3, now complete $304,900

Lease Property

2101 N. Midland Dr., Suite 3-For Lease - 1,500 sq. ft. in Market Manor Shopping Center. Call Bill Scott. $1,500.00/Month
2101 N. Midland Dr., Suite 2-B-For Lease - 1,100 sq. ft., terrific high traffic location. Call Bill Scott $1,100.00/Month

Commercial Investment Property

W. Wadley Avenue-1.22 acre retail site, just site next to new West Texas Nat'l Bank ..... Call Bill Scott
2903 Commerce Dr.-Medical office/manufacturing facility on 4.9 acres. over 22,800 sq. ft. 5,800 sq. ft. office space & 14,016 sq. ft. shop. Has been owned by Md. MUST SEE! Call Bill Scott $2,100,000
2301 E. Interstate 20, Odessa, TX-6.6 acres with over 43,000 sq. ft. industrial bldg. 34,718 sq. ft. shop & 8,518 sq. ft. ..... U/C- $1,600,000
5500 Block of [illegible]-Retail location in North Midland, zoned for retail. Across from Lowes. Vacant lot with approx. 30,883 sq. ft. Call Bill Scott $645,000
2225 Wolfcamp Drive-7,500 sq. ft. industrial building with approx. 1,500 sq. ft. of office. Call Bill Scott $399,000
2121 W. Florida Ave.-Terrific location, also industrial. 3 offices, a showroom. 3BA. 2/3 storage rooms. 2 warehouse areas. Call Bill Scott $399,000
701-703 W. Indiana-Office building w/4 separate suites. 10,000 sq. ft. great downtown location, partial sale possible. Call Bill Scott $325,000
2913 W. Industrial Agents, 8,458 sq. ft. industrial/warehouse building on .788 acres. Terrific location w/2 offices & access to Carter St. Call Bill Scott $318,000
4910 N. Midland-Scientific custom office building in Stone Oak Plaza w/small warehouse area. Call Cindy Belcher or Bill Scott ..... U/C- $229,000
Andrews Hwy.-2.8 acre tract of land just East of Loop 250, zoned retail. Call Bill Scott $125,000

Out of Town Properties

109 Bay Point, Horseshoe Bay, TX-Fabulous waterfront home including furnishings! $3,150,000
3625 Country Club/San Angelo-Fabulous! Lake Front home. Southwestern Life $850,000
84 Lincoln Park-San Angelo lot & boat house. Lake Nasworthy $179,000



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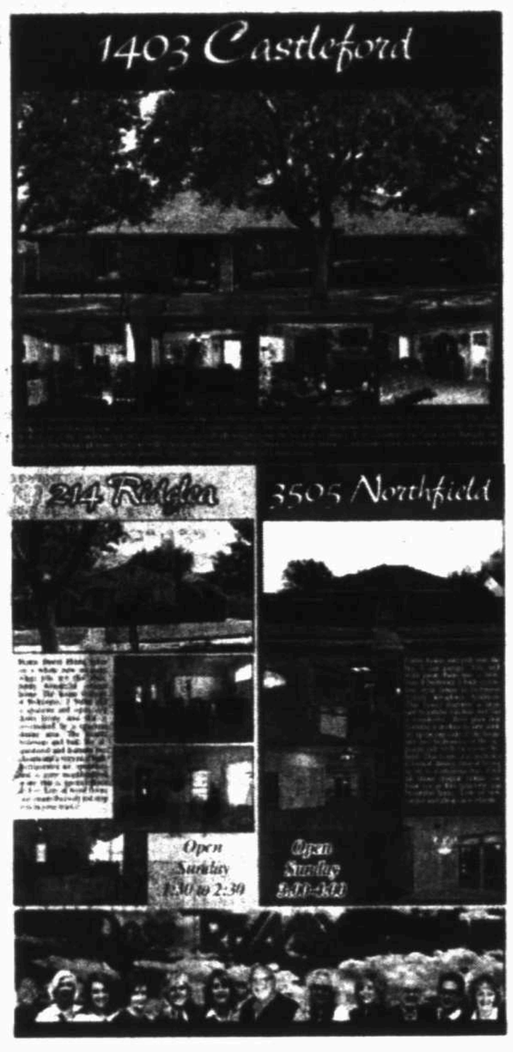
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[illegible] 4012 Cristo	$341,000	Thomas 694-3333
201 E. 2nd St Stanton, Tx	$180,000	Canote 689-9290
721 Caldwell, 1650 sf, 2 bed 2 bath	$119,500	Justin 352-0927
1613 Alamosa	$119,000	Tim 349-6774
202 S Tyler	$5,000	Tim 349-6774
10 acres on FM 1788 $12k per acre. will subdivide. Unitood restricted.		
6 acres on FM 1788 $12k per acre		Thomas 689-9290
2600 I-20	$3,000,000	Thomas 689-9290
8112 Big Spring St.	$1,300,000	Thomas 689-9290
2443 W Hwy 176 Andrews, Tx	$280,000	
4/2 bath house		Thomas 689-9290
Co. Rd. 411, River House, 8000 acres	$3,975,000	Thomas 694-3333
2445 County Rd 152 Brady, TX	$2,129,000	Justin 352-0927
487 acres in Brown County	$2.1 mill	Lindsay 432-212-2272

Eagle Mtns, Reagan Co., 2572 Acres, 1300 Acres High Fenced $1,029,100 ($750/Acre) Thomas 694-3333

1150 Acres MLD Level 3, High Fence, Sonora $1,719,250 Thomas 694-3333

Pecos County Mineral Ranch $1,910,000 Thomas 694-3333

Coleman, 300 Acres w/House $499,000 Thomas 694-3333

Pecos, TX, 3/2 1996 built home with 817 acres - no minerals, no production $416,450 Call Thomas for more details

Reeves County, 1947 Acres $307,000 Justin 352-0927

Working Man Ranch, 200 acres $140,000 Thomas 694-3333

14303 Lakeside Dr Point Rsdt, Tx $144,000 Thomas 694-3333

Working Man Ranch, 160 Acres $80,000 Thomas 694-3333

Lot 16 Haberview Estates $75,000 Thomas 694-3333

11000 Whit St. Lake Isle, Tx A $10,000 Thomas 694-3333

231.4 Acres in Plains, Tx $550 per acre Thomas 694-3333

885 Acres Cochran County $450 per acre Thomas 694-3333

6400 Acres in Sonderosa w/100k minerals $450 per acre Thomas 694-3333

635.5 Acres in Castings County $625 per acre Thomas 694-3333

Imperial Ranch, will subdivide, 1287 acres @$275/m acre Thomas 694-3333

All of the information in listings is true and correct - 432-563-1200 www.therealestateranch.com

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Kay McDonald, Relocation Director
Darrell McDonald, Broker/Owner
www.mcdonaldrealtors.com
rentmidlandtexas.com
E-mail: mcdonaldrealtors@aol.com



4004 ILLINOIS - 3 bedrooms 1 and a half baths in Wilshire park. 2 living areas. 1 car garage. Recent paint, carpet and tile. $127,500. Call Carol.



1706 HARRISON - Spacious! Clean! Recent Updates! This home will draw you in with custom cabinets and recent tile and appliances in the kitchen. New carpet in the bedrooms. DOUBLE carport (2 cars deep) leading into the back of the house where a detached garage awaits. Perfect for workshop, car shop, and other uses. Call for an appointment!$125,000 - Call John.



2307 METZ - Absolutely fabulous 4 bedroom/2.5 Bath home in Goddard Heights. Very nicely updated. 1100 Sq ft two story insulated shop with 2 car garage door. Roomy storage shed. $219,900. Call Kerri.



3807 SINCLAIR - Great family home. 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath, 2 living areas, in Wedgewood Park. Tile, plantation shutters tile kitchen, living, dinning area & hall. The home also has an alarm system on doors, windows and motion inside. This home is ready to move into. $169,000. Call John.



229 E. CIRCLE - 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage built in 2006. What a find for $140,000. Please call Carol



2317 CO. RD. 1140 - Beautiful country home on 3.47 acres. LOTS OF SPACE!! Spacious bedrooms with good closet space. Gorgeous updated bathrooms with separate tub and shower. Beautiful kitchen with island. This home has been well taken care of in many things to list. SO SHOW $179,000 Call Elva.



2816 FRONTIER - Absolutely stunning home in Fannin district - 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 car garage. Custom ash cabinets along with granite countertops and stainless appliances in kitchen. Oak wood floors and Saltillo tile. $264,900. Please call Kerri at 553-7443.



6404 CARNATION - Incredible home on 2 acres - granite kitchen - 2 greenrooms plus indoor pool with living area around pool - separated master suite with separate office - large family room with office plus living room - this is truly spectacular - dont miss it. $499,900. Please call James.



4110 HARLOWE - Nice 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 living home in Permain Estates. $99,900. Call Carol



5206 OAK VALLEY DR. - Absolutely fabulous 4 bedroom 3 bath home in greathouse addition. Beautiful open floor plan with high ceilings, crown molding and rounded corners. 3 Car garage. Call Cindy. $312,000.



3313 STANOLIND AVE. - Cul-de-sac location on beautiful tree lined street in popular Forest. Sand in square and design. 2 living areas one with wood burning fireplace, 2 dining areas, big kitchen with lots of cabinets, 4 large bedrooms with natural wood ceilings, 2 full baths refinished and a large patio room. $92,500. Owner Agent. Call Shelby at 413-6804.



3303 W DENGAR AVE. - Spacious and in a good neighborhood...a lot of space for offer for the price! New carpet and paint inside. Open kitchen with lots of cabinets. Great deal! $124,000. Call John Boswell.



202 W. ESTES AVE. - New Three bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage, with stained concrete floors. New construction cheaper than rent, Will be ready by the end of the year or slightly before. $114,000. Call Carol.

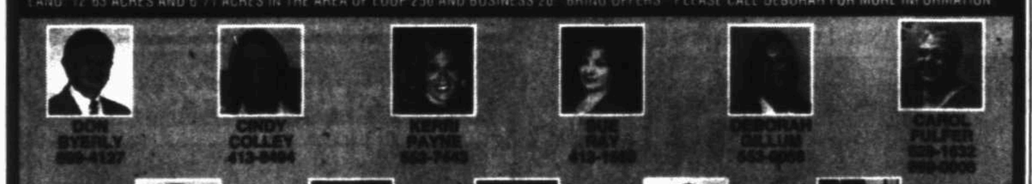


3509 CO. RD. 1105 - Fabulous country home. Three bedrooms two and a half baths. Like new built in 2006. Walls of windows, cozy fireplace with beautiful tile floors. Fantastic master suite with a wonderful bath! $212,000. Call Cindy 413-8404.



1910 WASHITA - Stunning custom built home with four bedrooms three full baths and a three car garage. Tile throughout the entire house. $240,900. Please call Cindy.

AND 12.63 ACRES AND 6.77 ACRES IN THE AREA OF LOOP 250 AND BUSINESS 20 BRING OFFERS PLEASE CALL DEBORAH FOR MORE INFORMATION



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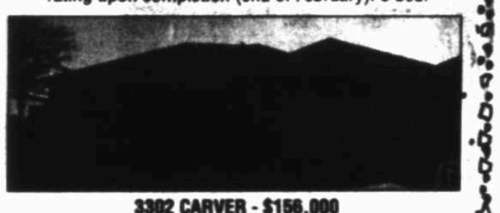
4204 CRESTGATE AVE. - #2134 - $275,000
Beautiful 4 bed/3 bath. Spacious living w/vaulted ceilings, fireplace, wet bar. Wonderful kitchen.



5808 PEDERNALES - #0954 - $227,000
Wonderful new Tom Woodruff Construction...Energy Star rating upon completion (end of February). 3 bed.



1403 SPARKS ST. - 64524 - $156,000
Cute; cute and super CLEAN home in old Midland!! Great front curb appeal and nice size backyard.



3302 CARVER - $156,000
Very well maintained newer construction. 3 bedroom, 2 bath - sequestered master bedroom with double sinks.

HOMES AVAILABLE		
4 BEDROOM		
4204 CRESTGATE	#2134	$275,000
3615 HYDE PARK	#2034	$225,900
3 BEDROOM		
5808 PEDERNALES	#0954	$227,000
4910 RIO GRANDE		*UNDER CONTRACT*
4623 BOWIE	#4024	*REDUCED* $175,000
408 PLAYER	#1414	*UNDER CONTRACT*
1403 SPARKS	#4524	$156,900
3302 CARVER		$156,000
2312 HAYNES		*UNDER CONTRACT*
417 W. PINE	#2234	$154,500
7006 E. CO. RD. 90	#4264	$130,000
2609 CUTHBERT AVE	#3714	$130,000
3 BEDROOM		
4709 ANETTA DR	#0944	*REDUCED* $154,500
4207 PLEASANT DR	#1844	$94,000
1106 E. NEW YORK	#2104	$84,900
1 & 2 BEDROOM		
600 LIDDON #52	#2364	*REDUCED* $49,000
ODESSA		
6917 ROBBIE RD	#4394	$275,900
8201 SAN ANTONIO	#2534	*UNDER CONTRACT*
3617 MAPLE AVE	#2424	$179,900
1434 E. 35TH ST	#2604	$150,000
5033 WINCHESTER AVE	#0314	$135,500
2716 BAGLEY	#2194	$85,000
RENTAL PROPERTY		
5502 CROWLEY BLVD		$2,500/MO



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1308 Manor - $145,900
Darling 3BR, 2BA, Spacious Living Area! Front Courtyard Entry! Great Price Point!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

1608 Pueblo - $247,900
4BR, 2BA in 349 Ranch Estates! Loaded w/ Tile, Granite, & Stainless Appliances!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

2808 Caldera - $269,000
Beautiful New AGA Home! 4BR, 2.5BA, Granite, Oil Bronze, Miles of Tile!

FEATURED HOME

6515 Evergreen - $445,000
HOT NEW PRICE & $5,000 Buyer Incentive! 4BR, 4.5BA, 3 Living Areas, 1.7 Acres, Horses Welcome!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

4200 E CR 61 - $499,000
Another Gorgeous Triple M Home! 4BR, 3.5BA on 2.3 Acres! Fully LOADED!

FEATURED HOME

3410 Bluebird Ln. - $1,050,000
Secluded Estate on 4 Acres! 5 BR + Study, State of the Art Kitchen, 5 Car Garage, Outside Kitchen, Pool

NEW LISTING

2504 Texland Circle - $1,250,000
Private Estate on 5Acres! 4BR+Study, 3.5BA, Pool, Hot Tub, Stables! All the Amenities you could ask for!

To Own or Not To Own? For the Answer Call Pine & Beckett, Realtors 686-7000

4+ BEDROOMS

- **2504 Texland Circle**-4 Bedroom + Study, 3.5 Bath, 5 Car Garage. Almost 5,000 sqft. All the Amenities you could ask for! Incredible window treatments, stained concrete flooring, soaring ceilings. Gorgeous spa area w/waterfall to pool! Barn w/2 horse stalls. This is a WOW Home, perfect for entertaining! Call Norma for more details ... **New Listing! $1,250,000**
- **3410 Bluebird Ln** - 5 Bedroom + Study, 4.5 Bath, M.R. Lary One of Kind Design! Outdoor Kitchen, Swimming Pool & Workshop on 4 Acres of Fenced and Improved Property! 5,600+ sqft, 5 Car Garage, Christmas Storage Closet, & So Much More!!! Call Norma for more details ... **Estate Home! $1,050,000**
- **2813 Gladewood**-4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 4 Car Garage, Million Dollar Designer has Customized this home! Faux treatments throughout, hand scraped hardwood flooring. An Oasis in backyard with Spa Pool w/special jets & hot tub. Too much to mention. Please Call for more info! ... **Sale Pending! $580,900**
- **4200 E Co Rd 61**-4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Another Gorgeous Triple M Home! 2.3 Acres in Bonito Estates. Granite throughout, Hand Scraped Hardwood Floors, Plantation Shutters, Stainless Appliances, & So Much More!!! ... **New Construction! $499,000**
- **6308 Praire Ridge**-4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Brand New McPherson Beauty! Builder has Sold out, but is pre-selling in New Phase Grassland. Please Call! ... **Sold! $474,000**
- **6515 Evergreen** -4 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 3 Living Areas, Rare Split Level! New Carpet & Paint! 25x30 Workshop, 1.7 Acres in Llano Escacado! Sellers will pay $5,000 of Buyers Closing Cost! ... **New Price! $445,000**
- **6320 Prairie Ridge**-4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Brand New McPherson Construction! Builder has Sold out, but is pre-selling in New Phase Grassland. Please Call! ... **Sold! $399,950**
- **810 Woodland Park**-4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Stunning handscraped hardwood floors, open plan, soaring ceilings. Huge patio w/serene water feature & Fabulous view of the park! This Home was a Mark Payne Model Home! ... **Sold! $385,000**
- **3225 Marksbury, Odessa**-4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 3 Car Garage, Another Magnificent Rosas New Home in Castleridge Estates! Granite, tumbled marble, stainless appliances, crown molding, plantation shutters, & much more! ... **New Listing! $310,000**
- **4005 E Co Rd 60**-4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2 Car Garage, 2390 sqft. Just under 1 Acre! Brand NEW Construction!!! ... **New Listing! $290,000**
- **5476 Cypress Cl**-4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Soaring Ceilings, Loaded w/Moldings, HUGE Kitchen w/Island! Lush Landscaping, AMAZING Golf Course Views! ... **Sold! $275,000**
- **2808 Caldera**-4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, Brand NEW AGA Construction! HUGE Open Floor Plan, Granite, Miles & Miles Tile, Stainles, Oil Bronze, High Ceilings & So Much More!!! ... **New Construction! $269,000**
- **1608 Pueblo**-4 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Another Beauty from Summit Homes! Stainless appliances, miles of tile, loaded w/granite! Landscaping package included. In 349 Ranch Estates ... **New Construction! $247,900**
- **2908 Emerson Pl**-4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, 2,670 sqft! Incredible Home with Gorgeous Decor! Hardwood flooring, beamed ceilings, plantation shutters on every window, granite! No Maintenance Home! ... ★★★★**Under Contract Less Than 1 Week! $246,900**
- **1804 Washita**-4 Bedroom, 2 Bath in 349 Ranch Estates! On 0.343 Acres, Seq. Master, Miles & Miles of Tile! Huge Open Concept! ... **New Listing! $219,900**
- **4425 Gleneagles**-4 Bedroom, 2 Bath in Fairmont Park! Sequestered master, new granite countertops in master bath. Newer roof, all new stainless appliances, newly refinished cabinetry. New sod in back yard ... **Sold! $205,000**
- **2005 Douglas**-4 Bedroom, 3 Bath, RARE Find in OLD Midland, Completely Renovated! New Flooring, Interior & Exterior Paint, New Cabinets, Granite Countertops, Tumbled Marble Backsplash, Fixtures, Stainless Appliances, Vanities, Too Much To Mention! ... **Sold! $204,500**
- **3709 Gulf**-4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage. Recent roof & exterior paint, Great curb appeal! Updated flooring, Kitchen & breakfast area open to living room. ... **New Price! $165,500**
- **110 S Dewberry**-4 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, Many Updates, recent kitchen cabinetry, dishwasher, carpet, lighting, cermaic tile, furnace ... **New Listing! $124,900**

3 BEDROOMS

- **808 Palomino**-3 Huge Bedrooms, 2 Bath, 4 Living Areas!!! Gorgeous gated community in Saddle Club! Totally no maintenance home, Sequestered master w/Luxurious European shower! Fantastic entertaining home! ... **New Listing! $580,000**
- **16148 N Dale Wade** - 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 3 Car Garage, Country Sophisticationn 2.8 Acres in Gardendale! Immaculate Condition! Updated Fixtures! ... **Sale Pending! $324,900**
- **3405 W Golf Course**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Living, 2 Dining, Historic Midland Home! Incredible Location! Basement, Workshop, Storage Sheds! ... **New Price! $179,900**
- **3800 Permian Cl**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Corner Lot. So many updates!!! Granite throughout, tile backsplash, stainless appliances, hardwood flooring, new fixtures! Too To Much To List! ... ★★★★**Under Contract Less Than 1 Week! $169,900**
- **1805 Ward**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Living Areas in Fannin District! Open Concept. Large workshop w/electricity! ... **New Listing! $169,900**
- **1308 Manor St**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage, Front Courtyard Entry w/extra concrete parking! Master bath has garden tub, spacious open living area. Great Price Point!!! ... **New Price! $145,900**
- **610 W. Nobles**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Quant Charming Cottage! Hardwood flooring, recent paint & texture w/rich fauxing! Apprx 1,800 sqft, plush carpeting & oversized bedrooms! ... **New Price! $144,900**
- **1705 N Garfield**-3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Cottage, Large Living Area, Circle Drive, 1,852 sqft ... **New Price! $119,900**
- **3511 Imperial**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Living, 2 Dining, 2 Car Garage, Super functional plan! ... **Sale Pending! $115,000**
- **4613 Mercedes**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage, 1,331 sqft. Some Inferior Updating! ... **FHA Ready! $114,000**
- **1304 Woodlawn, Odessa**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, just under 1,700sqft! Loaded while & hardwood flooring. Island kitchen w/custom cabinets, ornate moldings, gas cooktop! Loaded w/updates! Seller will pay buyers closing costs!!! ... ★★★★**Under Contract Less Than 1 Week! $99,900**
- **4402 Storey**-3 Bedroom, 1 Bath beauty! Quality carpet, new ceramic tile in kitchen & dining! Neat as a Pin! Great workshop in back! ... **Sold! $89,900**
- **5300 E. Loop 250 N**-3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Great Potential! 2.5 Acres! Call Chris for Additional Info! Loop Frontage Property ... **New Listing! $74,900**

2 BEDROOMS

- **1309 W. Michigan Ave.**-2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Totally redone! Fresh paint throughout, new cabinets in kitchen, stainless appliances including refrigerator! ... **New Listing! $122,500**

COMMERCIAL/LOTS

- **2801 S Co Rd 1180**-Excellent Opportunity for Residential or Commercial Development! 115+/- Acres, Mature pecan orchard, business office/warehouse, workshop, barn, living quarters, 13 water wells & much more! Call David for more details ... **New Listing! $1,295,000**
- **1901 N. Big Spring**-2 Lots, High Traffic, Highly Profitable Business Opportunity! Call Chris for more info ... **New Listing! $1,250,000**
- **520 Elliot, Odessa**-Phenomenal Investment Opportunity Here! ENTIRE block of land, Church & Warehouses Included! ... **New Price! $449,900**
- **8501 Hwy 158**-Great Multiple Use Commercial Property! Total 7,600 sqft, 2 Bathrooms, three 12' overhead doors. Currently used as a feed store. Call Sabrina for more info! ... **New Listing! $375,000**
- **1902 W Illinois**-6 Offices, Board Room, Kitchen, 2 Baths, Updated Interior, Plenty of Parking! Call Chris for more details ... **New Listing! $250,000**
- **911 S Main** - Great Opportunity! Lots is fenced, zoned LR-3. Lots of possibilites here! Will OWNER FINANCE!!! ... **Lot! $32,500**
- **2306 City View Rd**-Nice size county lot! 1.80 Acres, no known utilities. Great for mobile home! ... **Sale Pending! $9,500**

LOOKING IN AUSTIN AREA?

- **1708 University Club Dr.** - Taylor Morrison custom in gated University Club area of Steiner Ranch ... **Sold! $620,000**
- **309 River Ranch Rd.**-Lake LBJ Frontage home in Kingsland, TX with in ground pool & so many luxuries! ... **Sold! $540,000**
- **4301 Hookbilled Kite**-4 Bedroom, 3.5 Ba in Falconhead! Awesome plan, granite + $25,000 buyer decorating allowance! WOW! ... **New Price! $425,000**
- **14606 Echo Bluff**-Bank Owned on 4 Acres with In Ground Pool & Spa! Dripping Springs Schools! ... **Sold! $405,000**
- **138 Dove Lane**-3 Bedroom, 2 Bath in gated Meadowlakes with access to lake LBJ! ... **Price Reduced! $184,900**
- **6214 Blarwood**-4 Bedroom, 2 Bath off Westgate Blvd in Austin! Bank Owned REO! ... ★★★★**Under Contract In 5 Days! $120,000**
- **1750 Loop 165C**-Bank Owned 14 Acres in Dripping Springs with easy access to 290 ... **New Price! $79,900**
- **404 Emerald Way**-Fabulous Cul-de-sac Lot in Horseshoe Bay West Ready to Build On! Call 512-796-4340 ... **New Price! $29,900**



Norma Pine, Broker/Owner, ABR, CRS, ASR, 349-3440 · Chris Beckett, Broker/Owner, ABR, CRS, e-Pro, GRI, SFR, SRS, 349-7000 · Ron Crow, Realtor Associate, 349-6140 · Blanca Salgado, ABR, Realtor Associate, 238-0177, Se Habla Espanol · Robbie Martinez, Realtor Associate, 853-5452, Se Habla Espanol · Monica Cavazos, CNE, Realtor Associate, Se Habla Espanol · J. David Pine, ASP, IAHSP, SRES, e-Pro, BPOR, Realtor Associate, 889-3307 · Stephen Rhodes, Realtor Associate, 638-0013 · Sabrina Roden, Realtor Associate, 312-5001 · Miranda Sigler, Realtor Associate, 770-2512 · Lillian Reynolds, Realtor Associate, 210-9682 · Ginger Trevino, Co-Owner/Licensed Assistant, 686-7000

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NEW & REDUCED LISTINGS

- 9801 NCR 1147-Spectacular home on 37+ acres ... $675,000
- 4000 Tanforan-Stunning, quality built ... $595,000
- 8001 Edinburgh-4BR, 3 1/2BA, 2LV, barn, 2.5 acres ... $575,000
- 4810 NCR 1147-10 acres ... REDUCED $507,000
- 5813 Highland Blvd.-Stunning! Pool! ... REDUCED $499,000
- 6324 Prairie Ridge-Robert Graham ... U/C $498,500
- 6332 Prairie Ridge-Robert Graham ... U/C $494,475
- 6328 Prairie Ridge-Robert Graham ... U/C $476,642
- 4123 Radcliff-4/3 & pool in Trinity West ... $389,900
- 15348 N. Hollyhock Ave., Gardendale, Tx-3/3 ... $375,000
- 3505 WCR 145-3-3, updated on 4.8 Acres ... $350,000
- 4808 Knights Place gorgeous ... SOLD $339,000
- 1403 Castleford-Updated, granite, tile, appliance, paint ... $339,000
- 5700 ECR 96-Greenwood 3/2 on 1.5 Acres ... $298,000
- 7600 ECR 110-Wow 5BR, 4 1/2BA, 2.39AC ... REDUCED $279,900
- 4101 Valley Dr.-4bd, 3ba, nice neighborhood ... $274,900
- 2510 W. Front-Commercial/Industrial ... REDUCED $260,000
- 3702 Crestmont-Beautiful home ... SOLD $248,000
- 1001 N. Garfield-5 bed/3 bath, pool ... U/C $245,500
- 2507 Bellechasse-4BR, 3BA, 2FP, pool ... REDUCED $237,500
- 5104 Brighton-3bd, 2ba, 2 dining, Saddle Club South ... $224,500
- 3506 Crestmont-4bed/2bath ... U/C $219,900
- 3003 SCR 1067-New Constr, Greenwood, 4/2/2, 1AC lot ... $215,000
- 3004 SCR 1067-New Constr, Greenwood, 4/2/2, 1AC lot ... $215,000
- 4409 Gleneagles-3/2 ... U/C $214,900
- 3613 Imperial-3bd/2ba, 3 living + study ... SOLD $199,500
- 12008 Co. Rd. 56-3/2, 2.5 Acres ... SOLD $197,000
- 1406 W. Texas-Lease or For Sale ... $182,500
- 3502 Imperial-4BR, 3LV, 2CR GR ... REDUCED $179,900
- 3901 SCR 1140 ... SOLD $175,500
- 3500 Seaboard-3bd, 2ba, beautiful corner lot ... $169,900
- 5303 Lavaca-3/2, cute! ... U/C $164,000
- 2401 SCR 1050 – GISD 3/2, 3.6 ac, move-in ready ... U/C $149,900
- 3108 Michigan-Well maintained 3 bed/2.5 bath, 1814 sqft ... REDUCED $143,500
- 1615 W. Louisiana-2/2, 2 liv., hardwood floors ... SOLD $149,900
- 1413 E. 12th St., Odessa-3bd, 2ba ... $115,000
- 1706 E. Oak-3bd, 2ba, many updates ... $79,000
- 2001 Bryant St.-2bd, 2ba, water well ... $65,000

2 BEDROOMS

- 2001 Bryant St.-2bd, 2ba, water well ... $65,000

3 BEDROOMS

- 4000 Tanforan-Custom Mockingbird ... $595,000
- 15348 N. Hollyhock Ave., Gardendale, Tx-3/3 ... $375,000
- 1508 Bedford-3/3.5 ... $243,500
- 6900 SCR 1270-3/2 ... $229,900
- 3109 Haynes Ave-3/3/2 CR GR, low maint. & sunroom ... SOLD $224,900
- 5104 Brighton-3bd, 2ba, 2 dining, Saddle Club South ... $224,500
- 4409 Gleneagles-3/2 ... U/C $214,900
- 16 Bristol 3/2/2LV, 2 CR GR, A+ curb appeal ... SOLD $200,000
- 3613 Imperial-3bd/2ba, 3 living + study ... SOLD $199,500
- 12008 WCR 56-3/2/2, 2 liv., stable, 2.5 AC, 3 CP ... SOLD $197,000
- 4509 Falcon Pl.-3BR, 2BA, 2 CR GR, Updated ... SOLD $179,000
- 3901 SCR 1140 ... SOLD $175,500
- 3500 Seaboard-3bd, 2ba, beautiful corner lot ... U/C $169,900
- 1320 E. Dormard-3 bed, 2 bath! ... SOLD $167,500
- 5303 Lavaca-3/2, cute! ... UC/O $164,000
- 2401 SCR 1050-Greenwood 3/2 on 3.6 AC ... U/C $149,900
- 1615 W. Louisiana-2/2, 2 liv, hardwood floors ... SOLD $149,900
- 3108 Michigan-3 bed/2.5 bath, 2LA, 1 gar, 1814 sqft ... $143,500
- Chandelle-3 bed/2bath townhome ... SOLD $134,900
- 1413 E. 12th St., Odessa-3bd, 2ba ... $115,000
- 5000 ECR 59-Updated 3/2, Greenwood schools, .44 acres ... $99,900
- 1706 E. Oak-3bd, 2ba, many updates ... $79,000

4 BEDROOMS

- 12206 ECR 101-5/4/3, GISD, shop, pool ... SOLD $589,900
- 8001 Edinburgh-4BR, 3 1/2BA, 2LV, barn, 2.5 acres ... $575,000
- 5005 MiraVista- Amazing Home Highly desired neighborhood 4 BR, 2.5 BA ... $518,900
- 5813 Highland Blvd.-Stunning! Pool! ... $499,000
- 6324 Prairie Ridge-Graham New Construction ... U/C $498,500
- 6332 Prairie Ridge-Graham New Construction ... U/C $494,475
- 6328 Prairie Ridge-Graham New Construction ... U/C $476,642
- 4212 Timberglen-4/3.5, Mockingbird Heights ... $465,000
- 12200 ECR 1024/3/2, GISD, 4AC, Pool ... SOLD $394,900
- 4123 Radcliff-4/3 & pool in Trinity West ... $389,900
- 4808 Knights Pl.-4/3.5, hardwoods! ... SOLD $339,000

4 BEDROOMS

- 5515 Ashwood-Grassland, cul-de-sac ... SOLD $338,500
- 7600 ECR 110-Wow 5BR, 4 1/2BA, 2.39 Acres ... $279,900
- 5609 Crowley Blvd.-4/3 ... $279,900
- 4101 Valley Dr.-4bd, 3ba, nice neighborhood ... $274,900
- 8606 FM 3074/2.5/2, 4AC, barn, GISD ... SOLD $259,900
- 4201 Crestridge Dr.-4 bed/2.5ba, pool ... SOLD $249,900
- 3702 Crestmont-Beautiful home ... SOLD $248,000
- 2507 Bellechasse-4BR, 3BA, 2FP, pool ... REDUCED $237,500
- 3506 Crestmont-4bed/2bath ... U/C $219,900
- 3003 SCR 1067-New Constr, Greenwood, 4/2/2, 1AC lot ... $215,000
- 3004 SCR 1067-New Constr, Greenwood, 4/2/2, 1AC lot ... $215,000
- 12303 ECR 111-GISD, 4/2/2, New constr, 1AC ... SOLD $209,900
- 12305 ECR 111-GISD, New constr, 4/2/2, 1AC ... SOLD $209,900
- 3502 Imperial-4BR, 3LV, 2CR GR ... REDUCED $179,900
- 214 Ridglea-4bd, 2ba, 2 liv., near duck pond ... $149,500

5+ BEDROOMS

- 5813 Highland-Pool! 5-4-2 1/2, 4 car ... STUNNING $499,000
- 4212 Timberglen ... $465,000
- 7600 ECR 110-5 BR, 4½ Bath, Office, Barn 2.39 acres ... $279,900
- 1001 N. Garfield-5 bed/3 bath, pool ... U/C $245,500

COUNTRY HOMES

- 4810 NCR 1147-Spectacular home on 13 acres ... $507,000
- 12206 ECR 101-GISD, 5/4/3, pool, shop ... SOLD $589,900
- 12200 ECR 102-GISD, 4/3/2, Pool, 4AC ... SOLD $394,900
- 15348 N. Hollyhock Ave., Gardendale, Tx-3/3 ... $375,000
- 5700 ECR 96-Greenwood 3/2 on 1.5 Acres ... $298,000
- 7600 ECR 110-Wow 5BR, 4 1/2BA, 2.39 Acres ... REDUCED $279,900
- 8606 FM 307-GISD, 4/2/2, barn, 4AC ... SOLD $258,000
- 6900 SCR 1270-3/2, waterwell, 6.061 Acres ... $229,900
- 3003 SCR 1067-New Constr, Greenwood, 4/2/2, 1AC lot ... $215,000
- 3004 SCR 1067-New Constr, Greenwood, 4/2/2, 1AC lot ... $215,000
- 12303 ECR 111-GISD, 4/2/2, New constr, 1AC ... SOLD $209,900
- 12305 ECR 111-GISD, New constr, 4/2/2, 1AC ... SOLD $209,900
- 12008 WCR 56-3/2/2, 2 liv, stable, 2.5AC, 3CP ... SOLD $197,000
- 2401 SCR 1050-Greenwood 3/2 on 3.6AC ... U/C $149,900
- 5000 ECR 59-Totally updated 3 bed, 2 bath, Greenwood schools ... $99,900

LAND

- 3312 Andrews Hwy.-Great location, .841 Acres ... $390,000
- 4301 E. CR 63-3.82 Acres ... $122,240
- 4300 E. CR 63-3.32 Acres ... $106,240
- 4309 E. CR 63-3.1 Acres ... $99,200
- 4001 E. CR 61-3.08 Acres ... $98,560
- 4410 E. CR 63-3.07 Acres ... $98,240
- 4200 E. CR 63-3.03 Acres ... $96,960
- 4100 E. CR 63-3.03 Acres ... $96,960
- 4010 E. CR 63-3.03 Acres ... $96,960
- 4000 E. CR 63-3.03 Acres ... $96,960
- 4306 N. CR 1148-2.91 Acres ... $93,120
- 4210 E. CR 63-2.88 Acres ... $92,160
- 4400 E. CR 63-2.72 Acres ... $87,040
- 4310 E. CR 63-2.71 Acres ... $86,720
- 3812 Tumbleweed-1.8333 Acres ... $85,000
- 4201 E. CR 61-2.49 Acres ... $79,680
- 4109 E. CR 61-2.38 Acres ... $76,160
- 4009 E. CR 61-2.37 Acres ... $75,840
- 4101 E. CR 61-2.37 Acres ... $75,840
- 4210 E. CR 63-2.3 Acres ... $73,600
- 4100 E. CR 61-2.3 Acres ... $73,600
- 4009 E. CR 63-2.28 Acres ... $72,960
- 4101 E. CR 63-2.28 Acres ... $72,960
- 4109 E. CR 63-2.28 Acres ... $72,960
- 4201 E. CR 63-2.28 Acres ... $72,960
- 4409 E. CR 63-2.23 Acres ... $71,360
- 4801 CR 1147-12 Acres ... $68,000
- 4801 CR 1147 -8.5 Acres ... $65,000
- 4401 E. CR 63-2.01 Acres ... $64,320
- 3903-5 SCR 1140-9.7 Acres Approx. ... SOLD $58,560

COMMERCIAL

- 1002 I-20 Service Rd.-5.71 Acres ... $999,000
- 2900 Front ... SOLD $415,000
- 4216 Mamies Cr-Lot, 0.97 Acres Approx Off Wadley ... $359,000
- 4301 Mamie Cr-Lot, 0.92 Acres Approx Off Wadley ... $340,000
- 4208 Mamies Cr-Lot, 0.78 Acrs Approx Off Wadley ... $289,000
- 2510 W. Front-Commercial/Industrial ... REDUCED $260,000

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NEW CONSTRUCTION

Gallery Homes

5304 Hilltop Drive
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $369,900
Photo is representative of finished residence by Midland Gallery Homes

Ashingdon Homes

5001 Coquina Court
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $289,000

Walter Pate's Texas Classic Homes
432.853.5782 www.TexasClassicHomes.net

5903 Llano Court
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $285,000

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FEATURED HOMES


4801 Yearwood Drive
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $271,500


5702 Los Patios
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $276,900


5713 Carmel Court
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $269,900


6500 Los Conchos Lane
4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $669,000

"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us."
-Hal Borland

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Veatch Construction

3105 Chelsea Place
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $230,500

Saenz Signature Homes

5701 Los Patios
4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $288,500

Carrasco Homes

6500 Los Conchos Lane
4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 3 car garage, priced @ $669,000

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS/HOME SITES/ACREAGE

RESIDENTIAL

- 1411 Kentucky ... 3 Bdrm/1 Ba/1 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 5214 Lavaca Ave ... 3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 1159 Register Rd ... Colorado City/Lake View/2 Bdrm/2 Ba/Workshop ... $85,000
- 510 E. 86th St ... 3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... $163,000
- 5605 Kermit Ave ... Odessa/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage ... $165,000
- 3307 Camarie Ave ... 3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... $165,000
- 240 Main St ... Garden City/4 Bdrm/3 Ba ... $275,000
- 2502 Candle Tree Cove ... 4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 5002 Opal Ct ... 3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 5707 Los Patios ... 4 Bdrm/3 Ba/ 2 Car Garage ... SOLD

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- 409 E. Pecan Ave ... Midland Gallery Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/1 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 6519 Los Conchos ... Morse Properties/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 5709 Los Patios ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 3103 Chelsea Pl ... Veatch Construction/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 3105 Chelsea Pl ... Veatch Construction/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 3107 Chelsea Pl ... Veatch Construction/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 5713 Carmel Ct ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $269,900
- 4808 Yearwood ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $270,500
- 4801 Yearwood ... Ashingdon Homes/4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... $271,500
- 4704 Yearwood ... Veatch Construction/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 5815 Llano Ct ... Ashingdon Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 5702 Los Patios ... Dozier Custom Homes/4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... $276,900
- 5711 Los Patios ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $278,500
- 3001 Baybridge Ct ... Henson Homes/3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 5908 Oak Creek ... Ashingdon Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 4806 Yearwood ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 5001 Coquina ... Ashingdon Homes/4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 3201 Patrick Pl ... Saenz Signature Homes/4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $295,500
- 5713 Los Patios ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 4711 Yearwood ... Crystal Homes/3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 5007 Gateway ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 5314 Mathis St ... Branson Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 307 Skywood ... Diamond Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 3121 Patrick Pl ... Henson Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $324,900
- 403 Pinewood ... Diamond Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage ... $327,500
- 408 Pinewood ... Diamond Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $339,500
- 5304 Hilltop Dr ... Midland Gallery Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 5317 Hilltop Dr ... Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract
- 6500 Los Conchos ... Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/3 Car Garage ... $669,000
- 4313 Wood Dr ... Crystal Homes/3 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... SOLD
- 4317 Wood Dr ... Crystal Homes/3 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage ... Under Contract

SUBURBAN/ACREAGE

- Luna Rosa Estates ... Gardendale/New Homes ... Call Gary
- 14819 N. Chinaberry ... Gardendale/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/0.914 Acres ... $112,000
- 4751 E. Buttercup Dr ... Gardendale/2 Bdrm/2 Ba/6.755 Acres ... $118,000
- 5617 E. Goldenrod ... 2 Bdrm/2 Ba/1 Car Garage/1 Acre ... $125,000
- 7981 E. Goldenrod ... 4 Bdrm/2 Ba/3 Car Garage/Gardendale/17.056 Acres ... Under Contract
- 5634 E. Marigold Dr3 Bdrm/3 Ba/2 Car Garage/Gardendale/9.86 Acres ... $325,000
- 12044 Goldenrod Dr ... Gardendale/30 Acres/Horse Farm ... $595,000

RESIDENTIAL HOME SITES

- 706 S. Lincoln Ave ... 0.161 Acres ... $3,500

SUBURBAN HOME SITES

- Luna Rosa Estates ... W. Co. Rd. 30/1.5-2 Acre Lots ... Call Gary
- 7409 N. Co. Rd. 1297 ... 1.82 Acres ... $39,000
- 7502 N. Co. Rd. 1297 ... 1.022 Acres with barn ... $80,000
- 6400 Mockingbird Lane ... Los Conchos Estates/0.934 Acres ... $85,500
- County Rd. 310 ... 70.53 Acres ... $110,000
- 3905 Tumbleweed Trail ... 2.5 Acres/Horse Barn ... $125,000
- Parmer County ... 800 Acre Farm ... Under Contract

COMMERCIAL

- 2000 Rankin Hwy ... 6.7 Acres/LR2 Zoning ... $925,000



Tammy Brookshire, Owner/Agent, 967-3383 · Peggy Veatch, Agent, 664-9681 · Carolyn Joplin, Agent, 557-8882 · Stevie Neely, Agent, 631-4778 · Nathan Reeves, Agent, 631-9657 · Gary Luna, Agent, 352-1673 · Pam Crouch, Agent, 661-9712 · Brandon McMorries, Agent, 664-8264 · Scott Bowden, Broker, 967-1259

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"Voted Midland's Favorite Real Estate Agency!" Midland Reporter-Telegram's 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010 Reader's Choice poll.

