MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

IMPROVING LIVES

Meet the teacher picked as this week's Classroom Pioneer.

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TIDE ROLLS TO WIN

In what become a hotly contested game, the University of Alabama Crimson Tide topped a tough Clemson squad to win this year's national championship.

Page 1C

Guns, test results topics at school board meeting

Members to vote in the future about whether to post warning signs; Warren notes high cost

By Cassie Burton
cburton@mrt.com

The Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and the new handgun open-carry laws were the main topics Monday at the Midland ISD board meeting.

Executive Director of Accountability Elise Kail and Chief Academic Officer Patrick Jones gave a review of the TAPR that highlighted six areas, among them campus performance objectives and end-of-course results and Leap4ward.

The board had been briefed on the district's performance in the fall, but Texas Education Code requires that the information be reviewed again after the Texas Education Agency releases the state's results, according to Superintendent Ryder Warren. MISD scored below the state average in all criteria for post-secondary readiness and advanced standard but fared about the same or slightly better compared to other districts in West Texas.

One highlight was that, compared to 94.4 percent in 2013-14, the first semester's attendance for this year was 95.09 percent.

"We've already had growth in that area due to internal accountability focused on that," Kail said.

Jones and Executive Director of Professional Development Jill Rivera also presented on "Eduphoria" and "Excellence in Teaching," programs geared toward recognizing areas where students tend to fall short of state standards and preparing teachers with plans for when learning occurs with students and when it doesn't.

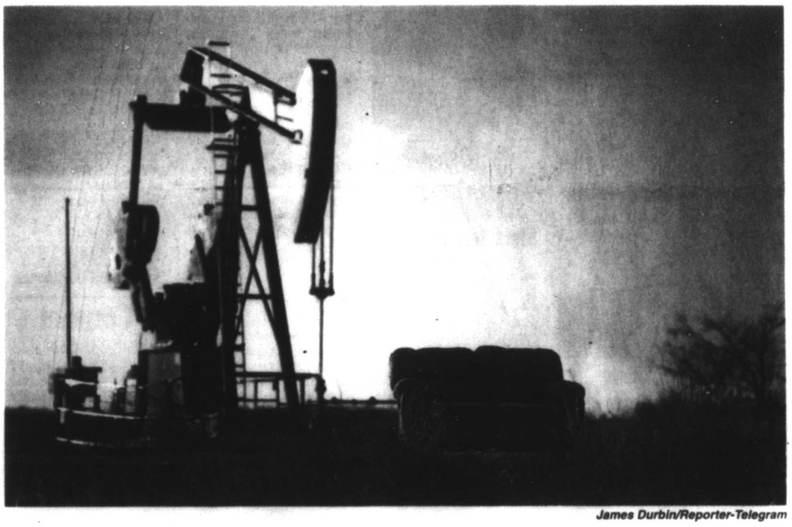
"When we can look at last year's data, and we find those hotspots of where we performed poorly, we're able to plan in advance and preplan and make sure our teachers have the professional development they need to be able to teach those standards," Rivera said. "And those are identified by campus principals and their leadership teams, with support from the district."

When trustee James Fuller said that they were "at war with STAAR" — referencing the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness — Rivera said, "Yes, this is our armor."

MISD attorney Leah Robertson gave a presentation on the open-carry laws that went into effect Jan. 1. Because weapons have been banned on MISD campuses for several years, the main debate was whether to put up signs on each campus identifying the state's new policy that allows for open carry of handguns in public areas.

Please see **BOARD**/3A

ROOM FOR A VIEW



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

A couch sits near a pump jack on East County Road 90 in Midland on Saturday. With the wide-open expanses of West Texas, the seating is likely perfect for catching a spectacular sunset in comfort.

530 show up for jury duty after too many summonses mailed out

■ Software problem cited as reason for summoning twice as many potential jurors

By Brandon Mulder
bmulder@mrt.com

There was standing-room-only at the Midland County Courthouse on Monday morning after a software mishap sent out twice the intended number of summons.

The building was crowded with 530 people after 2,000 jury duty summonses were sent out to Midland County residents, according to county employees.

Early in the morning, lines filed out the door and parking over flowed to First Methodist Midland and Midland Academy Charter School.

"When I got there, I couldn't get in because of the number of people that were there for the jury call," said Timothy Parker, who had attempted to get to a courtroom to witness a trial. "I was amazed; I'd never seen that many people come for jury duty. The foyer was totally full of people."