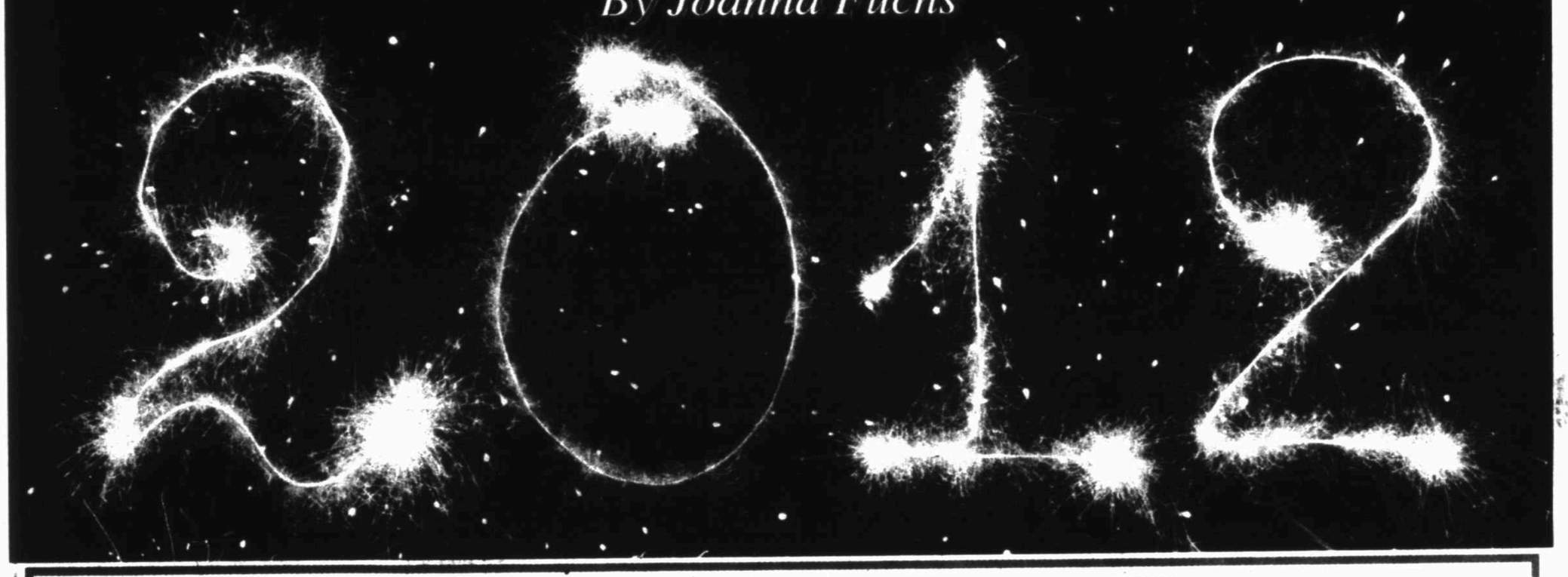
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In The New Year

In the New Year,
we wish you the best year you've ever had;
and that each New Year
will be better than the last.
May you realize your fondest dreams
and take time to recognize and enjoy
each and every blessing.

Happy New Year, And many more!

By Joanna Fuchs



MEET THE AGENT - KAY BIVENS



Kay Bivens
Realtor Associate
934-5995

Kay Bivens was born and reared in Slaton, Texas where she graduated from Slaton High School. She continued her studies and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics at Texas Tech University. After college graduation, Kay married Robert T. "Bob" Bivens. They have a son, Reece Bivens, a daughter and son-in-law, Missy and Jay Floyd, and two granddaughters, Taylor and Addison Floyd, all of Midland. Bob and Kay have two cats and one dog that rule their household.

The Bivens family moved to Midland from Lubbock in February 1980, and have loved every minute of living in this great area. After a nine-year career with Tom Brown, Inc. she accepted the Campaign Director position with United Way of Midland where she served seven years. In January 1996, Kay continued as a professional fundraiser when she became the Director of Institutional Advancement at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. This enabled her to make many new friends in Odessa and continue her association with many old colleagues in Midland. After an enjoyable and rewarding 15 years in that position at UTPB, she retired in January 2011.

In September, Kay launched her new career at Legacy Real Estate and feels privileged to be part of this great organization of professionals. She looks forward to continuing her association with friends in Midland and Odessa.

ASK THE EXPERTS:

In addition to our beautiful sunsets, quirky weather, and exceptionally kind people, there are other reasons to live in this wonderful area called the Permian Basin!! Midland took the number one spot on The Milken Institute/Greenstreet Real Estate Partners Best Performing Cities Index because of the city's rapid job and salary growth that is bringing newcomers to the area looking for a piece of the West Texas oil boom (www.ci.midland.tx.us/). More people are trying to settle in more affordable regions and Texas was one of five states that grew at more than twice the national pace of 9.7% between 2000 and 2010 (TexasRealEstate.com)...Existing single-family home sales in Texas rose 9% from a year ago in November, according to the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

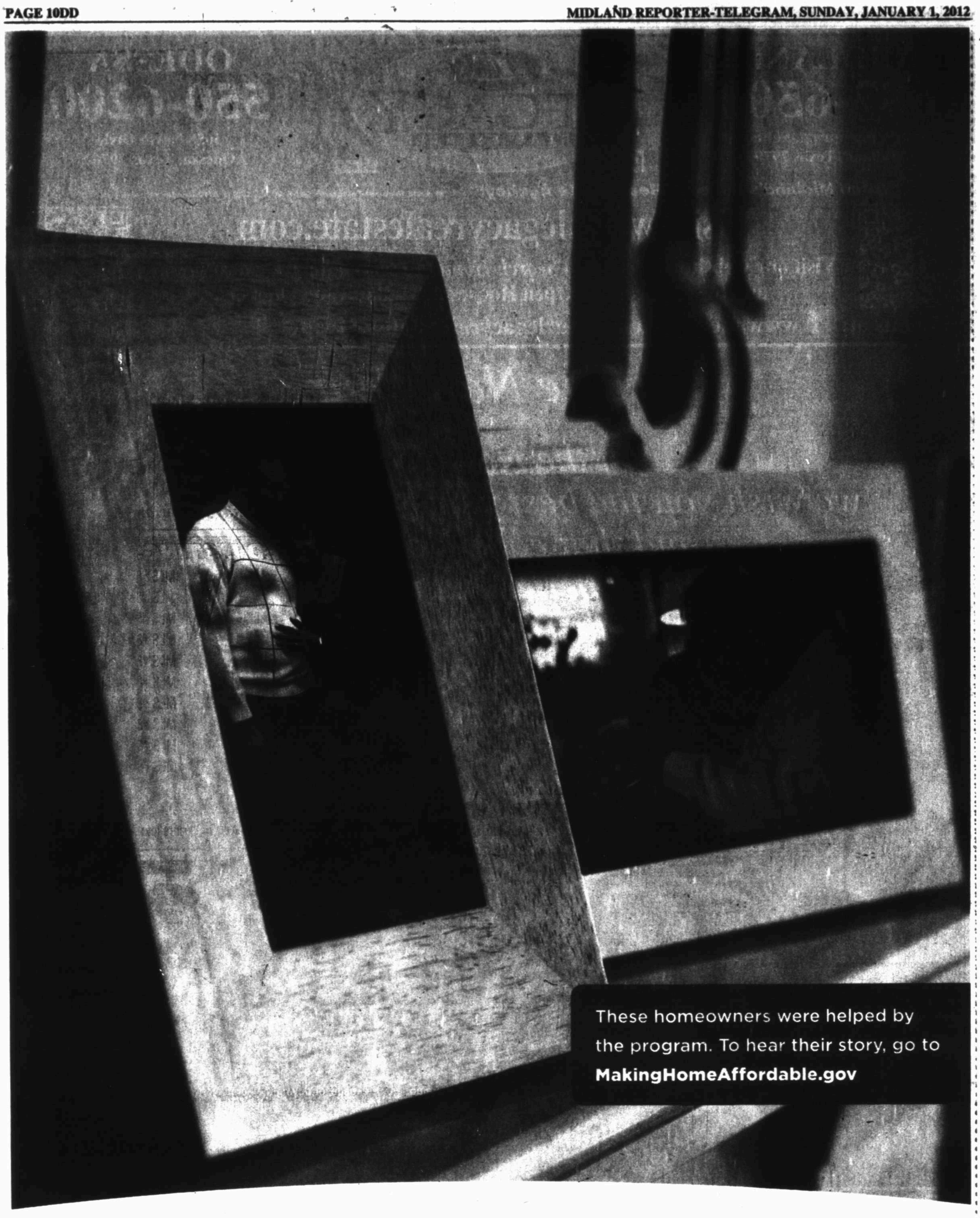
I have called Midland my home since 2001, and would love the opportunity to help you do the same! If you are looking to relocate to the Permian Basin, it would be my pleasure to work with you to find that perfect home and will be there to walk you through every step of the purchasing process!



Maria Mallory, ABR, ASR, Realtor Associate
432-352-4021
maria@relcyrealestate.com
"Old- Fashioned Service in a Fast-Paced World!"



RELOCATION ASSOCIATION WITH LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES of THE WORLD



If you're struggling to keep your home, there is help.

Today, many people are at risk of foreclosure through no fault of their own.

Making Home Affordable is a free program from the U.S. government that has already helped over a million struggling homeowners.

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FEATURED LISTING — REDUCED

1416 Pacific Avenue, Midland, Tx.
Come home to this Texas sized Living Room with corner fireplace. Great porch entrance plan that flows you into the inviting Living Room. Four bedrooms with 2 baths or convenience plus. Tile and fibre glasses, granite tops and storage complete the Master Bath. Open Kitchen with shelf breakfast bar and large, indoor utility room and good size fenced backyard for privacy. This community has homes all built around the same time from 2000-2010.
Call Carol Caudillo 432-425-5407

Warren Ivey
Managing Broker
432-238-7832



1307 Daventry Place Midland, Tx.
Large 4 bedroom, 3 full bathrooms with 2 living areas each with a fireplace. Large kitchen and a large utility room plus a 3 car garage. High ceilings throughout with lots of windows, stainless steel appliances and lots of cabinets and storage space all in a great neighborhood!
Call Sarah Ivey 432-238-8392

Sarah Ivey
Agent Development
432-238-8392



3304 Edgemont Midland, Tx.
Gorgeous home in Fairmont Park on a cul-de-sac! Large entry, living area with vaulted ceiling and fireplace. Tile floors and plantation shutters. Large master bedroom and bathroom with his and her sinks and closets. Beautiful home waiting for you!
Call Sarah Ivey 432-238-8392

Sam Field
REALTOR®, GRI
432-553-8791



4206 Crestridge Dr., Midland, Tx.
Room galore! At over 3,200 square feet, this spacious 4 bedroom/3 bath/3 living/2 dining home has numerous recent updates and paint. Features include large rooms with tons of storage. Master suite has large bedroom, 2 dressing areas w/closets, shower & tub. Two bedrooms with own dressing areas & shared bath. Large, brightly lit bonus room. Fence replaced in '08, HVAC in '09, exterior paint '11. Established landscape, 2 storage buildings. Owner Agent.
Call Carol Caudillo 432-425-5407

Lou Matson
REALTOR®, CRS, GRI
432-559-1950



4901 Wylea Cove, Midland, Tx.
Clean as a whistle and beautifully landscaped front and back.Ready to be moved into corner lot with easy access to a huge workshop on back. City park located right behind the home. Cul-de-sac street for privacy.Sequestered master bedroom with dual sinks and dual walk-in closets. Updated open kitchen with a great dining area.Vaulted ceilings in spacious living area with fireplace and built ins.
Call Carol Caudillo 432-425-5407

Vicki Wallis ,
Big Spring REALTOR®
432-816-7341



3309 Kessler Ave. Midland, Tx.
Neat three bedroom, one bath home with central heat and air. Wood, tile and carpet floors and recent updates in the kitchen and bath. Features a large backyard, wood fence and storage building. 1,071 square feet-information is from the FHA Appraisal and is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.
Call Carol Caudillo 432-425-5407

Carol Caudillo
REALTOR®, CRS, GRI
432-425-5407



5006 South County Rd 1136
Property may be eligible for the FHA $100 down payment program. Ask your agent for details. This three bedroom, two bath manufactured home located on one acre just minutes from Midland. This home is all-electric with central heat and air. It has its own water well and septic system. 1503 square feet-information is from the FHA Appraisal and is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.
Call Carol Caudillo 432-425-5407

Andy Shipman
REALTOR®
432-638-7760

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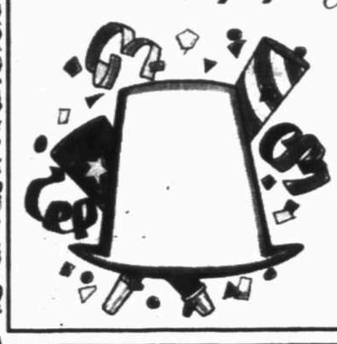
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R. Scott Kesner
Texas & New Mexico Broker
915-588-2188

Sandy J. Hanson
ABR, GRI, CRS, ASR
Office: 618-0613
Cell: 638-3819
NEW EMAIL: sandy@sandyjhanson.com
The "KEY" to your Real Estate needs!



Happy New Year!



Thank you for allowing my office to take care of your Real Estate needs in 2011. We look forward to serving you in 2012.
Happy New Years from Sandy J. Hanson and Staff

FEATURED LISTINGS

3314 W. Co. Rd 185	MLS# 88559	$370,000
10515 E. Co. Rd. 109	MLS #88359	$475,000
10 Metz Court SOLD	MLS #88409	$159,600
4318 Greenbriar SOLD	MLS #88205	$149,500
2208 Cimmaron SOLD	MLS #88244	$179,000
1100 Mogford SOLD	MLS #88170	$156,000
4511 Teakwood Trace	MLS #87743	$279,000
4009 Lehigh Drive	MLS #87120	$263,900
3155 Danley Drive (Lake Colorado City)	MLS #85245	$90,000
9177 Cevalia Drive (Odessa, Tx)	MLS #84152	$395,000
Sunridge Ranch Estates 3+acres lotsPer Lot		$75,000
Oakridge Development 1.59 acre lots to 3.25 acre lots		$38,250 to $81,250
Freeland Addition No Mobile Homes/Owner Carry		1+ acre lots at $25,000 per acre



Barbara Bates
Office Manager

LEGACY REAL ESTATE
687-6500

Saturday Home Story

Selling a Home? Holding an Open House?
Try Advertising that Works!







- Full Page/Full color Home story page $450 for One Featured Home, $50 for each additional home
- For Sale by Owner welcome
- You write the story. Or for $75 we will write the story for you.
- Prints on Saturday on a first come, first serve basis. No contract necessary!
- Also appears on www.mywesttexas.com/homes

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Robin Kingham
rkingham@mrt.com
432-687-8876

- Saturday Only! **Limited Availability!**
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Your ad will reach the homes of 60,000+ readers in the Permian Basin area. Full-color is offered at no additional charge!

Please call Robin Kingham at 687-8876 to reserve your ad space for this Saturday!

If you're selling the home where your memories were made, or buying the home of your dreams, call your home specialist today...

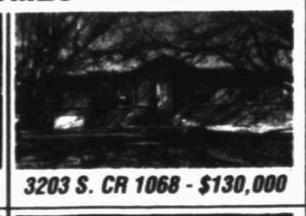
DeLaura Gammage
(432) 288-3880
REALTOR/Agent
degammage@aol.com
www.delauragammage.com

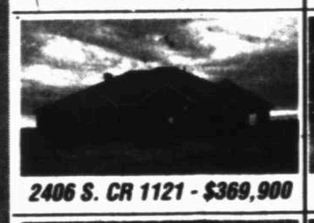


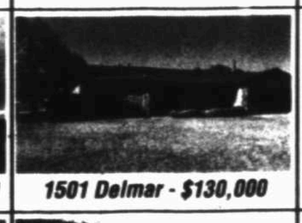
SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES


909 Almont - $375,000


5412 Basswood - $275,000


3203 S. CR 1068 - $130,000


2406 S. CR 1121 - $369,900


1501 Delmar - $130,000


8300 Dunblane - $850,000


6516 Fern - $600,000

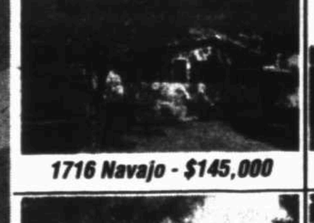

4125 Fox Hollow - $300,000


3520 Imperial - $185,000


307 Jefferson - $159,900


5400 La Jolla - $279,900

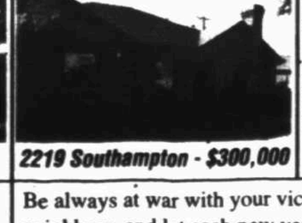

14030 Lariat - $165,000

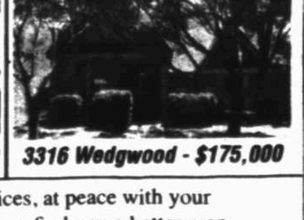

1716 Navajo - $145,000

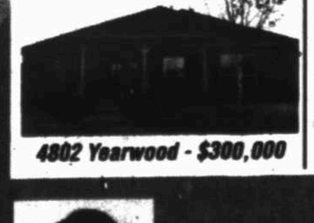

2411 Neely - $189,900


6321 Prairie Ridge - $399,900


4300 Skyline - $395,000


2219 Southampton - $300,000


3316 Wedgwood - $175,000


4802 Yearwood - $308,000

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.
Benjamin Franklin

Wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year Weekend! May 2012 be your best year yet!



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MIDLAND'S FINEST BUILDER'S/NEW CONSTRUCTION

- **301 S. MADISON**...*Virginia Elizondo 349-7782*...MLS #88509...$104,000

McPHERSON CONSTRUCTION

- **6321 PRAIRIE RIDGE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87425...$399,900

RUEDAS HOMES, INC.

- **421 W. SHANDON AVE**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88131...SALE PENDING

PERMIAN BASIN COVENANT HOMES

- **2101 S. CO. RD. 1087**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86406...$350,900
- **10104 E. CO. RD. 103**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86409...$335,900

JORGE CHAVEZ CONSTRUCTION

- **1400 BAIRD STREET**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88631...$135,000

J.C. BUILDERS

- **5609 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #88464...SALE PENDING
- **5705 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #88466...SALE PENDING
- **5707 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #86109...SALE PENDING
- **5619 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #87345...SALE PENDING

GOMEZ CONSTRUCTION

- **410 SPRUCE AVE**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #86383...$145,000

CHAVEZ CONSTRUCTION

- **4809 YEARWOOD**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86991...$305,900

DOUBLE E CONSTRUCTION

- **1603 WASHITA**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #87138...SALE PENDING

MIDLAND'S FABULOUS FOUR OR MORE BEDROOMS

- **8300 DUNBLANE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88004...$850,000
- **00 LAKES**...*Martha Manulik 618-5049*...MLS #87547...$799,000
- **4905 RUSTIC TRAIL**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...MLS #87549...$679,900
- **6516 FERN**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87967...$600,000
- **7005 CALEN CT**...*Amy Barnett 352-6714*...MLS #87540...$579,900
- **1209 CASTLE ROCK CT**...*Stephanie Rogers 978-9757*...MLS #81489...$530,000
- **2000 JADEWOOD**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88567...$489,900
- **4109 FAIRWOOD DR**...*Michelle Lesikar 230-3633*...MLS #87362...$455,000
- **3811 TUMBLEWEED**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88372...SALE PENDING
- **6321 PRAIRIE RIDGE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87425...$399,900
- **4405 IRVIN DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88391...$399,900
- **4300 SKYLINE DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87989...$395,000
- **909 ALMONT PLACE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88475...$375,000
- **10510 E. CO. RD. 109**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88487...$360,000
- **4981 RUSTIC TRAIL**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88386...SALE PENDING
- **2101 S. CO. RD. 1087**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86406...$350,900
- **3610 KNIFFEN RD**...*Angie McKay 599-0272*...MLS #88198...$344,900
- **4806 CHERRYWOOD**...*Kim Merrill 664-4702*...MLS #88267...$339,000
- **5208 OAK VALLEY DR**...*Peggy Spence 664-3011*...MLS #88302...SALE PENDING
- **5811 GRASSLAND BLVD**...*Angie McKay 599-0272*...MLS #86967...SALE PENDING
- **5504 RIDGEMONT**...*Kim Merrill 664-4702*...MLS #88207...$329,900
- **5907 OAK CREEK**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88250...SALE PENDING
- **4506 GREEN TREE BLVD**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87225...SALE PENDING
- **10104 E. CO. RD. 103**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86409...$325,900
- **2201 PRINCETON AVE**...*Pam Messer 349-3075*...MLS #87778...$325,000
- **4125 FOX HOLLOW CT**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88030...$300,000
- **4802 YEARWOOD DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88597...$300,000
- **4511 TEAKWOOD TRACE**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #87743...$279,000
- **5412 BASSWOOD CIRCLE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88032...$275,000
- **5001 CASTLEFORD**...*Gina Reyes 553-6381*...MLS #86647...$260,000
- **1216 CO. RD 1120**...*Mark Philliber 618-5071*...MLS #86976...$259,500
- **2402 CULPEPPER DR**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #87946...$254,900
- **2817 CALDERA BLVD**...*Deborah Stewart 934-3881*...MLS #88336...$249,900
- **5904 PEDERNALES**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88245...SALE PENDING
- **4107 GODFREY ST**...*Perkins Brasher 349-3421*...MLS #88056...$234,900
- **2825 MAXWELL DR**...*Danny Norwood 413-2764*...MLS #87061...$229,900
- **3212 FRONTIER DR**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88575...$224,900
- **421 W. SHANDON AVE**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88131...SALE PENDING
- **5108 E. CO. RD. 59**...*Ashely St John 352-6254*...MLS #87629...$189,900
- **2411 NEELY**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88644...$189,900
- **3520 IMPERIAL AVE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88252...$185,000
- **3621 SINCLAIR**...*Jennifer Martin 349-2632*...MLS #88410...$179,900
- **1204 KANSAS AVE**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #88461...$172,000
- **10414 FM 307**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #88493...SALE PENDING
- **3917 ANETTA DR**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88132...SALE PENDING

LOOKING FOR THREE BEDROOMS?

- **1703 I STREET**...*Karen Mason 349-3550*...MLS #86369...$550,000
- **1904 S. CO. RD. 1121**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #87673...$465,000
- **804 CANONERO**...*Larry Hatfield 684-0369*...MLS #87724...$450,000
- **2902 MARIE DR**...*Samantha McCrary 634-8370*...MLS #88587...$329,500
- **509 W. 83RD ST., ODESSA**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88413...4+ Acres/$299,900
- **207 SKYWOOD CIRCLE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87914...SALE PENDING
- **5400 LA JOLLA COVE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87923...$279,900
- **5705 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #88466...SALE PENDING
- **5609 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #88464...SALE PENDING
- **5707 CARMEL CT**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #86109...SALE PENDING
- **1801 WASHITA**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #87070...$275,000
- **2911 CALDERA BLVD**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #88272...$269,900
- **5105 BRIGHTON PLACE**...*Josie Alvarez 618-5013*...MLS #88634...$269,900
- **1611 WALL ST**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #88128...$264,900
- **4009 LEHIGH DR**...*Sandy Hanson 618-5017*...MLS #87120...$263,900
- **1301 MISSOURI AVE**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #87699...$260,000
- **3005 BAYBRIDGE**...*Larry Hatfield 684-0369*...MLS #88213...SALE PENDING
- **5916 PEDERNALES**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88440...SALE PENDING
- **1101 S. CO. RD. 1129**...*Joyce Brickey 352-4127*...MLS #87706...SALE PENDING
- **4309 TUMBLEWEED**...*Josie Alvarez 618-5013*...MLS #87679...$229,900
- **5707 RIO GRANDE AVE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88199...$225,000
- **1603 WASHITA**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #87138...SALE PENDING
- **4308 KNIFFEN**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #86828...$214,900
- **3407 STANOLIND AVE**...*Kay Bivens 618-5018*...MLS #88428...$205,000
- **2211 HUMBLE AVE**...*Danny Norwood 413-2764*...MLS #86642...SOLD
- **5325 SE CO. RD. 1800, ANDREWS, TX**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1448*...MLS #87329...SALE PENDING
- **2222 CIMMARON**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #87445...$197,500
- **3208 LOUISIANA DR**...*Mark Philliber 618-5017*...MLS #88565...$197,500
- **3404 STANOLIND AVE**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88304...SALE PENDING
- **3403 EDGEMONT**...*Donna Omar 349-1458*...MLS #88312...SALE PENDING
- **3208 FRONTIER**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #88351...SALE PENDING
- **2814 MOSS AVE**...*Laura Lyons Sales 618-1818*...MLS #88190...SALE PENDING
- **3231 SHANDON AVE**...*Karen Mason 349-3550*...MLS #86637...SALE PENDING
- **4904 SUNDOWN CIRCLE**...*Kim Rhyne 528-4646*...MLS #88583...$179,900
- **801 SHELL AVE**...*Maria Malory 352-4021*...MLS #87422...$179,900
- **1700 CULVER**...*Sam McCrary 634-8370*...MLS #88261...$178,900
- **3316 WEDGEWOOD ST**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88414...$175,000
- **2413 GODDARD**...*Josie Alvarez 618-5013*...MLS #88624...$174,900
- **2206 PRINCETON AVE**...*Karen Mason 349-3550*...MLS #87644...SALE PENDING
- **2800 S. CO. RD. 1069**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #88400...SALE PENDING
- **705 AUSTIN**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #88334...SALE PENDING
- **413 NEELY**...*Gina Reyes 553-6381*...MLS #88364...$165,000
- **1404 TEXAS AVE**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #87798...$159,999
- **10300 CO. RD. 85**...*Pam Messer 349-3075*...MLS #87074...$159,900
- **10 METZ CT**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #88409...SALE PENDING
- **2000 N. D STREET**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #87407...$159,500
- **3329 DENGAR AVE**...*Martha Manulik 557-8744*...MLS #88406...$158,500
- **3507 IMPERIAL AVE**...*Lydia Scudder 853-2200*...MLS #87300...SALE PENDING
- **1716 A NAVAJO DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #87237...$145,000
- **410 E. SPRUCE**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #86383...$145,000
- **3705 STANOLIND**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #87016...$145,000
- **1501 DELMAR DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88439...$139,900
- **5109 CONCHO**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #88619...$139,900
- **702 SHELL**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #88579...$137,500
- **1703 W. CO. RD. 134**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88399...$135,000
- **1400 BAIRD STREET**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88631...$135,000
- **4611 PLEASANT**...*Angie McKay 599-0272*...MLS #88489...SALE PENDING
- **4321 COUNTRY CLUB DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88320...SOLD
- **302 S. GLENWOOD**...*Gloria Farmer 563-2732*...MLS #85043...SALE PENDING
- **12309 CO. RD. 120**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #86979...$130,000
- **5307 SAN ANTONIO**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88445...SOLD
- **3216 W. LOUISIANA**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #87004...$129,900
- **4614 ANETTA DR**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88093...SALE PENDING
- **4730 CUTHBERT AVE**...*Amy Barnett 352-6714*...MLS #88160...$124,900
- **705 LANHAM ST**...*Pamela Messer 349-3075*...MLS #88588...$115,000
- **3222 MARIANA AVE**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #88438...$113,900
- **4313 PRINCETON**...*Angie McKay 599-0272*...MLS #88488...SALE PENDING
- **805 BROOKS DR**...*Ashley St. John 352-6254*...MLS #87973...$104,900
- **301 S. MADISON**...*Virginia Elizondo 349-7782*...MLS #88509...$104,000
- **4724 CROCKETT**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...MLS #87242...$99,900
- **3207 ILLINOIS**...*Gina Reyes 553-6381*...MLS #86930...$95,000
- **1500 WEATHERFORD ST**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #87950...SALE PENDING
- **4318 MONTY**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #87726...$89,900
- **209 E. PECK**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #87474...SALE PENDING
- **1405 MICHIGAN**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...MLS #88453...$79,000
- **4604 CHEROKEE DR**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88329...SALE PENDING
- **1702 E. OAK AVE**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88330...$75,000
- **2409 KENTUCKY**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...MLS #88644...$49,900

MIDLAND'S BEST 2 BEDROOM & 1 BEDROOM HOMES

- **4900 & 4902 ANDREWS HWY**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #88081 & #88082...$425,000
- **2204 CIMMARON**...*Betty Hicks 553-8194*...MLS #88599...$230,000
- **4304 CRESTWOOD AVE**...*Martha Manulik 618-5037*...MLS #87309...SALE PENDING
- **3319 PINEMONT DR**...*Martha Manulik 618-5049*...MLS #88590...$125,000
- **5206 RIC**...*Joyce Brickey 352-4127*...MLS #86910...SALE PENDING
- **3506 GASTON**...*Karen Foster 559-4086*...MLS #88065...$84,900
- **611 W. TAYLOR**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88062...SALE PENDING

MIDLAND'S LARGEST SELECTION OF COUNTRY PROPERTY

- **6009 E. HWY. 80**...*Amy Brasher 352-6714*...MLS #85159...$1,200,000
- **10515 CO. RD. 109**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #88359...$475,000
- **1904 S. CO. RD. 1121**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #87673...$465,000
- **3314 W. CO. RD. 185**...*Sandy Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #88559...$370,000
- **2406 CO. RD. 1121**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88075...$369,900
- **10510 E. CO. RD. 109**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88487...$360,000
- **2101 SCR 1087**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86406...$350,900
- **10104 E. CO. RD. 103**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #86409...$325,900
- **3187 C 2150 STANTON**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88177...15 Acres/$324,900
- **1216 S. CO. RD. 1120**...*Mark Philliber 618-5071*...MLS #86976...$259,500
- **10903 E. CO. RD. 109**...*DeLaura Gammage 288-3880*...MLS #88036...SALE PENDING
- **1101 S. CO. RD. 1129**...*Joyce Brickey 352-4127*...MLS #87706...SALE PENDING
- **5325 CO. RD. 1800, ANDREWS**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1448*...MLS #87329...SALE PENDING
- **5108 E. CO. RD. 59**...*Ashely St John 352-6254*...MLS #87629...$189,900
- **3409 W. CO. RD. 181**...*Sandy Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #88101...SALE PENDING
- **10700 CO. RD. 105**...*Lydia Scudder 853-2200*...MLS #88306...SOLD
- **2800 S. CO. RD. 1069**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #88400...SALE PENDING
- **10300 CO. RD. 85**...*Pam Messer 349-3075*...MLS #87074...$159,900
- **6502 W. FM 846 KNOTT**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88060...SALE PENDING
- **1703 W. CO. RD. 134**...*Josie Rendon 889-8394*...MLS #88399...$135,000
- **12309 CO. RD. 120**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #86979...$130,000
- **10414 FM 307**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #88493...SALE PENDING
- **SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...6 Lots Left...3.5 Acre Lots/$95,000
- **1008 HWY. 137**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88477...3.3 Acres/$79,000
- **SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...3+ Acre Lots/Lots $75,000/EA.
- **FM 2632, BROWNWOOD LAKE**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...$44,000

OUT OF TOWN, ANDREWS & ODESSA LISTINGS

- **2206 WESTSIDE DR., STANTON**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #87159...$415,000
- **9177 CEVALIA DR., ODESSA, TX**...*Sandy Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #84152...$395,000
- **7900 CO. RD. 110, GREENWOOD**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #87829...$389,900
- **4109 FM 818, BIG SPRING, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #87958...$375,000
- **3187 C 2150, STANTON**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88177...$324,900
- **3009 REDBUD, ODESSA, TX**...*Ashley St John 352-6254*...MLS #87817...$309,900
- **9301 CEVALLIA, ODESSA, TX**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...MLS #84955...$299,900
- **509 W. 83RD ST., ODESSA**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88413...4+ Acres/$299,900
- **1218 LA PAZ, ANDREWS, TX**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1448*...MLS #84584...SALE PENDING
- **4613 VALLEYBROOK LN., ODESSA, TX**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #87546...SALE PENDING
- **5325 SE CO. RD. 1800, ANDREWS, TX**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1448*...MLS #87329...SALE PENDING
- **401 DEALY, BIG SPRING, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #88040...$179,000
- **14030 LARIAT TR., GARDENDALE**...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880...MLS #87753...$165,000
- **1700 E. 21ST., ODESSA, TX**...*Gloria Valdez Farmer 563-2732*...MLS #83237...$160,000
- **712 BURLESON, STANTON, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #84740...SALE PENDING
- **2651 SE CO. RD. 4001, ANDREWS, TX**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1448*...MLS #84610...$159,900
- **710 BURLESON, STANTON, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #84741...$154,000
- **7030 24TH ST., ODESSA, TX**...*Brian Sales 618-1818*...MLS #88458...$152,500
- **6502 W. FM 846 KNOTT**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88060...SALE PENDING
- **2814 KEYSTONE DR., ODESSA, TX**...*Lydia Scudder 853-2200*...MLS #87775...SOLD
- **15398 GARDENDALE RD., GARDENDALE**...Ashley St. John 352-6254...MLS #88178...$139,900
- **504 BROADWAY, STANTON, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #88271...$135,000
- **100 E. FORRESTER, McCAMEY, TX**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...MLS #86278...$124,900
- **1907 JOHNSON AVE., BIG SPRING, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #88348...$110,000
- **10414 FM 307**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #88493...SALE PENDING
- **217 HENDRICKSON ST., GOLDSMITH**...*Mark Philliber 618-5071*...MLS #88123...SALE PENDING
- **8601 HARVARD AVE., ODESSA, TX**...*Danny Norwood 682-5544*...MLS #84156...SALE PENDING
- **3155 DANLEY DR, COLORADO CITY**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...MLS #85245...$90,000
- **1000 NW 6TH ST., ANDREWS**...*Danny Norwood 618-5012*...$84,900
- **505 ST. PETER, STANTON**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #88553...$75,000
- **2181 LIVE OAK LANE, BROWNWOOD**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #84003...$70,000
- **208 S. BURLESON, McCAMEY**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #87603...$65,000
- **401 ST. JOSEPH, STANTON, TX**...*Michelle Kidd 894-1253*...MLS #79043...$45,000
- **HWY. 176, TARZAN**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #87267...SALE PENDING

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

- **3900 S. CO. RD. 1285**...*Amy Brasher Barnett 352-6714*...MLS #74663...SALE PENDING
- **7400 W. I-20, MIDLAND**...*Sam McCrary 634-8370*...MLS #87650...$3,975,000
- **2700 RANKIN HWY**...*Amy Barnett 349-3421*...MLS #88603...$2,000,000
- **3600 ANDREWS HWY., ODESSA, TX**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #87818...$1,200,000
- **6009 E. HWY. 80**...*Amy Brasher Barnett 352-6714*...MLS #85159...$1,200,000
- **11911 CO. RD. 125, ODESSA, TX**...*Ashley St. John 352-6254*...MLS #86474...$850,000
- **2112 E. I-20 SERVICE ROAD**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #74975...$570,000
- **1009 N. BIG SPRING**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...ML #85135...$425,000
- **509 W. 83RD ST., ODESSA**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88413...4+ Acres/$299,900
- **1611 WALL ST**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...MLS #88128...$264,900
- **4301 W. ILLINOIS**...*Mark Philliber 618-5071*...MLS #86388...$229,900
- **1600 FRONT ST**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS 86585...$210,000
- **2803 ANDREWS HWY, ODESSA, TX**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #86616...SALE PENDING
- **1800 N. CO. RD. W., ODESSA, TX**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #83958...$195,000
- **3225 KESSLER**...*Martha Manulik 618-5049*...MLS #87891...SALE PENDING
- **408 WAKEFIELD**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #84320...$155,000
- **607-609 COLORADO**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #87483...$125,000
- **608 E. BROADWAY, ANDREWS**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1448*...MLS# 79703...$100,000
- **6707 FM 307**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #87671...$90,000
- **301 W. OHIO AVE**...*Jane Wolf 684-6040*...MLS #87481...SALE PENDING
- **208 S. BURLESON, McCAMEY**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #87603...$65,000

LANDS AND LOTS

- **LOOP 250N**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #88576...$1,600,000
- **CO. RD. 1120 S**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #78101...$12,500/ACRE
- **3900 S. CO. RD. 1285**...*Amy Brasher Barnett 352-6714*...MLS #74663...SALE PENDING
- **S. FM 1788**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #82050 94.4 Acres/$944,400
- **HIGHWAY 191**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #87988...$437,500
- **SINCLAIR**...*Ruth Young 682-7884*...5 Acres/$425,000
- **CR 1120**...*Brooks Smith 618-5035*...MLS #88627...$365,200
- **FM 1213**...*Caleb Matott 687-6500*...MLS #88415...110 Acres/$350,000
- **509 W. 83RD ST., ODESSA**...*Maria Mallory 352-4021*...MLS #88413...4+ Acres/$299,900
- **0 W. CO. RD. 150**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #85592...$249,900
- **HWY. 176, TARZAN**...*Caleb Matott 349-3300*...MLS #87266...162 Acres/$205,000
- **10700 CO. RD. 120**...*Brooks Smith 618-5035*...MLS #86600...$203,126
- **2803 ANDREWS HWY, ODESSA, TX**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #86616...SALE PENDING
- **1135 JOHNSTON RD**...*Lisa Jansa 661-3389*...MLS #87751...$149,900
- **ELKINS RD**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #82558...20 Acres/$132,526
- **CO. RD. 2300**...*Deborah Stewart 934-3881*...MLS #88332...$103,500
- **7200 W. CO. RD. 44, SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #86618...$100,000
- **7210 W. CO. RD. 44, SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #86619...$100,000
- **SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...5 Lots Left...3.5 Acre Lots/$95,000
- **6707 FM 307**...*Clemmie Sorge 618-5019*...MLS #87671...$90,000
- **SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Sandy Hanson 638-3819*...$70,000
- **FM 2632, BROWNWOOD LAKE**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...$44,000
- **ASTER DRIVE**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #88498...SALE PENDING
- **BLUEBONNET DR**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #88500...SALE PENDING
- **S. CO. RD. 1083**...*Lisa Jansa 661-3389*...MLS #82191...SALE PENDING
- **C2150 STANTON**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88194...5 Acres/$35,000
- **C2150 STANTON**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #88195...5 Acres/$35,000
- **ASTER DRIVE**...*Brooks Smith 528-2980*...MLS #88499...SALE PENDING
- **HWY. 176, TARZAN**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...6.49 Acre Lots...MLS #87267...1 Lot Left!/$34,000
- **CO. RD. 85**...*Lavonne Johnson 618-5002*...MLS #88189...SALE PENDING
- **FREELAND ADDITION**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...1+ Acre Lots/$25,000/PER ACRE
- **2651 SE CR 4001, ANDREWS**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1488*...MLS #84608...$25,000
- **2651 SE CR 4001, ANDREWS**...*Cynthia Blocker 266-1488*...MLS #84609...$25,000
- **OAKRIDGE DEVELOPMENT**...*Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819*...Land & Lots $38,250 - $81,250
  1.59 to 3.25 acres...$25,000 An Acre

FARMS AND RANCHES

- **WARD COUNTY**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...640 Acres/$325,000
- **CR 150**-Vineyard! 23-Acres...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...MLS #85592...$249,900
- **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...Big Cat Ranch/Finest Ranch in Texas...10,230 Acres/$780/Acre
- **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...Madera Canyon Ranch/The Best of Texas...9,451 Acres/$975/Acre
- **7110 W. CO. RD. 46**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...3.5 Acres/$125,000
- **SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES**...*Caleb Matott 349-3330*...6 Lots Left...3.5 Acre Lots/$95,000
- **MITCHELL COUNTY** -Westbrook. 660 Acres. Call Caleb Matott 349-3330...$850/AN ACRE
- **WINKLER COUNTY**-Huge Price Reduction! 6743.5 Acres, 500 irrigated, 5000 sq ft house w/metal roof, 640 acres is game fenced, 16 water wells, 4 working pens, shop...$3,200,000

If you are interested in any of the ranches, please call Caleb L. Matott (432)349-3330

RELOCATION ASSOCIATION WITH LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES *of* THE WORLD®





Race Across America

Del Rio man completes cross-country bike race

By Tumbleweed Smith
Special to the Reporter-Telegram

The Race Across America, known as RAAM to bicycle racers around the world, is an endurance race that started in 1982 when four individuals raced from the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles to the Empire State Building in New York City.

Racers who finish RAAM are in a unique group of athletes who have unbelievable strength and determination. A privately owned enterprise, RAAM has more distance and more varieties of terrain and weather than any other bike race. At 3,000 miles, it is 30 percent longer than the Tour de France and RAAM racers must complete the distance in roughly half the time allowed for the famous bike race through the French Alps. RAAM racers must ride from coast to coast in 12 days.

Dexter Tooke of Del Rio finished RAAM last year. He is 61 years old, which put him in an age group that must finish the race in 309 hours, 20 hours more than the 289 hour limit for those under 60. He had to average riding 238 miles a day, down from 250 miles a day for younger racers. He averaged 1.8 hours of sleep a day for just less than 13 days. The rest of the time he was on his bike.

"It's practically non-stop," said Tooke. "Once the clock starts it never stops. The race usually has between 25 and 40 solo riders from all over the world. Fewer than 300 have finished the race in the allotted time. I was the sixth person in history over 60 to do it."

This was the second time Tooke entered the race. The first time was in 2010.

"I made it 2,810 miles to Cumberland, Md. I missed finishing by 190 miles. But I was too exhausted to continue. I went back in 2011 to take care of some unfinished business. I had 309 hours to complete that race last year. It took 307 hours and 45 minutes. That's how close I was," he said.

The youngest rider last year was 19 and the oldest finisher was 64. There were three riders over 60 and they all finished.

Tooke didn't just one day decide to enter the strenuous event.

"I started racing and training in 1978 when I was 28 and not in very good shape. I couldn't run one mile around the high school track. I had to stop because I was out of breath. I decided it was time for a change, so I started racing and training. For the past 30 years I've run several marathons, including Boston. I've done triathlons, ultra racing and ultra running. It's just become a part of my life. I log about 20,000 miles a year on my bicycle, averaging somewhere around 50 miles a day. I live 13 miles from by job, and I ride my bike to work and back every weekday," he said.

He thinks it strange RAAM is one of the longest running yet best-kept secrets as far as bicycle races in the country are concerned.

"It is such a unique race. You leave sea level and go into the Mojave where temperatures reach 115 degrees. Then 24 to 36 hours later you're going up Wolf Creek Pass in Colorado at 10,500 above sea level and it's 35 degrees," he said.

Tooke said the hardest part for him was the desert.

"The desert will beat you. You pay for the desert for three or four days after you get through it. The only protection I had were my sunglasses, short sleeved jersey and helmet. They tried to spray some sun block on me, but I didn't like it. Since I live in Del Rio, I'm used to the heat. But the Mojave was hard for me," he said.

Please see **BIKE/2E**





Dex and wife Joni Tooke, top left, pose for a photo during Race Across America. TOP CENTER: Tooke races across Colorado. TOP RIGHT: Team Dex and crew stand on finish stage in Annapolis. ABOVE: Tooke lifts his bike at finish line in Annapolis. LEFT: Tooke arrives in Annapolis.

Courtesy photos

DR. STEPHEN PONDER

Dr. Stephen Ponder is a pediatric endocrinologist. He can be reached at swponder@gmail.com

Vitamin D levels linked to diabetes, heart disease

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of Americans. There also has been a wealth of scientific studies linking low levels of vitamin D in the body and a higher risk for developing heart disease and death from heart disease in non-diabetic adults. In persons with non-diabetic kidney disease of different causes, low vitamin D levels in the body are believed to play a role in causing a more rapid decline to kidney dialysis.

Recently, a connection has been made between low levels of vitamin D and all causes of death from heart disease in persons with type 2 diabetes. The link between diabetes and heart disease is undeniable. In fact, the conditions are like flip sides to the same coin. For years, vitamin D was believed only to be important for bone health and maintaining good calcium levels in the blood, but that view has changed dramatically in recent years.

It's also well known diabetes is a leading cause of kidney failure worldwide and costs billions of health care dollars to manage through medications, dialysis and organ transplants. Much of this cost burden is carried by the federal government because Medicare has provided health care insurance to Americans of all ages with kidney failure for more than 40 years.

And in several recent studies, low levels of vitamin D have been linked to the development of prehypertension. The definition of this condition is having the upper blood pressure number, called systolic, in the range of 120-139 mm Hg and the lower, or diastolic, number range from 80-89 mm Hg.

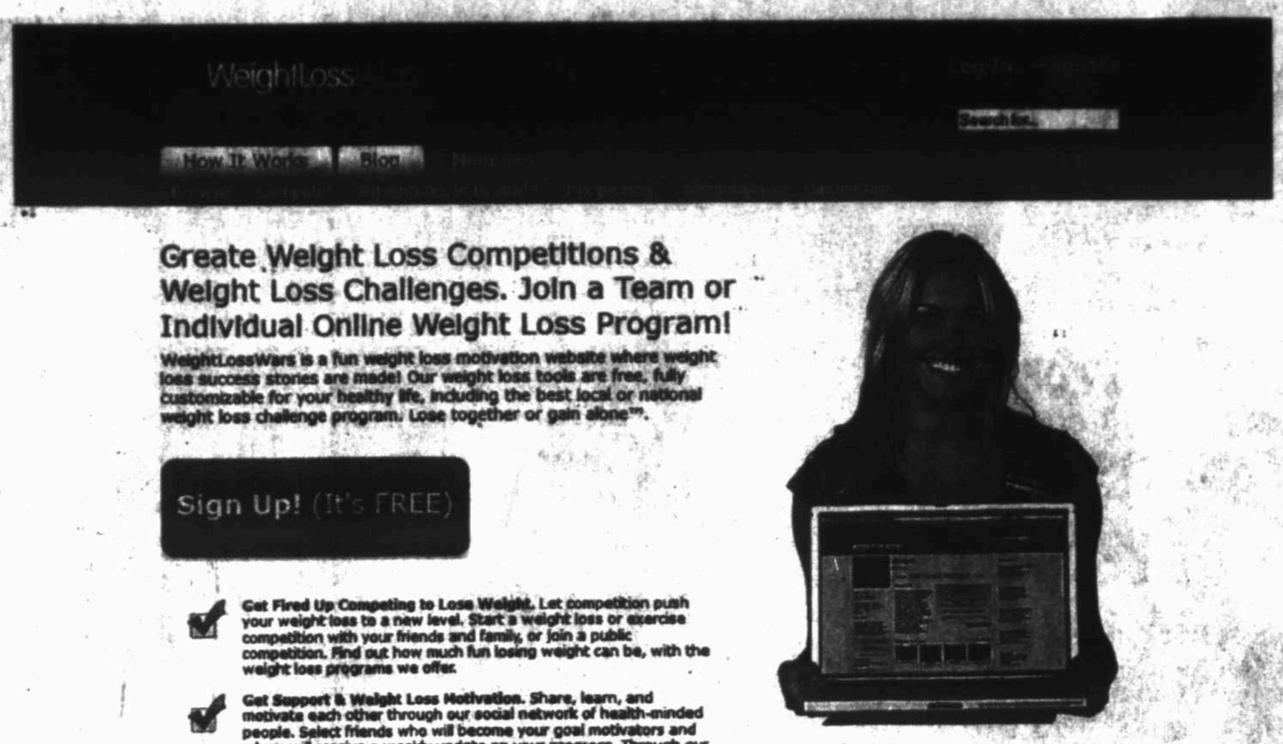
In this recent study, low blood levels of vitamin D were associated with developing prehypertension even when other factors such as age, gender, smoking, ethnicity, alcohol use, diabetes, kidney function and cholesterol levels were taken into account. In my practice, I have discovered low vitamin D levels in up to 85 percent of children of all ages. Levels seem to be lowest in heavier people of any age.

There are some important issues raised by these findings. First, there now is indisputable evidence there is an epidemic of low vitamin D levels across the globe. Second, there are numerous health conditions associated with low levels of vitamin D, not just heart disease, high blood pressure or diabetes. Third, there is far from enough evidence yet to state treating low vitamin D levels will reverse or prevent these problems. Those kinds of studies are in progress, but the conclusions still are years away.

So what should you do? At a minimum, get a vitamin D blood level measured as part of your annual checkup with your doctor. More and more doctors have gotten the news and are screening their patients routinely for low vitamin D levels. In most cases, if the levels are low you'll be asked to take an ongoing daily supplement or a course of higher dose vitamin D over several weeks. Whether this latter method keeps your levels up after you stop it requires follow up checking of the levels by your doctor.

Most Americans don't spend enough time out of doors to make vitamin D from sunshine. Also, darker skin complexions and use of sunscreen both slow down or block the healthy effect of sunlight on generating vitamin D in the skin naturally. Also, kids drink less milk than ever before, which is fortified with vitamin D.

The best form of vitamin D to take can be discussed with your doctor. The upper limit of safe vitamin dosing in adults is 10,000 IU daily. But current daily recommendations are much lower. It is unclear how much vitamin D is enough to stave off some of these serious conditions, if at all. But recently, the recommended daily allowance for vitamin D in persons over age 60 was moved up to 800-1000 IU daily. If you are obese, those doses can be closer to 2000 IU daily.





Weightlosswars.com, left, allows users to compete against strangers in weight loss challenges. BELOW: LSG Sky Chefs Healthy Wage winners, from left to right, Neil Ylanan, Andy Davis, Ben Levine, Michael Sutter and Andrew Traboush pose at LSG's North American Headquarters in Irving.

AP photos

Websites make weight loss wagering easy

By Leanne Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Neil Ylanan eats for a living and travels constantly as a food expert for a company that supplies in-flight meals to airlines. Toss in those sleepless, sluggish early years of fatherhood — he's got three young kids — and he was dealing with significant weight gain.

Looking around his office in Irving, the 37-year-old Ylanan realized he wasn't alone, so he rallied four of his fellow foodies at LSG Sky Chefs for a weight-loss competition online.

They named their team "All About the Benjamins," in homage to the $10,000 top prize offered by Healthywage.com, one of at least a dozen diet betting sites to emerge after "The Biggest Loser" went on the air and the nation's obesity epidemic grew worse.

Each of the Benjamins anted up $60 to lose more — up to a safe weekly maximum — than 30 or so teams from the same company and around the map. They had three months. Victory was theirs in October.

"At first we really were all about the Benjamins, but the impetus kind of changed. You didn't want to let your teammates down," said Ylanan, who at 5-foot-7 began the competition at 245 pounds and ended it at 196.

"I joined a gym. We've all picked up racquetball," he said. "I haven't played racquetball in 15 years."

Research on whether financial incentives lead to weight loss is inconclusive, but that hasn't kept thousands of people off diet betting sites since they began sprouting in 2004. Many of the sites experience dramatic hikes in traffic during the danger stretch between Thanksgiving and January.

"We think of New Year's as our Black Friday," said Victoria Fener, director of operations for Stickk.com.

Each site has its own rules and tools, like line graphs to track progress, regular emails with tips and support, and rankings to keep an eye on the competition. Stickk allows users to set their own stakes, including an "anti-charity" donation to a hated cause. The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Americans United for Life are top recipients.

Most of the sites are free or require a small fee. Many make money betting options to tackle weight loss and other health goals.

Regular weigh-ins are usually required, either through the honor system or a third-party source like a doctor or a health club. Privacy settings keep sensitive details hidden if desired but Facebook-esque walls provide that sought-after share factor popular with players.

Seth Brown, 28, in Morgan Hill, Calif., got a jump in August on his New Year's resolution to lose 62 pounds.

He had fallen into a routine of burritos, fast food and video games when he lost his job and moved back in with his parents. He put up $30 to compete against 14 strangers in a public individual challenge at Weightlosswars.com, where Dell, Google and Groupon have sponsored empioyees.

"I first set out to find a website that acted as sort of a social network for fat people," Brown said. "I thrive in competitive situations and I loved the idea of competing with a group of people who are in the same boat I am."

He was in the lead with six pounds to go heading into the final stretch. The top three contenders will win about $260 each when the challenge concludes Jan. 16.

Other people like their wagers the old-fashioned way, organized on their own among people they know for token sums, prizes or simple encouragement.

Around this time last year, Marietta, Ga., attorney Debbie Haughton was facing down her 40th birthday. She joined a 12-week, 40-person pool organized by a friend. She put in $20, weighed in weekly on the honor system and lost about 10 pounds.

Small prizes, including workout DVDs and pedometers, were awarded along the way. Haughton won a few and went back for another 12-week round after the organizer decided to save up the money to dole out as cash at the end.

Haughton dropped about 18 pounds and walked away with $200. She's at the tail end of a third challenge, this one running 16 weeks, and was about seven pounds from her goal weight heading into the holidays.

"I knew that a competition would stoke that fire for me, since I tend to be fairly driven," she said. "I'm very toned and looking and feeling great. I've also become a runner for the first time in my life."

Not all sites that provide tracking and social tools to achieve health goals use money as a motivator.

Alex Rainert is head of product for the location-based check-in service Foursquare. He tried to organize a get-healthier office contest himself using a simple spreadsheet and small money antes. He found he couldn't keep up with record keeping and the money didn't seem to work to rally his colleagues.

So he turned to Healthmonth.com, which doesn't use money bets. Winners receive virtual fruit to give in solidarity to others over a month's time. At the beginning, participants fill out detailed questionnaires that are later used by the site to craft daily emails offering help with self-selected goals like limiting alcohol or soda and eating more greens or whole grains.

About 40 of Foursquare's 100 employees participated and met their personal challenges earlier this year. Rainert, 35, wanted to drop some of the pudge he picked up when he became a dad nearly two years ago.

"I've used countless food and fitness trackers to try to change," he said. "I think this worked for us because of the social pressure. When you're doing something with someone, you don't want it to look like you're underperforming."

Rainert plans to organize another round after the new year. Healthmonth, with about 50,000 users, sees two or three times more traffic in January than any other month.

At Weightlosswars, where the motto is "Lose together or gain alone," marketing director Pete Maughan expects 10,000 to 15,000 people to register from mid-December through January. The site already has nearly 130,000 users in private team weight loss competitions among friends, families and co-workers, along with individuals competing in public challenges like Seth Brown.

"We're kind of like an annual flower," Maughan said. "I don't view it as a solution to America's weight loss problem but it's an important spark and a fun and extremely motivational way to get started on a weight loss journey."

Klark Overmyer in Snellville, Ga., lost 58 pounds as part of a five-person team backed by his company, Rooms to Go. They lost a collective 252 pounds in three months and — like Ylanin's Benjamins — evenly split one of the $10,000 Healthywage jackpots.

"I would like to say that I'm above the money being a big motivator but who am I kidding," said Overmyer. "Without the money my vacation to Disney wouldn't be a possibility. Instead of seeing Mickey my son would be seeing his fat dad on the sofa."

BIKE

From 1E

Cuchara Pass outside of Alamosa, Colo. toward Trinidad was a tough climb for Tooke. It was dark, it was cold and it was hard to see the curves. But the hardest mountain stretch for him was in the Appalachians, where one climb was some 15 miles long.

"I was encouraged to continue by a loud speaker on the follow van. It played music and read emails from the thousands of people who were following me on the race. I had comments from New Zealand, Germany, France, all over the world. People got up in the middle of the night to see where I was. A Girl Scout troop in Fort Davis was on a camp out and couldn't get service on their iphone. So they hiked to a high place so they could find out how I was doing. I had 180,000 hits on my Facebook page during RAAM," he said.

He says it's difficult to train for the race.

"You can train for a 100 or a 300 mile race and I do train for those distances. You can't train for a 3,000-mile race. You just have to know that you have the reserve inside of you that when you need it it's going to be there and you must have the confidence and mental aspect to get through it. It's a lot more mental than physical for me. There's a lot more guys that have more talent and speed and are better riders and racers than I am, but they couldn't complete RAAM because they don't have the head for it," he said.

Tooke rides a specialized road bike with 22 gears. In RAAM you can't ride beside another rider. You have to face the elements alone. The wind becomes a big factor. So does the clock.

"The race starts at 3 p.m. and is run in stages where you race from one time station to another. They're from 40 to 88 miles apart. You think about reaching the next time station, not about riding 3,000 miles. That would seem impossible. If you stop to use the restroom, the clock still runs. If you stop and eat, the clock still goes. If you stop to sleep, the clock's going. You just have to manage your time. The longest I rode without sleep was 31 hours. One time I rode for 15 minutes between sleeps because I was falling off my bike. I had hallucinations, paranoia and just rode until I had to stop. We had a 14-inch foam mattress in the follow vehicle. I took off my helmet and shoes and by the time my head hit that mattress I'd be asleep. You're exhausted after the first 24 hours and you stay that way to the end," he said.

RAAM tries to keep to the back roads and when construction is going on and one lane of traffic is stopped, racers have to wait. The clock is still ticking.

"One time in the Ozark Mountains I was going uphill about 8 miles an hour, and cars behind me were all mad because they wanted to get around me. One upset motorist came around me and the mirror of his truck hit my shoulder. It was all intentional. I could have stopped and filed a police report but it would have taken some of my precious time," he said.

There are three mandatory cut-offs in the race: Durango, Colo., the Mississippi River at the finish line at Annapolis, Md. If riders don't make them by a certain time, they're disqualified.

The race is expensive. The entry fee is $3,000 and Tooke's gas bill for the crew vehicles was $4,000. The prize is a medal similar to other race medals. Nothing distinctive. Tooke said you're going to have to get in line to call him crazy.

"You do it because it's a challenge and you're capable of doing something that nobody else around can do. When you cross that finish line, knowing what you've accomplished, it's one of the most gratifying moments in sport. There are thousands of guys with Super Bowl rings, thousands of people who have climbed Mount Everest, hundreds of thousands of people with Olympic medals, but less than 300 people have done RAAM. That's gratifying," he said.

Tooke isn't entered in this year's RAAM, which starts in June. But he always will be a part of it as an official or crew member for another racer. He is getting ready to enter a bike race through the Texas Hill Country in the spring.

The Crew

Dex Tooke's wife, Joni, was crew chief for the race. She decided it would take nine people working in three different 8-hour shifts to give Tooke the support he needed. Three people in the follow van would act as driver, navigator and domestique, a term for the person caring for Tooke's needs. Meanwhile, six people in a motor home would be at the next time station to give whatever assistance was needed. Three crewmembers in the RV would be sleeping while the other three were doing chores. The follow van had to stay behind Tooke, but the RV could travel at highway speeds.

"We had volunteers coming out of the woodwork to be part of the crew," said Joni (pronounced Johnny because she was named after her dad). "We had training periods that sometimes lasted three days to get people coordinated before we left for California. We started training in October, eight months before the race started. Dex couldn't have done the race without me and he knows it. Time stations were at gas stations or convenience stores so we could fill the ice chests, get gas and shift people around."

Joni was the flat fixer. When a flat occurred, they just changed wheels. The tires for the bicycle cost as much as a radial tire for a car. She said she and Tooke have had many adventures together, but this tops them all.

"It's the most incredible thing we've done together. I firmly believe you have to be a unique individual to even attempt something like this. It's a very elite group that is willing to do what's necessary to do it. I think Dex is one of those people. I firmly believe that all of us are capable of so much more than we even know. We've just gotta get out there and give it a try."

FAMILY MATTERS



Jim May , Ph.D., is the director of the Family Wellness Center. Write him at P.O. Box 51638, Midland 79710-1638; drjimmay@sbcglobal.net

May 2012 be year of life lessons, simple acts of courage

DEAR READERS: We are at the beginning of another year — following another year of unprecedented national and personal financial complexities. While things are great here now, no one seems to know what to do on the broader economic scale. I wanted to share portions of an anonymous writing I found in Jack Canfield and Mark Hansen's inspiring book, "Chicken Soup for the Soul," that can transcend any temporary state we find ourselves in. It is entitled, "The Rules for Being Human."

■ You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for the entire period of this time around. Take care of it!

■ You will learn lessons. You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called Life. Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or think them irrelevant and stupid.

■ There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth is a process of trial and error: Experimentation! The failed experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiment that ultimately works.

■ A lesson is repeated until learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can then go on to the next lesson.

■ Learning lessons does not end. There is no part of life that does not contain its lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.

■ "There" is no better than "here." When your "there" has become a "here," you will simply obtain another "there" that will again look better than "here."

■ Others are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects something you love or hate about yourself.

■ What you make of your life is up to you. You have all the tools and resources you need or the ability to get them. What you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.

■ Your answers lie inside you. The answers to life's questions lie inside you in your willingness to take actions to change. All you need to do is look, listen, pray, trust and act.

■ You will forget all of this.

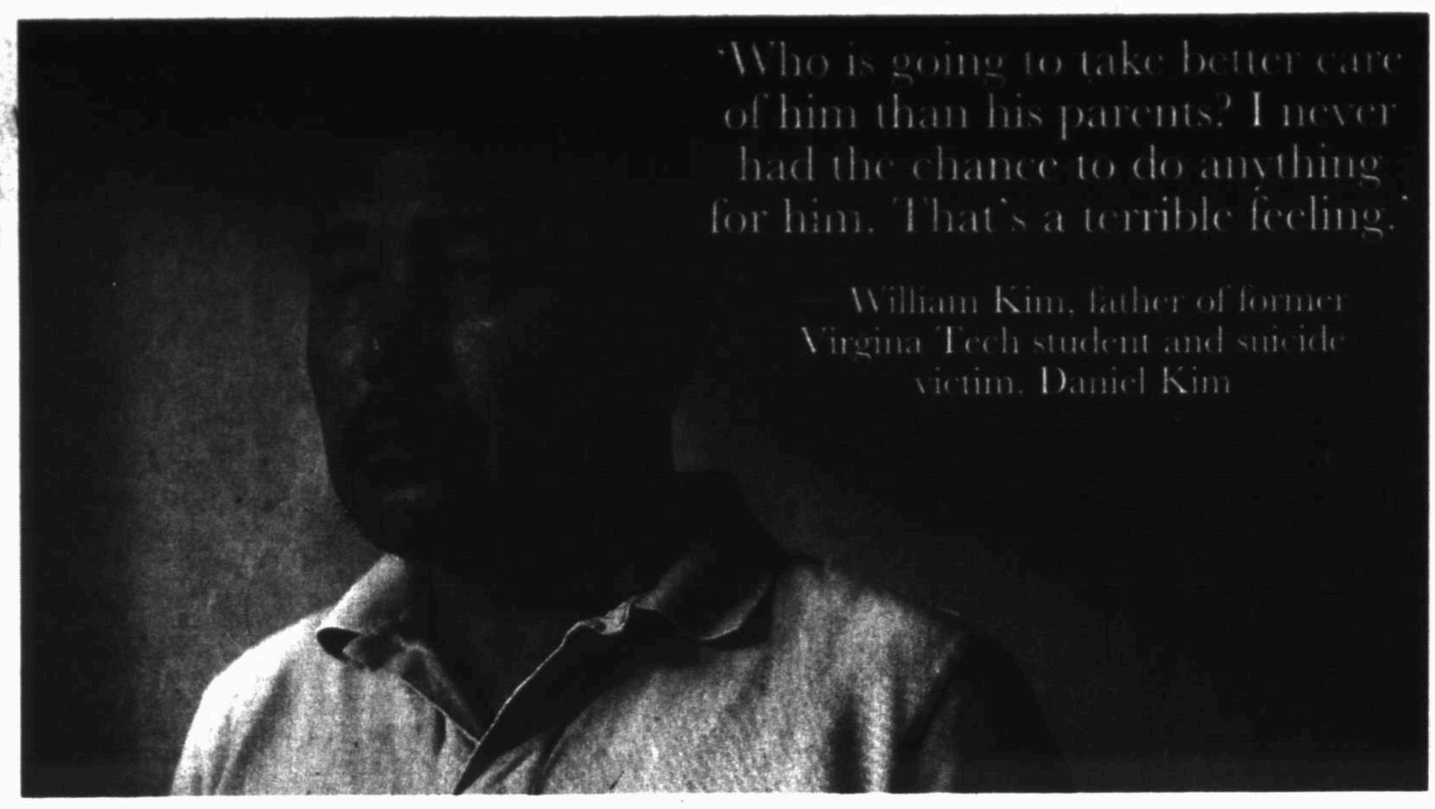
■ You can remember it whenever you want.

As each of us ponders the new year, what can we do to make 2012 special for ourselves and those we love? Do we too often live a life of misplaced priorities? Sometimes we get so caught up in looking toward results that we forget to remember the journey, not the destination, is the essence of life. I have learned so much from others — of simple acts of courage that powerfully contribute to God's kingdom such as single parents struggling against difficult financial, physical and social odds to hold their families together and give to their children; people fighting depression, bravely holding onto the belief there can be a brighter future; survivors of physical, emotional and sexual abuse courageously reliving the terror of those experiences they may be free to live today; men and women struggling and working to make their marriages successful rather than just another unhappy statistic; people with addictions struggling to obtain and maintain sobriety; children with Attention Deficit Disorder bravely attempting to function in an academic environment so very alien and toxic to them; families with sons and daughters bravely defending us in the armed services; and those with serious and even terminal illnesses fighting to learn to live in peace, not just to die peacefully.

There are many more examples, but a common thread runs through them all. Each somehow knows there is more to this life than what is directly before him or her. There is another reality to be experienced. That reality is not limited by the earthly confines of physical, emotional and intellectual limitations and perhaps that is the great lesson we all need to learn. God's son tried to teach us the spiritual reality is life, the physical reality is only a scary imposter.

As the anonymous author noted in, "Rules for Being Human," the answer — the choice — does lie within us. Saint Paul writes in his letter to the church in Rome, "Do not model yourselves on the behavior of the world around you, but let your behavior change, modeled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do."

We can choose to forget or remember the fact God allows us to choose to listen to our new mind or to follow the behaviors of the world around us. Author Rick Warren recommends in "happy moments, praise God; difficult moments, seek God; quiet moments, worship God; painful moments, trust God; and every moment, thank God." Have a happy and truly new year!



Colleges, parents mull policies on suicide threats

By Justin Pope
Associated Press

The email that arrived at Virginia Tech's health center in November 2007 was detailed and unmistakably ominous. It concerned a Tech senior named Daniel Kim and came from an acquaintance at another college.

"Daniel has been acting very suicidal recently, purchasing a $200 pistol, and claiming he'll go through with it," the email read, adding details of a reported previous suicide attempt with pills. "This is not a joke."

By the time Virginia Tech told Daniel's father, William Kim, about that email, it was too late.

A few weeks after it was sent to the school, he spoke with his son for the last time, Daniel indicating all was well and after final exams he'd be home for the holidays.

A few days after that, parked in his car outside a Target store near campus, Daniel fatally shot himself in the head.

"If I'd known, I could have taken him to doctors, get him on medication, make him normal again," William Kim, who owns a Washington, D.C., convenience store, said in a recent telephone interview, grief still echoing in his voice four years after the fact.

Virginia Tech's actions were all the more confounding coming just months after the murder-suicide rampage on the same campus by another student, Seung Hui Cho, which supposedly had prompted campuses nationwide to rethink their previous emphasis on confidentiality in treating troubled students.

"Who is going to take better care of him than his parents?" Kim said. "I never had the chance to do anything for him. That's a terrible feeling."

In an agreement finalized by a judge last month in a multimillion-dollar lawsuit brought by the family, the Kims settled with Virginia Tech for $250,000, plus an endowed scholarship in Daniel's name. But William Kim also insisted the agreement include language requiring Virginia Tech to notify parents of a potentially suicidal student unless it documents a reason not to do so.

The university, which admits no fault, maintains the language reflects policies already in place there under a 2008 state law, and wouldn't have made a difference for Daniel Kim anyway. It continues to insist that, after sending local police to check on the student, and despite the detailed email, it had no reason to believe he was actively suicidal and thus didn't need to notify his family.

But the family's attorney, Gary Mims, insists the settlement goes further than the state law, which applies only to students treated by university mental health services. Now, he says, Virginia Tech must at least consider notifying parents if it receives an indication from any source a student may be suicidal. Several experts described it as among the strongest such policies in the country.

The issue of when colleges should notify parents their adult children may be suicidal remains fraught with legal, medical and ethical dilemmas. College policies, state laws and professional codes of conduct vary widely — and occasionally conflict.

Some mental health professionals call the Virginia Tech settlement the latest step in a trend they welcome: Threats to safety increasingly take precedence over preserving confidentiality. They emphasize that in many cases, involving parents is not only right, but helpful.

"There's some good evidence if someone is really sick, that involving family in their treatment planning, the medication, helping them stay on track, are really good things to do," said Greg Eells, director of counseling and psychological services at Cornell University in New York, which has changed several policies to make notifying parents more common. "I think the (Virginia Tech settlement) is kind of affirming that."

But many remain wary of top-down pressure on counselors to notify parents as the default option, even if such policies are well-intentioned and allow exceptions. Many students have just passing thoughts of suicide. Also, relationships with parents may be part of the problem. Involving them too readily might discourage some people from getting help, or complicate treatment once they do.

"The less flexibility we have, it actually compromises care," said Mary-Jeanne Raleigh, director of counseling services at St. Mary's College in Maryland and president of ACCA, the American College Counseling Association. Overly rigid policies mean, she said, "I can't review what is best for the individual standing in front of me because the law is saying you have to x, y and z."

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for college students, behind automobile accidents. A 2010 survey of counseling center directors found at least 133 college students had taken their lives in the previous year. The better indicator is probably the rate, estimated at about 6 to 7.5 per 100,000 — though that's only about half the suicide rate for similarly aged people not in college.

But while the research highlights the danger, it also sheds light on why these are tough calls for colleges. Warning signs aren't always as black and white as they were at Virginia Tech. A milder form of suicidal ideation — fleeting hopelessness or thoughts about death — is common among college-age students.

A 2009 survey of 26,000 students at 70 colleges found roughly half reported having had at least occasional suicidal thoughts. But more than half of those said such thoughts lasted a day or less.

New year's thoughts: Gratitude for blessings of 2011 and excitement for 2012

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Alex Rose is a volunteer for AARP Community Service.

Wow, what a journey in 2011! From intense heat and no rain at all to a beautiful White Christmas — who could ask for anything more? We are truly blessed and have so much to be thankful for as we experience good health, good friends, family, worthy projects that keep our mind and body alert and much more.

I am excited to begin the new year with commitment, resolution and determination. How about you? What is on your bucket list that you will achieve in 2012? Now is the time to make that list and work it with a passion.

What does self-improvement mean? Perhaps a stronger commitment to exercise, healthy eating, plenty of rest and that all-important positive attitude. These are a few ideas — we each have a choice as to what we do. We do not pay taxes on exercising or healthy eating, nor do we have to ask permission to do these things. Just do it.

How about reaching out a little more than you did in 2011? Extend that arm and leg and find a person, a project or a cause that could use your talents and time. It is in giving you begin to feel you have a purpose in life.

No matter what your age — from 1 to 100 — learn something new each day. Keep a journal of what you learn each day and at the end of the year just see how smart you really are. Just think, 365 new pieces of information you did not know in 2011.

Travel, near and far. Be sure to include places you haven't ever been and return to your favorites. Whether you travel alone or with someone, enjoy, learn and experience. Keep a journal of your travels and use some of the pictures and places in your 2012 Christmas cards to family and friends.

Get rid of the clutter in your life. Have a sense of organization in your home, garage and office. Look around and visualize your surroundings without the stacks of books, papers and clutter that seem to get taller and taller with each year. Close your eyes and picture what your office, home and garage would look like if you had a place for everything and everything was in its place. Make this picture come true.

Meet new friends. Invite them to meet your friends and share in the organizations you enjoy. Advertise those places and projects you are committed to, and bring new faces to your world in 2012. Share with others who may not know about the wonderful places and events here in Midland and Odessa.

Finally, make a vow to yourself you will take time to pray to your God for guidance and protection in the upcoming year. May you have a happy new year.

New year gives each of us opportunity to start anew

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 READERS: Welcome to 2012! While the last year has been tumultuous for many of us, a new one is here, bringing with it our chance for a fresh start.

Today is the day we discard destructive old habits for healthy new ones, and with that in mind, I will share Dear Abby's often-requested list of New Year's Resolutions, which were adapted by my mother, Pauline Phillips, from the original credo of Al-Anon:

JUST FOR TODAY: I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all of my problems at once.

I know I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I'll not speak ill of others. I will improve my appearance, speak softly and not interrupt when someone else is talking.

Just for today, I will refrain from improving anybody but myself.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I am overweight, I will eat healthfully — if only for today. And not only that, I will get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY: I will gather the courage to do what is right and take the responsibility for my own actions.

And now, Dear Readers, I would like to share an item sent to me by I.J. Bhatia, a reader who lives in New Delhi, India:

DEAR ABBY: This year, no resolutions, only some guidelines. The Holy Vedas say: "Man has subjected himself to thousands of self-inflicted bandages. Wisdom comes to a man who lives according to the true eternal laws of nature."

The prayer of St. Francis (of which there are several versions) contains a powerful message:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

And so, Dear Readers, may this new year bring with it good health, peace and joy to all of you. — LOVE, ABBY

Holidays are popular time for proposals

By Leanne Italie
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The heck with lovey-dovey Valentine's Day. Turns out December, with its holiday cheer, romantic winter backdrops and family gatherings, is among the busiest months for popping the question.

"It's a pretty time of year," said Jake Nyberg, 31, a video producer in Minneapolis. He chose Christmastime to drop to one knee in a gorilla suit while teetering on ice skates in front of his beloved. "You know you're going to be around a lot of family. You're going to be seeing all the people you'd like to see after something like this happens."

Sarah Pease, a professional proposal planner in New York, usually gets one or two inquiries a week from nervous grooms-to-be, but once Thanksgiving rolls around, it's more like one or two a day, with most guys looking to propose in December.

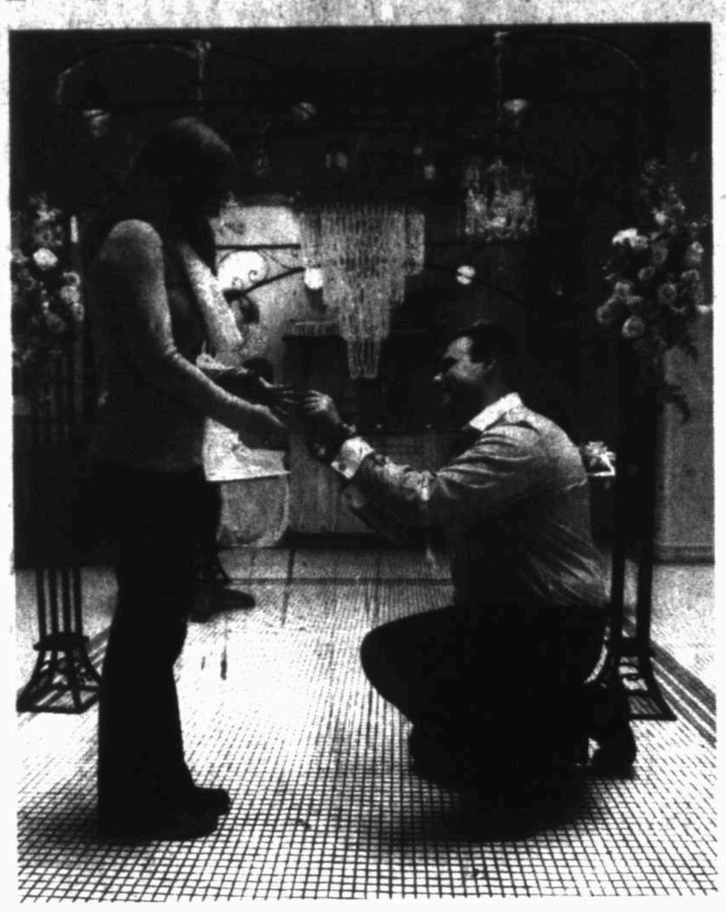
While she specializes in elaborate surprise proposals, she said the simple engagement-ring-under-the-tree trick is still popular. "That's a great way to have it as a family affair," she said. "It's dreamy. This is definitely THE busiest time of the year."

Laurent Landau in New York, a partner in the jewelry site DiamondIdeals.com, also sees the December bump: "October, November and early December, we probably see a 50 to 60 percent increase in the number of people buying rings with the purpose of proposing during the holiday season."

And it's not just regular folks; celebs confirm the trend too. Matthew McConaughey announced in a tweet he proposed to his girlfriend, Brazilian model Camila Alves, on Christmas Day this year. And two days after Christmas, a spokesman for John Legend revealed the singer recently proposed to his girlfriend, model Chrissy Teigen, in the Maldives.

Christmas is considered one of four big proposal days, along with Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving and New Year's. Thirty-nine percent of proposals occurred between November and February among 20,000 newlyweds surveyed by the popular wedding website TheKnot.com. Of those, 16 percent got engaged in December, more than any other month, according to TheKnot editor Anja Winikka.

Winikka's on board. Her fiance, Benjamin Bullington, proposed Dec. 20 by matching a fantasy she'd had "as a child that on my very first date ever I would wear a red dress and we would go to Red Lobster in a red car." Bullington sent a red dress and shoes to her office, then whisked her off in a red car to dine on red lobster.



Matthew Fowkes proposes to Melissa Barnickel in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

James Ambler/AP

With help from Pease, the wedding planner, Matthew Fowkes surprised his honey with an impressive yellow diamond on a romantic Christmas week getaway to New York.

"We thought it would be a magical time in the city with all the lights and everything — and it was," said Fowkes, 35, a website founder in Pittsburgh.

Fowkes took Melissa Barnickel, 25, to a French bistro in Brooklyn on Dec. 2 where they were the only guests. The evening included singers belting "Marry Me" by Train, a videographer and photographer recording it all, a tiered proposal cake and a bottle of wine identical to one the pair drank during their first trip together, to Canada.

Fowkes had the wine placed in a box made of Canadian wood, carved with their names. They'll fill it with remembrances at their Sept. 29 wedding and seal it as a time capsule to be opened on their 10th wedding anniversary. And they might just duplicate the proposal cake for their nuptials.

"I was completely surprised," said Barnickel, an analyst for an insurance company. "It was such a fairy tale. Everything was just so thought through."

Brad Carlson, 41, a production executive for Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles, went for the fake-out.

He and Allison Koeppe, 34, had been talking marriage for a while. She thought it might be nice to get engaged the weekend of Dec. 16, when he had business in New York, but he held her off, suggesting they wait until they could figure out a plan.

"She was, like, a plan. What do we need a plan for," Carlson recalled. What she didn't know was he had hired Pease months before to make every moment meaningful when he proposed that Saturday.

They stayed at a fancy downtown hotel and strolled through Washington Square Park on their way to dinner at Babbo. Along the way they encountered a painter in the park whose easel bore a replica of a favorite photo Koeppe had taken on a trip to Italy. As she realized what was about to happen, a guitarist materialized and played "Reminiscing" by Little River Band: "How to tell you girl/ I wanna build my world around you/ Tell you that it's true/ I wanna make you understand/ I'm talkin' about a lifetime plan."

ENGAGEMENTS

Arredondo - Rubalcava



Frankie Rubalcava, son of Mr. Jose and Rosa Rubalcava from Midland, TX and Elisa Arredondo, daughter of Mr. Juan and Teresa Arredondo of Seminole, TX would like to announce their engagement.

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Cesar Millan



Katherine Heigl



Bob Barker

Celebs share New Year's resolutions for their pets

By Sue Manning
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tony La Russa would like his dog to spend more time in his lap. Bob Barker would like his rabbit to spend more time in its litter box. And Lea Michele would like her cat to spend less time in her cotton ball jar.

The Associated Press asked several celebrity pet owners about New Year's resolutions for their animals — and resolutions their pets might have for them.

La Russa, the reigning World Series champion manager, would like it if his 12-year-old Chihuahua Twiggy would jump into his lap every time he sat down. "I'd like that affectionate reassurance every time, not just sometimes," he said.

And on behalf of Twiggy, La Russa would resolve to "be the person that Twiggy wants me to be and deserves for me to be."

Jazz singer Roberta Flack would resolve "not to have to beg Yogi, my shiba inu dog, to eat his breakfast or dinner so his food bowl would not be looking at us all day long! He likes to be begged to eat — coerced — given one bite from the bowl by hand."

And for her: "That I talk less and quietly. I have a seal point Siamese, Mimi-La, who likes to put her front paw on my face as if to say, 'Shhhhh.'"

Flack didn't include resolutions for eight dogs, 12 cats, a llama, six horses, three donkeys, several Chinese chickens, a road runner, three flamingos and several geese she cares for after adopting them from petting zoos and other places.

"CSI: Miami" actress Eva La Rue would ask that "our bulldog Frank be less of a ham. He is so funny. He always needs to be right in the middle of the room where all the action is taking place. He constantly needs attention.

"If Frank made a New Year's resolution for me it would be that I would devote 100 percent of my time to him only. If my shnoodle, Bingo, made a resolution, it would be that he would get just some of the attention that Frank demands from us! LOL!"

It seemed fitting to ask some of the actors in the movie "New Year's Eve" for their resolutions.

Seven dogs — Oscar, Romeo, Stella, Piper, Weaser, Flora and Tamber — would like actress Katherine Heigl "to feed them consistently on time in the morning."

She wishes Oscar the hound would "not be so aggressive toward strangers. That would be good because I really don't want to get sued."

Academy Award winner Hilary Swank said of her two dogs: "They are so great. ... I wish they could do every interview with me and just sit right here and here. That would be my New Year's resolutions for my dogs — that they're always with me."

Josh Duhamel would like his rescue dog Meatloaf "to really work on his coordination and work on getting a little more exercise because he's struggling right now. But he's still happy and he's not in pain. But it's really hard to get him to do anything. He's super lazy. He's like maybe the most unathletic animal you've ever seen."

"Glee"'s Lea Michele says her cat, Sheila, needs a resolution.

"I wish that Sheila would stop going into my bathroom, taking out all my cotton balls out of the jars and spreading them all over. So her New Year's resolution would be to get over the cotton ball obsession."

Dog whisperer Cesar Millan would like his pit bull Junior to continue as "an ambassador for powerful breeds, reinforcing the message that it's not the breed, it's the human behind the animal." And Junior to Millan? "Accept yourself," he said.

> "We have cats, lots of cats. They are pretty well behaved but one — Ted. I would resolve that Ted might start to work on getting along well with others," said Joe Bonsall of country music's Oak Ridge Boys.
>
> **— Joe Bonsall**
> of country music's Oak Ridge Boys

"All of my cats might wish that I stayed out on the road more so they would not have to share (my wife) Mary as much. Seriously! I am sometimes a blight on their existence," he added.

Fellow group member Duane Allen said sports and music would top his list.

"I taught my dogs how to play basketball — everything except shooting. So that would be on the list. I taught one how to sing. I am now trying to teach my Lab (Lana) how to talk. She thinks I am Elvis."

And if Lana had her way, "it would be to tell me to not talk," Allen said.

Country singer Buddy Jewell wants his Akita Jack to "eat more pork chop bones!" And Jack, in turn, wants Jewell to "Grill more pork chops!"

Bluegrass singer Janie Fricke said her favorite pet is Rico, an 18-year-old African grey parrot who plays like a baby. Her wish for him? "I hope he lives to be 80, as the book says."

And if he were to make a resolution? "He hopes we keep feeding him his fave snack — peanuts."

Retired game show host Bob Barker's has an 8-year-old rabbit. Mr. Rabbit already follows Barker around the house "helping me in every way he can." If Barker could ask for more, it would be "to use his box every time, not just when it's convenient."

And Mr. Rabbit's resolution for Barker? What else? "To continue urging folks to have their pets spayed and neutered — including rabbits."

Prepare your home, family before bringing in new pet

PET POINTERS



Kristina McConaughey is a veterinarian at Greenbelt Veterinary Hospital & Pet Resort. Questions can be e-mailed to: info@greenbeltpetdoc.com.

Santa brought a new puppy to the McConaughey household this Christmas. Along with the puppy came every day reminders of what it means to add a pet to your household. Her name is Lyla and she is cute and fuzzy, but also a major responsibility. I know our home is not the only one to grow in pet family members this Christmas, so here are some reminders regarding that new loved one.

The most important first step to introducing any pet to the family includes a visit to the veterinarian before it comes into the household. New pets can carry parasites that may become a problem for other family members, both human and animal. They can also carry infectious diseases that may affect the other pets. At the first veterinary visit the veterinarian will perform a physical exam, a stool check for parasites and recommend a vaccination schedule based on your pet's age. This is a very important visit and will allow you time to ask any questions you may have about your new family member.

Preparing your home for a new pet also is very important. If you are bringing home a kitten, you will need a litter box with litter. Be sure to put the litter box in a quiet environment away from loud noises, such as the washer and dryer. Your new kitten will do best by being introduced to the home slowly. Start by confining the kitten to one room that contains a litterbox, a few toys and a bed, as well as food and water bowls. By starting in a small, confined area your kitten will gain confidence and feel safe. This will encourage the litterbox training that took place with the mother cat and littermates.

Puppies also do best with their own small area; I recommend a crate for all puppies. This will give them their own space and you will notice when they tired or are in trouble they will return to the crate. To prepare your home for a puppy you also will need to puppy-proof the home. Move small items the puppy may ingest, make sure electrical cords are hidden and invest in food and water bowls, appropriate toys and a leash.

House breaking is another concern of pet owners with any new puppy. It is important you begin house breaking as soon as your puppy comes home. The puppy will need constant supervision inside the home. If the puppy cannot be supervised because the family is gone or busy, it needs to be in a crate or outside. It is also advisable for your puppy to wear a loose leash if inside the house, but never leave it alone wearing the leash. This allows you to move the puppy and take it outside without scaring it.

Constant supervision is important to successful house breaking. The puppy should be taken outside to eliminate every two hours, after eating and after sleeping. Take the puppy out on a leash to the same area in the yard each time and use the same command to tell it what is expected. Outside time is all business until it eliminates, then positively reinforce it with loving praise and play. Monitor the puppy inside and if it begins sniffing around the house promptly take it to the special place in the yard and encourage elimination.

All new pets will require attention for training and discipline. Kittens need to be taught to stay off certain places in the home. Puppies need to be taught to sit, stay and come when called. This all takes time and patience. Consistency is the key and ultimately will shorten the length of time until your pet is fully trained. Using a trainer or attending a puppy class will help you and your puppy understand what is expected of them. This also will strengthen the bond between you and your pet, which can lead to a more positive pet ownership experience.

Remember, new puppies and kittens are just babies. It takes time and practice to learn new things. These new pets need time for rest and quiet time to recharge. Be sure to socialize new pets and encourage interaction with visitors in your home. Learning to meet new people is an important part of becoming a part of the family. Introductions to new people should be done gradually and never forced.

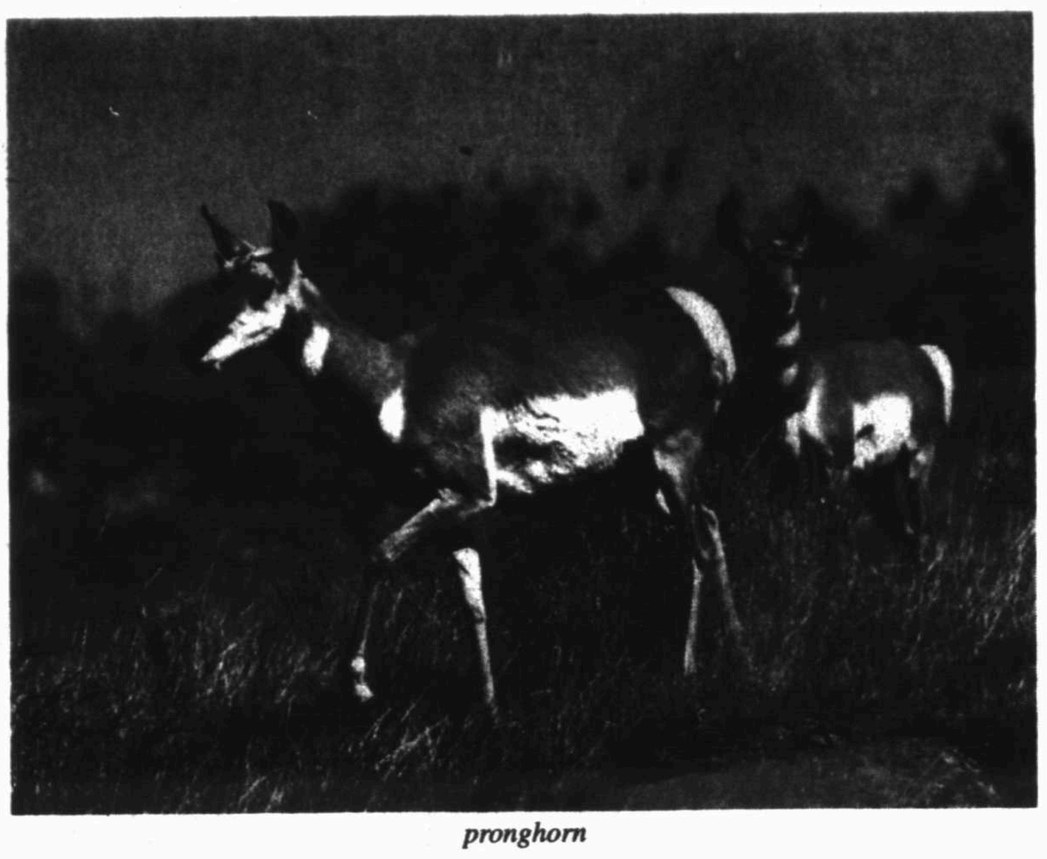
Communication with your veterinarian is very important in successfully integrating your new pet to your family. Taking the time to train your new pet and spending time with it will help ensure a special bond with your new family member that is enjoyable for everyone.