The 530 people were spread across the foyer and the eighth and ninth floors of the courthouse as people were brought in for voir dire.

The Midland County District Clerk's Office has struggled with residents shirking jury duty. Over the past five years, residents' response rates to mailed summonses have been steadily below 20 percent. The issue has caused consternation among county officials, who have tried different ways to disincentivize ignoring jury duty, including levying fines between $100 and $1,000.

In early 2015, the District Clerk's Office raised the number of summonses mailed out per week to 900. This week, that number was bumped to 1,000 for seven cases — one being the high-profile Brandin Conley capital murder case, which was delayed Monday.

"Occasionally, when we have one or more high-profile case scheduled, the judges ask the clerk to summon more people than usual. That was not the case today," said 385th District Court Judge

Please see **DUTY**/3A

Inside

A defense lawyer for the man accused of killing a woman and burying her in a shallow grave has filed a motion for his client to undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

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Henry in race for Commissioners' Court seat

By Cassie Burton
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With an expressed desire to bring a fresh perspective to county government, James "Bull" Henry is seeking his first term as county commissioner for Precinct 3.

Henry has worked for Midland County since 1999 — first as a juvenile case manager and later as director of the truancy court for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2. He said he decided to run because of his experience involving different entities to help children and their families.

Henry

"Over the years, getting to know the county, I felt I did a fine job working with the court and the truancy issues," Henry said. "I thought sometimes, as with any government, that fresh eyes, fresh perspectives are needed, just to bring in new ideas and a new way to look at things for Midland County."

During Henry's tenure, Precinct 2 went from one juvenile case manager to four and reformed its truancy system.

Inside

Despite nearly 7 inches of precipitation in late December, County Commissioners have opted to extend the burn ban put in place in October.

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Other counties across the state have emulated Midland County's model, he said.

Henry thinks his best asset will be the "people skills" he gained from working in the truancy court. The court worked with Midland and Greenwood ISDs in addition to parents and local officials.

"I think that's something I bring to the table — that ability to collaborate with other agencies in town: the school districts and things like that where people need to communicate with each other," Henry said.

Infrastructure and fiscal responsibility, such as ensuring that the county hires adequate contractors for its road projects, are among his main focuses. Henry said he that he would be against raising the county's property tax "every chance," while ensuring that all county departments are "adequately staffed."

"You hear a lot about the roads and fiscal responsibility (from residents)," Henry said. "All the traffic that continues to go in and out of Midland, we need to make sure our roads are in top shape, and infrastructure is in good order, and that it is set up so people can enjoy Midland County to its fullest."

Henry also cited his voice in state politics as a plus. He has worked with Texas legislators on truancy legislation, including the truancy reform passed last year.

The reform was "comprehensive" and a sample of how Henry tries to see points of view from people who he "may not necessarily agree with" and meet in the middle, Henry said.

"That's a sort of gift I have, to see both sides on the table and objectively look at it," Henry said. "I'm very approachable. Anybody who sees me, or wants to contact me, I'm more than happy to listen to anybody and their concerns on what they have."

Henry moved to Midland County in 1980 to work as a carpenter during the oil boom. He left briefly but returned to Midland in 1987 and worked at High Sky Children's for 12 years.

Follow Cassie on Twitter at @Cassie_Burton51

Weather
Sunny
57/30
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Energy prices

WTI Futures	$31.41 ▼	$1.75
WTI Posted	$28.25 ▼	$1.25
WTS Posted	$24.50 ▼	$1.25
Natural Gas	$2.598 ▼	$0.076
Gasoline	$1.751 ▼	$0.016

The big number
The price of oil
dipped below $31
In intraday trading. Find out how low it went. Page 6C

Today in Local
Safety officials become mental health officers. 3A

Coming Wednesday
Don't miss this week's edition of Health + Wellness.

Vol. 87, No. 307
Daily $1, Sunday $2

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Obituaries

Janet Smith

Janet Marie Stenberg Smith, 64, of Midland, Texas passed away on January 9, 2016 at Midland Memorial Hospital after a brief illness.

Janet was born on May 22, 1951 in Council Bluffs, Iowa to Lawrence and Jo Ellen Stenberg. She grew up in Council Bluffs, graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School, then graduated and obtained her teaching degree from the University of Northern Iowa.