Get ready for the weekend by reading
PULSE
Thursdays in the Reporter-Telegram



mountain lion



pronghorn

'Bloom where you are planted' is good advice



BURR WILLIAMS

Burr Williams is executive director of Sibley Nature Center.

'Are the animals real?' When kids visit the Sibley Nature Center and see our collection of stuffed animals, that often is the first question they ask. Our stock answer initially was, "yes, but they are dead. Their skins have been pulled over a plastic form, glass eyeballs and rubber tongues have been added. A lot of them were found dead on the highway." The kids never seemed satisfied with that answer, so we then added, "they were real animals — they are animals that live here, they are not made of plastic, and they are not on television or a computer screen." That answer seems to satisfy them.

I have spent some time recently thinking about the perception of children. I notice how my grandchildren under the age of 8 or 9 slowly drift close to a large television screen, sometimes ending up within inches of the screen. This drift always occurs if they are waiting for supper and Deborah and I are busy fixing it in the kitchen, and their uncle or big brother are not in the room. We don't approve of the behavior — worrying their eyesight or hearing might be affected — but despite repeated admonitions, the television slowly reels them in where they become totally involved. The youngest one even talks to the screen and begins unconsciously moving as if he is part of the cartoon drama in front of him.

I wondered if this response to television had any bearing on why kids always asked if the stuffed animals are real. After establishing all of stuffed animals are native to West Texas, we often spend time discussing what the animal does, which habitat it lives in, where people see the animals and if they ever hurt people and why. All of the animals should be familiar to the children, but at first they call the pronghorn a deer and the mountain lion is called a tiger, a leopard or even a cheetah. Mostly by repetition, television is a dominant teacher of our children.

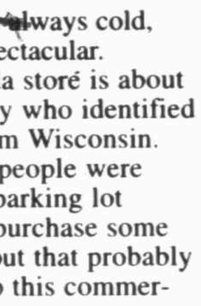
As a result of many hours of television watching, every child knows hundreds of commercial jingles, the names of toy stores and fast food outlets, brands of athletic shoes, electronic gear and more. This information connects them to the human-constructed world around them — the world of commerce and consumerism — and gives them certain cultural values. For example, because of television, every child knows germs are bad, and bugs and many other wild animals have germs. The percentage of children who are afraid of the "dirtiness" of a natural West Texas pasture is astounding to someone like me who was sent outside daily to play in the pasture abutting our house. I have seen a marked increase of the number of children who find the outside either too dirty, too hot or too cold since the mid- 1990s, when electronic games became cheap enough for all but the poorest people to purchase. The only children I see outside in the summer are the ones playing sports in parks.

Do children ask the question "Is this real" because they do not know these animals live around us, out on the ranches? By fifth grade there will be a small percentage of kids that will tell stories of when they went hunting with a member of their family and saw one of the animals, and a few will tell of one they killed. A larger percentage will go "eeeeeewwwww" when the hunter tells of eating the deer or other game animal. Children do not often, if it all, see our native animals, because nature portrayed on television — even on nature shows — is dominated by stories about dangerous animals and very rarely includes any images that relate to our regional ecosystems and habitats.

Sometimes I believe we have created a society that is alien to our physical place in reality. Food and shelter are a given to most of our population, and television and other electronics keep us from becoming involved in the physical world around us. We live lives that could be duplicated in many places, lives that have little connection to the physical landscape and ecosystems around us.

"Bloom where you are planted." In one of the discussions on my Facebook page, a person posted this phrase that stopped me in my tracks. I Googled the phrase, and found it is used often by motivational speakers, and can even be found in different forms in Christian Scripture and other religious writings. Blooming where you are planted" means first learning where you are.

Texas bucket list: Walk across the border



MIKE LEGGETT

Mike Leggett writes for the Austin American-Statesman.

AUSTIN —

At the point where FM 1015 turns into Calle Benito Juarez, the river is sluggish green and just about 200 feet wide, not even the length of a football field. Yet the walk across the modest two-lane bridge is longer than I remember. And emotionally challenging.

I drop 25 cents — quarters only, the sign says in English — into the slot and hear the turnstile handle clatter and rattle as I push through into Mexico.

I shift my camera to the other shoulder and amble down the sidewalk into the heart of Nuevo Progreso, the entire population of which would not fill the Dell Diamond baseball stadium.

Into another culture, another life and another place and time.

This is the last stop on my list of "24 Things Every Texan Should Do Before He Dies." Walk across the bridge into a small Mexican border town, drink a beer and have a nice meal at one of the restaurants along the bustling main street. I've been coming here with my family at Christmas for a long time, shopping in the stores, revelling in the sounds and smells, a stroll during the day, the lazy feel of a party at night.

It's cloudy today, but not brooding, and Norteno music blasting from a hidden speaker greets me on the crowded narrow sidewalk as I walk under a sign warning against using cell phones. Accordions, guitars — a soundtrack for the experience.

The street is narrow, just one lane in either direction with diagonal parking on both sides. Most of the buildings are single level storefronts. Thousands of signs. Dozens of vendors line the streets. Smoke rolls up from food carts peddling tacos and cheese and candied nuts, redolent and beckoning.

Telephone wires crisscross the street chock-a-block with gift shops, restaurants and bars, dentist offices, barber shops, medical clinics and dozens of pharmacies. Ahead, I spot a bright red and white sign that beckons, and I duck into the Red Panty Bar (motto: "Have you seen our panties?") for a beer and some peanuts to clear my head.

This is as I remember it. And yet, it's not the same.

Border life along the Rio Grande has changed, altered by the disparity between economies, demands for border security and the rise of drug violence. Not so long ago, border life flowed back and forth across the Rio Grande, easily, quietly, without much disturbance.

Most people in the valley had family on both sides of the river, in towns like Matamoros, Nuevo Progreso and Reynosa and their sister cities across the bridge in Texas.

Today, all of that remains — except a confident sense of security.

At least three people approach me in the Red Panty Bar offering shoe shines, while I finish my Modelo. Another is selling chicle. I don't want a shine, and I have to be careful paying out to the folks selling gum. If I shell out for all of them, I'll be out of money soon.

I spent a decent sum before I ever got across the bridge. Almost at the end on the Mexican side, a black cap came through the balustrades down at my feet.

Paula was dressed all in black, her head covered and her lined face peering up at me through the rails. She said something I couldn't hear over the nearby truck traffic. I asked her name, and she gave it to me with that Spanish pronunciation: "Pow-La."

Fumbling through my pocket for money, I asked if I could take her picture and she agreed and thanked me for the money.

"More peanuts, senor?" The bartender wants me to buy another beer, but I decline. And I don't ask to see his panties, either.

I drop a few singles on the bar and wander back out onto the sidewalk, just looking, easing into the Progreso life, turning down offer after offer of cheap medicine and quality dental care under full color signs of mangled mouths.

El Super Disco, one of two principal department stores Americans come to visit, is still here, packed to the ceilings with brightly colored ceramic animals -- monkeys, parrots and rabbits. There are more margarita glasses than 10 restaurants could ever use and innumerable incarnations of the Virgin de Guadalupe. I buy one for Rana.

Back on the sidewalk, I'm amazed at the number of dental clinics, one for every tooth, I think. The waiting rooms are packed too, mostly with Americans who come for the cheap care and cheap medication they can't afford to buy on the other side.

I have been amazed at how many little old ladies I've seen walking across the bridge to Mexico and even driving in, because they can't make the trip on foot. If they have any security concerns, they don't show it.

Just down the street, things aren't so good at the Canada Store, the other big commercial store in Progreso. Shelves are sparsely stocked and the upstairs restaurant, Garcia's, is closed. It's always been our favorite spot here: quiet, reserved, with elegant fixtures and a view of the street below. The beer was always cold, and the food was spectacular.

"I hear the Canada store is about to close," said a lady who identified herself as being from Wisconsin. "That's what some people were saying back in the parking lot across the river." I purchase some margarita glasses, but that probably isn't enough to stop this commercial disaster.

Moving down the street a bit further, I decide to cross and wander over and work my way back to Arturo's, the oldest restaurant in town and the one most gringos visit when they get hungry.

Actually, this part of Progreso used to be in Texas. Many years ago, a major flood altered the Rio Grande's course and the U.S. deeded back more than 500 acres to the Mexican government. Most of Progreso, including Arturo's, now sits on that land.

The crowd is small today, much smaller than the last time I was here with my family. I pick a table in the corner and order soft tacos, tortilla soup and a Bohemia.

People drift in and out, wondering what to do with the salsa, which isn't very hot, and which food to order off the menu. The waiters, in starched maroon waistcoats, are patient and calm, recommending things they believe the novices will like.

I'm enjoying my Tex-Mex based, border superiority, grading their food choices and smiling to myself when they choose something just because they saw it on a Taco Bell menu.

Now I'm back on the sidewalk, moving toward the river and the inevitably gut-wrenching interaction with U.S. Customs agents on the Texas side. I don't know why that has that effect on me. I wouldn't ever try to sneak anything across, and I'm not carrying medicine or liquor, so who cares.

Just before I get to the door, a red-tailed hawk sails in from behind me and glides across the river into Texas. It's a symbolic thing, I know, but important in a way. He's just done what I'm about to do, what so many regular people over here want to do. And he did it so easily.

Jeremiah Johnson had it right. "Hawk. Goin' for the Musselshell," he said. "Take me a week's ridin', and he'll be there in ... hell, he's there already."

Gone to Texas. He's there already.

Define 'shade' before planting shade garden

By Dean Fosdick
Associated Press

One of the toughest tasks in gardening is dealing with the dark side: coaxing plants to grow where the sun won't shine.

But the challenge is worth it. Shade gardens can introduce many subtle colors and varying leaf textures to otherwise barren parts of the landscape.

First, though, define darkness. Just how shady is it where you plan to plant?

Measuring daylight is an inexact science. Even the experts don't always agree about how to quantify light levels, which are divided into as many as seven different categories, from full sun to deep shade.

"A commonsense filter has to apply here," said Renee Shepherd, founder of Renee's Garden Seeds in Felton, Calif. "There's light shade and full shade, afternoon shade and morning shade. Under one kind of tree you might have extreme shade; under another it may be dappled."

Finding the right location can mean life or death for a plant that needs some degree of sunlight to grow and reproduce.

"Vegetables that have foliage, like greens — lettuce, spinach and the cold crop family — can get by with four to six hours of direct sun," said Keith Hansen, an extension horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, in Smith County. "But anything that produces fruit needs light — the more the better."

You can meet most light intensity challenges by:

■ Pruning. Thin out thick stands of trees to reduce competition for nutrients and sun. Cut away branches that block sunlight. "Trees can be thinned, lower limbs can be removed. But that's a temporary fix," Hansen said. "They'll continue to grow and cast more shade. Find plants that match the circumstances for the proper long-term remedy."

■ Amending the soil. "You don't want to put too much mulch down or you'll smother the roots," Hansen said. Compost can help retain moisture and insulate plant roots.

■ Going natural. If native plants such as ferns, lily of the valley and Virginia bluebell can grow despite being shaded by trees in the wild, then they should survive similar conditions in your yard. "Think native plants. Think native grasses," Hansen said. "If we can deal with what we have and enhance it, chances are it will work."

■ Watering: "Working humus into the soil or laying a soaker hose, with its tiny perforations that leak moisture slowly and steadily, will create conditions where many plants will thrive," said Graham Rice, author of "Planting the Dry Shade Garden" (Timber Press. 2011).

You need not sacrifice bright colors when installing a shade garden. Impatiens, bleeding heart, geranium (cranesbills) and Lobelia can have eye-catching blooms. And don't forget bulbs: Daffodils and crocuses bloom in early spring, well before the leaf canopy develops overhead.

Foliage also is an important fixture, providing color and interest much longer than flowers, Rice said.

"Bringing together evergreens with different leaf shapes and textures, from glossy spotted laurel to bold Bergenias (elephant's ears) to lacy ferns, ensures that the dry shade garden is always attractive," Rice said.

And don't be in a rush to cut down shade trees, Hansen said. "Be thankful for the cooling benefit your trees provide. Without it, your electric bill would be substantially higher."

Online:
http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6911
deanfosdick@netscape.net



AP file photos

Books from "Modernist Cuisine: The Art and Science of Cooking," by Nathan Myhrvold, top left, are arranged on a stainless steel kitchen table March 23, at the Institute for Culinary Education in New York. ABOVE RIGHT: Bo Muller-Moore stands in his home studio Nov. 22, in Montpelier, Vt. Muller-Moore, the Vermont man who is building a business around the term "eat more kale," which has been plastered on T-shirts, bumper stickers and other items, ran into opposition this year from the second largest fried "My Plate" — a simple circle divided into quadrants that contain fruits, vegetables, protein and grains — which will replace USDA's food pyramid.

Year in food: Tiny desserts, bacon backlash shape 2011

By J.M. Hirsch
AP Food Editor

2011: The year I officially became the last American to still eat gluten.

Or did it just feel that way? Because though only a tiny fraction of Americans suffer sensitivities to this wheat protein, the multibillion dollar industry of foods, cookbooks and magazines touting their gluten-free cred this year would suggest an epidemic.

Didn't notice? Perhaps you were too busy chugging raw milk, herding your backyard flock of chickens and hunting down nearby sources for heirloom vegetables, all popular pastimes buoyed by growing demand for so-called "local" foods — a market the government predicted this year would generate some $7 billion in sales.

And so went the year in food, a period marked by some unusual dietary dichotomies.

At the same time sharply rising food prices made it ever harder for American families to get dinner oh the table, our nation was seized by an almost obsessive need to know just how many courses would be served at Prince William's wedding. And how does one make that kooky chocolate biscuit groomsman cake?

At least our government was mindful of its food dollars, right? Accusations the Justice Department spent $16 per muffin at a breakfast conference turned out to be false. They spent $16.80 for a continental breakfast of pastries, fruit, coffee, tea, juice and, of course, muffins. Wait a minute ... isn't that what I get for free when I stay at a hotel?

Meanwhile, Congress apparently wants to send plenty of cash to the potato and pizza industries. For this was the year our politicians blocked efforts to limit French fries in school cafeterias and declared the tomato sauce on slabs of pizza the equivalent of a vegetable. Add a ketchup chaser and it's practically a salad.

Maybe kids can get some healthy eating tips from Tony the Tiger and Toucan Sam. This fall, the government gave cartoon characters a hall pass when it comes to pushing sugary cereals and similar foods, caving to food industry pressure while crafting guidelines aimed at toning down the marketing of junk food to kids.

But childhood obesity remained on Michelle Obama's radar. The first lady spent 2011 forging alliances with restaurants to offer healthier foods, and even enticed Wal-Mart and other retailers to get more fresh and healthy items into regions where such foods are scarce.

Just don't ask people where those ingredients fall on the food pyramid. Government health officials decided pyramids were too perplexing and scrapped them in favor of a new healthy eating icon, "My Plate" — a circle divided into different sections for fruits, vegetables, protein and grains.

Food safety also was a hot topic. Despite new regulations signed into law in January, the nation suffered its deadliest known outbreak of food-borne illness in more than 25 years when listeria-contaminated cantaloupes sickened 146 people in 28 states, killing 30 of them.

Worrisome obesity rates and food safety concerns didn't slow America's fetishizing of food. We continued to swoon over food trucks, the more esoteric the better, even using Twitter to track the movements of our favorite mobile eateries. Don't have a truck cruising your 'hood yet? Don't worry, the moment has nearly passed.

Meanwhile, foodies struggled to crown a new "it" food. Bacon and cupcakes have had their moment. Ditto for offal and ramps. Macaroons are trying, but fussy French cookies are an unlikely contender in this country. Nutella wants it bad, but probably won't quite get there. Meatballs are yummy, but it's hard to get excited about a ball of meat.

Tiny desserts also don't stand a chance, even — if not especially — with retailers pushing waffle iron-like countertop baking appliances for churning out small cupcakes, whoopee pies and cake pops. These devices were the chocolate fountains and turkey fryers of 2011. There will be lots of them under trees this year, all destined to be used once and never again.

Speaking of foods it's hard to get excited about, what is up with kale? People were tripping over themselves to buy or bake kale chips this year. And now fast food chain Chick-fil-A is suing a Vermont man for selling T-shirts with the logo "eat more kale." The company claims he is ripping off their ad slogan, "Eat Mor Chikin."

However that is settled, I doubt even a wet T-shirt could get most Americans to embrace kale. Which means 2012 may well be a year in which foodies don't have a star ingredient.

Oh, wait. We're not supposed to call them foodies. They-who-gush-over-pretentious-foods this year decided they are too hip for that down market term. Some have started favoring culinarian. Really? My eyes hurt from rolling.

And that wasn't the only offensive term slung in 2011. Inspired by Alec Baldwin's "Saturday Night Live" skit about a baker named Pete Schweddy, ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's released a new flavor called Schweddy Balls — vanilla ice cream studded with fudge-covered rum balls. Not everyone was amused and some grocers refused to stock it.

The food publishing world continued to bustle. Bon Appetit magazine got a new editor-in-chief, Adam Rapoport, as well as some heat for his decision to put a person — Gwyneth Paltrow — on the 55-year-old magazine's cover for the first time in decades. Which puts Gwyneth in the same class as culinary icon James Beard. Plenty of foodies objected to that.

In books, Ferran Adria of Spain's famed — and, as of July, closed — elBulli restaurant released "The Family Meal," dedicated to the meals he fed his staff at his notoriously hard to get into eatery. And Nathan Myhrvold wooed the media — but few consumers — with his brainy 2,438-page, six-volume, 46-pound, $625 "Modernist Cuisine: The Art and Science of Cooking."



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UNDER CONSTRUCTION







BUSINESS *briefs*

Chamber, MDC present 'State of Economy' luncheon

The Midland Chamber of Commerce and Midland Development Corporation have partnered to present the "State of The Economy" Thursday, January 12 at Midland Center in downtown Midland. The luncheon will feature Midlander Don Evans, who served as Secretary of Commerce during the first tirm of President George W. Bush. Doors for the luncheon will open at 11 a.m.

Tickets are $30 for members, $45 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased by calling 683-3881 or online at www.midlandtxchamber.com.

Texas Hospital Association announces trustees

AUSTIN – The Texas Hospital Association announces its 2012 Board of Trustees.

Tim Lancaster, president/chief executive officer of Hendrick Health System in Abilene, assumes the role of chairman of the board. George B. Hernandez Jr., president/chief executive officer of University Health System in San Antonio, was elected chairman-elect. William "Bill" Webster, chief executive officer of Medical Center Health System in Odessa, becomes immediate past chairman.

Dan Stultz, M.D., president and chief executive officer of THA, serves as secretary-treasurer of the board.

New trustees elected to serve three-year terms include:

Tim P. Adams, chief executive officer of Cedar Park Regional Medical Center; Jeffrey L. Canose, M.D., president/chief performance officer of Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Plano; Douglas A. Matney, group president for South Texas Health System, based in Edinburg; Ernie Sadau, president/chief executive officer of CHRISTUS Health, based in Irving; • Stephen Sibbitt, M.D., chief medical officer of Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, who is filling a physician executive slot on the board; Margaret M. Van Bree, chief executive officer of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston; Robert L. Walker, executive vice president and administrator of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas; and Steve Woerner, president and chief executive officer of Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi.

Robert S. Hendler, M.D., vice president of clinical quality and chief medical officer for Tenet Healthcare Corporation's Texas Region, was elected to fill a two-year unexpired term on the THA Board. He is filling a slot for a physician executive.

Trustees continuing as members of the 2012 THA Board of Trustees include:

Gary Brock, Baylor Health Care System, Dallas; Ruth (Raz) Cook, East Texas Medical Center Fairfield; Cris Daskevich, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston; Steve Hartgraves, Graham Regional Medical Center; Hank Hernandez, Las Palmas Medical Center, El Paso; C. David Huffstutler, St. David's HealthCare, Austin; Javier Iruegas, Mission Regional Medical Center; Matthew Maxfield, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights; J. Patrick Murray, Peterson Regional Medical Center, Kerrville; David N. Parmer, Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont; James Valenti, University Medical Center of El Paso; and Jaime Wesolowski, Methodist Healthcare System of San Antonio.

2011 sets record for home building permits issued

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

Home builders experienced a record year for construction activity in 2011 with the city of Midland issuing more than 565 home building permits during the last 12 months.

Through Dec. 28, 566 home building permits had been issued, which represents a more than 60 percent increase from 2010, said Steve Thorpe, building official for the city. The previous record for permits issued was set in 2007 when 514 permits were obtained.

"That's all over town. In fill lots as well as stuff in new subdivisions," Thorpe said of the 2011 permits. "We're fortunate and there appears to be no slowdown in sight."

Staff with various home builders said 2011 was largely defined by the need for housing in Midland and that it was finding empty lots, not attracting buyers, that proved to be the challenge last year.

"We continue to be blessed by the people and businesses in Midland, Texas," said Ron Betenbough, co-founder and vice president of Betenbough Homes, which permitted 135 homes in 2011. "We broke records in 2011 with the addition of our newest neighborhood – Legends Park."

Sales for Betenbough far surpassed projections, he said, as they had sold 70 percent of the Legends Park homes near the Scharbauer Sports Complex in just four months. The neighborhood is now the fastest-selling community in the Lubbock-based company's history.

Karen York, executive director of the Permian Basin Home Builders Association, said not all companies work to mass produce homes in that manner but that for most, 2011 was a banner year.

"The housing market has just really boomed this year," she said. "I think it's because the oil industry is booming."

York said the months before school started were a little busier than others in terms of sales. Generally, though, she said new home sales were steady throughout 2011.

Thorpe said they issued an average of 40 to 45 new home building permits each month.

"We're very fortunate as opposed to other parts of the country or even other parts of Texas that are not seeing this," York said.

The number of building permits issued in 2011 was up in several parts of the country when compared with 2010, according to the National Association of Home Builders. But, few areas showed the steep increases seen in Midland. In the Midwest, for example, an average of 21 percent more permits were issued in 2011 than in 2010 while in the Pacific region, 32 percent more permits were issued during that time.

When activity reaches the level it did in Midland in 2011, York said the price of lots climbs, which makes finding and paying for land an issue for those in the industry.

Some builders will work together to develop a neighborhood while others specialize in custom builds and were able to find the handful of lots they needed only if those eventually purchasing the home would be willing to pay a higher price.

"The cost of lots is expensive," she said. "Materials in some areas have gone up, as well."

Builders agreed with York that their strong sales were tied completely with the oil and gas industry.

"What affects people's buying power is the oil price," said Travis Pate at Texas Classic Homes, speaking earlier this year.

Mark Payne, of Mark Payne Homes, was another of the major players in bringing the permit numbers up and said this fall that individuals transferring into Midland likely accounted for more than half of new home sales.

"It's just a real high demand," he said.

If the buying and building trend continues, which many in the industry believe it will at least in the coming months, builders said the price of land will only continue to rise.

"We're looking at this next year, at least the first part of the year, continuing as it has been," York said.

Kathleen Thurber can be reached at kthurber@mrt.com.

inside basin business
Making mistakes with money just means you're human/2F
Get the body you want without feeling the burn in your wallet/2F

DAVE SAYS

Making mistakes with money just means you're human

Dear Dave,

I've noticed that lots of people get defensive when it comes to talking about money and living on a plan. Why is this?

Tonya

DAVE RAMSEY



Dear Tonya,

I think it's because there seem to be two negative emotions connected to people who have failed with money: guilt and cynicism. They feel guilty because they're terrible when it comes to handling money, and they don't want to talk about it.

Cynicism may be more prevalent in people who feel like they've been messed over by some "money expert" out there. Maybe they got caught up in a deal that went bad, or they lost a lot of money following their advisor's advice. The results can be they end up believing anyone connected to the financial arena is a bad, incompetent or manipulative person.

If you've made mistakes with money, that just makes you human. Everyone alive has messed up financially, and that includes me. I made mistakes with lots of zeroes on the end, but I managed to turn things around. Now, I'm running my own company based on those mistakes, how to fix them and how to keep people from making the same mistakes I did years ago.

Sometimes people just don't want to be around others who are trying something new or different and winning in the process. Then, there are people in life — I call them losers — who just don't want anyone else to win, because it reminds them that they're not winning. Being stuck around those kinds of people is no fun for anyone!

—Dave

Dear Dave,

When is it OK to have a little fun and get a boat or a motorcycle when you're doing the Baby Steps?

Jennifer

Dear Jennifer,

I always recommend folks complete the first three Baby Steps before running out to buy a bunch of toys. Baby Step 1 is to save up $1,000 in the bank for a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is to pay off all your debts, except the house, using the debt snowball method. Then, on Baby Step 3, we go back and fully fund the emergency fund to contain three to six months of expenses.

After you've gotten this far, it's OK to have a little fun and save up for a toy. But don't forget about Baby Step 4, which is putting 15 percent of your income into pre-tax retirement plans, like mutual funds and Roth IRAs. Don't neglect saving for college, either, if you have kids. That's Baby Step 5.

Baby Steps 6 and 7 are paying off the house early and building wealth and giving. Everyone likes having fun, and there's nothing wrong with a few toys if you an afford them. Just make sure you don't sacrifice your financial health for the shiny things!

—Dave

BUILDING PERMITS

Building Permits December 19-December 23

5805 Nolan Ryan Drive	New Residence	$131,000
5005 Coquina Court	New Residence	$181,000
4000 Tumbleweed Trail	Residential Addition	$100,000
8700 Highway 191	Commercial-Slab Only	$11,400,000
1104 W. Dakota Avenue	New Residence	$75,000
1101 Camp Street	New Residence	$75,000
3710 Monty Drive	Residence-Detached	$3,000
6501 Los Conchos Lane	New Residence	$301,280
1703 Harvard Avenue	Residential Alteration	$200,000
408 W. Nobles Avenue	residential Addition	$59,200
3100 W. Illinois Avenue	Fence	$3,000
303 W. Wall Street	Commercial Alteration	$800,000
5810 Nolan Ryan Drive	New Residence	$128,800
2611 E. Loop 250 North	Sign	$7,000
400 W. Illinois Avenue	Sign	$5,300
4511 N. Midkiff Road	Sign	$200,000

Source: City of Midland

THE ECONOMIST

Review of 2011 shows economic paths in 2012 won't always be smooth

A Look Back at 2011

RAY PERRYMAN

The Perryman Group



As we go to press, 2011 is rapidly waning. The past year saw economic recovery, though at a snail's pace. However, the economy did survive some significant shocks without sliding back into recession. A few of the major events and trends of this most historic year are highlighted below.

There was a touch of good news in terms of hiring across the United States, with business leaders and data releases indicating more profits, more spending, more optimism and (finally) more hiring. Notably, the good news was driven by perceptions that the economy truly was improving in fundamental ways as opposed to some points in the past when temporary stimulus funds, Census efforts, or tax advantages led to some transitory gains. However, mismatches between the skills sets of those looking for work and job requirements are further compounding the problem of slow hiring, and I'm afraid we're stuck with significant unemployment for a while.

Both rounds of our economic forecasting process this year indicated that, despite a slowdown in public employment, Texas is set to remain one of the top-performing areas of the United States. This decades-old pattern stems from a number of characteristics, including a friendly attitude toward business, favorable tax structure, lower cost structure, location, natural resources, relatively strong incentive programs, and economic and regulatory policies. These factors enhance opportunities for relocating businesses, expanding operations, and creating jobs — particularly in the growth industries of the future. While business cycles are inevitable, we have the groundwork in place for future economic growth.

Texas Legislators dealt with a number of difficult matters this year, one of them being a significant gap between projected revenue and what would need to be spent to maintain the status quo. Virtually every program and agency was subject to a hard look, with cuts falling on many. While a balanced budget was reached (partially by kicking the can down the road and leaving a shortfall as the next session begins), I have grave concerns about some of the decisions (particularly in the areas of education and certain aspects of health and human services) in that they may cause bigger problems (and costs) down the road.

The Lone Star State suffered through the worst drought in half a century, with some regions seeing the worst conditions on record. While parts of the United States dealt with devastating floods, Texas crops withered and reservoirs shrank. Agriculture losses were in the billions and many cities were near crisis points. While the fall has brought some relief, we still have a long way to go to recover (and there are indications that this summer could be another dry one).

Oil prices were high through the year, sparking a flurry of drilling activity in Texas, but also leading to inflationary fears. While oil is certainly essential to the U.S. economy and higher prices are undesirable from the perspective of national economic growth, I also don't think high oil prices will be an insurmountable threat to the recovery. Much of the run-up was fueled by political unrest in the Middle East, as many nations went through notable regime changes, the end result of which will not be known for some time. Gold prices also hit historic levels and maintained the longest bull market in history.

In April, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services for the first time began to discuss a potential downgrade of US sovereign debt. In August, S&P downgraded US sovereign debt to AA+ status, shaking confidence and rocking already jittery financial markets. While in reality the threat of default is zero and demand for U.S. debt is the highest since 1995, U.S. debt levels are problematic and must be dealt with.

Inflamed rhetoric, demagoguery, and incessant posturing was rampant as Congress and the White House bumbled and stumbled toward a debt ceiling increase, thus avoiding a major disaster of astronomical proportions that was totally of their own making. While the best way to solve the United States' fiscal problem is a tough question (with many answers of varying merit), one thing is clear: we have chosen to tax about 65 cents for every dollar we spend in the federal government, and that's simply not a situation we can maintain.

The United States was certainly not alone is dealing with debt; problems in Greece, Italy, and other southern European nations are far worse and drew much attention throughout the year. The euro's stability was threatened and, given the interconnected nature of the business complex, the global recovery was also called into question. While progress has been made toward workable solutions, we are not out of the woods on this one.

Another event of 2011 which we will never forget was the earthquake of historic proportions and associated tsunami which devastated Japan. The loss of life and tragic scenes were difficult to comprehend, and returning to normalcy was a mammoth task. While most companies are back up and running and the global supply chain issues stemming from the tragedy are largely resolved, the infrastructure losses were massive and the potential for nuclear energy around the world was given a notable setback.

A milestone was passed when the global population topped seven billion, setting off reactions ranging from celebrations to doomsday predictions related to our planet's ability to support so many humans. Whether you see the population reaching seven billion as wonderful or terrible, one thing is certain: we are reaching these billion-level changes with rapidly increasing speed and some nations will be hard pressed to deal with their burgeoning numbers of citizens.

The space shuttle Discovery flew its final mission before retiring to a museum, ending an era which began way back in 1984. The contributions of NASA and the shuttle program to the economy are much larger than most people realize, and it was bittersweet to watch the last shuttle mission come to a safe conclusion. Another instance of closure was when the informal but powerful reign of Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the unprecedented terrorist attacks on American soil of September 11, 2001, was finally ended by a team of U.S. soldiers.

Several of 2011's challenges have only been temporarily dealt with (such as the debt ceiling and future payroll taxes), and of course next year will bring its own situations. However, as I've said in this column in recent weeks, I expect moderate growth for the U.S. and Texas economies, though I don't think the path will always be a smooth one.

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.

TRISH POWELL

Better Business Bureau



Get the body you want without feeling the burn in your wallet

Cookies and cakes and pies, oh my! Now that the holiday glut is over, if you're anything like me, one of your New Year's resolutions is to take off the 100 or so pounds you added over the last month of 2011.

I — and pretty much any medical professional alive — recommend against trying any super-restrictive, untested-herbal-product-boosted, monstrosity of a fad diet and instead try a good, old-fashioned healthy diet and exercise regimen. In order to bolster your chance of success, you may even want to join your local gym.

However, when looking for a new gym membership, Better Business Bureau recommends you look past the amazing deals most gyms are offering right now and read the contract carefully before signing anything.

Hundreds of consumers turn to BBB every year for help once they realized how long the commitment was on their gym membership, how difficult it was to cancel or that the gym automatically renewed their membership when it expired.

Sometimes they are upset because the gym offered free incentives the consumer never received and still others contacted BBB because of disputes over automatic monthly withdrawals from banks or credit cards.

To avoid these roadblocks and others, BBB recommends you consider the following tips:

■ Check with BBB first. Visit bbb.org to find a list of gyms and health clubs in your area that are BBB Accredited, or to view a particular company's BBB Business Review.

■ Consider your budget. Many facilities charge an upfront membership fee to join and a monthly fee thereafter. Each club's equipment, some classes and amenities are included in your monthly fee. If you don't wish to take advantage of them, the gym may not be the right fit.

■ Don't give in to pressure. Many gyms will offer "New Year's specials" that may pressure you to sign a contract on the spot. A reputable health club will allow you time to take home and read over the contract first.

■ Understand the membership details. This includes the length of the contract, cost per month, cancellation and renewal rules and additional fees such as personal training sessions. If there were free gifts promised to you, discounts for family members or the waiving of a signup cost, make sure these details are included as well.

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LEVEL

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

T H E R E I N

U P L O A D S

Yesterday's Answer: GABLE, LEIGH (*Gone With the Wind*); BOGART, BERGMAN (*Casablanca*); SWAYZE, MOORE (*Ghost*); DICAPRIO, WINSLET (*Titanic*)

1.1

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Availability of primary care is becoming primary concern in Texas

By Bill Hammond
President and CEO, Texas Association of Business

If you have a primary care provider, you are one of the lucky ones. If you are looking for one, good luck. They are becoming harder to find because Texas has a severe shortage of primary care providers, and it will only get worse unless the state does something to help the problem.

Texas needs thousands of primary care providers over the coming years to ensure that its fast growing, underserved population has access to basic health care and doesn't end up someplace far more expensive, like the emergency room.

Texas faces a shortage of primary care doctors for several reasons. One is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. As a result of the Act, starting in 2014 the demand for health care will go up because more and more people will be eligible for the Medicaid program. Supply will not keep up with that demand.

Another contributing factor is that doctors are being forced to leave the state to complete their residency training. Texas is far behind states with similar populations when it comes to the number of residency programs. Studies show the majority of doctors set up their practice in the state where they complete their residency. That means we must keep those doctors here. Creating more residency programs is critical.

You would think increasing the number of medical schools would help too, but that isn't what is needed. In fact, looking at the monetary side of the issue, we should reduce the number of slots at medical schools. Given the fiscal reality that the state faces, the money saved by reducing the number of medical school slots should be used to pay for the increased number of residency slots. Without enough residency slots, we are wasting taxpayers' money by paying for part of these doctors' training, and then watching them leave the state to do their residency programs and most likely not come back to Texas.

There are some other legislative alternatives too. Allow Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to provide primary care and reduce restrictions on those practices. We could also allow all hospitals to directly employ doctors and other health care providers, and expand the use of telemedicine, especially in rural areas. We should also utilize the skills of our military returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We should recruit those field medics into our nursing and other medical programs, and come up with streamlined training that builds on the skills they already have. That would be a huge step in the right direction.

We must also reduce the cost of medical training overall. Lawmakers and the Higher Education Coordinating Board need to work together to not only find ways to reduce the cost of training, but also develop a seamless six-year program to take students from Bachelors of Science degrees to Medical Degrees.

The Legislature took some big steps forward a few years ago by reforming the state's medical malpractice laws, which helped bring in new and much needed specialists. It's time for lawmakers and higher education officials to take these next logical steps, or we will all suffer in the long run.

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	G	S	R	C	W	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	In Touch Ministries		GMA/Sunday		Truth...	House	Paid	This Week		B. Church	Paid	Paid
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	Paid	Paid	Paid	Search	CBS Sunday Morning			FaceNat.	First Baptist Church		First Baptist Odessa	
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	(5:00) Holiday Hearth		Tomorr.	In Touch Ministries		Key David	Paid	Paid	Wild Ltd.	Hollywd.	Live Life	On Spot
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	C'nsumer	Consumer	Cornerstone		Fox News Sunday		Odessa	FaithAve	F.Hardin	Bible	Fox NFL Sunday (N)	
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	(5:00) Light of south		Dr. Will	Morris..	In Touch Ministries		Sal.	Schwarz	Heart of the City		Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	W.Texas	Secrets	Paid	Paid	Sunday Today (N)		Meet the Press		Edition	Garrett	First Baptist Church	
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	C.George	Cat/ Hat	SuperWI	DinoTrain	Sid	Speaks	Arthur	WordGirl	Company	Wild K.	Blue	Travel
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Concha	Concha	Desayuno	Agenda	Muchachitas		Al punto		Republica deportiva			
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		JTV	MusicW.	Homes	Homeown.	Faith	Hazelton	O.House	HomeT.	Methodis	CARS.TV	The NFL Today (L)	
FLIX	340	65		165		★★ Rize Tommy The Clown.			★★ F for Fake Orson Welles.			★ Little Man Keenen Ivory Wayans.				The Times of H...	
HBO	300	68	14	14		★★★ Temple Grandin Claire Danes.				24/7 "Flyers/Rangers"		★★ Date Night Tina Fey.			★★★ Avatar Zoe Saldana.		
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(5:00) Back to the ...		Real Sports		★★★ Say Anything			(:45) Red Riding Hood Amanda Seyfried.				Movie
HBOS	304	70	16	102		(5:15) Love Potio...		★★ Stay Tuned John Ritter.			Treme		Treme		Treme		Treme
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:30) ★★ Sex and the City 2				★★★ Inception ('10, Act) Joseph Gordon-Levitt.					Max Set (:45) Independen...		
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(5:40) Legend of t...		(:20) ★★★ The Ghost and the Darkness				(:15) ★★★ The Book of Eli				(:15) Seabiscuit	
PLEX			96			Movie	★★ Bio-Dome Pauly Shore.			(:10) ★★ The Great Outdoors			(:45) ★ I'll Do Anything Nick Nolte.				Movie
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(5:25) Rocket Man		Inside the NFL		Tapestries of Ho...		(:20) ★★ Shade ('03, Cri) Sylvester Stallone.				Shameless "Pilot"	
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:40) The Legend...		(:20) Baby, Secret of the Lost Legend				★★★ Relative Strangers			Furry Vengeance		
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	The Sopranos		The Sopranos		The Sopranos		The Sopranos		The Sopranos		Storage	Storage
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	Mad Men		Mad Men		Mad Men		★★★ The Shootist John Wayne.				(:15) Last of the ...	
BET	58	26		40		(5:00) BET Inspiration				Jones Gospel (N)		Lift Voice	Chris	Game	Game	Game	Game
BRAVO	65	63		41		Chef Roblé & Co.		Chef Roblé & Co.		Chef Roblé & Co.		Atlanta "Floridon't"		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta	
CNBC	46	45		39	72	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	(5:00) News	Sanjay	CNN Sunday		State of the Union		Fareed Zakaria GPS		Reliable Sources		State of the Union	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Flying Wild Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska		Rush "The Offseason"	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Handy M	Mickey M.	M.Mouse	Jake	Best of 2011							
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	SportC	MatchUp	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Sunday NFL Countdown					
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	Football	SportsNation		MatchUp	Road to the Bowls		OLines	Report (N)	SportsC.	Fantasy Football Now (L)		
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	★ New York Minute Ashley Olsen.				Lying Game "Pilot"		Lying "Being Sutton"		Lying "Double Dibs"		The Lying Game	
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	(5:00) FOX & Friends Sunday						News HQ	Housecall	America's News HQ		America's News HQ	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Mex.Easy	5 Fix	30 Mins	30 Mins	Dinners	Meals	Hungry	Big Bite	Paula	Best	Chopped	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	DCowboys	Huddle	Game	Horse	Iceland	Race
FX	31	31	59	64	69	★ The New Guy ('02, Com) D.J. Qualls.				★★ The Simpsons Movie				★★★ Role Models Seann William Scott.			
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) Mistletoe ...		A Holiday Engagement Haylie Duff.				★★★ The Santa Clause Tim Allen.				A Christmas We...	
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	Home	Home	Weekends	Room Cr	Crashers	Property	HH World Tour (N)		HouseH	House	MillionDollar Rm (N)	
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Marvels "Camouflage"		Invention	Invention	Bikers	Bikers	Bikers	Bikers	Top Gear		Top Gear	
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	In Touch Ministries		The Hour of Power		J.Osteen	Paid	Christine	Christine	★★ Elvis and Annabelle Max Minghella.			
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball	Business	Up With Chris Hayes				Weekends With Alex Witt				Lockup	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Parents	Parents	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Kung Fu	Kung Fu	Victori.	Victori.
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	★★★★ Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope Mark Hamill.						Star Wars: Epis...	
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	SaveBell	Saved Bell	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	★★★ She's the Man Amanda Bynes.				Just Like Heaven	
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:15) King Kong		(:15) ★★★★ Swing Time Fred Astaire.				(:15) ★★★★ Mr. Smith Goes to Washington					Movie
TELE	20	8	10	20		Paid	Paid	Shelldon	Willa	Pearlie	Wimzie's	Paid	Paid	Paid	Camara	Enfoque	Deportivo
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	600 Pound Mom		World's Fattest Man		Half-Ton Teen		Half-Ton Dad	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Law & Order		Law & Order "Seed"		Law & Order		Law & Order "Bling"		LawOrder "Smoke"		LawOrder "Empire"	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	(:10) Nanny	(:45) Nanny	(:20) Nanny	(:50) The Nanny		(:25) Nanny	Hot In	Hot In	Hot In	Hot In	Makeover: Home	
USA	26	30	42	27	49	SVU "Reparations"		Law&O.:SVU "Bang"		SVU "Delinquent"		SVU "Smoked"		SVU "Merchandise"		Law&O.:SVU "Wet"	
VERSUS	38	39				NBC Sports Talk		NFL Turning Point		NBCSports: History		Quest For	Alaska	Fishing	Hunter	Bass Pros	Bill Dance
WGN	19	18				Paid	Facts	Key David	Beyond	Matlock		In Heat of Night		★★ Three to Tango Matthew Perry.			

SUNDAY AFTERNOON — JANUARY 1, 2012

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Once Upon "Pilot"		Once Upon a Time		News	Methodis
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	NFL Football Tennessee Titans vs. Houston Texans (L)						(:15) NFL Football (L)					
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Made in Hollywood		★★ In Her Shoes ('05, Dra) Cameron Diaz.				★★ Buddy ('97, Com) Rene Russo.				Troubadour, TX	
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	NFL Football (L)						(:15) NFL Football (L)					
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Laurie	Enarson	Alewine	T.Scrivner	Light of the Southwest				Bible	Super.	Calls	Denis O
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Storm	Storm	Paid	Paid	To Be Announced		A Celebration of Women on Ice				Inside Ed.	News
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	Idea/Act	Contrary	Sew It All	Sewing	Knitting	F&Porter	Sewing	Quilts	Lawrence Welk		History Detectives	
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Los Rostros del 2011				Latin Grammy Awards						F. Diez	Noticiero
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		★★ Delirious ('06, Com) Steve Buscemi.				Paid	Business	AmAthlete	Insider	Access Hollywood		Stargate Universe	
FLIX	340	65		165		Movie	★★★★ Harlan County, USA			(:15) ★★★ The Thin Blue Line ('88, Doc)				★ Salesman Paul Brennan.			Movie
HBO	300	68	14	14		(10:30) Avatar		Making	Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rod...			(:15) My Big Fat Greek Wed...			1stLook	(:05) The Eagle	
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(11:30) Charlie St....		(:15) ★★ The Good Girl Jennifer Aniston.				★★★ The Devil's Own Brad Pitt.				Heights	Heights
HBOS	304	70	16	102		Treme	Treme "Slip Away"		Treme		Treme		Treme		Treme		Treme
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(10:45) Independ...		(:15) ★★ Trading Places Eddie Murphy.				(:15) ★★★ Terminator 2: Judgement Day					Movie
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(11:15) ★★★ Seabiscuit			(:35) ★★ Mr. Mom			(:10) ★★ The Nutty Professor			(:45) ★★ Happy Gilmore		
PLEX			96			(11:45) Dream a Li...		(:20) ★★★ Only the Lonely John Candy.				(:10) Dead Men Don't Wear...			(:45) ★★ The Great Outdoors		
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	Shameless		Shameless		Shameless		Shame. "Three Boys"		Shame. "Killer Carl"		Shameless	
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(:05) ★★ Mystery Date			(:45) ★★★ The Thin Blue Lie				★★★ The Hours ('02, Dra) Nicole Kidman.				Movie
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(11:15) ★★ Last of the Dogmen				Hell on Wh "Pilot"		Hell on Wheels		Hell on Wheels		Hell on Wheels	
BET	58	26		40		Game	The Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game
BRAVO	65	63		41		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Atlanta "Whine Bar"	
CNBC	46	45		39	72	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	Fareed Zakaria GPS		CNN Newsroom		Your Money		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Gold Rush Special		Gold Rush		Rush "Twist of Fate"		Rush "Virgin Ground"		Rush "Family Feud"		Rush "Slippery Slope"	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	(8:00) Best of 2011											
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	PBA Bowling World Championships			ESPN Films		The Fab Five				ESPN Films "Unguarded"		
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness	Fitness
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	Lying "Over Exposed"		The Lying Game		The Lying Game		The Lying Game		The Lying Game		Lying "East of Emma"	
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	(11:00) News HQ		Fox News		Justice JudgeJeanine		America's News HQ				Fox News	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Rest. "The Trails"		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	Youth	CottonBo	Championship Spot.		Champions Tennis				Xterra	Game365	Mavricks	Mavs Pre
FX	31	31	59	64	69	★★ Tropic Thunder ('08, Com) Jack Black, Ben Stiller.					★★★ Pineapple Express ('08, Com) Seth Rogen.					What Happens ...	
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(11:00) A Christma...		★★ Santa Jr. ('02, Com) Nick Stabile.				★★★ Mistletoe Over Manhattan				Battle of the B...	
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	MillionDollar Rm (N)		Cool Pools (N)		RV 2012 (N)		Best Place Sold (N)		PB Supersized (N)		HH Vaca	HH Vaca
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Top Gear		Real Deal	Real Deal	Real Deal	Real Deal	Restore	Restore	Restore	Restore	Restore	Restore
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	★★★ Waitress ('07, Com) Nathan Fillion, Keri Russell.					★★★ The Secret Life of Bees Dakota Fanning.					Did You Hear...	
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Lockup		Meet the.Press		Lockup		Lockup		Lockup		Lockup	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Victori.	Victorious	iCarly	iCarly	Big Time	Big Time	iCarly	iCarly	iCarly	iCarly	Sponge	Sponge
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(11:00) Star Wars: Episode V: The Empir...				★★★★ Star Wars: Episode VI: Return of the Jedi Mark Hamill.						Star Wars: Epis...	
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	(11:00) Just Like ...		★★ The House Bunny Anna Faris.				Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen				Mean Girls	
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(11:45) ★★★ The Searchers John Wayne.				★★★ In Cold Blood ('67, Cri) Robert Blake.					Close Encounters of the Th...		
TELE	20	8	10	20		Videos asombrosos		Conserje en condominio (1974, Comedy)				★★ El Patrullero 777 Cantinflas.				Camara	Videos
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Half-Ton Man		Half-Ton Mom		Hoarding		Hoarding		Hoarding		Hoarding	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	LawOrder "Paradigm"		★★★ Four Brothers			(:45) ★★★ The Rock ('96, Act) Sean Connery.					The Dark Knight	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Ext. Makeover: Home		Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote	
USA	26	30	42	27	49	SVU "Branded"		SVU "Penetration"		Law&O.:SVU "Gray"		Law&O.:SVU "Pop"		SVU "Possessed"		Law&O.:SVU "Mask"	
VERSUS	38	39				FLW Outdoors		Outdoor	H.Outdoor	MartinC.	Outdoors	Saltwater	RealHunt	NHL 36	Game On!	NBCSports: History	
WGN	19	18				★★ In Her Shoes ('05, Dra) Cameron Diaz.					★★ I Am Sam ('01, Dra) Michelle Pfeiffer, Sean Penn.					Christine	Christine

SUNDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 1, 2012

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	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
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Once Upon a Time "Snow Falls"		Once Upon a Time "The Price of Gold"		Once Upon a Time "The Shepherd"		OnceUpon "The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter"		KMID News	(:35) Ugly Betty		(:35) Sports
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	60 Minutes		Unforgettable "Pilot"		The Good Wife "Silver Bullet"		CSI: Miami "Countermeasures"		CBS 7 News	(:35) The Wire	(:05) The Closer	
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Heartland "The Ties That Bind"		★★ Three to Tango ('99, Romance) Neve Campbell, Dylan McDermott, Matthew Perry.				King of Queens	'Til Death	Meet the Browns	Meet the Browns	House of Payne	House of Payne
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	(3:15) NFL Football	The OT (L)	The Simpsons	Cleveland Show	Family Guy	American Dad	Three Wide Life	Tx.Roadhouse	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Consumer Corner	Consumer Corner
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Doorways to Wisdom		Marvin Wilson	Dr. R.Booker	Light of the Southwest				Alan Lee	Jack Van Impe	For the Heart of the City	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Football Night in America (L)		NFL Football (L)							News-West 9	Cowboys Post	Red Raider
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	Live From Lincoln Center				Masterpiece Classic			TBA	Austin City Limits		Nature	
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La Vida es Mejor Cantando		El Gran Show de Los Peques				Sal y pimienta "¡Llego el 2012!"		13 Miedos	Noticiero Univision	Ellas son la alegria del hogar	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Without a Trace		Cold Case		The Closer		Law & Order		30 Rock	Sunny	Aggies	Office
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:30) Grey Gardens		(:05) ★★★ Super Size Me			(:45) ★★★★ Unzipped			Black & Blue: Legends of t...			Live
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:05) The Eagle		(:05) The Dilemma Vince Vaugn.				Boys (N)	Boys (N)	★★ Date Night Tina Fey.			Boys
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	Heights	Heights	Heights	Heights	Heights	Heights	Red Riding Hood			(:45) Flyers/ Rangers		C.Quinn
HBOS	304	70	16	102		Treme	Treme			★★ Due Date			Making...	★★★ Pulp Fiction ('94, Cri) John Travolta.			
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:45) ★★★ Titanic ('97, Dra) Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio.						★★★ Clash of the Titans			(:50) Alien Sex Files 3 "Sex Wars"		
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(:20) ★★★ Rambo: First Blood				★★★ The Book of Eli				Femme F.	★★★★ 48 Hours Nick Nolte.		
PLEX			96			(:20) King of the Camp (2008, Musical)				★ I'll Do Anything ('94, Com) Nick Nolte.				★★★ Only the Lonely			Movie
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	Shameless		Shameless		Shameless		Shame. "Daddyz Girl"		Shameless		The Joneses	
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:25) Extreme Ops		★★ The Ledge Charlie Hunnam.				Give 'em Hell, Malone			(:40) Three and Out		
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	Hell on Wheels		Hell on Wheels		Hell on "Revelations"		Hell on "Derailed" (N)		Hell on "Derailed"		Br. Bad "Cancer Man"	
BET	58	26		40		Game	The Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	Game	The Mo'Nique Show		BET Inspiration	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Atlanta "New Tricks"		Chef Roblé & Co. (N)		Chef Roblé & Co.		Housewives Atlanta	
CNBC	46	45		39	72	Millions	Wall Street	Billions Behind Bars		Marijuana Inc		American Tax Cheat		Apocalypse 2012		Mexico's Drug War	
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	CNN Newsroom		CNN Presents		Piers Morgan		CNN Newsroom		CNN Presents		Piers Morgan	
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	GoldRush "Drill or Die"		Rush "Lovestruck"		Rush "Gold at Last"		Rush "On the Gold"		Rush "Gold at Last"		Rush "On the Gold"	
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	(8:00) Best of 2011											
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	SportsCenter			SportsCenter The day's news in the world of sports.					SportsCenter			SportsC.
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	SEC Storied		ESPN Films		30 for 30			ESPN Films		Quarter	Strongman	
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	★★★ Pretty Woman ('90, Rom) Richard Gere.					★★★ Pretty Woman ('90, Rom) Richard Gere.					J.Osteen	Ed Young
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	Fox Report Weekend		Huckabee		Stossel		Geraldo at Large		Huckabee		Stossel	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Cupcake Wars (N)		Rachael vs. Guy (N)		Iron Chef USA (N)		Chopped		Rachael vs. Guy	
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	NBA Basketball Dallas vs Minnesota (L)					Maverick	UFC Unleashed		Cowboys	Spotlight	WPT Poker	
FX	31	31	59	64	69	(5:00) What Happ...		★★ Step Brothers ('08, Com) Will Ferrell.				★★ Step Brothers ('08, Com) Will Ferrell.				What Happens ...	
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	(5:00) Battle of t...		A Christmas Wedding Tail				A Holiday Engagement Haylie Duff.				Debbie Macom...	
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	House (N)	House (N)	Extreme Homes (N)		Holmes Inspect (N)		HouseH	House	HouseH	House	Holmes Inspection	
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	(5:00) Did You H...		★★ August Rush Freddie Highmore.				★★★ The Memory Keeper's Daughter				★★ August Rush	
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Lockup		Lockup		Lockup		Lockup		Lockup		Lockup	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Sponge	Sponge	'70s	'70s	Wife Kids	Wife Kids	G. Lopez	G. Lopez	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(5:00) Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope				★★★★ Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back						Star Wars: Epis...	
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight	Twilight
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	(5:00) Mean Girls		★★★ Shrek ('01, Ani) Mike Myers.			(:55) ★★★ Shrek 2				(:50) ★★ The House Bunny		
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(4:30) Close Enco...		★★★ Lover Come Back Doris Day.				★ That Funny Feeling Sandra Dee.				The Student Pr...	
TELE	20	8	10	20		Hercules (1997)				Toy Story (1995, Family)				Titulares	Camara	Firewalker (1986)	
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Hoarding		Dr. G: Inside the		Hoarding		All-American Muslim		Hoarding		All-American Muslim	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	(5:00) ★★★ The Dark Knight				Leverage (N)		★★ Rush Hour 3 ('07, Act) Chris Tucker.				Leverage	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Murder, She Wrote		MASH	MASH	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law&O.:SVU "Dirty"		SVU "Locum"		SVU "Bullseye"		SVU "Behave"		Law&O.:SVU "Flight"		SVU "Merchandise"	
VERSUS	38	39				NHL Hockey Classics Winter Classic					NHL Hockey Classics Winter Classic					NBCSports: History	
WGN	19	18				30 Rock	M-Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	News	(:40) Replay	The Unit "Endgame"		Monk	

Sunday, January 1, 2012

BY MC's Community Relations Office
Design/Layout - Melissa Mudge

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Resolve to learn a new hobby, start a new exercise regime, learn new career skills or improve existing career skills. Midland College Continuing Education has a program or class designed especially to fit your needs.

Community Programs Continuing Education

Couponing 101

Maximize coupons and time! Don't "go rogue" and coupon without a class that can help cut to the chase and provide lots of money-saving and time-saving techniques! Methods learned in the class can help shoppers save over $5,000 in just one year!

Each two-hour workshop meets on various Saturdays.
Call (432) 684-4518 for specific dates.
Class Time: 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cost = $25

Spanish for Beginners

This course is for those who would like to begin a study of Spanish. Basic vocabulary and grammar will be featured in a low-stress environment. Students will learn to decode Spanish and participate in basic conversation. The required textbook, *Barron's Learn Spanish the Fast and Fun Way* by Gene Hammitt, may be purchased at the MC Bookstore.

HOLA amigos!

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m., January 23-April 30. Cost = $75

Line Dancing (Beginner or Intermediate)

Dance away those holiday pounds—get out on the floor and just DO IT! These classes will teach favorite line dances like *The Cupid Shuffle, Electric Slide, Honky Tonk Stomp, Canadian Stomp, Tush Push* and *Baby Likes to Rock It*. No partners required!

The beginner class meets January 24-February 28 on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Cost is $45. The longer intermediate class starts with the basics and then goes into more intricate dances. It meets January 23-April 23 on Mondays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Cost is $60.



Country & Western Dance

This class will take beginners from walking to dancing in six easy lessons! The group lessons are conducted with a feel of individual instruction. The class will cover leading and following for the basic steps in *Two-step, Waltz, Western Polka, Cotton-eyed Jo* and *Schottische*.

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., January 25-February 29. Cost = $50

Bridge (Beginning)

All it takes is the ability to count to 13! The game of Bridge generates excitement through shrewd thinking and creativity. It is also a highly social experience, offering a combination of meeting new friends and competition. Previous exposure to the game is not required. Participants will learn how to evaluate hands, bid, keep score and more.

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
January 23-April 30
Cost = $75

For more information on the above courses, call (432) 685-4518 or visit www.midland.edu/cpce

Express Workforce Continuing Education

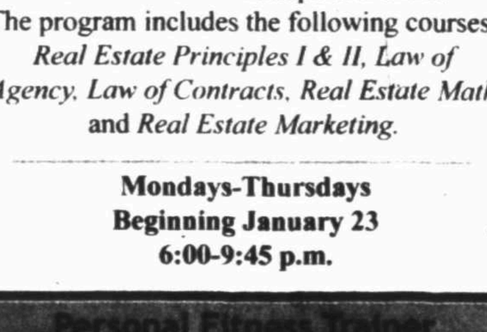
Visit www.midland.edu/workforce for course dates, times and costs; or contact Sara Lyons at (432) 681-6326, slyons@midland.edu for more information!

Give Your Technical Skills a Boost!

Good math skills are essential to anyone working in the technical trades, but some problems, such as fractions or measurements, can still prove challenging! MC's brand new course *Math for the Technical Trades* will help improve math skills by reviewing fractions, decimals, percentages, plane figures, measurements and graphs.



Interested in Becoming a Real Estate Salesperson?



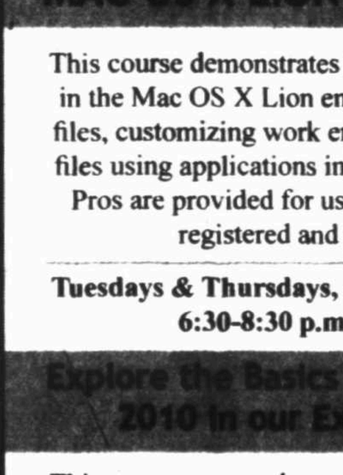
MC's real estate salesperson pre-licensing program meets the Texas Real Estate Commission's educational requirement to sit for the real estate salesperson exam. The program includes the following courses: *Real Estate Principles I & II, Law of Agency, Law of Contracts, Real Estate Math* and *Real Estate Marketing*.

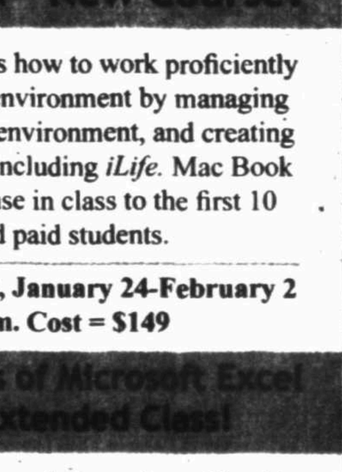
Mondays-Thursdays
Beginning January 23
6:00-9:45 p.m.

Personal Fitness Trainer Certification Program

This certification program is taught over a 5-week period; the National Exam is offered on the 6th week. (Students must complete a 30-hour internship and show proof of CPR/AED before certification is issued.)

Saturdays, January 28-March 3
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cost = $524





MAC OS X LION - New Course!

This course demonstrates how to work proficiently in the Mac OS X Lion environment by managing files, customizing work environment, and creating files using applications including *iLife*. Mac Book Pros are provided for use in class to the first 10 registered and paid students.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, January 24-February 2
6:30-8:30 p.m. Cost = $149

Explore the Basics of Microsoft Excel 2010 in our Extended Class!

This course covers the same information offered in MC's 8-hour Basic Excel course but provides more opportunity for questions and hands-on practice! The course introduces spreadsheet terminology; using the Excel Help system; entering and editing text, values, formulas and pictures; working with absolute and relative references; working with ranges, rows, and columns; basic formatting techniques; and printing worksheets.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 30-February 9. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Cost = $159

Professional Truck Driving at Midland College



The Midland College Professional Truck Driving Program provides individuals with the proper training in order to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely within the rules and regulations set by the Texas Department of Transportation. Each student completing the intensive four-week program receives a Certificate of Achievement, and is eligible to take the driver's exam through the Texas Department of Public Safety to receive a Class A License.

Classes meet Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Classes for spring 2012 will be held as follows:

- Session I: Jan. 9 - Feb. 3
- Session 2: Feb. 6 - Mar. 2
- Session 3: Mar. 5 - Apr. 6
- Session 4: Apr. 10 - May 4





Programs can also be customized to fit the need of a specific company. These programs range from 90 to 120 hours and can be held in the MC classroom or at another location.
For more information, visit www.midland.edu/transportation or call (432) 681-6318.

Midland College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates and associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Midland College.

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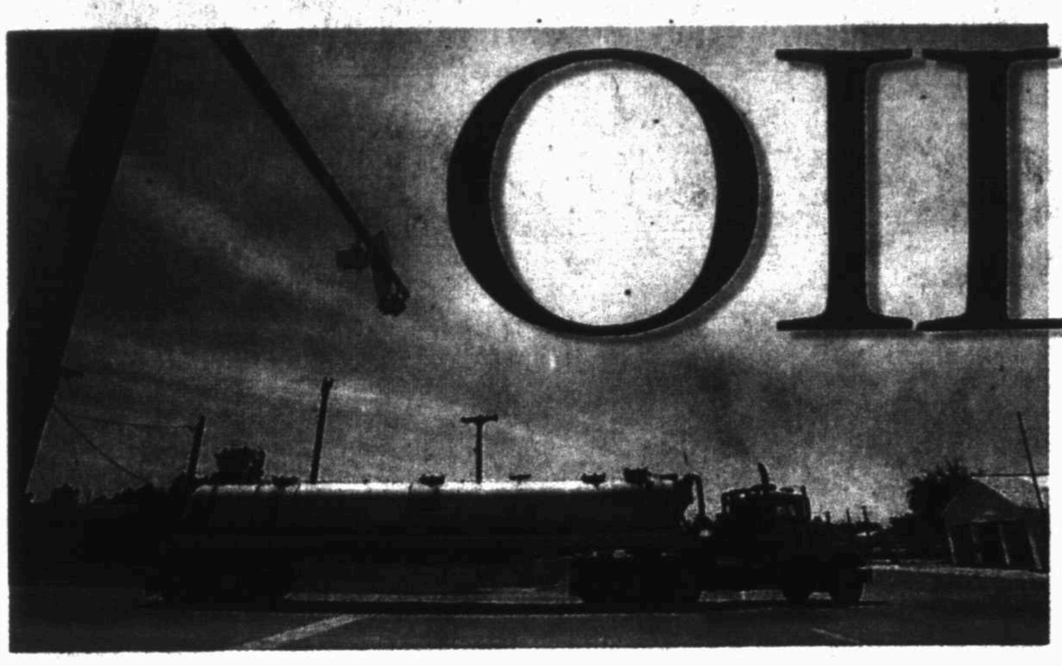


Leave an enduring legacy to the Midland College Foundation
Penny Hamm, Executive Director
(432) 685-4536
phamm@midland.edu
www.midlandcollegefoundation.org

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SUNDAY
January 1, 2012

Oil Report

Your guide to the Permian Basin oil & gas industry



OIL'S year

Spotlight shines on crude, but so do regulators

By Mella McEwen
Oil Editor

Permian Basin oil and gas producers had much to celebrate in 2011.

Strong crude oil prices funded rising drilling activity that saw the Permian Basin rig count exceed 400 rigs when considering both the West Texas and Southeast New Mexico portions of the region as producers continued to exploit the 'Wolfberry' and began developing the emerging 'Wolfbone' and 'Wolffork' oil shale plays.

High activity

The high drilling activity not only boosted oil production volumes 5 percent as the year drew to a close. Rising volumes, combined with oil prices averaging around $90 a barrel put the value of that production at $21.2 billion as the year entered its final quarter.

Thanks to those strong crude oil prices -- coupled with natural gas prices that remained weak and weakened even further to just above $3 per Mcf at year-end - the number of rigs drilling for oil in April outnumbered those drilling for natural gas for the first time in 16 years. Baker Hughes reported in late December that 1,201 rigs were drilling for oil in late December. Robin Robinson, Baker Hughes' vice president for marketing and business development, said during a spring visit to Midland that there was "no end in sight for activity growth in the Permian Basin" as he forecast a 30 percent growth in the area's rig count.

Infrastructure growth

As operators flocked to the developing Bone Spring/Avalon Shale play in the Delaware Basin, companies announced plans to expand infrastructure to accommodate the increased production. Plains All-American Pipeline announced plans to lay additional pipeline and install more storage and terminaling capacity.

Agave Energy of Artesia, N.M. teamed up with Midland's BCCK Engineering to design and build a processing and treating plant.

Growth in the play prompted the start-up of Nuevo Midstream, which recommissioned the Ramsey Gathering System near Orla and is already planning the second phase of its expansion.

Clayton Williams in October broke ground on his $60 million Columbus pipeline system in Reeves County.

Year's challenges

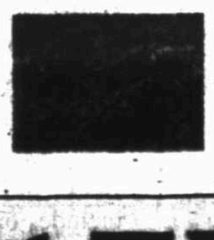
Even as producers were enjoying a very busy business climate, they also faced a number of challenges.

Please see **OIL'S YEAR**/3G





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Drought of 2011 highlights issue of water use by oil and gas industry/**2G**

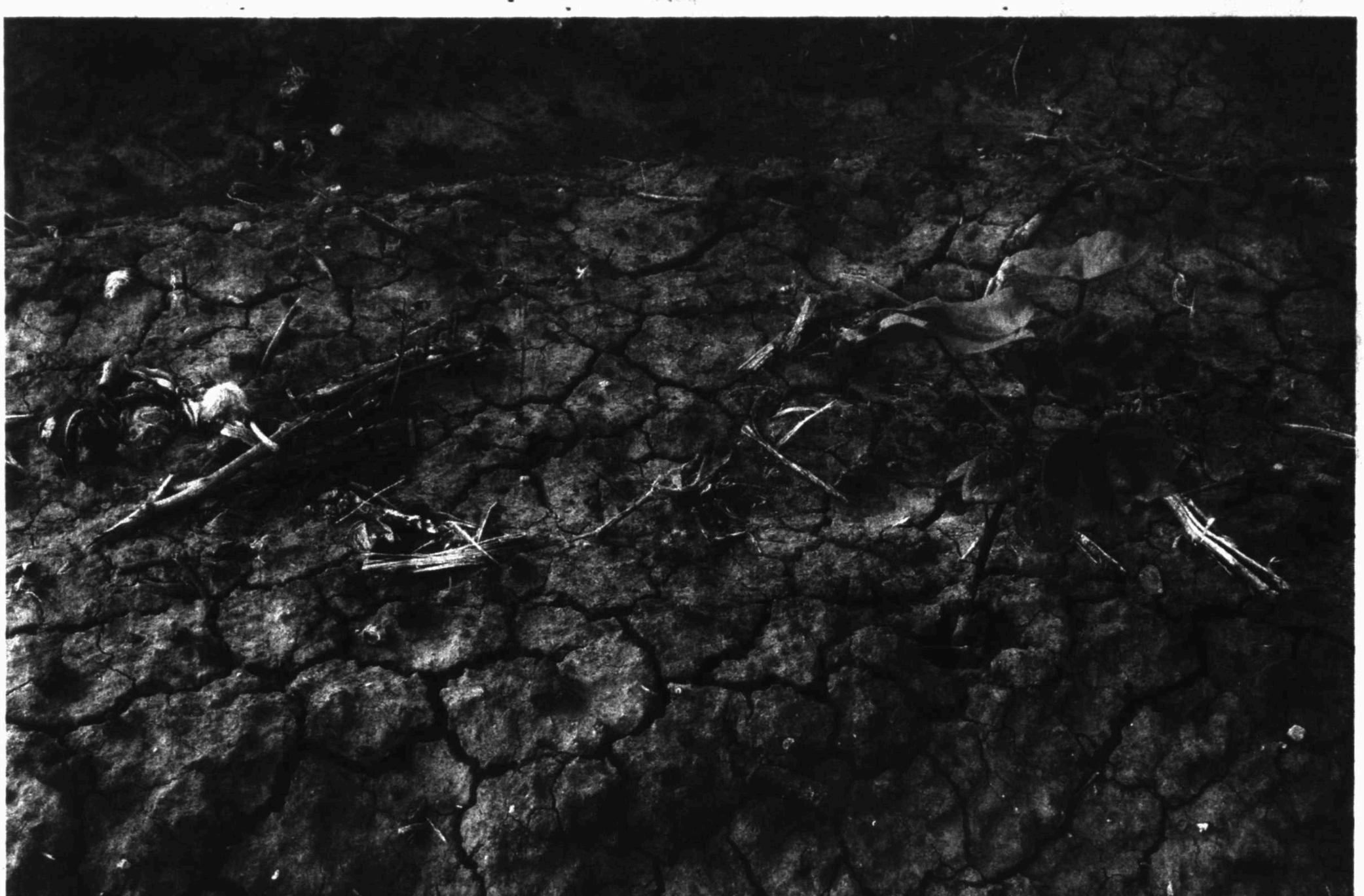
Economic recovery expected to continue, slowly, in 2012/**4G**



Deepwater Horizon survivor fights for disaster's victims/**8G**

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Basin Oil



Turbo Trac's infinitely variable transmission, tested at San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute, may save up to 25 percent in energy costs. With water use expanding and supplies dwindling due to drought conditions, water recycling for oilfield and municipal use is receiving more and more attention. A recent Memorandum of Understanding between Midland's STW Resources and WorleyParsons Group, Inc. is expected to create new opportunities for water reclamation projects in Texas.

STW Resources signs MOU with global engineering firm

By Paul Wiseman
Special to the Oil Report

Looking to expand its presence in oilfield water treatment and to reach into the municipal water treatment field, Midland-based STW Resources has signed a memorandum of understanding with WorleyParsons Group, Inc. WorleyParsons is described as a "global provider of technical, project and operational support services." STW Resources provides water reclamation services for the oilfield, mainly in Texas.

According to Stanley Weiner, CEO of STW Resources, the agreement came about when WorleyParsons, which designs engineering projects for the oilfield and municipalities, designated Bob J. Johnson and Associates (BJJA) as one of the manufacturers of their water treatment equipment. Earlier this year STW executed an MOU with BJJA as well.

"So WorleyParsons brought us into the mix because we're willing to finance these systems that they're going to propose to different companies in Texas, for oilfield and municipal water reclamation projects," Weiner stated. "We can bring them clients or they can bring us clients." Discussions leading to the MOU began in September.

Some of the WorleyParsons projects are very large, Weiner noted, which means the agreement will expand STW's existing resources, allowing them to create a more comprehensive treatment system for the oilfield, and will allow STW to possibly work with some of WorleyParsons' municipal clients in Texas.

Although WorleyParsons has a worldwide presence, Weiner said, "The projects that we're really bearing down on are in Texas," including many possibilities in the Permian Basin. He explained that there should be plenty of opportunities in Texas right now.

To facilitate sales efforts, STW is having a pilot trailer built, which the company would deliver to the well sites of prospective oil and gas customers for a demonstration of the water reclamation results utilizing STW's proprietary technology. The treated water could then be taken to a lab for certified water analysis. This mobile unit is being created in response to the requests of a number of potential clients. Delivery is expected by mid to late January of 2012.

Weiner is very interested in the possibilities of the municipal sector. "WorleyParsons does a lot of municipal, too, and we'll be engaging in those projects with them as we can. With the confluence of drought conditions with population growth, most municipalities in the state are scrambling to find water-which makes reclamation of waste water of more interest than it might have been in previous years."

Ken Burris, WorleyParsons' Senior Principal Consultant and Director of Water and Wastewater in the U.S. said, "The alignment of our industrial and municipal strengths with the opportunities that exist through STW's knowledge and resources in the Texas oil and gas sector creates great synergy and a win-win relationship."

Paul Wiseman can be reached at fittoprint@sbcglobal.net.

Midland College

PETROLEUM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Spring 2012 classes scheduled to date are on the Midland College PPDC Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Midland College will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Dec. 17-Jan. 1. To register while we are gone, go to our PPDC website. Additional classes will be added when we get back in January.

PetroEd E Learning Courses: Introduction to Petroleum Industry (DIT) - Length 84 hours - Go to the website www.midland.edu/ppdc for more information.

Courses

C02 School
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Robert Kiker, Robert Trentham, Hoxie Smith
January 23-26, Mon-Thu, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
$1,895; Out of State, $1,920
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

Well Control School
Instructor: Larry Chapman
January 23-26, Mon-Wed, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thu, 8 a.m. - Noon
$700; Out of State, $725
Midland College PPDC Building, 105 W. Illinois

Spring 2012 February Classes to date:

Coiled Tubing, An Introduction
Natural Fractures and Hydrocarbon Reservoirs
PETRA
PETRA - Working with Horizontal Wells
PHDWin
Polymer Floods and Gel Treatments
Well Service and Pressure Control

Drought of 2011 highlights issue of water use by oil and gas industry

ALEX MILLS
President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

Water usage by the oil and gas industry has become a controversial issue since recent improvements in an old technology called hydraulic fracturing.

Hydraulic fracturing is a process of injecting water, sand and chemicals into shale rock. It has been used by the oil and gas industry for more than 50 years. The industry further perfected fracking during the last 10 years while drilling and exploration flourished in the Barnett Shale of North Texas, and it is now in full swing in South Texas with the drilling boom in the Eagle Ford.

Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter organized a group of oil industry, landowners and government officials to form the Eagle Ford Task Force to discuss issues, especially water usage and disposal. A meeting was held Nov. 2 at the downtown campus of UT San Antonio where conservation issues related to water supply and demand associated with the Carrizo Spring Aquifer, the primary water source for the region, were raised.

Most of the fracking being conducted in the Eagle Ford is at least one mile below the water aquifer and the possibility of migration or contamination is almost nonexistent. Nevertheless operators in the area exercise best practices.

A water law primer presented by Austin lawyer Ken Ramirez outlined the statutory and regulatory differences between surface and ground water ownership in Texas. It is settled law in Texas that surface water is owned by the state and held in trust for its citizens subject to a few exemptions -- domestic and livestock and other specified uses including use of water in drilling for and extracting oil and gas.

Ground water, on the other hand, is owned by the landowner subject to the rule of capture.

However, a case pending before the Supreme Court of Texas would take up the "concept of ownership" and whether ownership of underground water is absolute or when tapped and utilized, the position espoused by the state.

A new industry has emerged that allows landowners to sell pumping rights to municipality interests and others. The ability to pump water is presenting a heretofore nonexistent financial opportunity to these landowners.

Water recycling is alive and well in the Eagle Ford with several options available to operators but only one company, Fountain Quail Water Management, is currently permitted by the RRC to recycle water in the Eagle Ford.

RRC Chairman Elizabeth Ames Jones has directed RRC staff to begin analysis of existing rules on water recycling. It is the RRC's intent to streamline existing rules and make amendments where necessary to encourage companies to expand their recycling activities.

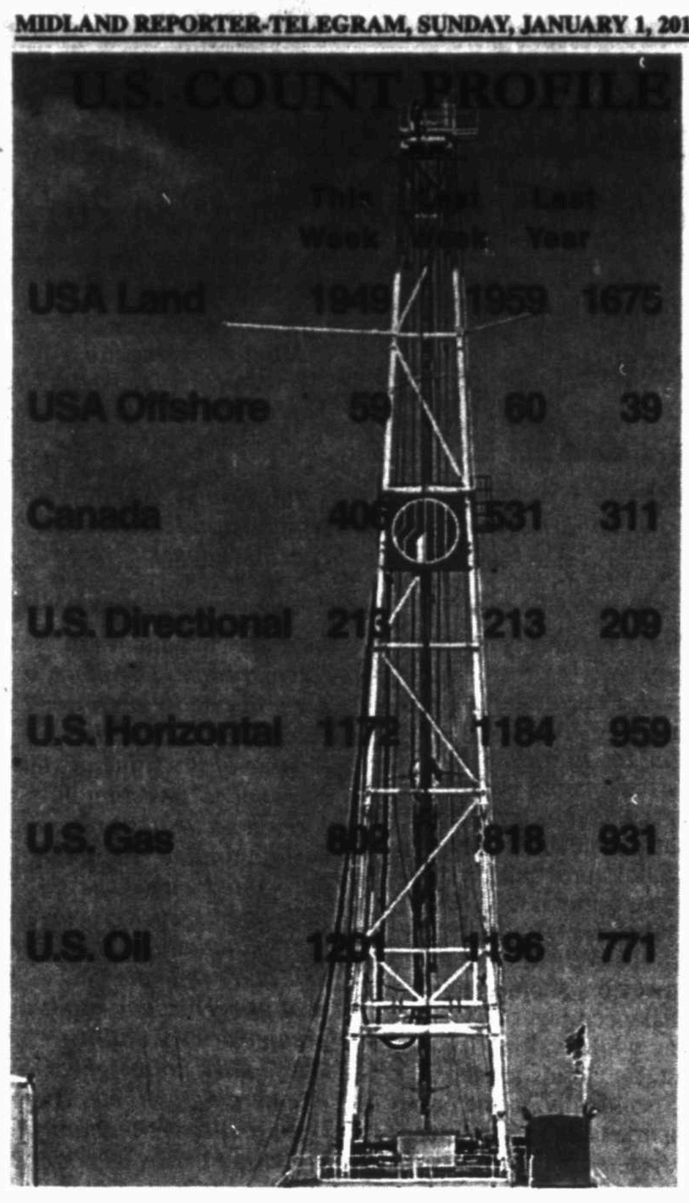
The proposed changes are in response to various applications filed that request approval for "hybrid type facilities" that due to a combination of characteristics do not meet the traditional definitions of either mobile or permanent facilities. The Commission seeks to facilitate competition in the area and does not want Commission rules to act as an obstacle to advances in technology and operation. Staff will be looking at issues relating to notice, capacity and volume, duration, financial security or bonds, plans for testing waste and record keeping.

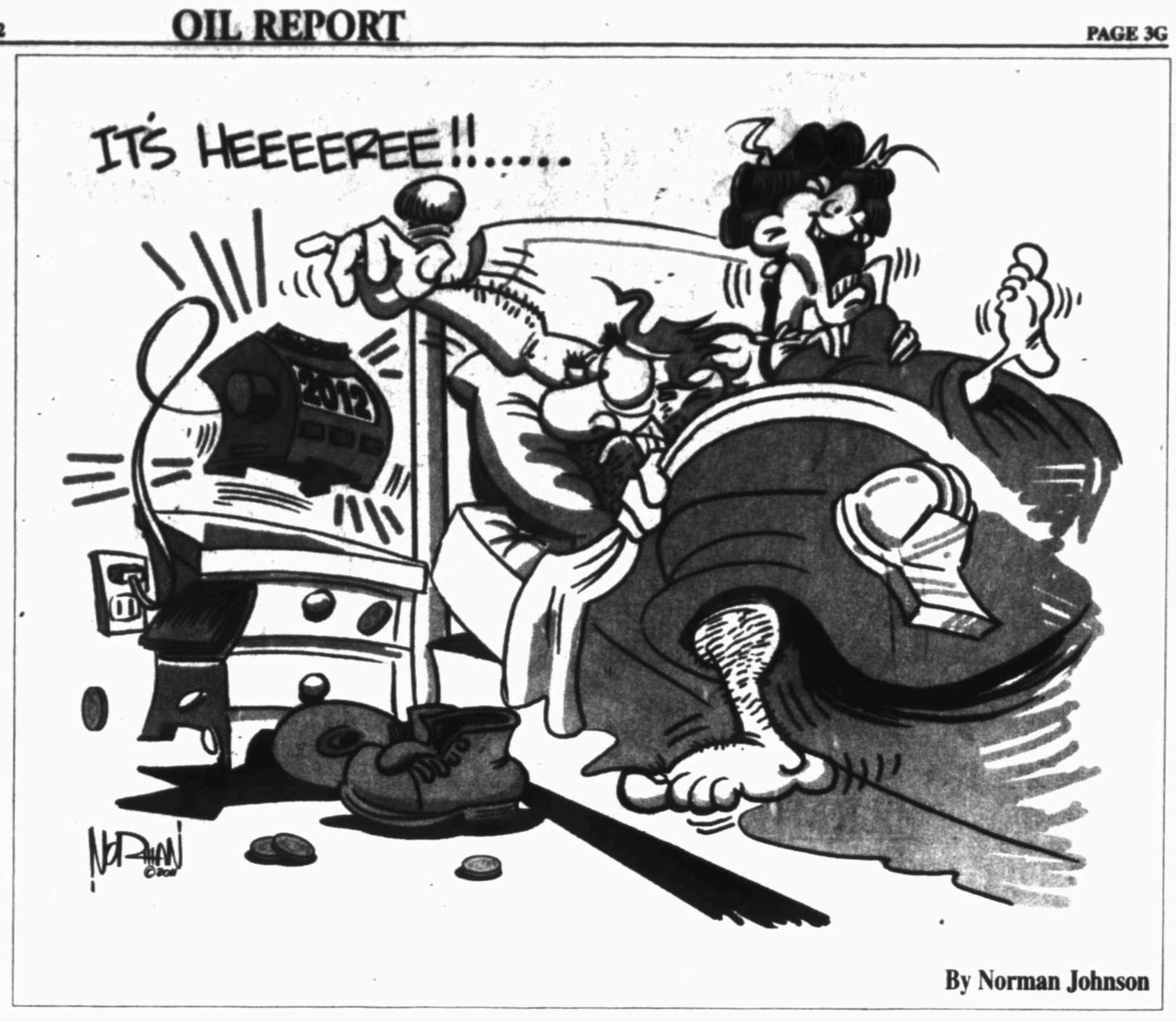
The drought of 2011 throughout Texas has highlighted the issue.

State Senator Troy Fraser (R-Horseshoe Bay), Chair of Senate Natural Resources Committee, has charged the committee with reviewing water resources and conservation measures across the state at all times, not just in case of severe drought conditions.

The competition for water has definitely increased. But a report by the Texas Water Development Board reveals the water usage by oil and gas is very small when compared to other usage. The Board's study stated that 56 percent of water in Texas goes to commercial crops; 26 percent to cities and public water systems; 10 percent to manufacturing; 4 percent to power generation; 1.8 percent for livestock; and 1.6 percent to mining, which includes oil and gas drilling.

Alex Mills is President of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers. The opinions expressed are solely of the author.





WILDCATS

Texas RRCD 7C

Runnels County

Imperial Gas Res. LLC
Mere #1
Wildcat-D; Mc Grew, W A; A-370, Blk N/A, Sec 473; 1668 FNL 1192 FEL of lse; 2085 FSL 4443 FWL of survey; 4 miles W of Goldsboro; obj: 5000; permit #726942; API #399-35305

Tom Green County

Mulloy Oper., Inc.
Gully #1
Wildcat-D; Roko, H; A-7878, Blk N/A, Sec 1626; 730 FNL 676 FWL of lse; 730 FNL 1980 FEL of survey; 1 mile NW of Mereta; obj: 5000; permit #727727; API #451-32728

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

Three Rivers Oper. Co. LLC
L.T. Davis #394
Wildcat-D; PSL/Sears, A W; A-1625, Blk A43, Sec 5; 990 FWL 1650 FSL of lse; 990 FWL 1650 FSL of survey; 8 miles SW of Andrews; obj: 9000; permit #724994; API #003-43470

Berry Oil Comp.
Headlee #9
Wildcat-D; T & P RR Co.; A-340, Blk 41, T1S, Sec 35; 467 FEL 2163 FSL of lse; 467 FEL 2173 FSL of survey; 6.8 miles NW of Gardendale; obj: 3000; permit #701023; API #329-36791

Loving County

Chesapeake Oper., Inc.
Johnson 1-86 #2H
Wildcat-D; W & NW RR Co./Johnson, W D; A-1106, Blk 1, Sec 86; 250 FNEL 940 FNWL of lse; 940 FNWL 250 FNEL of survey; 4.6 miles NE of Mentone; obj: 18000; permit #729162; API #301-31665

Chesapeake Oper., Inc.
Johnson 1-51 #2H
Wildcat-D; W & NW RR Co.; A-180, Blk 1, Sec 51; 225 FNEL 636 FNWL of lse; 225 FNEL 1980 FSEL of survey; 6.1 miles NW of Mentone; obj: 12000; permit #729264; API #301-31666

Chesapeake Oper., Inc.
Johnson Ranch 1-51 LOV #2H
Wildcat-D; W & NW RR Co.; A-180, Blk 1, Sec 51; 280 FNEL 660 FEL of lse; 280 FNEL 660 FNWL of survey; 6.1 miles NW of Mentone; obj: 12000; permit #729335; API #301-31667

Midland County

Berry Oil Comp.
Headlee #9
Wildcat-D; T & P RR Co.; A-340, Blk 41, T1S, Sec 35; 467 FEL 2173 FSL of lse; 467 FEL 2173 FSL of survey; 6.8 miles NW of Gardendale; obj: 13000; permit #701023; API #329-36791

Ward County

Sandridge Expl. & Prod., LLC
University 17-18 #3
Wildcat-D; UL; -U57, Blk 17, Sec 18; 1980 FWL 660 FNL of lse; 660 FNL 1980 FWL of survey; 2.5 miles NW of Pyote; obj: 7100; permit #729128; API #475-35945

Sandridge Expl. & Prod., LLC
University 17-18 #4
Wildcat-D; UL; A-N/A, Blk 17, Sec 18; 661 FEL 1980 FNL of lse; 1980 FNL 1980 FWL of survey; 2.5 miles NW of Pyote; obj: 7100; permit #729130; API #475-35949

Texas RRCD 8A

Dawson County

Big Star Oil & Gas, LLC
Pettaway #1
Wildcat-D; Moore CSL; A-410, Blk N/A, Sec 270; 467 FNL 3244 FWL of lse; 467 FNL 467 FWL of survey; 11.9 miles SW of Lamesa; obj: 12700; permit #717956; API #115-33410

Big Star Oil & Gas, LLC
Pettaway #1
Wildcat-D; Moore CSL; A-410, Blk N/A, Sec 270; 467 FNL 3244 FWL of lse; 467 FNL 467 FWL of survey; 11.9 miles SW of Lamesa; 11.9 miles SW of Lamesa; obj: 12700; permit #717956; API #115-33410

Terry County

Red Willow Prod., LLC
Bartley 109 #1
Wildcat-D; C&M RR Co.; A-64, Blk D11, Sec 109; 660 FWL 967 FSL of lse; 660 FWL 967 FSL of survey; 11.5 miles SW of Brownfield; obj: 12000; permit #729403; API #445-32326

Red Willow Prod., LLC
Bartley 109 #1
Wildcat-D; C& M RR Co.; A-64, Blk D11, Sec 109; 660 FWL 967 FSL of lse; 660 FWL 967 FSL of survey; 11.5 miles SW of Brownfield; obj: 12000; permit #729403; API #445-32326

Natural gas fueling plans may spur vehicle growth

By Alan Sayre
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The United States has record supplies of natural gas and plenty of reasons to promote natural-gas powered cars, but so consumers, manufacturers and fuel suppliers haven't shown much interest.