She began her teaching career in El Paso, Texas moving a few years later to teach at Midland Christian School and eventually retiring as Early Childhood librarian from Midland ISD. Throughout her career, and through her love of books, Jan touched the lives of literally hundreds of children in the school districts where she worked.

She was very active in the North 'A' Church of Christ, coordinating their Monday lunch program, and participating in many other church activities.

Jan is survived by her sisters: Mary Jo (Norman) Jensen, Donna (David) Gift, and brother Bob (Nancy) Stenberg; her beloved nephews, nieces, and grandniece, Sarah Jensen, Dan Jensen, Michael Gift, Corina Severn, Selma Severn, step daughter, Suzette Smith; step granddaughter Anastasia Smith; as well as extended family and an abundance of close friends.

A Visitation has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. followed by a Funeral Service at 2:00 p.m. at North 'A' Church of Christ in Midland, Texas with Greg Fleming officiating. Burial will be at a later date.

The family requests memorial donations be made to North 'A' Church of Christ, 505 San Angelo St. Midland, Texas 79701.

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

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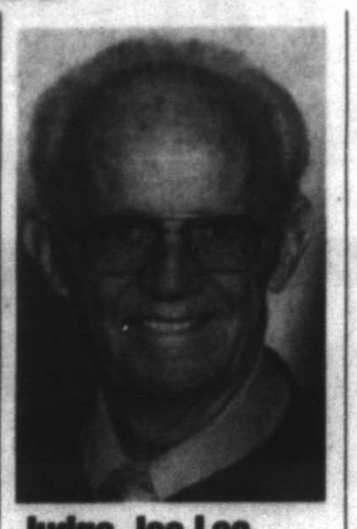

Judge Joe Lee Matlock

Judge Joe Lee Matlock went to his heavenly reward at 8:10 a.m. on January 9, 2016 at Midland Memorial Memorial Hospital after a 2 year battle with Cancer.

Family and Friends will gather together on 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2015 at Crestview Baptist Church, 301 Loop 250 Frontage Rd, Midland, TX to celebrate his life, with Pastor Chris Cochran, pastor of Faith Foundation International Church, officiating. Visitation will be held at Faith Foundation International Church, 3323 N. Midland Dr. #117 on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, from 6p.m. to 8p.m.

Judge Matlock was born on February 18, 1937 in Bland, Bell County, TX to Jessie C Matlock and Suddie Florence Rhodes Matlock. He was raised primarily in Temple, TX, where he graduated from Temple High School, Temple, TX in 1955. After graduation, he entered the U.S. Air Force, where he served approximately 10 years and was Honorably Discharged. Judge Matlock moved to Midland in June 1965 and worked in construction for two months before becoming an Insurance Agent for American National Life Insurance. In March 1967 he began his law enforcement career by joining the Midland Police Department. He worked in patrol for approximately 2½ years before attending the Academy, then graduating from Midland College 1st class in 1974. After graduating from the Academy he was promoted to Sargeant and transferred to the Juvenile section. In September, 1978 he attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA. The judge received numerous awards and recognition for his work with juveniles while at MPD. In July, 1988 he retired from MPD and on August 1, 1988 began working for MCSO as the Sargeant in charge for Juvenile Services. He was responsible for beginning the DARE program at MCSO. In 1996, he ran for and was elected to the position of Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1. The Judge served as Justice of the Peace until August 2015, when he retired after forty-eight and one-half years of public service to the citizens of Midland and Midland County.

Judge Matlock married Sheila K. Allen on December 23, 1965. They celebrated their 50th Anniversary on December 23, 2015 surrounded by family and the staff of the Oncology Ward at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Judge Joe and "Sam" were active members of Faith Foundation International Church, where Judge Matlock was a board member, a head usher, a greeter and anything else that was needed to be done.

Judge Matlock was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers and five sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila (Mama Sam), Benny and Candy Matlock of Midland, Kevin and Brandi Matlock of Andrews, and Katrina and Rory McKinney of Midland; 13 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren.

"Sam" and the family extends special thanks and appreciation to Dr. M. Mangat, staff at the Allison Cancer Center, Dr. James Barnett, Dr. Don McLarey, Home Hospice and the wonderful, caring, loving nurses of the Oncology floor, Midland Memorial Hospital and Out Patient Treatment Center. We truly appreciate & love you all.