Now, a major natural gas developer's plans to vastly increase the number of truck stops that offer liquid natural gas could help boost its use in the vehicles that burn the most fuel, while promoting its availability to a wider market.

Lots of natural gas is available, if U.S. drivers decide to use it. In just a few years, domestic natural gas supplies have increased by trillions of cubic feet through shale finds, boosting the supply to the point where plans are in place to export part of the overflow.

The growth of natural gas vehicles in the United States so far has been dominated by fleets of buses, taxis, and garbage haulers. Only one natural gas car is commercially produced in the country: the Honda Civic GX, recently renamed the NG. It has sold a grand total of about 13,000 in 13 years of production.

The reasons for the lackluster sales of natural gas cars are many: the fuel is only available at a handful of public stations, tethering the vehicles within a certain distance of a fuel source. And even though the pump price of natural gas can run $1 to $2 less per gallon equivalent than gasoline, natural gas vehicles carry a higher sticker price.

The focus for the natural gas vehicle industry in the United States has been the fuel-guzzlers: commercial vehicles, especially tractor-trailer rigs.

Rich Kolodziej, president of the trade association NGV America, says that makes sense in terms of overall fuel usage. He said a driver who puts 12,000 miles a year on a car at 25 miles to the gallon will use about 500 gallons of gasoline annually. But a diesel-driven 18-wheeler can easily go 120,000 miles a year. At six miles per gallon, that comes to 20,000 gallons.

"If you're trying to reduce foreign imports of oil, you're trying to reduce greenhouse gases and emissions in urban areas, where do you put your effort? You put it on the big vehicles," Kolodziej said.

For reasons of tank space, liquid natural gas is used by commercial trucks, while compressed natural gas is the fuel of choice for cars.

According to the international trade association NGV Global, there are 12.7 million natural gas vehicles in the world, including 6.8 million in the Asia-Pacific rim, 4.2 million in Latin America, 1.4 million in Europe, and 122,000 in Africa.

The U.S. has just 112,000 of them — less than 1 percent of the global total, and less than a tenth of 1 percent of the 253.7 million vehicles in the U.S.

Most of them are in fleets.

"The big reason that they work well for fleets and not the average person on the street is that most fleet vehicles are used for relatively short trips," said John O'Dell, senior editor of Edmunds.com, which follows the vehicle industry. "They go back to the barn in the evening where they have a refueling station that can handle them.

"There is not a really good fueling system in this country," O'Dell added. "You have to have the infrastructure out there to convince people to buy natural gas cars."

Kolodziej said that there are about 180,000 gasoline stations — and only about 1,000 locations to fill up with natural gas.

But that may be changing.

The T. Boone Pickens-backed Clean Energy Fuels Corp. is embarking on a major expansion of natural gas fueling and plans to add liquefied natural gas pumps at 150 truck stops nationwide over the next 24 to 36 months.

"We've mapped out a strategy to cover every major interstate in the domestic United States," said Clean Energy Fuels chief marketing officer James Harger.

Clean Energy currently provides fueling services for over 500 fleets consisting of about 22,000 vehicles, such as transit buses, taxis, shuttle buses, school buses, municipal cars and garbage trucks, Harger said.

Still, Clean Energy has its eyes firmly focused on the long-haul trucking industry with its truck stop expansion plan.

Harger and other natural gas proponents are putting stock in pending congressional legislation that would provide tax credits to cover 80 percent of the cost difference between a liquid natural gas tractor-trailer and the diesel variety. Harger said the five-year bill probably would cost about $1 billion a year. The U.S. spends over $1 billion a day on foreign oil.

"This will help jump-start this industry," he said.

C.R. England, a major refrigerated carrier, recently started using five liquid natural gas-fired tractors for its rigs in southern California. The company has about 4,000 diesel tractors, said Tracy Brown, a company operating director. He said the region was chosen because of the ready availability of dedicated Clean Energy refueling depots. The rigs are being used in the Los Angeles region and on a route to and from Las Vegas, Brown said.

Although he would not reveal what Salt Lake City-based C.R. England paid for the liquid natural gas tractors, he said fuel cost savings could lead to overall savings within a year or two. Depending on diesel prices, the company saves $1.50 to $2 per gallon equivalent on liquid natural gas, he said. At the same time, fuel usage is about the same in equivalent diesel gallons.

"They are much cleaner, they are much quieter," Brown said of the new tractors. "We haven't noticed any power reduction from the diesel engines. We're very pleased with these."

As Clean Energy expands its network of public refueling, "it will be more advantageous to have natural gas vehicles on the road," Brown said.

Honda Motor Co. is expanding sales of its Civic NG. The NG carries a basic sticker price of $26,155, while its gasoline counterpart, the Civic LX, lists at $20,505.

Until this model year, the GX had only been offered as a private vehicle in dealerships in California, Oklahoma, Utah and New York. Sales will be expanded for the next model year to 37 states, mostly to dealers within 20 miles of a public fueling station, said Honda spokeswoman Jessica Fini. For the first time, the car will be advertised nationally and will offer a navigation system and an upgraded audio system.

"We think we are expanding the car at the right time with the expansion in public infrastructure," she said.

Honda's goal is to boost sales from about 1,000 cars annually to about 2,000, Fini added — still a tiny fraction of the 259,000 gasoline-powered Civics that Honda sold in 2010.

Gene Paulsen, an aerospace engineer from Gilbert, Ariz., and his wife are on their second GX. They bought their first one in 2000 when the state offered tax credits for choosing the natural gas version of the Civic. They sold it earlier this year to a California woman.

He said his wife now commutes in a used GX he bought in 2009. They mostly refuel from a costly home refueling appliance, and have added a second fuel tank to drive longer distances.

"It works really well for us," he said. "But the fueling infrastructure isn't very good in Arizona. Until you add more fuel capacity to the thing, you're kind of stuck."

Paulsen said fuel for the GX costs about $1.50 per gallon equivalent, calculating the draw on his home's gas system, the cost of periodically maintaining his $10,000 refueling pump and the power cost for running the pressure pump to fuel the car.

"We wouldn't have done this if it was our only vehicle," Paulsen said.

UNIT

From 6G

"Surface owners still are losing the right to say no to anything," said Candyce Kleeman, who ranches near Killdeer. "We used to have to allow access to a 1,280 (acre) area. We are now having to allow access to a 30,000-acre area ... The land that they're going on is the stuff we live on."

The unit sits in Dunn County in southwestern North Dakota, about 15 miles north of Killdeer, south of the Little Missouri River. It includes the Little Missouri State Park.

It should produce about 43 million barrels of oil, compared to the 28 million that would likely have been pumped if the property were broken up into smaller drilling units, Helms said.

Developing the land as a 31,000-acre unit, rather than using the more typical 1,280-acre spacing units for drilling oil wells, would have less impact on the land and help avoid marring scenic park views, Helms said.

The wells can be more efficiently serviced by fewer oil well drilling pads and storage tank batteries, which will reduce impact on the land and keep tanks out of the state park, he said.

"It will keep pads up out of the Little Missouri flood plain, and pads and tank batteries out of the park, which are two ... very important goals," Helms said.

He said the unit arrangement also will make it easier to use pipelines, rather than trucks, to transfer oil.

The Industrial Commission consists of Dalrymple, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. The commission oversees the Department of Natural Resources and oil and gas regulation in North Dakota.

In September, the last month for which statistics are available, North Dakota produced 14 million barrels of oil and had just over 6,000 producing wells. In September 2006, the state produced 3.4 million barrels from about 3,600 wells.

OIL'S YEAR

From 1G

One challenge came from Mother Nature as Texas faced the most severe drought conditions seen in decades, dry weather that sparked numerous wildfires. A number of those wildfires impacted Permian Basin production sites, with operators reporting burned gathering lines and fencing. Drilling companies also kept an eye on wildfires in case rigs had to be quickly evacuated.

But, operators say, the biggest challenge to the industry comes from the government — both state and federal — on several fronts.

The biggest controversy in 2011 came from the tiny Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, which was being considered for inclusion on the Endangered Species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because the sand dune lizard's habitat occurs on oil-producing lands in southeast New Mexico and portions of West Texas, businesses, ranchers, residents and local governments all feared a listing would result in all oil and gas and ranching activity on or near the habitat being shut down, dramatically impacting the area's economy. The Fish and Wildlife Service has postponed until June a decision on listing the lizard, but Doug Robison, president of ExL Petroleum and chairman of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, pointed out that the service's action is only a six-month delay, plus there are 100 more species lined up behind the three-inch lizard, awaiting an endangered species designation.

While concern over the sand dune lizard promises to continue into 2012, so does controversy over the hydraulic fracturing technology used not only in the shale gas plays around the nation + from the Barnett to the Marcellus, but in the oil shale plays of Wyoming and North Dakota and in the Permian Basin.

The Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a second study of hydraulic fracturing and states like New York and Pennsylvania, home to the Marcellus Shale play, consider outlawing or severely limiting its use. In Texas, the Railroad Commission has just issued new rules requiring the disclosure of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, along with the amount of water used in fracturing operations, followed by other states like Colorado.

Robison predicts that hydraulic fracturing will be the dominant issue facing the industry in 2012.

"The PBPA is dealing on a whole new level," he said. "We're now dealing with federal issues as opposed to state issues."

Mella McEwen can be reached at mmcewen@mrt.com.



PERMIAN BASIN

TEXAS

DIST. #7C

Coke	0
Concho	0
Crockett	9
Irion	11
Kimble	0
McCulloch	0
Menard	0
Reagan	16
Runnels	2
Schleicher	2
Sutton	1
Terrell	0
Tom Green	1
Upton	33

DIST. #8

Andrews	44
Brewster	0
Crane	3
Culberson	5
Ector	16
Glasscock	33
Howard	20
Hudspeth	0
Jeff Davis	1
Loving	11
Martin	40
Midland	36
Mitchell	2
Pecos	4
Presidio	0
Reeves	39
Sterling	2
Ward	18
Winkler	3

DIST. #8A

Bailey	0
Borden	5
Cochran	4
Cottle	0
Crosby	3
Dawson	2
Dickens	1
Floyd	0
Gaines	5
Garza	0
Hale	0
Hockley	2
Kent	2
King	0
Lamb	1
Lubbock	0
Lynn	3
Motley	0
Scurry	3
Terry	4
Yoakum	5

TEXAS TOTAL 392

NEW MEXICO

Chaves	4
Eddy	43
Lea	20
Roosevelt	0

N.M. TOTAL 67

Updated Dec. 22, 2011

Rig Count information provided by Hughes Christensen

SPOT NATURAL GAS PRICE PROFILE

Current Natural Gas Prices	First of the Month Price	Closing Prices 12/28/11	Same Period One Year Ago
	Price per MMBtu		
New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) future price:	$3.364	$3.084	$4.112
Composite Field Prices For Waha Hub:	$3.340	$3.042	$3.920
Composite Field Prices For Rocky Mountains:	$3.347	$2.990	$3.833
Composite Field Prices For Permian Basin:	$3.295	$3.429	$3.601
Composite Field Prices For San Juan Basin:	$3.280	$3.071	$3.850
Composite Field Prices For Midcontinent:	$3.318	$2.977	$3.911
Composite Field Prices For Gulf Coast:	$3.319	$3.051	$4.047

ENERGY WATCH

Economic recovery expected to continue, slowly, in 2012



Bhupen Agrawal is Branch Manager and Managing Director - Investments for Wells Fargo Advisors' Midland office.

***

Bill Franks, AAMS is a Senior Registered Client Associate and the Senior Associate to the Branch Manager.

This week's report is an executive summary of our 2012 economic and market outlook.

1. We believe the slow economic recovery is likely to continue in 2012 with inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) projected to increase an average 2.2 percent in 2012. Unfortunately, this is below the 2.7 percent average growth rate of GDP during the past 30 years.

2. The U.S. economy faces many problems and uncertainties, including the weak housing market, high unemployment, European debt crisis and the upcoming U.S. elections. Nevertheless, we believe that slow growth, not recession, is the most likely scenario and put the probability of recession at 35 percent.

3. In this slow-growth environment, we expect inflation to moderate to 2.5 percent in 2012. However, we continue to expect inflation to average 3 percent during the next 10-15 years.

4. Companies are adjusting to current conditions, and corporate profits are rising. Our equity strategy team looks for operating earnings of the companies that make up the S&P 500 to increase 5.1 percent in 2012.

5. Equity markets are likely to remain volatile in 2012, but slow economic growth and a modest increase in earnings are likely to support the equity market. Our 2012 year-end target for the S&P 500 is 1325-1375.

6. The Federal Reserve intends to keep short-term interest rates near zero percent until mid-2013 in order to boost economic growth. However, long-term interest rates could move modestly higher through 2012 as the economic expansion continues. Our fixed-income strategy team looks for the 10-year Treasury yield to increase to 3 percent by the end of 2012.

7. Our international strategy team believes that global economic performance is likely to diverge further in 2012 with emerging market economies doing better than high-debt developed economies, especially those in Europe.

8. Unfortunately, the European debt crisis is still ongoing, and the global economy remains at risk if policymakers cannot contain the crisis. However, we believe that the most likely scenario is slow and uneven progress addressing their debt problems. Our strategists believe that the worst-case scenario of widespread government defaults or a series of large bank failures is a low probability.

9. Policymakers are making progress addressing the European debt crisis and could eventually get ahead of the problem. In the meantime, investors should probably not take on too much risk. The storm is not over yet.

10. We believe that investors should maintain a balanced investment strategy while waiting for the storm clouds to clear. Specifically, in the equity markets, we recommend over weighting the cyclical industrial and material sectors along with the defensive utility and telecom sectors.

11. In the fixed income markets, we recommend over weighting short-term investment grade debt and under weighting long-term bonds. Within the debt categories we recommend overweighting corporate bonds and preferred securities and underweighting Treasury debt.

12. Internationally, we believe investors should maintain a core diversified portfolio of international investments supplemented with positions in areas offering better relative opportunities. Within the international equity markets we favor Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Mexico. In the currency market, our strategists look for the dollar to strengthen and the euro to weaken to $1.23 dollars per euro by the end of 2012.

13. Looking into 2012, economic and market expectations are relatively low after a very difficult 2011. Therefore, investors could be more surprised by positive developments in 2012 than by negative events.

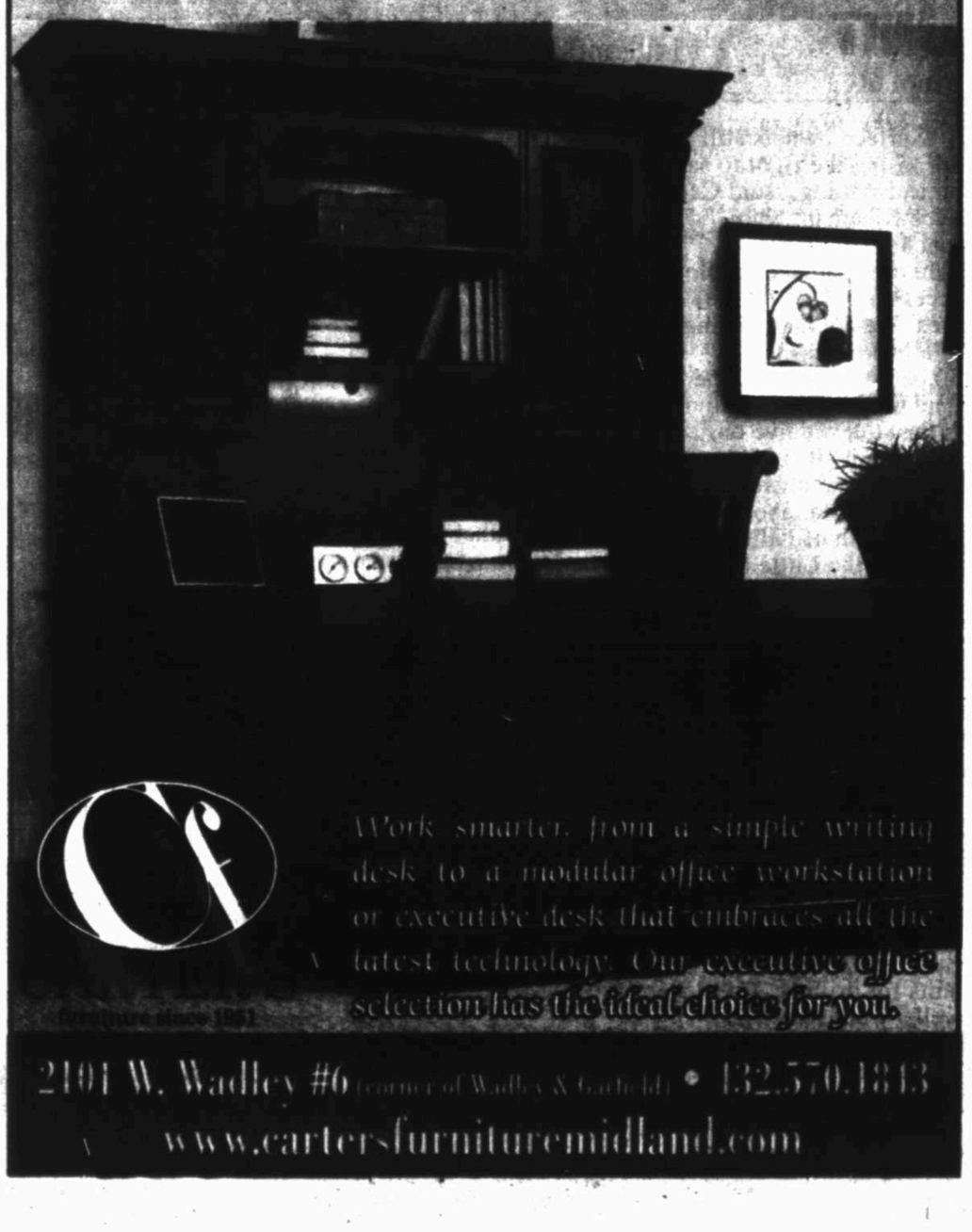
Past Performance is no guarantee of future results. An Index is not managed and is unavailable for direct investment. Investing in fixed income securities involves certain risks such as market risk if sold prior to maturity and credit risk, especially if investing in high yield bonds, which have lower ratings and are subject to greater volatility. All fixed income investments may be worth less than the original cost upon redemption or maturity. Bond prices fluctuate inversely to changes in interest rates. Therefore, a general rise in interest rates can result in the decline of the value of your investment. Investing in foreign securities presents certain unique risk not associated with domestic investments, such as currency fluctuation and political and economic changes. This may result in greater price volatility. These risks are heightened in emerging markets. There is no assurance that any of the target prices mentioned will be attained. Although Treasuries are considered free from credit risk they are subject to other types of risks. These risks include interest rate risk, which may cause the underlying value of the bond to fluctuate. There are special risks associated with investing in preferred securities, Preferred securities generally offer no voting rights with respect to the issuer. Preferred securities are generally subordinated to bonds or other debt instruments in an issuer's capital structure, subject them to a greater risk of non-payment than more senior securities. In addition, the issue may be callable which may negatively impact the return of the security. Preferred dividends are not guaranteed and are subject to deferral or elimination. This article was written by Gary Thayer, Chief Macro Strategist, Wells Fargo Advisors on December19, 2011 and provided courtesy of Bhupen Agrawal Branch Manager in Midland at (432) 684-7335. The material has been prepared or is distributed solely for informational purposes and is not a solicitation or an offer to buy any security or instrumental to participate in any trading strategy Additional information is available upon request 684-7335. Wells Fargo Advisors LLC., member SIPC is a registered broker dealer and a separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company. Investments and insurance products: NOT FDIC-Insured NO Bank Guarantee MAY Lose Value

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Oil prices predicted to stay above $100 a barrel in 2012

By Diane Cardwell
N.Y. Times News Service

The U.S. economy managed to cope this year despite triple-digit prices for barrels of oil. The lessons may come in handy, economists say, because those prices will probably be sticking around.

With Iran threatening to cut off about a fifth of the world's oil supply by closing the Strait of Hormuz and unrest in Iraq endangering the ability to increase production there, financial analysts say prices for two important oil benchmarks will average from $100 a barrel to $120 a barrel in 2012.

For consumers, who have been driving less and buying more fuel-efficient cars, weakened demand has helped lower prices 70 cents since May, to a national average of $3.24 for a gallon of regular unleaded, according to the AAA Fuel Gauge Report.

Now, though, the focus has turned to Iran. On Wednesday, Iran and the United States sharpened their tone over Iran's vow to close the Strait of Hormuz if Western powers tried to stifle Iran's petroleum exports.

The catalyst for the Iranian threats are new efforts by the United States and the European Union to pressure Iran into ending its nuclear program, which Iran has refused to do despite four rounds of sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

Those sanctions have not focused on Iran's oil exports. But in recent weeks, the EU has talked openly of imposing a boycott on Iranian oil, and President Barack Obama is preparing to sign legislation that, if fully enforced,B could impose harsh penalties on all buyers of Iran's oil, with the aim of severely impeding Iran's ability to sell it.

Rear Adm. Habibollah Sayyari, Iran's naval commander, said in remarks carried by an official Iranian news site that "closing the Strait of Hormuz is very easy for Iranian naval forces." Sayyari, whose forces were in the midst of ambitious war game exercises in waters near the Strait of Hormuz, was the second top Iranian official to make such a threat in 24 hours.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, which is based in Bahrain and patrols the strait, responded: "Anyone who threatens to disrupt freedom of navigation in an international strait is clearly outside the community of nations; any disruption will not be tolerated."

The Strait of Hormuz, with two mile-wide channels for commercial shipping, connects the Gulf of Oman to the Persian Gulf, the principal loading point for oil shipped from Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter.

A Saudi official told The Associated Press that the other oil-producing gulf nations are prepared to fill any shortfall in Iranian oil supply. But just as unrest in Libya shook the oil market in 2011, concern over Iran could influence prices in 2012.

Markets seemed to shrug off Iran's threats. The price of the benchmark crude oil contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell for the first time in more than week, settling at $99.36 on Wednesday, down $1.98.

But several investment banks predict that the price of the benchmark crude on the New York exchange will average about $110 next year while Brent crude oil, which analysts say affects what most of the world pays for oil, will average about $115 a barrel.

"The possibility that there might be a disruption in oil supply at some time in 2012 as Iran retaliates has, I think, permanently embedded a $10 to $20 premium in the price of oil," said Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at the Economic Outlook Group. "The danger is if oil starts to move toward $130 a barrel, or even higher, depending on whether that confrontation will escalate. Then you're really talking about the prospect of the U.S. tipping over into recession in addition to Europe, and that the whole global economy will be facing an economic downturn."

Analysts say that members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, including Iran and Saudi Arabia, have an incentive to keep prices near $100 a barrel. Many governments in the Middle East and North Africa spent heavily on social assistance programs in response to the unrest of the Arab Spring and are depending on higher prices to help meet their budgets.

"It would be nice if prices did come down quite substantially," said Francisco Blanch, head of commodity strategy at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, who added that the chances were slim. "The idea that oil is going to stay high for a while is pretty well entrenched because this is a premium fuel in the world economy, there isn't a lot of oil out there and whatever oil is available is pretty much off bounds."

Economists say they expect prices to remain high despite the relative weaknesses of the U.S. and European economies because global demand for oil — especially diesel — is escalating and outstripping supply.

"There's a consensus view that high prices will persist through 2012 because of the premise that the rest of the world, the emerging economies, are using a lot more fuel," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service.

At the same time, there is uncertainty in the forecasts, with some analysts predicting that prices could end up much lower as production increases in Libya and North America and could even drop sharply if the European economy falls apart. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, for instance, estimated this month that the price of the benchmark West Texas Intermediate, often called WTI, could fall as low as $49 a barrel or rise as high as $192 by the end of next year.

Sustained triple-digit oil prices could threaten the U.S. recovery, costing jobs, raising the prices of food and other consumer goods and pushing a gallon of gasoline to $5 or more. By one estimate, a $10 increase in the price of a barrel of oil shaves 0.2 to 0.3 percentage points off the economy's annual growth rate.

Before 2008, gas prices had mainly stayed below $3 a gallon, and Americans were less focused on fuel economy, buying larger cars including SUVs. But after the price shock, when oil soared to $145 a barrel and average gas prices topped $4, many of those habits changed. Since then, gas prices have remained volatile, rising sharply toward the end of 2010 and the early part of this year before beginning to decline.

New figures from the Federal Highway Administration show that Americans cut back on their driving again in October. They logged 2.3 percent less, or 254 billion miles, compared with October a year ago, the eighth consecutive month there has been a decline. A broader measure — the 12-month total of miles driven — shows that motorists fell back to the low of 2.963 trillion miles driven reached at the end of the recession in 2009.

"It's not just, 'I don't have enough money, I don't want to go out and buy gas,'" said John Gamel, a macroeconomic analyst at MasterCard Advisors SpendingPulse. "It's, 'I have found ways not to have to buy gas and so I'm going to keep doing that.'"

He added that Americans had been doing less discretionary driving because they still perceived gas prices as being high.

around the oil patch

PAID CONTENT

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-- John 1:5 (NIV)
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COMPLETIONS

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
University "52-10" #1H
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 2,800 fsl, 550 fwl, Sec 10, Blk 52, ULS, 27.1 ne Ozona; TD 6,255 TVD; Comp 10-12-11; producing from 6,369-9,653 MD, treated with 92,329 bbls. fluid, 3,010,578# proppant; pump 146 BO, 751 MCF, 282 BW, 39 Oil Gravity; API #42-105-41276

El Paso E&P Company LP
University "29" 31H
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 600 fel, 600 fnl, Sec 29, Blk 38, ULS, 22 ne Ozona; TD 6,813 TVD; Comp 1-6-11; producing from 8,092-8,977 MD, treated with 2,378,314# sand; pump 66 BO, 358 MCF, 178 BW on one-inch choke, 40 Oil Gravity; API #42-105-40987

Irion County

Dove Crek Energy Inc.
Oglesby "C" #2
Rock Pen (Canyon); 954 fwl, 1,811 fsl, Sec 41, Abst. 463, L&SV RR, 1.5 nne Mertzon; TD 6,605; Comp 2-13-11; producing from 6,483-6,528, treated with 2,000 gals. 15 percent NeFe, 45,000# sand; pump 15 BO, 30 MCF, 40 Oil Gravity; API #42-235-34560

Exco Resources Inc.
Renfro "11" #3
Sugg Ranch (Canyon); 710 fsl, 2,010 fwl, Sec 11, Abst. 1005, W.D. Sheen, 15 nw Mertzon; TD 7,300; Comp 10-18-11; producing from 6,796-6,906, treated with 750 gals. NeFeHCL, 70,116 gals. gel/foam, 96,600# sand; pump 9 BO, 51 MCF, 100 BW, 43.4 Oil Gravity; API #42-235-34832

Three Rivers Operating Co. LLC
Sugg "1" #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 517 fsl, 467 fwl, Sec 1, Blk 6, Abst. 312, H&TC RR, 11 nw Mertzon; TD 7,315; Comp 3-26-11; producing from 3,750-4,743, treated with 4,710 bbls. gel, 238,377# proppant; pump 318 BO, 41 MCF, 20 BW on 24/64 inch choke, 36.6 Oil Gravity; API #42-235-34070

Schleicher County

Highmount Exploration & Production Texas LLC
Marigliano #2505
Sawyer (Canyon); 1,100 fsl, 960 fel, Sec 25, Blk 2, Abst. 136, GC&SF RR, 17 sw Eldorado; TD 8,404; Comp 9-25-11; producing from 7,364-7,424, treated with 58,000# sand,34,000 gals. gel; flow 194 MCF, 11 BW on 18/64 inch choke, FTP 438 psi; API #42-413-32768

Upton County

COG Operating LLC
Nada #9516
Spraberry (Trend Area); 467 fsl, 2,170 fel, Sec 95, Blk D, Abst. 58, CCSD&RGNG, 19.9 nw Rankin; TD 10,80; Comp 10-25-11; producing from 8,010-10,700, treated with 722,700# sand,1,180,116 gals. gel; pump 76 BO, 68 MCF, 203 BW, 42.1 Oil Gravity; API #42-461-37501

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

COG Operating LLC
Bitler-Lowe -B- #21
Fullerton; 2,640 fel, 2,440 fsl, Sec 11, Blk A-32, Abst. 2027, PSL, 15.8 nw Andrews; TD 7,272; Comp 9-22-11; producing from 6,204-7,134, treated with 133,367 gals. gel, 75,000# sand; pump 23 BO, 6 MCF, 148 BW, 42.2 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-43007

Energen Resources Corp.
Block 10 Fuhrman-Mascho Unit #1005
Fuhrman-Mascho; 1,267 fsl, 2,685 fel, Sec 10, Blk 10, ULS, 12.2 sw Andrews; TD 4,886; Comp 9-22-11; producing from 4,262-4,567, treated with 10,000 gals. 15 percent HCL, 131,500# sand, 48,292 gals. fluid, 911,000 Mcf N2; pump 102 BO, 102 MCF, 231 BW, 34.2 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-42499

Myco Industries Inc.
University "8-5" #2
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,650 fel, 467 fsl, Sec 5, Blk 8, ULS, 12 ne Andrews; TD 11,496; Comp 5-2-11; producing from 8,604-11,348, treated with 54,402 gals. acid, 1,385,000 gals. fluid, 1,335,888# sand; pump 121 BO, 126 MCF, 159 BW, 40 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-42028

Myco Industries Inc.
University "5-40" #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 2,310 fnl, 2,310 fel, Sec 40, Blk 5, ULS, 13.3 ne Andrews; TD 12,001; Comp 9-30-11; producing from 10,566-11,826, treated with 38,623 gals. acid, 1,130,467 gals. fluid, 879,234# sand; flow 105 BO, 102 MCF, 138 BW on 26/64 inch choke, FTP 175 psi, 41 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-42477

Myco Industries Inc.
University "5-40" #2
Spraberry (Trend Area); 330 fsl, 2,310 fel, Sec 40, Blk 5, ULS, 13.3 ne Andrews; TD 11,910; Comp 9-30-11; producing from 8,832-11,862, treated with 33,022 gals. acid, 1,807,224 gals. fluid, 1,664,763# sand; flow 107 BO, 105 MCF, 126 BW on 32/64 inch choke, FTP 70 psi, 41 Oil Gravity; API #42-003-42557

Crane County

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
E.N. Snodgrass "18" #2
Waddell-Plugback from Edwards -04- (Wolfcamp); 660 fsl, 990 fwl, Sec 18, Blk 43, T-4-S, Abst. 1127, T&P RR, 11.9 se Penwell, TD 9,665; Comp 11-23-10; producing from 3,420-3,450, treated with 4,500 gals. 15 pecent acid, 54,750 bbls. fluid and proppant; pump 48 BO, 5 MCF, 123 BW, 39 Oil Gravity; API #42-103-35698

Ector County

Devon Energy Production Co. LP
Erica #6
Sallie Ann (Spraberry-WOLFCAMP); 2,071 fsl, 1,567 fel, Sec 16, Blk 42, T-3-S, Abst. 758, T&P RR, 7.1 se Odessa; TD 10,237; Comp 8-19-11; producing from 7,546-10,035, treated with 32,007 bbls. fluid, 843,922# proppant; pump 241 BO, 178 MCF, 101 BW, 39 Oil Gravity; API #42-135-40570

Glasscock County

Berry Oil Company
Zant "B" #3703
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,580 fsl, 660 fwl, Sec 37, Blk 36, T-2-S, Abst. 390, T&P RR, 16 nw Garden City; TD 10,420; Comp 8-3-11; producing from 8,336-10,291, fracture stimulated; pump 69 BO, 66 MCF, 204 BW on 18/64 inch choke, 42 Oil Gravity; API #42-173-34042

Berry Oil Company
Blalock "E" #1205
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,980 fnl, 660 fel, Sec 12, Blk 36, T-3-S, Abst. 957, T&P RR, 16 nw Garden City; TD 10,913; Comp 8-10-11; producing from 8,202-10,628, fracture stimulated; flow 146 BO, 624 MCF, 88 BW on 25/64 inch choke, FTP 280 psi, 42 Oil Gravity; API #42-173-34043

Energen Resources Corp.
Frio "A" #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 660 fsl, 1,980 fwl, Sec 34, Blk 34, T-5-S, Abst. 870, T&P RR, 13 s Garden City; TD 10,050; Comp 9-21-11; producing from 6,226-9,817, treated with 28,000 gals. 15 percent HCL, 20,000 gals. slick water, 466,000 gals. gel, 811,500# sand; pump 128 BO, 358 MCF, 48 BW, 43 Oil Gravity; API #42-173-34019

Howard County

ConocoPhillips Company
B. Overton #45
Howard Glasscock; 710 fnl, 615 fel, Sec 5, Blk 32, T-2-S, Abst. 301, T&P RR, 11 se Big Spring; TD 3,335; Comp 9-21-11; producing from 2,163-2,484 treated with 10,300 gals. 15 percent acid; pump 77 BO, 1 MCF, 3,825 BW, 31.47 Oil Gravity; API #42-227-36539

Element Petroleum Operating LLC
Abel "18" #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,980 fnl, 660 fel, Sec 18, Blk 33, T-1-N, Abst. 1248, T&P RR, 3 n Big Spring; TD 9,703; Comp 10-4-11; producing from 7,282-9,531, treated with 763 bbls. 15 percent acid, 790,000# sand; pump 80 BO, 102 MCF, 140 BW, 40 Oil Gravity; API #42-227-36691

Midland Oil and Gas Inc.
Swindell Unit #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,797 fwl, 820 fnl, Sec 15, Blk 33, T-1-N, Abst. 309, T&P RR, 5.7 nw Big Spring; TD 10,044; Comp 10-17-11; producing from 7,472-10,010, treated with 10,500 gals. 15 percent NeFe, 782,146 gals. crosslink, 661,080# sand; pump 211 BO, 341 MCF, 468 BW, 43 Oil Gravity; API #42-227-36719

Martin County

Endeavor Energy Resources LP
Nail "1" #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 467 fwl, 1,980 fnl, Sec 1, Blk 38, T-1-S, Abst. 291, T&P RR, 11.4 2 Stanton; TD 11,213; Comp 10-13-11; producing from 8,731-11,107, treated with 20,016 bbls. fluid, 608,180# sand; flow 12 BO, on 10/64 inch choke, 39.6 Oil Gravity; API #42-317-36602

RSP Permian LLC
Johnson Ranch #1003
Spraberry (Trend Area); 600 fsl, 467 fel, Sec 10, Blk 39, T-1-N, T&P RR, 20.3 w Stanton; TD 11,478; Comp 9-17-11; producing from 8,440-11,245, treated with 26,217 bbls. Hybor, 963,800# sand; flow 154 BO, 130 MCF, 51 BW on 23/64 inch choke, FTP 150 psi, 43 Oil Gravity; API #42-317-36924

Midland County

Caza Operating LLC
Caza Elkins #3401
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,750 fwl, 2,190 fsl, Sec 34, Blk 38, T-1-S, Abst. 1068, T&P RR, 5.7 ne Midland; TD 11,854; Comp 8-31-11; producing from 9,070-11,738, treated with 11,463 bbls. fluid, 411,670# sand; pump 152 BO, 280 MCF, 168 BW, 38 Oil Gravity; API #42-329-37279

Caza Operating LLC
Caza Elkins #3402
Spraberry (Trend Area); 1,780 fwl, 990 fsl, Sec 34, Blk 38, T-1-S, Abst. 1068, T&P RR, 5.7 ne Midland; TD 11,854; Comp 9-13-11; producing from 9,050-11,781, treated with 262,246 bbls. fluid, 420,266# sand; pump 101 BO, 165 MCF, 210 BW, 38 Oil Gravity; API #42-329-37280

Mid-States Operating Company
Wigley "37" #3
Spraberry (Trend Area); 660 fwl, 2,373 fsl, Sec 37, Abst. 936, H.M. Horton, 7.3 se Midland; TD 10,850; Comp 3-18-11; producing from 7,56--10,564, fracture stimulated; pump 60 BO, 85 MCF, 209 BW, 42 Oil Gravity; API #42-329-37055

RSP Permian LLC
Kemmer #4204
Spraberry (Trend Area); 2,421 fnl, 467 fel, Sec 42, Blk 40, T-1-S, Abst. 802, T&P RR, 10 w Midland; TD 11,600; Comp 9-13-11; producing from 8,645-11,315, treated with 43,000 gals. 15 percent acid, 709,600 gals. gel, 881,948# sand; pump 121 BO, 75 MCF, 145 BW, 43 Oil Gravity; API #42-329-36738

Summit Petroleum LLC
Sonja #202
Spraberry (Trend Area); 467 fwl, 717 fnl, Sec 2, Blk 40, T-3-S, Abst. 780, T&P RR, 14.3 sw Midland; TD 10,651; Comp 8-10-11; producing from 8,699-10,440, treated with 30,551 bbls. fluid, 800,014# sand; pump 60 BO, 31 MCF, 180 BW, 38 Oil Gravity; API #42-329-37253

Mitchell County

Cedar Bend Oil Company
J.L. Train "A" #13
Sharon Ridge (1700); 1,650 fel, 990 fsl, Sec 64, Blk 97, Abst. 1816, H&TC RR, 8 nw Colorado City; TD 1,820; Comp 7-18-11; producing from 1,581-1,679, treated with 3,000 gals. 15 percent HCL, 37,000# sand; pump 30 BO, 100 BW, 26.2 Oil Gravity; API #42-335-35531

Pecos County

Kinder Morgan Production Co. LLC
Yates Field Unit #4A03
Yates-Horizontal Recompletion; 2,900 fsl, 350 fwl, Sec 2, Abst. 7985, D.R. Robertson, 5.5 w Iraan; TD 1,369 TVD; Comp 10-21-11; producing from 1,242-2,794 MD; pump 49 BO, 17 MCF, 654 BW, 29.4 Oil Gravity; API #42-371-35923

Kinder Morgan Production Co. LLC
Yates Field Unit #29B31
Yates-Horizontal Recompletion; 223 fnl, 110 fel, Sec 39, Blk 194, Abst. 4931, GC&SF RR, 5.5 w Iraan; TD 1,592 TVD; Comp 10-1-11; producing from 1,464-2,551 MD; pump 335 BO, 100 MCF, 105 BW, 29.4 Oil Gravity; API #42-371-36022

SandRidge Exploration & Production LLC
West State #406ED
Pinon (Overthrust)-Directional; 772 fwl, 4,500 fnl, Sec 4, Blk 159, GC&SF RR, 26 s Fort Stockton; TD 8,470 MD; Comp 10-14-10; producing from 6,845-8,263, fracture stimulated; flow 1,023 MCF, 8 BW on open choke, FTP 110 psi; API #42-371-38714

SandRidge Exploration & Production LLC
West Ranch #4527
Pinon (Overthrust)-Directional; 624 fsl, 1,739 fwl, Sec 45, Blk 2, Abst. 3373, TC RR, 25 s Fort Stockton; TD 5,580 MD; Comp 9-17-10; producing from 5,174-5,425, treated with 187,000# sand; flow 236 MCF on open choke, FTP 160 psi; API #42-371-38705

Reeves County

Clayton Williams Energy Inc.
CWEI-CHK "183-13" #1
Wolfbone (Trend Area); 467 fel, 467 fsl, Sec 183, Blk 13, Abst. 301, H&GN RR, 21.4 sw Pecos; TD 11,488; Comp 9-30-11; producing from 9,999-11,319, treated with 244 bbls. acid, 16,518 bbls. fluid, 1,120,900# asnd; flow 114 BO, 225 MCF, 286 BW on 25/64 inch choke, FTP 30 psi, 40.7 Oil Gravity; API #42-389-32836

Texas RRCD 8A

Cochran County

OPS Group Ltd.
Hoeffner-Reed "58-15" #1
Cochran (Devonian); 999 fsl, 2,080 fel, Sec 58, Abst. 5, T. Harrison, 11.5 se Bledsoe; TD 12,618; Comp 4-15-11; producing from 11,865-11,880, treated with 70 bbls. water, 36 bbls. acid; flow 388 BO, 695 BW, 38 Oil Gravity; API #42-079-33218

Gaines County

Lynx Operating Co. Inc.
Harris "A" #1614Y
Newsom (Yates)-Plugback from Harris (Queen); 2,640 fsl, 2,640 fel, Sec 16, Blk A-22, Abst. 728, PSL, 11.5 sw Seminole; TD 4,250; Comp 8-18-11; producing from 3,052-3,070, treated with 90,363# sand and foam; flow 105 MCF on 12/64 inch choke, FTP 419 psi; API #42-165-34757

King County

Unitex Oil & Gas LLC
Bateman Trust Estate Account No. 1 3105
Bateman Ranch (A-Zone)-Plugback from Bateman Ranch (C-Zone); 835 fel, 10,118 fnl, Sec 116, Blk A, Abst. 397, J.B. Rector, 11 e Guthrie; TD 5,320; Comp 6-11-11; producing from 3,539-3,540; pump 8 BO, 1 MCF, 560 BW, 36 Oil Gravity; API #42-269-32349

New Mexico

Chaves County

Cimarex Energy Co. of CO
Ticonderoga 16 State Com #4
Wildcat; T15S, R31E, Sec 16; 375 FSL 375 FEL; EL 4410 GL; TD 13299; PBTD 13299; Spud 5-5-10; Comp 6-28-10; production is through perfs: 8399-13100; IP: 7-3-10 Pump 24 hrs 240 BO, 415 BW, 128 MCF, GOR 533, Gty 38.8; API #30-005-29062

Eddy County

BOPCO, LP
James Ranch Unit #120
SE Quahada Ridge; T23S, R31E, Sec 8; 628 FSL 359 FWL; EL 3325 GL; TD 15,915; PBTD 15,765; Spud 6-6-11; Comp 8-2-11; production is through treated perfs:8797-15,758; Treat:175,686 gals 25# linear, 1,470,267 gals 25# silverstim, 3,220,531# 16/30 Super LC Ottawa, 302,179# 16/30 Super LC CRC; IP:9-3-11 Flow 24 hrs 486 BO, 2146 BW, 621 MCF, 57/64" Ch, TP 525, CP 450, GOR 1278, Gty 35; API #30-015-38116

Devon Energy Prod. Co. LP
Cotton Draw Unit #151
South Poker Lake; T24S, R31E, Sec 35; 200 FNL 660 FWL; EL 3500 GL; TD 12,744; PBTD 12,740; Spud 6-9-11; Comp 9-15-11; production is through treated perfs:8472-12732; Treat:1,393,300# 20/40 white sd, 56900# 100 mesh white sd, 9000 gals 7.5% Hcl; IP:9-15-11 Pump 24 hrs 620 BO, 1349 BW, 363 MCF, GOR 586; API #30-015-38610

EOG Res. Inc.
Elk Wallow 11 St #4
East Pierce Crossing; T25S, R29E, Sec 11; 50 FSL 430 EL; EL 3131 GL; TD 11680; PBTD 11632; Spud 5-15-11; Comp 7-14-11; production is through treated perfs:7676-11600; Treat:1395 bbls 15% Hcl, 31123 bbls gel, 1596780# 100 mesh sd, 2405980# 40/70 sd, 72690 bbls load; IP:7-27-11 Flow 24 hrs 563 BO, 908 BW, 3085 MCF, 128/128" Ch, TP 1050, GOR 5479, Gty 47.6; API #30-015-38291

Apache Corp.
NB Tween State #20
Artesia; T17S, R28E, Sec 25; 330 FNL 1700 FEL; EL 3676 GL; TD 5718; PBTD 5673; Spud 6-25-11; Comp 8-26-11; production is through treated perfs: 3742-3858; Treat: 14,658 gals 15% Hcl, 567,576 gals 18#, 7173774 16/30 sd, 14,574 gals gel; IP: 9-6-11 Pump 24 hrs 2 BO, 308 BW, 0 MCF, Gty 40; API #30-015-38591

COG Oper. LLC
Continental A State #19
Empire; T17S, R29E, Sec 30; 870 FNL 750 FWL; EL 3663 GL; TD 5580; PBTD 5517; Spud 6-15-11; Comp 7-16-11; production is through treated perfs: 4445-4645; Treat: Acdz w/7500 gals acid, Frac w/284,000 gals gel, 305,849# 16/30 white, 65,363# 16/30 Siberprop sd; IP: 7-26-11 Pump 24 hrs 146 BO, 965 BW, 110 MCF, GOR 753, Gty 37.1; API #30-015-37870

RKI Expl. & Prod. LLC
Longview 1 #23
South Culebra Bluff; T23S, R28E, Sec 1; 1700 FNL 1650 FEL; EL 3070 GL; TD 8660; PBTD 8609; Spud 12-18-10; Comp 3-23-11; production is through treated perfs: 8453-8482; Treat: 2520 gals 15% HCl, 1092 gals frac fluid, 49,837# sd; IP: 4-3-11 Pump 24 hrs 22 BO, 32 BW, 7 MCF, GOR 3500, Gty 45; API #30-015-37609

Unit Pet. Co.
HB 3 Fed #4
Cedar Canyon; T24S, R29E, Sec 3; 524 FSL 1355 FWL; EL 3053 GL; TD 11,520; PBTD N/A; Spud 8-7-11; Comp 11-9-11; production is through perfs: 11200-11403; IP: 11-9-11 Flow 24 hrs 108 BO, 275 BW, 0 MCF, 18/64" Ch, CP 750; API #30-015-38993

Chesapeake Oper. Inc.
PLU Ross Ranch 32 State #1
South Corral Canyon; T25S, R30E, Sec 32; 175 FSL 400 FEL; EL 3172 GL; TD 13558; PBTD 13558; Spud 4-14-11; Comp 8-1-11; production is through treated perfs: 9000-13537; Treat: 29,069,004# sd, 4,473,756 gals fresh wtr, 60,000 gals 15% NEFE; IP: 9-5-11 Flow 24 hrs 357 BO, 1090 BW, 1547 MCF, 32/64" Ch, TP 740; API #30-015-37938

OGX Res. LLC
Copperhead 31 Fed Com #1
Delaware River; T26S, R29E, Sec 31; 480 FSL 480 FEL; EL 2895 GL; TD 11,522; PBTD 11,470; Spud 5-2-11; Comp 7-28-11; production is through treated perfs: 7048-11,392; Treat: Frac in 22 stages 96,013 bbls crosslink gel & 3,774,619# 110 mesh & 20/40 sd; IP: 9-9-11 Flow 24 hrs 307 BO, 2503 BW, 3217 MCF, Full Ch, TP 650, CP 1280; API #30-015-38532

Lea County

Marshall & Winston Inc.
Crossroads 22 State #3
Flying; T9S, R33E, Sec 22; 400 FNL 1980 FWL; EL 4359 GL; TD 10,878; PBTD 10,800; Spud 2-27-10; Comp 12-27-10; production is through treated perfs: 8925-10770; Treat: 169,823 gals acid + 540,363 gals 20# cross linked borate gel wtr, 438,021# Ottawa sd; IP: 1-26-11 Pump 24 hrs 105 BO, 23 BW, 140 MCF; API #30-025-39840

Mack Energy Corp.
Bull Bat State #1
Tulk; T15S, R32E, Sec 2; 660 FSL 660 FWL; Re-Entry of Santa Fe Energy; State NW 2 #1, P&A, Old TD 13,535); EL 4279 GL; TD 12,850; PBTD 12,750; Re-Entered 9-30-10; Comp 12-3-10; production is through treated perfs: 9455-12,345; Treat: 63,504 gals 20% acid, 109,116 gals slick wtr, 904,008 gals B Frac w/21,879,382# white sd 30/50; IP: 1-19-11 Pump 24 hrs 0 BO, 411 BW, 2 MCF; API #30-025-27241

Cimarex Energy Co. of CO
J G State #18
West Maljamar; T17S, R32E, Sec 16; 1650 FNL 2310 FWL; EL 4056 GL; TD 7027; PBTD 6949; Spud 10-23-10; Comp 1-8-11; production is through treated perfs: 5495-5604; Treat: 2,619,095 gals slickwater & 994,932# 30/50 white sd; IP: 1-18-11 Pump 24 hrs 4 BO, 403 BW, 36 MCF, GOR 9000, Gty 38.8; API #30-025-39801

Apache Corp.
J G Hare #19
Wantz; T21S, R37E, Sec 33; 2310 FSL 1650 FWL; EL 3448 GL; TD 7202; PBTD 7131; Spud 9-11-11; Comp 10-6-11; production is through treated perfs: 10,000 gals acid; IP: 10-23-11 Flow 24 hrs 26 BO, 5 BW, 541 MCF, GOR 20,808, Gty 37.1; API #30-025-40206

Devon Energy Prod. Co. LP
Ichabod 7 Fed #1
Wildcat; T26S, R34E, Sec 7; 195 FSL 330 FEL; EL 3363 GL; TD 14,275; PBTD 14,182; Spud 5-16-11; Comp 8-25-11; production is through perfs: 9995-13,949; IP: 9-4-11 Pump 24 hrs 338 BO, 964 BW, 551 MCF; API #30-025-40043

ConocoPhillips Co.
Aquamarine State #1
West Maljamar; T17S, R32E, Sec 16; 343 FSL 432 FEL; EL 4014 GL; TD 6955; PBTD 6933; Spud 11-20-11; Comp 1-30-11; production is through treated perfs:5470-6790; Treat:5000 gals 15% acid, 8,715 YF120ST + 147,898 Ottawa; IP:1-31-11 Pump 24 hrs 186 BO, 324 BW, 290 MCF, Gty 38.8; API #30-025-39849

COG Oper. LLC
M C Fed #51
West Maljamar; T17S, R32E, Sec 21; 1770 FNL 100 FEL; EL 4011 GL; TD 7035; PBTD 6955; Spud 2-7-11; Comp 3-11-11; production is through treated perfs:5454-5610; Treat:Acdz w/10,500 gals 15% Hcl, Frac w/431,365 gals gel, 536,509# 16/30 Ottawa sd, 108,737# 16/30 siber prop; IP:3-17-11 Pump 24 hrs 196 BO, 191 BW, 376 MCF, Gty 40.3; API #30-025-39874

XTO Energy Inc.
North Vacuum Abo Unit #308
North Vacuum; T17S, R34E, Sec 26; 380 FSL 350 FEL; EL 4010 GL; TD 13365; PBTD 13365; Spud 4-2-10; Comp 7-21-10; production is through treated perfs:9896-13292; Treat:w/235138 gals 15% ZAC, 186414 gals 20% CCA, 177961 gals R11 18# gel wtr & 269637 gals slick wtr; IP:7-24-10 Pump 24 hrs 254 BO, 298 BW, 388 MCF, GOR 1528/1, Gty 33.76; API #30-025-39694

Apache Corp.
Northeast Drinkard Unit #168
North Eunice; T21S, R37E, Sec 2; 1970 FNL 1125 FWL; EL 3501 GL; TD 7052; PBTD 6997; Spud 11-22-10; Comp 7-1-11; production is through treated perfs:5773-5978; Treat:10,000 gals acid, 3700# rock salt; IP:WIW; API #30-025-39918

Mack Energy Corp.
State GS-16 #2
Vacuum; T17S, R34E, Sec 16; 760 FSL 860 FEL; EL 4066 GL; TD 4910; PBTD 4875; Spud 6-6-11; Comp 9-23-11; production is through treated perfs: 4743-4832; Treat: Acdz w/90 bbls 15% Hcl, Frac w/1534 bbls turquoise, 180 bbls linear gel, 53380# TG sd 16/30, 24020# Super LC 16/30; IP: 10-10-11 Pump 24 hrs 6 BO, 22 BW, 0 MCF, Gty 35,400; API #30-025-39890

Read & Stevens Inc.
Coyote 10 Fed #2
NE Lea; T20S, R34E, Sec 10; 660 FSL 660 FWL; (Re-Entry of Estoril Prod. Corp., Union "A" Fed #1, P&A, Old TD 13,600); EL 3644.4 GL; TD 6163; PBTD N/A; Re-Entered 5-4-11; Comp 5-21-11; production is through treated perfs: 6021-6163; Treat: 2000 gals 15% NEFE, 20 BS, 100,000# 16/30 brown sd; IP: 6-21-11 Pump 24 hrs 12 BO, 107 BW, 0 MCF, Gty 34.2; API #30-025-26675

Apache Corp.
Dukes #2
House; T20S, R38E, Sec 11; 1650 FSL 1650 FWL; EL 3567 GL; TD 7350; PBTD 7298; Spud 4-1-11; Comp 5-14-11; production is through treated perfs: 6052-6354; Treat: 9400 gals 15% HCl, 119,994 gals SS-35, 384,046# sd; IP: 5-31-11 Pump 24 hrs 26 BO, 214 BW, 41 MCF, GOR 1577, Gty 36.4; API #30-025-40022

ND oil unit approved, could produce 43M barrels

By Dale Wetzel
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — North Dakota regulators approved a huge new oil production unit north of Killdeer that includes a state park and thousands of acres of rugged, scenic land in the state's western Badlands.

The formation of the Corral Creek-Bakken unit, which covers almost 50 square miles, will allow production of up to 43 million barrels of oil while using fewer oil drilling pads and tank storage batteries, said Lynn Helms, director of the state's Department of Mineral Resources.

"The number of trucks will be much, much less, because the gas, the oil and the water are all going to move by pipeline," Helms said. "It's much more efficient in terms of the impacts and use of the landscape."

The unit plan is the first for the Bakken and Three Forks oil fields in western North Dakota, which have been mostly responsible for the state's boom in energy development.

It will allow what normally would be hundreds of individual oil drilling leases to be managed as one. Revenues will be divided among property owners within the unit who have a claim on the land's oil income.

Burlington Resources Inc., which is part of ConocoPhillips of Houston, will manage the unit. Burlington, the state of North Dakota and the federal government collectively own more than 60 percent of the unit's mineral production rights, which is a large enough share to seek approval of a unit plan.

The state Industrial Commission, in endorsing the proposal, said Burlington would have to report on the progress of its development plans in January 2016. Helms said land tracts that are not drilled by then could be removed from the unit and leased separately.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple, the commission's chairman, said the deadline would help allay some landowners' fears that Burlington would take six years or more to finish the 80 oil wells it plans to drill. The unit already has 12 producing wells.

Helms said Burlington expects to finish its drilling work in 3-1/2 years.

Other property owners said they were worried about the freedom Burlington will have to locate pipelines, roads and other infrastructure within the unit's boundaries.

The company must pay individual landowners for use of their property, but it will not have to seek permission from individual landowners before building.

Please see UNIT/3G

DEVELOPMENT WELLS

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

Approach Oper. LLC
University '42-14' #14
Holt Ranch (Consolidated)-D; University Lands; A-N/A, Blk 42, Sec 14; 1418 FSL 1235 FEL of lse; 1418 FSL 1235 FEL of survey; 15 miles NE of Ozona; obj: 9000; permit #729342; API #105-41360

MLC Oper., LP
Parker Ranch 1026 #1
Bluegrass (Clearfork)-Recompletion; GC & SF RR Co./Forbes, G W; A-4789, Blk HH, Sec 26; 600 FNL 1080 FEL of lse; 600 FNL 650 FWL of survey; 5.1 miles NE of Iraan; obj: 6344; permit #728359; API #105-40370

Irion County

Apache Corp.
Scott-Sugg 5051 #1H
Lin (Wolfcamp)-D; H & TC RR Co./Smith, W A; A-1140, Blk 14, Sec 50; 180 FNL 777 FEL of lse; 180 FNL 1874 FWL of survey; 17.5 miles W of Mertzon; obj: 14900; permit #727401; API #235-34889

Menard County

Paint Rock Oper., LLC
ESPY 'A' #11
Danny Mae (Lower Cisco "A")-D; Herberg, J; A-378, Blk N/A, Sec 1469; 1057 FNL 6246 FWL of lse; 559 FEL 1057 FNL of survey; 10 miles NW of Menard; obj: 2450; permit #729336; API #327-31147

Reagan County

Laredo Pet. - Dallas, Inc.
N Wilde Oil Unit #15E
Spraberry (Trend Area)-D; Bohannan, N; A-44, Blk O, Sec 15; 537 FNL 594 FEL of lse; 537 FNL 4840 FWL of survey; 31 miles N of Big Lake; obj: 9000; permit #729296; API #383-37587

Prime Oper. Co.
Lucy Lindsey #5
Spraberry (Trend Area)-D; Herrin, M; A-201, Blk N/A, Sec 3; 467 FNL 467 FEL of lse; 467 FNL 467 FEL of survey; 6.8 miles NE of Texon; obj: 12000; permit #729418; API #383-37591

Schleicher County

Highmount Expl. & Prod. TX LLC
Marigliano Unit #1401H
Sawyer (Canyon)-D; GC & SF RR Co./Rae, J; A-1632, Blk 2, Sec 14; 494 FNL 1190 FWL of lse; 467 FSL 1190 FWL of survey; 16 miles SW of Eldorado; obj: 10700; permit #729084; API #413-32797

Tom Green County

Banner Oper., LLC
Livingston #3010
Funk (San Andres)-D; H & TC RR Co./Locklin, W L; A-7189, Blk 5, Sec 30; 356 FNL 361 FWL of lse; 356 FNL 361 FWL of survey; 21 miles NW of San Angelo; obj: 2000; permit #729112; API #451-32731

Upton County

Summit Pet. LLC
Reagan #3515
Spraberry (Trend Area)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-513, Blk 42, T4S, Sec 35; 467 FWL 908 FSL of lse; 467 FWL 908 FSL of survey; 33 miles NW of Rankin; obj: 11050; permit #729246; API #461-37778

JM Cox Res., L.P.
Powell '33' #6
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Davis (Pennsylvanian)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-468, Blk 40, T5S, Sec 33; 467 FWL 467 FSL of lse; 467 FWL 467 FSL of survey; 23 miles NW of Rankin; obj: 12000; permit #729384; API #461-37785

Texas RRCD 8

Andrews County

Sandridge Expl. & Prod., LLC
Munger & Nix-Snow #21
Fuhrman-Mascho-D; PSL/Munger, L S & Nix, E C; A-1993, Blk A41, Sec 1; 580 FWL 1194 FSL of lse; 1450 FNL 2060 FEL of survey; 12 miles SW of Andrews; obj: 4900; permit #728889; API #003-43693

Sandrige Expl. & Prod., LLC
Thornberry G #19
Fuhrman-Mascho-D; PSL/Thornberry, M A; A-2211, Blk A42, Sec 8; 174 FWL 697 FSL of lse; 2480 FEL 1940 FNL of survey; 10 miles SW of Andrews; obj: 4900; permit #729199; API #003-43704

Crane County

Devon Energy Prod. Co., L.P.
McKnight, M.B. #270H
Sand Hills (Tubb)-D; PSL/Mc Knight, M B; A-1110, Blk B-21, Sec 3; 5246 FSL 330 FWL of lse; 100 FNL 330 FWL of survey; 14.6 miles S of Penwell; obj: 5100; permit #729123; API #103-35932

Midland Oil & Gas, Inc.
Kagnew 43 #1
Crownquest (Devonian) & Roepke, N. (Devonian)-D; UL; A-U91, Blk 31, Sec 43; 1271 FWL 469 FSL of lse; 1271 FWL 469 FSL of survey; 8.4 miles NW of Crane; obj: 8000; permit #729484; API#103-35937

Ector County

Fasken Oil & Ranch, LTD
Fee 'AU' #4824
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Lowe, West (Strawn)-D; G & MMB & A; A-16, Blk 41, T1N, Sec 48; 315 FSL 1100 FEL of lse; 144 FSL 1100 FEL of survey; 1 mile N of Gardendale; obj: 11400; permit #729062; API #135-41427

Rust Oil Corp.
Shoe Bar Ranch '26' #4
Mosswell (Strawn 8720)-D; T & P RR Co./Beauchamp, W T; A-1135, Blk 45, T2S, Sec 26; 1510 FNL 1810 FWL of lse; 1510 FNL 1810 FWL of survey; 3 miles N of Penwell; obj: 9500; permit #728977; API #135-41439

Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
Lupin TXL Fee #2505E
Sallie Ann (Spraberry-Wolfcamp) & Spraberry (Trend Area)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-144, Blk 42, T3S, Sec 25; 1980 FNL 660 FEL of lse; 1980 FNL 660 FEL of survey; 9 miles NW of Odessa; obj: 20000; permit #692351; API #135-40232

Glasscock County

Piedra Oper., LLC
Zant #3802
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Mabee (Strawn)-D; T & P RR Co./Boatner, M; A-921, Blk 36, T2S, Sec 38; 660 FNL 655 FEL of lse; 660 FNL 660 FWL of survey; 17 miles NW of Garden City; obj: 11000; permit #701213; API #173-33780

Pioneer Nat. Res. USA, Inc.
McDaniel '33' #5
Fry Sak Farms (Devonian)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-352, Blk 35, T4S, Sec 33; 196 FNEL 1200 FWL of lse; 2480 FSL 1200 FWL of survey; 10.2 miles SW of Garden City; obj: 11400; permit #726154; API #173-34549

Howard County

Endeavor Energy Res. L.P.
Guitar '26' #4
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Mon Bak (Strawn)-D; Bauer & Cockrell; A-575, Blk A, Sec 26; 467 FWL 1400 FSL of lse; 467 FWL 1400 FSL 7.8 miles SE of Knott; obj: 12000; permit #729179; API #227-36836

Linn Oper., Inc.
Barnes 3 #9 C
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Spraberry, E (TR. Area 7400-8860)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-306, Blk 33, T1N, Sec 9; 467 FSL 467 FEL of lse; 354 FNL 2186 FWL of survey; 6 miles NW of Big Spring; obj: 11000; permit #729115; API #227-36835

Martin County

Pioneer Nat. Res. USA, Inc.
Jim Tom '20' #3
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Hill Ranch (Miss)-D; T & P RR Co./King, F A; A-1059, Blk 35, T1S, Sec 20; 467 FNL 660 FWL of lse; 467 FNL 660 FWL of survey; 2.8 miles E of Stanton; obj: 11400; permit #724114; API #317-37177

Henry Res. LLC
Kimberly #503
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Betty Sue (Strawn)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-448, Blk 39, T1S, Sec 5; 6010 FWL 28495 FSL of lse; 660 FWL 1980 FSL of survey; 23.1 miles W of Stanton; obj: 12500; permit #729308; API #317-37383

Energen Res. Corp.
Jones-Holton 246 #1WD
Spraberry (Trend Area)-D; Wheeler CSL; A-610, Blk N/A, Sec 246; 975 FWL 9969 FNL of lse; 1013 FSL 6595 FEL of survey; 21 miles NW of Stanton; obj: 6200; permit #729336; API #317-37387

Midland County

Windsor Permian, LLC
ST W #612
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Circle Bar, East (Atoka)-D; T & P RR Co./Crowley, H E; A-701, Blk 40, T2S, Sec 6; 7373 FSL 480 FWL of lse; 2706 FSL 480 FWL of survey; 4.5 miles W of Midland; obj: 11500; permit #728959; API #329-37774

Linn Oper., Inc.
Nobles #30JJ
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Betty Sue (Strawn)-D; T & P RR Co./Quinn, C; A-818, Blk 40, T1S, Sec 30; 3475 FWL 4172 FNL of lse; 1150 FSL 3475 FWL of survey; 8 miles W of Midland; obj: 12000; permit #724774; API #329-37630

Pioneer Nat. Res. USA, Inc.
Fischer '10' #6
Spraberry (Trend Area) & Berryhill (Strawn)-D; T & P RR Co./Tolleson, I J; A-1096, Blk 36, T2S, Sec 10; 1980 FEL 660 FSL of lse; 1980 FEL 660 FSL of survey; 17.8 miles NE of Midland; obj: 10800; permit #729400; API #329-37781

Reeves County

Petrohawk Oper. Co.
Beckham Caldwell 5 43 #1H
Two Georges (Bone Spring)-D; H & GN RR Co.; A-284, Blk 13, Sec 147; 467 FEL 467 FSL of lse; 517 FEL 2173 FNL of survey; 13 miles S of Pecos; obj: 13500; permit #712212; API #389-32785

Ward County

Chesapeake Oper., Inc.
Magic Mn 33-64 WRD #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-D; H & TC RR Co./Trevey, E; A-789, Blk 33, Sec 64; 880 FNWL 5100 FNEL of lse; 880 FNWL 5100 FNEL of survey; 13.9 miles NW of Barstow; obj: 12000; permit #729165; API #475-35948

Energen Res. Corp.
University 20-17 #1
Sandbar (Bone Spring) & Two Georges (Bone Spring)-D; UL; A-U59, Blk 17, Sec 20; 467 FSWL 567 FSEL of lse; 467 FSWL 567 FSEL of survey; 2.1 miles W of Pyote; obj: 11500; permit #729152; API #475-35946

Texas RRCD 8A

Borden County

Estancia Oil & Gas, LLC
Scott '21-G' #7
Clayton Ranch, N. (Spraberry)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-137, Blk 31, T6N, Sec 21; 2075 FNL 50 FEL of lse; 2075 FNL 50 FEL of survey; 10 miles NW of Gail; obj: 6000; permit #727328; API #033-32181

Estancia Oil & Gas, LLC
Scott '21-G' #7
Clayton Ranch, N. (Spraberry)-D; T & P RR Co.; A-137, Blk 31, T6N, Sec 21; 2075 FNL 50 FEL of lse; 2075 FNL 50 FEL of survey; 10 miles NW of Gail; obj: 6000; permit #727328; API #033-32181

Dickenson County

Schalk Oil Co., Inc.
Jones' A #10
Girard, E. (Tannehill)-Re-Enter; Thorpson/R M; A-535, Blk AB, Sec 26; 550 FEL 249 FNL of lse; 550 FEL 1738 FSL of survey; 12.7 miles SE of Spur; obj: 4350; permit #729155; API #125-31258

Gaines County

XTO Energy Inc.
Russell Clearfork Unit #331
Russell (Clearfork Consolidated)-D; CCSD & RGNG RR Co./Ross, T; A-628, Blk G, Sec 454; 3978 FNL 5422 FWL of lse; 1325 FNL 25 FEL of survey; 8.5 miles SW of Denver City; obj: 8100; permit #728983; API #165-37505

XTO Energy Inc.
Russell Clearfork Unit #478
Russell (Clearfork Consolidated)-D; CCSD & RGNG RR Co./Loftis, J L; A-768, Blk G, Sec 418; 2528 FNL 5713 FWL of lse; 125 FSL 430 FWL of survey; 8 miles SW of Denver City; obj: 8100; permit #729180; API #165-37509

Hockley County

Apache Corp.
East Mallet Unit #1221
Slaughter-D; Scurry CSL Labor 13 League 49; A-183, Blk N/A, Sec N/A; 2706 FSL 4233 FWL of lse; 191 FNL 1116 FEL of survey; 3.4 miles NW of Sundown; obj: 5500; permit #729275; API #219-37227

Apache Corp.
East Mallet Unit #166H
Slaughter-D; Scurry CSL/League 49/Labor 14; A-183, Blk N/A, Sec N/A; 10 FSL 1721 FWL of lse; 10 FSL 954 FEL of survey; 3.8 miles NW of Sundown; obj: 5300; permit #729292; API #219-37228

Apache Corp.
East Mallet Unit #168W
Slaughter-D; Scurry CSL/Labor 14 League 49; A-183, Blk N/A, Sec 49; 594 FSL 1946 FWL of lse; 594 FSL 729 FEL of survey; 3.7 miles NW of Sundown; obj: 5150; permit #725829; API #219-37229

Yoakum County

Tycoon Oper. Co., Inc.
Plains Ranch #2
Fitzgerald, East (San Andres)-D; Gibson, J H/Smith, W W; A-1344, Blk D, Sec 432; 660 FEL 660 FNL of lse; 660 FEL 660 FNL of survey; 5 miles E of Plains; obj: 5500; permit #729398; API #501-35897

Tycoon Oper. Co., Inc.
Plains Ranch #2
Fitzgerald, East (San Andres)-D; Gibson, J H/Smith, W W; A-1344, Blk D, Sec 432; 660 FEL 660 FNL of lse; 660 FEL 660 FNL of survey; 5 miles E of Plains; obj: 5500; permit #729398; API #501-35897

New Mexico

Eddy County

Lime Rock Res. A, LP
Eagle 26 N Fed #6
Red Lake; T17S, R27E, Sec 26; 330 FSL 2310 FWL; 8.5 miles SE of Artesia; Rot 4500 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-39564

COG Oper. LLC
Dodd Fed Unit #568
GB-Jackson; T17S, R29E, Sec 11; 1480 FNL 2310 FEL; 4 miles NW of Loco Hills; Rot 4550 SR/Qu/GB/SA; API #30-015-39601

Three Rivers Oper. Co. LLP
Empire 23 St #5
Empire; T17S, R28E, Sec 23; 825 FNL 990 FWL; 10 miles W of Loco Hills; Rot 5300 Glo/Yeso; API #30-015-39610

COG Oper. LLC
Dodd Fed Unit #583
GB-Jackson; T17S, R29E, Sec 11; 915 FSL 400 FWL; 4 miles NW of Loco Hills; Rot 4550 SR/Qu/GB/SA; API #30-015-39602

COG Oper. LLC
Dodd Fed Unit #535
GB-Jackson; T17S, R29E, Sec 10; 2310 FNL 990 FEL; 5 miles NW of Loco Hills; Rot 4500 SR/Qu/GB/SA; API #30-015-39596

COG Oper. LLC
Dodd Fed Unit #591
GB-Jackson; T17S, R29E, Sec 11; 400 FSL 345 FEL; 4 miles NW of Loco Hills; Rot 4550 SR/Qu/GB/SA; API #30-015-39603

COG Oper. LLC
Burch Keely Unnit #409
GB-Jackson; T17S, R29E, Sec 26; 855 FNL 2015 FEL; 4 miles SW of Loco Hills; Rot 4800 SR/Qu/GB/SA; API #30-015-39547

Cimarex Energy Co. of CO
Louisiana 1 Fee #4
Penasco Draw; T19S, R25E, Sec 1; 1650 FSL 2310 FWL; 5 miles NW of Lakewood; Rot 3000 San Andres Yeso; API #30-015-39614

COG Oper. LLC
Burch Keely Unit #814
GB-Jackson; T17S, R30E, Sec 18; 1152 FNL 497 FWL; 2 miles NW of Loco Hills; Rot 9015 SR/QU/GB/SA; API #30-015-39573

Cimarex Energy Co. of CO
Louisiana 1 Fee #8
Penasco Draw; T19S, R25E, Sec 1; 330 FSL 2310 FWL; 5 miles NW of Lakewood; Rot 3000 San Andres Yeso; API #30-015-39615

Cimarex Energy Co. of CO
Louisiana 1 Fee #1
Penasco Draw; T19S, R25E, Sec 1; 2310 FSL 1650 FWL; 5 miles NW of Lakewood; Rot 3000 San Andres Yeso; API #30-015-39613

Lea County

Paladin Energy Corp.
East Caprock SWD #5
SWD; T12S, R32E, Sec 14; 930 FNL 2290 FEL; 8 miles SE of Caprock; Rot 11700 Devonian; API #30-025-40335



A large drilling rig sits outside the Covelli Center Nov. 30 with some of the Youngstown, Ohio skyline in the background.

Mark Stahl/AP

Gas drilling boom good news for Ohio sand firms

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — The boom in drilling for natural gas trapped in layers of shale has been good news for a handful of Ohio companies that supply the type of sand needed for such drilling.

Rob Sidley's family-owned company in Thompson in northeast Ohio processes sand that is perfect for the drilling process because it's nearly 100 percent quartz as well as round, hard and water resistant. It flows like liquid and can survive heavy pressures underground.

The Akron Beacon Journal reported that companies like Sidley's have a valuable commodity since 6,000 to 8,000 tons of sand are needed to drill one well. A decade ago, such sand sold for about $35 a ton, compared to $60 to $80 a ton today.

The process for releasing gas in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations blasts thousands of gallons of sand and chemical-laced water into the shale, a process known as hydraulic fracturing.

"It's all about Mother Nature and location," said Sidley. "We just have what we have. And we love what we have. It's something special."

Ohio issued dozens of Utica and Marcellus drilling permits this year, compared to only a handful just a couple of years ago.

Sidley's firm supplies his sand to well service companies that in turn provide it to companies such as Oklahoma-based Chesapeake Energy Corp., the biggest driller in Ohio.

Sidley declined to reveal how much fracturing sand his company is expecting to produce, but the company annually produces 400,000 to 500,000 tons of sand and gravel from its 1,800-acre operation with 150 employees.

The drilling industry says fracturing has been used safely for years, while opponents worry about the possible effect on the environment.

Sidley's business is one of only a handful of sand-and-gravel operations in Ohio that produces suitable sand for fracturing, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Sands suitable for fracturing are found only in three counties, Geagua in northeast Ohio, Knox in eastern Ohio and Ross in southern Ohio, said Patrick Jacomet, executive director of the Gahanna-based Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association.

Most Ohio sands are too soft, the wrong shape or too prone to react with water and chemicals, he said.

The market for fracturing sands quadrupled from 2000 to 2009, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It said drillers used 6.5 million metric tons of sands in 2009 and that total doubled in 2010. A metric ton is 2,204 pounds.

Forty percent of industrial sand production in the United States in 2010 went to hydraulic fracturing, according to geological survey estimates. Most fracturing sands come from Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Jacomet's trade association is trying to educate its 200 members about drillers' needs and is researching other pockets of sand in Ohio that would be acceptable.

The association is also looking into a resin coating for Ohio sands to make them tougher, a process being done elsewhere.

Sidley's company is working eight-hour shifts five days a week to excavate, move, screen, wash, dry and sort the sands at its Geauga County operation. Sidley said the company could easily quadruple its production. And there's plenty of sand to dig.

"My grandchildren won't have to worry about running out in their lifetimes," said Sidley, 51, who has no grandchildren yet. "We've got a lot of sand right here."

Information from: Akron Beacon Journal, http://www.ohio.com

hearst energy

FIGHTING for VICTIMS



Chad Murray, who works part-time as a hunting guide, has struggled to rebuild his life after surviving the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Murray says he wants to help his former co-workers and families who are still dealing with the aftermath of the accident.

Hearst News Service

Deepwater Horizon survivor fights for disaster's victims

By Loren Steffy
Houston Chronicle

FERRIDAY, La. — Chad Murray was one of the last people off the Deepwater Horizon. He twice fought his way back through the burning, debris-strewn living quarters to help rescue injured co-workers, risking his life to save them from the smoke and flames.

A day and a half later, when the survivors finally arrived at shore, they were told to wait on the boat. Final preparations for their arrival supposedly weren't ready. Murray, having been through the most grueling ordeal of his life, had had enough. He walked up the gangplank anyway, and his crew mates followed him.

Now, Murray, 36, is leading the way again, determined to make sure the Deepwater Horizon's victims, its survivors and their families aren't forgotten.

Earlier this year, he settled his legal claims with Transocean, the rig's owner and his former employer, and while he can't discuss the terms, he said he accepted a lower settlement so he could move on with his life.

Last April, on the first anniversary of the disaster, he used some of the money to form DWH11.org, a charity to help families and workers affected by offshore drilling accidents.

"The focus ought to be on the people who were there and went through it," he told me at a hunting lodge here on the banks of the Mississippi where he works part-time as a guide. "Our lives have forever been changed."

Murray, the Deepwater Horizon's chief electrician before the April 20, 2010, accident that left 11 of his crew mates dead and 17 others injured, said while public attention quickly shifted to the oil spill from the plight of the crew, their ordeal was just beginning.

Some of his co-workers, several of whom he'd known since childhood, were injured so badly they may never work again.

Even for survivors like Murray, though, rebuilding their lives took months, and they still struggle with the aftermath of the accident.

"He may not have been hurt so bad physically, but he's still hurt emotionally," said Murray's stepmother, Toni Murray.

Murray remembers vividly the events of the evening of April 20, which he previously recounted before a government panel investigating the disaster.

Much of his testimony was corroborated by that of his co-workers.

That evening, Murray had been helping four technicians in the pump room, isolating power to one of the huge machines that pumped drilling mud from the well.

He stepped out to grab a tool from his shop down the hall, closing the watertight door behind him.

As he returned, he heard what sounded like a loud hissing. Suddenly, the rig was shaken by a massive explosion and everything went dark.

Disoriented, Murray managed to scramble back to his shop and grab a flashlight, then make his way to the pump room door.

When he opened it, all he could see was black smoke.

The four men he'd been working with moments earlier would be among the 11 dead.

More explosions soon followed, and Murray realized the rig was in serious trouble. A panic ensued as the crew scrambled to reach the lifeboats.

Murray headed for the nearest exit, picking his way through the living quarters, which he said looked as if a tornado had ravaged them. Ceiling tiles and debris were strewn everywhere.

As he made his way down a hallway, he ran across Miles "Randy" Ezell, one of the toolpushers, who was kneeling over a pile of debris.

Ezell told Murray that Buddy Trahan, a Transocean manager, was under the pile, injured too badly to walk. Murray and another worker, Stan Cardin, went to find a stretcher.

By the time they returned, Ezell had found someone else under the debris - Wyman Wheeler, another toolpusher who was from Murray's hometown of Monterey, La.

They'd known each other since childhood. While Cardin helped move Trahan to one of the lifeboats, Murray left to find another stretcher for Wheeler.

Racing back into the flames and smoke for a second time, he and Ezell were able to get Wheeler on the stretcher and move him onto the deck.

They arrived just after the last lifeboat had left. A few more remaining crew members had come down from the control room, and together they were able to deploy an inflatable life raft.

Murray and Ezell scrambled in to help load Wheeler's stretcher.

On the ride down from the deck, the raft flipped one way and then another. As it hit the water, Murray thought of his daughter, Maddy, and said a prayer.

"I promised the Good Lord that if he'd get me home to my little girl, I would never go back," he said.

He and the others in the raft were eventually rescued by a nearby supply boat.

Murray kept his promise and hasn't returned to offshore work.

He remains convinced that the accident never should have happened, that the 11 men, whose bodies remain with the Deepwater Horizon wreckage on the sea floor a mile below the Gulf of Mexico, never should have died.

He's still bitter about what he sees as a lack of concern for employees by Transocean, and a reluctance on the part of the entire offshore industry to do more to protect rig workers.

DWH11 is a way to pay tribute to those he died, he said.

"I've done for them what they would have done for me," he said. "It's a brotherhood out there, and everybody took care of everybody else."

Last April, Murray started an electrical contracting business, but even combined with his work as a hunting guide, his income is a sliver of what he made working offshore.

"It's not nearly as much money as I used to make, but I've been blessed," he said, glancing at Maddy, who's now 6 years old. "I get to come home every night."

Loren Steffy is the Chronicle's business columnist.

sculpting NATURE

Sculptor seeks to celebrate nature with his work

By Georgia Temple
Entertainment Editor

Considered one of the world's foremost wildlife sculptors, Kent Ullberg traces his passion for nature to his heritage. His ancestors were seafarers, also known as Vikings.

"I come from a fishing village on the northwest coast of Sweden," said Ullberg, whose work is on display at the Museum of the Southwest. "My relatives have been seafarers for generations. Vikings — that's my heritage. I'm totally steeped in that. Many of my ancestors lost their life at sea. My great-grandfather and all hands were lost in the North Sea.

"Having grown up close to nature in a fishing village, I've always been fascinated with nature. In the summer, I worked on fishing trollers there in the North Sea. Many members of the family had fishing boats. I grew up with a classical consciousness — close to nature. And my dad dragged me all over Scandinavia in the summer. Dad was looking at subjects to paint, and he set up an easel for me."

His father taught him an appreciation for music.

"My dad was also a musician, and I play the violin and guitar," Ullberg said in a telephone interview. "I don't play well anymore, but I studied classical violin. My dad made me practice, and I played in the city school orchestra."

As a teenager, Ullberg discovered crossing the school grounds with a violin case "wasn't cool" and didn't encourage "chicks." Still, he "grew up with an intense love for music." When he went to the Swedish Konstfack University College of Art in Stockholm, he discovered it "was cool playing the guitar. I'd get any chicks playing guitar."

That was in the 1960s. Modernism was in vogue.

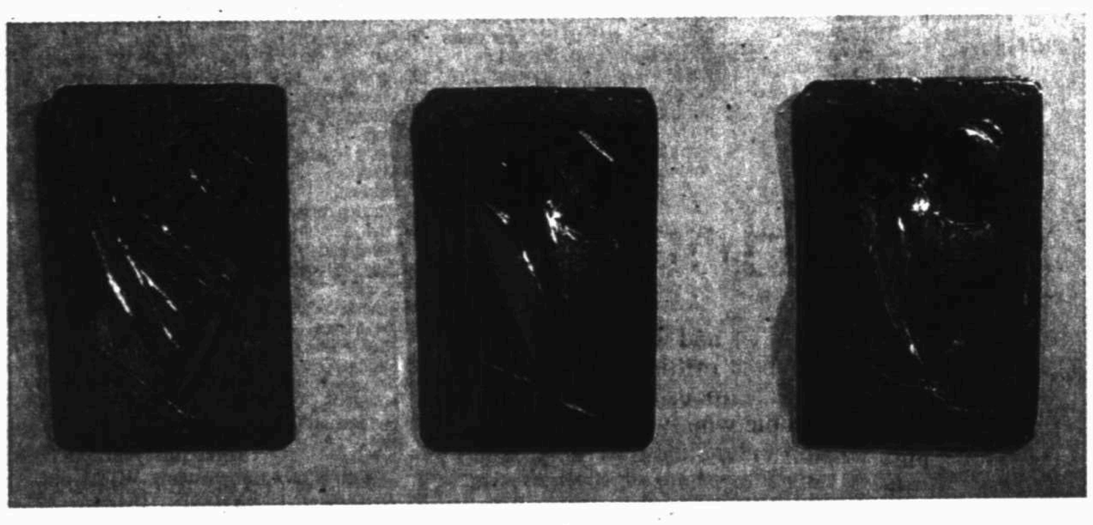
"I wanted to document my feelings about nature," Ullberg said. "That wasn't the language of the time. My professor, a kind, sweet person, took me aside one time and asked, 'Why are you doing this? This isn't the language of our time. You have to do your own thing.'

"I said, 'This is my own thing.' He said, 'I'm sorry to tell you, you never will make a living sculpting animals or sculpting nature.'"

Ullberg took his teacher's "word on it." When he graduated from art school, he went

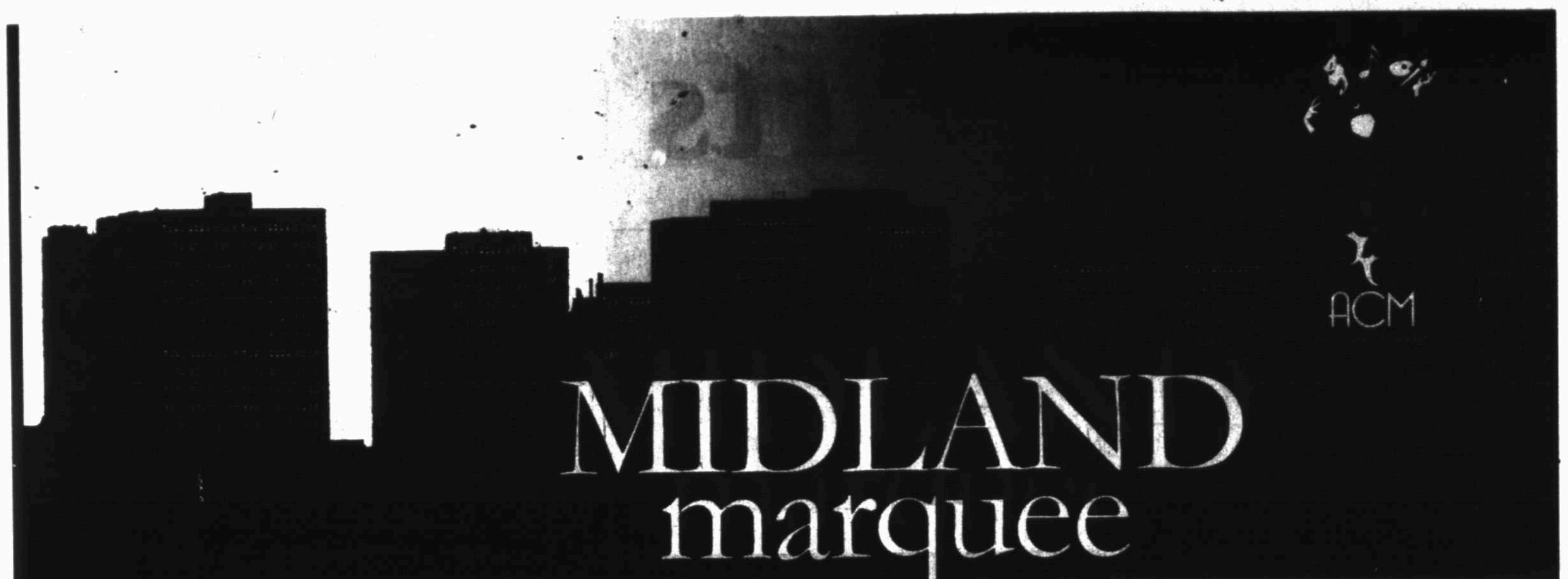
Please see SCULPT/3H







Kent Ullberg's sculptures on display at the Museum include: AT TOP Ring of Bright Water, bronze; LEFT Blind Fiddler, bronze; FAR LEFT Wind in the Sails, bronze; ABOVE Evolution Triptych, stainless steel.



THE ARTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS
A project of Arts Council of Midland
P.O. Box 3494, Midland, Texas 79702
432-687-1149
FAX: 432-687-1600

SUNDAY

ARTS COUNCIL OF MIDLAND HOPES THAT EVERYONE HAS A WONDERFUL AND SAFE NEW YEAR!

Arts Council of Midland: Midland's non-profit arts council and umbrella organization for performing and visual arts organizations, 401 W. Texas Ave., Suite 508, 687-1149. EXHIBIT: Art in the Park, four selected sculptures: "Rolling Keel" by Kurt Dyrhaug of Beaumont, "Higher Reaching" by John Frost of Irving, "Mata Hambre" by Tommy Gregory of San Antonio, and "Untitled" by Kyle Olson of Seguin. Windlands Park, 1001 West Dengar, during park hours. Free.

Arts Council of Midland is now accepting applications from visual artists for our 29th Annual Celebration of the Arts, to be held May 18-20, 2012. Celebration of the Arts is a three-day arts festival featuring the best in visual and performing artists from throughout Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado and beyond. Interested artists may submit an application with three images on CD for this juried show. Postmark deadline for entries is Feb. 15, 2012. For a prospectus, please contact: Arts Council of Midland, Celebration of the Arts, P.O. Box 3494, Midland, Texas 79702, call 687-1149, or email lorri@acmidland.org for more information.

MONDAY

The Haley Library and History Center: Permanent collections including paintings, bronzes, firearms and artifacts that exhibit pioneer settlement of the Great Southwest and the cattle industry, 1805 West Indiana Ave. 432-682-5785. Regular hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

Midland Arts Association: EXHIBIT: Works of a local artist for the month of January, Community National Bank lobby, 401 West Texas Ave. Regular hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday.

Midland County Public Library: Circulating art prints: hundreds of art prints are available for circulation. 301 West Missouri Ave. For more information call Diana at 688-4334.

Midland County Historical Museum: EXHIBIT: An exhibit honoring World War II veterans is now in place, in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission's three-year program. Permanent exhibits: Native American artifacts; early Midland photos and relics; replica of Midland Man discovery; early obituary files available for research, 301 West Missouri Ave. Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 2-5 p.m. Call 682-2931 or 688-8947. Free.

Midland Palette Club: EXHIBIT: Works of a local artist for the month of January, Chase Bank lobby, 2301 West Wall St. Monday-Friday, banking hours.

TUESDAY

Blakemore Planetarium: Permanent exhibits are open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with admission charged. Closed Sunday and Monday. A Sky Show is playing every Tuesday through Friday at 4:15 p.m. and Friday evenings at 7:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. with two shows on Saturdays at 1:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. with admission charged. 1705 West Missouri Ave. For more information call 683-2882.

Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum: EXHIBIT: A World of Masks: From the Collection of Jim Collett. This exhibition, on view through Jan, 31, will look at masks from a variety of cultures and countries. Also featured will be masks created by students of Bowie Fine Arts Academy. There will be an activity area to make your own mask and create a play based on the masks you made. Permanent exhibits include "My Town", "Beach Babies" and "Touch of Sound". Regular museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 2-5 p.m., 1705 West Missouri Ave., 683-2882. Admission charged.

Midland Palette Club: PAINT TIME: Join us for painting time each Tuesday from 9 a.m.-12 noon, 907 West Wadley Ave. For more information call 352-8297.

WEDNESDAY

Parker House Ranching Museum: Permanent collection of Tom Lea and his work, also featuring area local history exhibits. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 1118 Maple, Odessa, 432-335-9918. Free.

THURSDAY

Midland County Library: CLASS: Comic Illustration Class: For anyone who has picked up a pencil and wanted to learn to draw comics. For ages 14 and up. 6:30 p.m. Midland County Public Library, 301 West Missouri Ave. For more information call Diana at 688-4334.

SATURDAY

Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale: CONCERT: "The Planets: A Multimedia Odyssey," 7 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. Southeast corner of FM 1788 & Hwy 191. For more information call 563-0921 or visit www.mosc.org. Admission charged

Arts Council of Midland maintains a calendar of all known arts-related activities. To avoid conflicts with other organizations, please call 687-1149, P.O. Box 3494, Midland, TX 79702; or email lorri@acmidland.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Arts and Entertainment opportunities in the Permian Basin Jan. 1-7

SATURDAY

Special concert

Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale will perform Gustav Holst's "The Planets: A Multimedia Odyssey" at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. Southeast corner of FM 1788 & Highway 191.

The show has the orchestra performing while actual NASA Space Video is synchronized on a 40-foot screen above the orchestra. Each movement of the piece is a planet: Mars, The Bringer of War; Venus, The Bringer of Peace; Mercury, The Winged Messenger; Jupiter, The Bringer of Jollity; Saturn, The Bringer of Old Age; Uranus, The Magician; and Neptune, The Mystic.

The show runs about 45-50 minutes in length without intermission and seats are $40 each.

To purchase tickets, call MOSC at 563-0921.

UPCOMING

Concert

Grammy winner and Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Ray Price teams with "Love in the Hot Afternoon" Gene Watson for a concert tour in 2012 that brings them to the Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center Jan. 10.

Price sings honky-tonk, country, pop, blues, jazz and anything in between. His well-known hits include "City Lights," "Make the World Go Away," "For the Good Times" and "You're the Best Thing that Ever Happened To Me."

Watson built a reputation for soulful ballads in the classic country tradition. Some of his many hits include "Love in the Hot Afternoon," "Where Love Begins," "Should I Come Home (Or Should I Go Crazy)" and "Nothing Sure Looked Good on You."

Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from $25 to $65. They may be purchased at the Wagner-Noel box office, www.wagner-noel.com or by calling 552-4430.

Today's Crossword Puzzle brought to you by Quiroz Custom Home Builders

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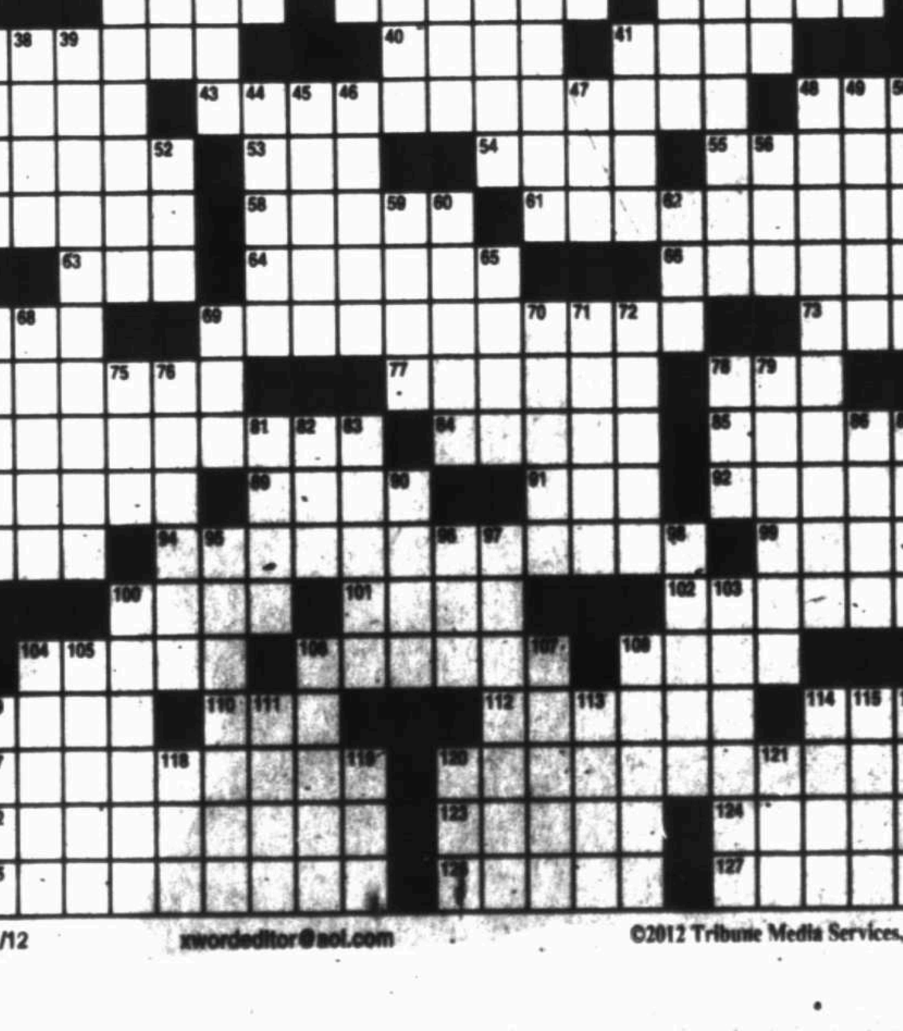
Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"JANUARY FIRST"
By GIA CHRISTIAN

ACROSS
1 Office malfunction
6 Empty the Recycle Bin, e.g.
11 Hit the snooze button too many times
20 Campus town near Bangor
21 "The Bells of St. __"
22 Persona non grata
23 Advice to a nervous skier
25 Hot air in the conference room?
26 "Don't let it get cold!"
27 Hi-fi component
28 Where a herd is heard
29 H.S. proficiency tests
30 Fashion giant
31 Prepares, as mussels
35 Crewmate of Spock and Sulu
37 Cheats on a test, in a way
40 R.E.M.'s "The __ Love"
41 Flu 9-Down
42 Mil. mail drops
43 "Eat my wake!" e.g.?
48 Gravy, on menus
51 High-pitched barks
53 Hosp. drama locale, usually
54 Japanese golfer Aoki
55 Something in the oven
57 Comparatively crafty
58 Bath salt fragrance
61 Small-scale
63 Spokesceleb for Fiat
64 Post-WWI Treasury secretary
66 Girl in a Beach Boys hit
67 Menlo Park wizard, initially
69 "Ode on a Grecian Urn" genre?
73 Wee lad
74 Not hoodwinked by
77 Big name in little suits
78 Singer Winehouse
80 No longer on speaking terms
84 Remove paint from
85 D'Artagnan's chronicler
88 Nicholas Gage bestseller
89 "I __ a loss for words!"
91 Urgent offshore signal
92 Barrel support
93 "__ Rosenkavalier": Strauss opera
94 Halloween carving of a Yankee hero?
99 "Sounds good to me!"
100 Reject as false
101 Geometry class calculation
102 Trojan War warrior
104 "Try to __ my way": Beatles lyric
106 Like some braids
108 Melbourne greeting
109 Resistance units
110 Serious conflict
112 Eucalyptus lovers
114 Place to hoist a pint
117 First punch of an old Roman bout?
120 Northern African quip?
122 Covent Garden notable
123 Concrete hunks
124 "Storage Wars" network
125 Like a couch potato
126 Long-eared critters
127 Online VIP

DOWN
1 Monologue bit
2 Bizet's "Toreador Song," e.g.
3 Snakes' renewal process
4 Like some phone nos.
5 Comfort food in a deep dish
6 Arabian chief
7 Rani's spouse
8 Skunk cabbage and philodendron
9 Indication
10 Eerie ability, for short
11 Transitive vb. follower
12 Meat-yielding calves
13 To be, in Arles
14 Measure again
15 Nestlé's __-Caps
16 Chaise __
17 Peak in the 59-Down
18 Big name in fashion
19 Hardy heroine
24 Reform Party founder Perot
30 Put to rest, as rumors
32 Ship's hdg.
33 Atmospheric prefix
34 "Divine" showbiz nickname
36 "Yay!"
37 Low isles
38 European automaker
39 Multitalented court clown?
41 Quite a long stretch
44 Fictional Stone Age redhead
45 Not as friendly
46 Considers carefully, with "over"
47 __ alai
48 Nattily dressed Broadway character?
49 Dietary std.
50 Stand in good __
52 "No more seats" sign
56 Plains Indian
59 European peaks
60 Places for chickens
62 Certain tax shelter, for short
65 Nair rival, once
67 Rough wool cloth
68 Seating request
69 Bon Jovi of rock
70 Far from verbose
71 Village celebrity?
72 Small group of trees
75 Bird by the beach
76 Eastern island capital
78 Much junk mail
79 Kind of conspiracy
81 Like venison
82 Ruler of anc. Rome
83 Port of Senegal
86 Saucony rival
87 D.C. hundred
90 Fade
95 Work the kinks out of
96 Former Giants pitcher Robb
97 African scavengers
98 Pitching coach's aid
100 Appetite
103 Undemanding classes
104 Mold
105 Nestle securely
106 Monastery resident
107 Wedding dances
108 "The __ Menagerie"
109 Eyes, in Oaxaca
111 "__ girl!"
113 Songstress Lane
114 Two-thumbs-down reviews
115 Salon style
116 Answering machine cue
118 Bert Bobbsey's twin
119 Suffix with access
120 Webelos' org.
121 Loud bird



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GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Down to the bare bones

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠K 5 2
♡9 6 4
◇K Q 3 2
♣10 6 4

WEST
♠Q 7 6 3
♡K Q 5
◇10
♣A 9 8 7 3

EAST
♠J 9 8 4
♡10 7 3
◇9 5
♣K J 5 2

SOUTH
♠A 10
♡A J 8 2
◇A J 8 7 6 4
♣Q

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1◇
1NT	2◇	3♣	3♡
Pass	3♠	Pass	5◇
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

By partnership agreement, West's one no-trump showed clubs and a major suit. Even with that weapon in our arsenal, we would have preferred a takeout double since the West hand is suitable for play in any one of the three unbid suits. The rest was natural, with North's three spades suggesting three no-trump as a final contract.

East's club bid persuaded West to select the ace of that suit for his opening lead and he continued with another club. Declarer ruffed, cashed the ace and king of spades and then ruffed a spade high. Dummy was entered with the king of diamonds and a club was ruffed to complete the elimination of the black suits.

A trump to the queen extracted the last enemy fang, and it was time to start on hearts. Declarer led the nine and, when East followed low, declarer ran it to West's queen.

The defender now had a choice of ways to commit suicide. A heart would be into declarer's ace-jack tenace, and a black suit would allow declarer to discard a heart from dummy while ruffing in hand.

Without a club lead, alert defense can defeat the hand. East can win the first club lead and return a heart, assuring West of two tricks in the suit while that defender still has exit cards. Or a shift by West to a trump or a spade at trick two would have the same result. Declarer does not have the entries to execute an endplay. Try it if you don't believe us.

A happy, healthy, prosperous new year to our readers everywhere.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012:
You become more willing to express your vulnerability. As a result, you attract many people and opportunities. You are determined to have your way, and often create more tension. You give mixed messages this year. ARIES wants what they want. Watch out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You snap, crackle and pop as the new year enters its first day. Don't wonder why some people might be distancing themselves. Tonight: A special talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You might return to a former stubbornness where you say little, or nothing at all! Give it up and have a discussion later in the day. Tonight: Take a needed rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Let the good times flourish and flow. To make this a vintage first day of the year, choose the perfect company, activity and location. Tonight: You are all smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You are busy making sure everyone is OK and thinking very little about yourself. Tonight: You are very much your own person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You need an escape after having to be so present in the moment. Go off and make things happen for you. Tonight: Follow your imagination.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You smile, and others respond. But at first the apple of your eye might not respond. Give him or her the space to unwind and relax. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Others are unusually challenging, especially in the morning. Sleep in late or ignore what is happening around you. By the afternoon, a talk evolves. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ You are one of those people who is focused on the task at hand, which could look like supporting your team in front of the TV screen. Tonight: Only relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Where did this dynamic person come from? You have always been like that, but now you have the energy to show the real you. Tonight: Live for now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You demand a lot, but not so much from your daily life. Hanging close to home suits you fine. Tonight: Don't make it more complicated than it needs to be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Getting you off the phone or to cut a chat short could be close to impossible. You find yourself preoccupied catching up on others' news. Tonight: Make special time for a special friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Take your time; treat a loved one or dear friend as you would like to be treated. Tonight: Treat a tired loved one to a massage.

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BORN TODAY
American seamstress Betsy Ross (1752), patriot Paul Revere (1735), musician Joe McDonald (1942)

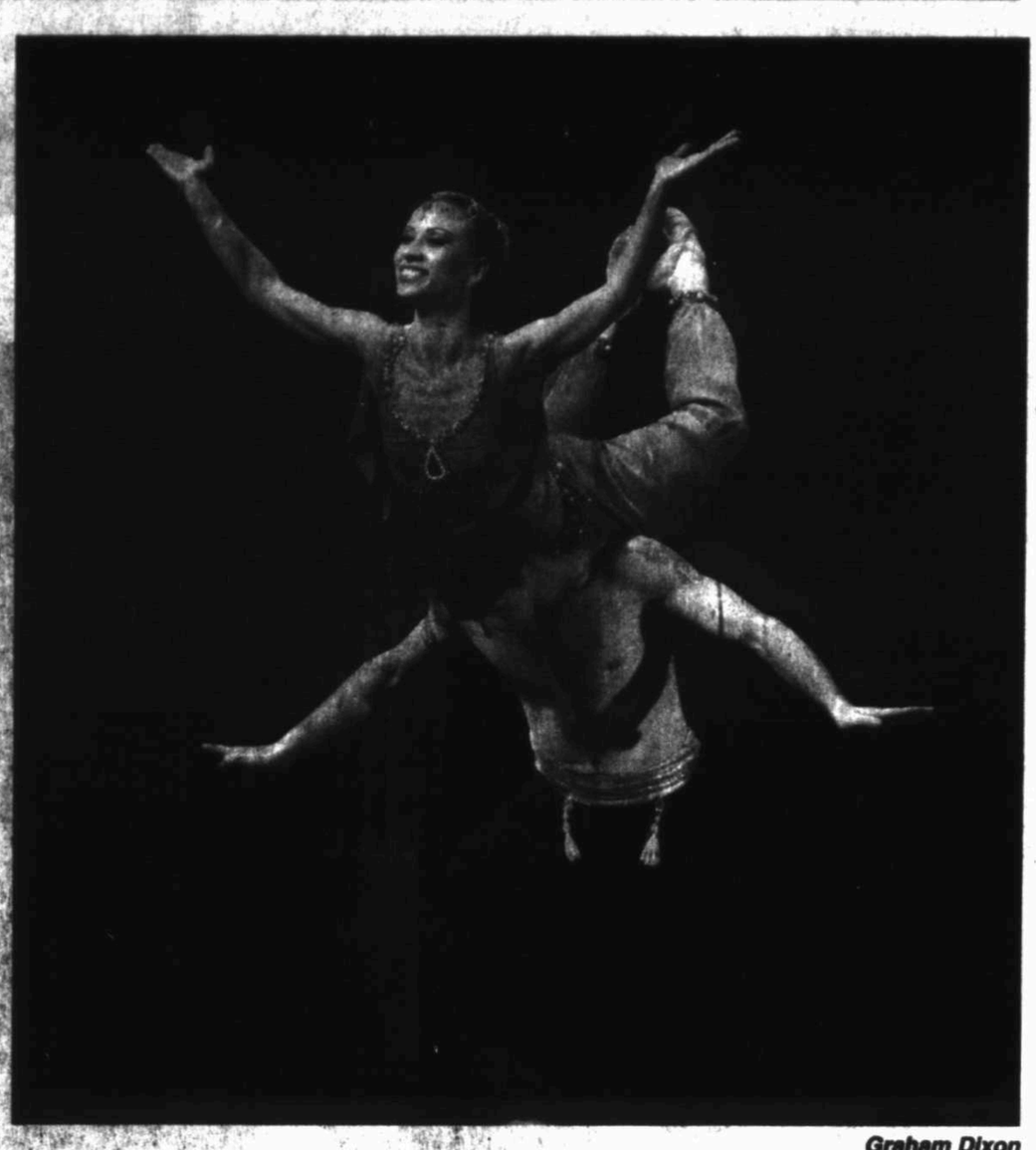
ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

J	A	M	U	P	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	O	V	E	R	S	L	E	P	T
O	R	O	N	O	■	M	A	R	Y	S	■	B	E	T	E	N	O	I	R	E
K	I	L	L	T	H	E	J	U	M	P	■	J	A	R	G	O	N	G	A	S
E	A	T	■	P	R	E	A	M	P	■	■	■	L	E	A	■	G	E	D	S
■	■	■	D	I	O	R	■	S	T	E	A	M	S	■	U	H	U	R	A	■
C	O	P	I	E	S	■	■	■	O	N	E	I	■	A	G	U	E	■	■	■
A	P	O	S	■	S	W	I	M	M	E	R	S	J	E	E	R	■	J	U	S
Y	E	L	P	S	■	I	C	U	■	■	I	S	A	O	■	R	O	A	S	T
S	L	Y	E	R	■	L	I	L	A	C	■	M	I	N	I	A	T	U	R	E
■	■	J	L	O	■	M	E	L	L	O	N	■	■	■	R	H	O	N	D	A
T	A	E	■	■	J	A	R	S	P	O	E	T	I	C	A	■	■	T	A	D
W	I	S	E	T	O	■	■	■	S	P	E	E	D	O	■	A	M	Y	■	■
E	S	T	R	A	N	G	E	D	■	S	T	R	I	P	■	D	U	M	A	S
E	L	E	N	I	■	A	M	A	T	■	■	S	O	S	■	S	T	A	V	E
D	E	R	■	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	J	E	T	E	R	■	I	M	I	N
■	■	■	D	E	N	Y	■	A	R	E	A	■	■	■	A	E	N	E	A	S
■	S	E	E	I	T	■	F	R	E	N	C	H	■	G	D	A	Y	■	■	■
O	H	M	S	■	W	A	R	■	■	■	K	O	A	L	A	S	■	P	U	B
J	A	B	I	N	I	T	I	O	■	B	A	R	B	A	R	Y	J	A	P	E
O	P	E	R	A	S	T	A	R	■	S	L	A	B	S	■	A	A	N	D	E
S	E	D	E	N	T	A	R	Y	■	A	S	S	E	S	■	S	Y	S	O	P

IN THE LIMELIGHT



GRAHAM DIXON



Graham Dixon

Moscow Ballet

Sitting high on the last row of the uppermost gallery in the Noel-Wagner auditorium, the Moscow Ballet dancers resembled dreamlike visions of light and shadow that effortlessly danced around the stage during the first half of their "Nutcracker." In the second half, sitting four rows from the front of the stage, the sheer physical power, effort and tenacity of professional ballet was accentuated. Here the beauty was visceral as opposed to ethereal, and you could hear the sounds of superbly trained feet hitting the stage with a power that would break ordinary bones.

The obvious pain that Svetlana Todinova — who danced the leading role of the Dove — was in as she patiently signed posters and did photographs after the show, showed ballerinas are perhaps almost constantly on the edge of physical breakdown. What they do pushes the human body to its absolute limits.

And yet, and especially from far away, it all looks so fluid and carefree. Those two words sum up this version of the Nutcracker. Sans children, the stage looked rather bare, but the gloriously colored backdrops made up for it — at one moment showing a traditional Russian fairy-tale like house, then the inside of the house and ultimately the dreamscape in which much of the ballet takes place.

As the Ballet Master, Andrei Litvinov was Svengali-like — lean, seductive, quietly ominous at times. Yes, he was introducing an irresistible world, but one in which the imagination could run riot, and thus maybe out of control. Humorous little touches adorned the first half, like so many Christmas lights on a tree flickering temptingly on and off. A teenager is carried offstage in a fireman's lift, tantrum in full-flow. A couple of guests are a little worse for wear from drink. One dancer play acted having a bad back after quite a simple lift.

If we had to put a word to it — the terrible weight of 'deconstruction' might be laid on this "Nutcracker" — but as Ms. Todinova said to me after the show, this is a light, confectionary production that makes fun of itself as much as it is often staggeringly lovely. The snow scene was breathtaking — the dancers collapsed into an elegant demise, much as real flakes sacrifice themselves to become part of a whole. This moment was staggering.

The Arabian was more muscular than sensual, and lacked the peculiar heat that is often associated with it. The Chinese was jaw-dropping, with Abdrakhmanov Aibulat apparently oblivious to gravity as he jumped into the air and appeared suspended there until he decided to descend to earth. A bemused wonder greeted most of his moves. The Spanish included a dancer dressed as a dog who was determined to do an Elvis impression. Its relevance to the "Nutcracker?" Not much, at least superficially, but on closer inspection it is absolutely on target. Dreams are by nature random and nonsensical — so why wouldn't Masha's dream include such a seemingly spurious character?

The dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy was similarly demystified. Masked dancers made little entrances to the stage as Todinova weaved her flawless — and then they would disappear just as quickly. At the very end of this dance she was — for a brief but certain moment — a little unsteady, and made the slightest readjustment. Probably only visible to those of us a few rows from the front, it was a sweet, angelic moment.

Despite all appearances to the contrary, ballet dancers are subject to the same physical forces as all human beings. Any species that makes the unwise choice to walk on two legs is constantly in a state of nearly toppling over.

Talking with the jovial promoter of the Moscow Ballet tour after the show, it seems as if they already plan to return to the Noel-Wagner for many years to come. His praise for the facility was genuine, not stemming at all from the sycophancy that embarrassingly sometimes wafts a critic's way. He marveled at such a performing space existing "here," he said, with an expansive wave of the arm toward the desert.

We are lucky indeed.

Graham Dixon, Ph.D.
www.grahamanthonyphotography.com
www.inthelimelighton-line.com

SCULPT

From 1H

to work at the National Museum of Natural History as a researcher.

"I did taxidermy, sculpted animals for the museum," said Ullberg, who enjoys reading biographies of artists, particularly those of artists who understand that the inspiration for the creative process comes from something greater than themselves. "Then I went to study in Germany. Learned German. And I got a degree in museum exhibit sciences."

He "did a short stint" at a museum in France, while dreaming of Africa, a continent he had always wanted to explore.

"In 1967 I got hired as a taxidermist in Botswana, Africa, for a company that guided safaris. They sent me a ticket to come to Africa, and I spent seven years there. I guided safaris and met (Alex Campbell) the director of Wildlife and National Parks. A Scotsman. He found out about my background. He wanted to start a national museum of Botswana. I joined up with him, and we built the Botswana National Museum and Art Gallery."

Ullberg spent his last four years in Botswana as curator at the Botswana National Museum and Art Gallery. Through the years he had continued working with his first passion, sculpting nature.

"I studied painting in art school to fill out my curriculum," Ullberg said. "When I got my hands in clay, it was like deja vu, I fell I madly in love with it."

His time in Africa was about to come to a close.

"The Denver Museum of Natural History wanted to come on an expedition. I became their guide." He laughed and said, "I was the museum man in Botswana. I guided them in the field for probably six months. They came as a whole big group. We became good friends, and as a thank you, they sent me a ticket to visit Denver.

"That was the first time I set foot in the U.S., and I fell madly in love with the Wild West," said Ullberg, who is now a U.S. citizen. "We Europeans, we are fascinated with the Wild West. They took me to cowboy bars with sawdust on the floor up in the mountains. I loved it."

When he was offered the job of curator of the African Hall at the Denver Museum of Natural History, he accepted. In Colorado, sculptors Kenn Bunn and George Carlson, a second generation Swedish-American, introduced Ullberg to Bob Zimmerman, who had established a foundry named Art Castings of Colorado in Loveland about 30 miles north of Denver.

In July of 1974, Ullberg cast one of his pieces — a wildebeest entitled "Migration" — and entered it in a juried art show in New York. "Migration" was one of 15 plaster casts he had brought with him from Africa. To this day he still uses the same foundry.

"I won an award with my sculpture, and that got me into the foremost art gallery in Denver and gave me the courage to jump off the bridge of my extremely good paying job, and I quit in 1976," Ullberg said. "I've been doing it from there on."

Ullberg's sculptures have since been exhibited at galleries and museums throughout the world, including the National Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, Sweden; the National Gallery in Botswana, Africa; National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.; Exhibition Hall, Beijing, China; Guildhall in London; and the Salon d'Automne in Paris, France.

He has been commissioned to produce a significant number of monumental sculptures worldwide, including "Deinonychus Dinosaurs," a 25-foot monument on Logan Square, Philadelphia; a conservation fountain featuring his "Rites of Spring" stainless-steel whopping crane for the headquarters of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C.; The Broward Convention Center Marine Fountain, an extraordinary 120-foot by 150-foot monument for the City of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; a 65-foot tall installation for the Swedish Government Tele-Com Center in Stockholm; and his First National Bank "Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness" monument in Omaha.

For years Ullberg thought his talent for art came from his father. Then his mother, who was a textile artist, died, and he went home and helped clean out her studio.

"What I found was her diaries she had kept since she was a teenager," Ullberg said. "She told her whole story in art school, how she met this crazy musician. She was a waitress and my dad was playing there. They got together.

"In her diaries, she talked about all the time in art school she was studying sculpture. She took me to sculpture classes with her when I was a baby. She had sculpted my right hand when I was a year or two old. I found it in all her stuff. I always thought my art came from Dad, and I realized it was my mom."

Music has played a role in his work.

"One time I was working on a sculpture," Ullberg recalled. "I had never sculpted water before. I always have public radio on when I work and a cello concerto came on. When the concerto was done, the water was done."

His wife, Veerle, is also an integral part of his work. She runs the business, allowing him the time to sculpt, and has been instrumental in his success.

"My wife, when we first met, she stopped me from destroying my sculptures when they weren't evolving the way I wanted them to," Ullberg said. "One time I was working on a sculpture, and it wouldn't work, and it wouldn't work, and it wouldn't work. I started to smash it, and she said, 'No, no, no. Put it in a closet.'

"A year or so later I brought it out. Then my ego was gone from it. It showed me what it wanted to be. It was one of my most successful sculptures and won a gold medal. It won an award at the Cowboy Hall of Fame, and I was commissioned to do a monumental piece of it."

His son, Robert, "is a naval architect, he designs boats, private yachts," said Ullberg. And I have a grandson, Seaton, who is 15. They live in Florida. I lost one son in a car accident when he was 19."

When Ullberg decided to become a sculptor full time, he wanted to move closer to the sea.

"I looked everywhere," he said. "And then some friends I met in Africa said come to Texas and look at the Texas coast. We drove down to Corpus Christi and fell in love. We drove out to Padre island, and there was a house there with a 'for sale' sign on it.

"We'd been there for a few hours and bought a house, and that was 34 years ago. And it's been wonderful to raise two boys on Padre Island. It was great for the kids and probably has a lot to do with why my son is in the marine business."

Ullberg, who splits his time between Loveland, Colo., and Padre Island, has a history in Midland.

"When I was very poor and struggling with my work., I had an art dealer in Midland, Richard Folger and several of my pieces ended up in Midland. When I was offered to have the show in the museum, it was a no-brainer. Midland has been very important to my beginning career. Now I have a retrospective show that spans about 40 years of career that was curated by Dr. David Wagner, and it's in Midland, Texas, and I'm very grateful to have my show there."

The "bottom line" for Ullberg when it comes to his work is "to celebrate nature.

"It's my love, my intense love for nature, that's what I'm trying to say with my work. It's a passion I hope people can see when they look at my sculptures. And another thing I hope you will see when you look at it. I have a modern consciousness, not just looking at nature directly but an interpretation of nature.

"Some of my pieces are almost abstract. I'm just celebrating the form. Some are almost a direct portrait. It's a blend. I want to acknowledge having had a modern art education. Some of that is coming back to me. Now it's like having your cake and eating it, too. The thing is for a long time in my life, I thought I was born way too late. I felt like I was sort of a classical artist born into the modern era."

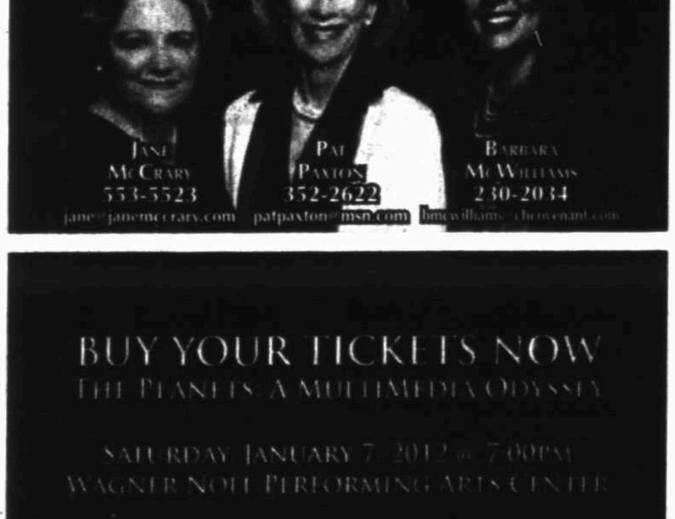
Years ago, while at an annual meeting of the National Sculpture Society, he heard a statement that changed his perspective on the timing of his life.

"A very famous modern architect Philip Johnson was being given an award for a major building he had done (in 1984) — the AT&T building in New York City (now the Sony Building). And Philip Johnson is the very, very father of modernism. He was curator one time at the Museum of Modern Art. His architecture is iconic modern office buildings, sky scrapers, and then he did the AT&T building with a totally different kind of Chippendale top to it. Inside he placed a classical sculpture.

"And at the awards presentation he said something that shook me up completely. 'While the wheel of art moves exceedingly slowly, it nevertheless comes full circle, and what was once archaic is now avant garde.' It just blew my mind. I wasn't born too late after all."

ALL THE DETAILS:

KENT ULLBERG SCULPTURES
When: through Jan. 15
Where: Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Closed today for New Year's.
Admission: donations accepted.
Info: Ullberg is recognized as a leading wildlife sculptor. His works are on public display and in private collections around the world. Curator for the exhibition is David J. Wagner, Ph.D., author of "American Wildlife Art."











the Constant



No surprise: Adele tops AP's list of best albums

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody
Associated Press

Here's the AP's list of the best albums of 2011:

1. "21," Adele: A predictable choice, to be sure. But when an artist has delivered an album that is as close to perfection as "21," where else would it fall? Inspired by heartbreak, Adele's sophomore album stirs more than just melancholy: Songs such as "Someone Like You" and "Don't You Remember" will make you want to weep at their beauty. On "21," Adele comes of age as an artist, a songwriter and one of music's great voices.

2. "Barton Hollow," The Civil Wars: Joy Williams and John Paul White aren't a couple, but they radiate passion and chemistry on their debut album — all through a batch of understated, mellow tunes that blend country with folk, acoustic pop and whatever else that gives them their intangible appeal. Their songs about aching love and broken dreams catch your ear, but it's their irresistible harmonies that will make your heart leap.

3. "4," Beyonce: On paper, some may look at "4" as a disappointment; it had no big smash singles compared with Beyonce's past albums, and underperformed commercially. Artistically, though, it was a triumph. While she still had pulsating beats on songs like "Countdown" and "End of Time," Beyonce dialed down her typical bombast for ballads, and midtempo grooves still smoldered as she relied more on passion than girl power.

4. "Watch the Throne," Jay-Z and Kanye West: While the first single, "Otis," suggested an album full of "how rich am I" rhymes from rap's most outsized figures, the album provided a much deeper narrative, as Kanye and Jay-Z mused on racism, black-on-black crime, fatherhood and other issues for an excellent album that was so much more than another vanity collaboration.

5. "Nostalgia, Ultra," Frank Ocean: Although Frank Ocean may be one of the most buzzed about new artists of 2011, you won't find his debut album in the stores, on iTunes or Amazon.com. He released it on the Internet out of frustration that it wasn't getting any traction at his label, Def Jam. We're hoping the label dragged its feet on this brilliant debut because of valid issues (maybe they were waiting on that "Hotel California" sample clearance). But it's a sad commentary on the failing label system that the young Ocean crafted a sonically rich album that shows him as hilarious, heartfelt, cocky, insecure and most important, thoughtful — and it apparently fell on deaf ears.

6. "The Movie," Betty Wright and the Roots: This soul veteran showed how real R&B should be done with her first album in 10 years. "The Movie" plays more like a lesson in music-making, celebrating classic soul with songs that are unapologetically "grown-folks music." Yet, she smartly utilizes The Roots, Snoop Dogg, Lil Wayne and other young stars (and even raps a little herself), hopefully showing that generation that great music doesn't have to be disposable — and can be timeless.

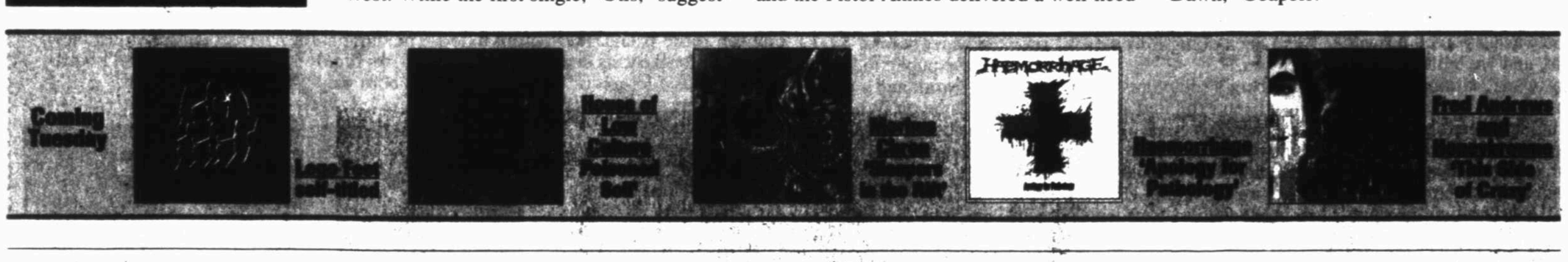
7. "Hell on Heels," Pistol Annies: Country music hasn't had a trio of chicks this raucous since, well, the Dixie Chicks — and the Pistol Annies delivered a well-needed dose of bad attitude. The trio of Miranda Lambert and friends Angaleena Presley and Ashley Monroe were the anti-Taylor Swift, with songs about pill-popping, man-stealing, family feuds and other sordid tales, told with a sharp tongue and witty tone. We hope Lambert's side project grows into something more regular.

8. "Undun," The Roots: The hip-hop band has always had more goals than just making good music, and fresh off last year's activist album "Wake Up!" with John Legend, they bring us "Undun," the story of a drug dealer whose fate is already sealed: The album just gives us a three-dimensional portrait of him and why he ended up where he did. The grooves veer from frenetic to poignant, and the album is another example of why The Roots remain among music's most innovative storytellers.

9. "Own the Night," Lady Antebellum: They may not have come up with another song that resonated quite like 2010's "Need You Now," but Lady Antebellum still has plenty of musical magic left. Their harmonies are as smooth as ever, and the tales behind the tunes are just as captivating.

10. "Hot Sauce Committee Part Two," Beastie Boys: The future Rock and Roll Hall of Famers are still serving up funky hip-hop grooves with the right blend of wackiness, and "Hot Sauce Committee, Part II" is the best example of that in years, with songs like "Funky Donkey" and "Lee Majors Come Again."

Honorable mentions: "Metals," Feist; "El Camino," The Black Keys; "Paper Airplane," Alison Krauss and Union Station; "Got to Get Back!" the Bo-Keys; "Break of Dawn," Goapele.



LIVEWIRE

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MIDLAND/ODESSA

January

4 **Fallujah Aegaeon** @ Pine Box
4 **Bobby Champion** @ The Detour
5 **800 Mile Monday, The Dan Family, Walker and the Texas Dangers** @ New Blue Max
5 **Mark McKinney** @ Rockin Rodeo
6 **Eli Young Band, Seth Candan** @ Dos Amigos
6-7 **Kevin Ochs** @ Riley's
6-7 **Dingo Sanctuary** @ Your Place
6-7 **Grupo Vida (aka Electric Cowboys)** @ The Bar
7 **Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys** @ Stardust Club
7 **2 Steps Back** @ Lone Star Bar
7 **Brandon Rhyder** @ Sandhills Rodeo
10 **Ray Price, Gene Watson** @ Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
11 **Bobby Champion** @ The Detour
12-13 **Stinky Johnson** @ Marie's Drive Inn
14 **Casey Donahew Band** @ Dos Amigos
15 **Graham Lindsey, Stevie Tombstone** @ New Blue Max
16 **Float Face Down, Adaliah, The Oppressor, I, Apparatus, Victor Shores** @ Pine Box
17 **Viva La Fox, Joe Buck Yourself and I** @ New Blue Max
18 **Bobby Champion** @ The Detour
19 **Kyle Bennett Band** @ Rockin Rodeo
20 **Easton Corbin** @ Dos Amigos
20 **3 Lit Pigz** @ Buffalo Wild Wings (Odessa)
20 **The Rankin Twins** @ Lone Star Bar
20-21 **Black Eye Shiner** @ Hot Shots
21 **Xerxes, Code Orange Kids, Black Lantern, Calloused, Fourarms** @ Pine Box
21-22 **Kevin Ochs** @ Flash's Cantina
23 **As Hell Retreats, Sovreign Strength, King Conquer, Gideon** @ Pine Box
25 **Bobby Champion** @ The Detour
26 **Brandon Rhyder** @ Rockin Rodeo
27 **Kevin Fowler** @ Graham's
27 **Cory Yeager Band** @ Detour
27-28 **3 Lit Pigz** @ Your Place
28 **Molly Gene One Whoaman Band, Reverend Deadeye** @ New Blue Max

February

3 **Chad Johnson** @ Lone Star Bar
3 **Blue Midnight** @ The Detour
4 **Battle of the Bands** @ Dos Amigos
9 **Vanis, The Beautiful Ones, Bent Life** @ Pine Box
11-12 **3 Lit Pigz** @ Flash's Cantina
14 **Suicide Silence** @ Dos Amigos
14 **Rich O'Toole** @ Yucca Theater
15 **Future Ghosts, To Speak of Wolves, Write This Down, Phinehas** @ Pine Box
23 **Fred Andrews and Honeybrowne** @ Rockin' Rodeo
24 **Run Home Jack** @ The Detour
24-25 **3 Lit Pigz** @ Your Place
25 **Brian Keane** @ Lone Star Bar

March

[illegible] Watson @ Graham's
[illegible] Classics — Madmen Across the Water: Elton John Tribute featuring the Midland/Odessa Symphony and Choir @ Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
6 **The Water Coolers** @ MHS auditorium
9-10 **Black Eye Shiner** @ Hot Shots
10 **The Fab Five** @ Ector Theatre
15 **Diamond Dust** @ The Detour
17-18 **3 Lit Pigz** @ Flash's Cantina
17 **Filthy Still, The Johnson Creek Stranglers** @ New Blue Max
25 **Anna Wilson** @ MHS auditorium
27 **Take Me Home** — Music of John Denver @ MHS auditorium

April

13 **Royal Tailor, Casting Crowns, Matthew West, Lindsey McCaul** @ Ector County Coliseum
20 **B.J. Thomas** @ CAF Hangar

May

3 **Blackguard, Kittie, The Agonist** @ Dos Amigos
4 **Wade Bowen** @ Fiesta West Texas
12 **The Shades** @ Shack in the Back
17-19 **Randy Rogers Band, Casey Donahew Band, Roger Creager, Larry Joe Taylor, Kyle Park, Bart Crow Band, Johnny Cooper, Rich O'Toole, Bleu Edmondson, Mark McKinney, Jonathan Tyler & The Northern Lights, No Justice, Tejas Brothers, Cody Johnson Band, Kyle Bennett, Adam Hood, Buckshot Bradley, Curtis Grimes** @ Crudefest

LUBBOCK

January

16 **Supersuckers, Reverend Horton Heat** @ Wreckers

February

11 **Uncle Lucius** @ Blue Light
16 **Brad Paisley, The Band Perry, Scotty McCreery** @ United Spirit Arena
18 **MercyMe, Tenth Avenue North, Lecrae, Hawk Nelson, Disciple, Sidewalk Prophets, Rend Collective Experience** @ United Spirit Arena

NEW MEXICO

January

14 **The Pointer Sisters** @ IOMG
20 **Dwight Yoakum** @ IOMG

DALLAS-FORT WORTH

January

13 **Wu-Tang Clan** @ House of Blues
19 **Tedeschi Trucks Band, the BoDeans** @ House of Blues
20 **Tool** @ Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie
21 **The Civil Wars, The Staves** @ House of Blues
27 **Keb' Mo', Anders Osborne** @ South Side Music Hall
27 **Shelby Lynne** @ The Kessler Theater
28 **Bryan Adams** @ Majestic Theater



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