The family requests that no flowers be sent. They have requested instead that donations be made to a charity of your choice or cancer research, the Allison Cancer Center in Midland, Home Hospice if Midland or Pet Solutions (PO Box 3524, Midland, TX 79702).

I Corinthians 15:54b-55, 57 "Death is swallowed up in victory! O death, where is your sting? Vs. 57 But thank you GOD! He gives us the victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Services are being handled by Stanton Memorial Funeral Home, 432-756-3708.

Marvin Sidney "Sid" Johnston

Marvin Sidney "Sid" Johnston, 93, of Midland, passed away Thursday, January 7, 2016 in Midland, Texas.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at the Hwy 36 Church of Christ, 10576 TX HWY-36 South of Abilene (see website for directions), with Daniel Jung officiating. Burial will follow in the Dudley Cemetery under the direction of Bailey-Howard Funeral Home.

Visitation will be from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2016 at the funeral home.

Marvin was born on July 27, 1922 on a farm in Callahan County, Texas to Richard Sidney and Sally Louie (Tarrant) Johnston. After graduating from Denton Valley schools, he served in the Army Air Force during World War II fighting the Japanese. He was stationed in India supporting transport of supplies into China.

Marvin is survived by his two sons, Richard Johnston and wife Jana of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Terry Johnston and wife Terri of Midland; also, Brenda Leonard and husband Bob of Odessa, Texas; one brother, Rudy Johnston and wife Betty of Dudley; and by four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Sally Johnston; four brothers, Hollis, Olaf, Thurman, and Drew Johnston; and by two sisters, Loma Loper and Versie Scott. He was also preceded in death by his wife of 31 years, Mae Dell Johnston.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Denton Valley Baptist Church.

Online condolences may be made at *www.baileyhowardfuneralhome.com*.

Mary Butterfield

Mary (Missy) Duryea Butterfield went home to her Heavenly Father on the evening of January 9, 2016 at Legacy Ranch Alzheimer's Special Care Center in Midland.

Missy was born on August 26, 1938 in New York City to parents, William M. Duryea and Mary Atwell and was raised in Old Westbury, Long Island, New York. She attended The Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia, Sacred Heart, and Mannes School of Music in New York. Missy married John Archibald Peck on October 22, 1960 in Palm Beach, Florida. Together, they had two children before splitting in 1966. She spent time in Florida and New York before finally moving to Sun Valley, Idaho where she married William C. (Bill) Butterfield in 1976.

Missy was a dedicated wife and mother throughout their 29 years of marriage. Missy was an active hospital volunteer and a long-standing member of the Our Lady of The Snows Catholic Church Choir. She enjoyed playing golf in the summers, worked at Ex Libris Book Store, gardened, was a wonderful cook, and loved her golden retrievers.

Aesop wrote, "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." Missy was loved and will be missed by all who knew her. Her kindness extended to any and every one she met. She taught us that before we ever spoke aloud, we needed to ask ourselves three questions: Is what I am about to say true? Is it necessary? Is it kind? If all three criteria did not apply, it's best to keep quiet. This is great advice indeed. Of all the things that Alzheimer's took from Missy, it was never able to dull her sparkle. She kept her warm smile and the light in her eyes until the very end when she gently reunited with God.

Missy is survived by her son, John McNeil Peck and his wife, Men of Maui; daughter, Nina Noel and her husband, Charlie of Midland; step-son, Will Butterfield and his wife, Cheryl of Quilcene, Washington; step-daughter; Heidi Spear and her husband, Jeff of Eagle Point, Oregon; step-son, Guy Butterfield; brother Jay Duryea and his wife, Linda of Long Island; brother, Bobby Duryea and his wife, Lovejoy of New York City; seven grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their deep gratitude and appreciation to the caregivers and staff at Manor Park and Legacy Ranch for their exceptional care of Missy for almost seven years and to the tremendously compassionate people with Compass Hospice. *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another; as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Online donations can be made at www.alz.org.

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

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

Ouida Faye Coggin

Ouida Faye Coggin died unexpectedly on Friday, January 8, 2016. She was born September 1, 1931, in Coleman County, Texas to parents Roy and Naomi Polk.

Ouida was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Naomi Polk and husband George Roach.

She is survived by her husband Bill Coggin; her brothers, Joel "Scooter" Polk with wife Charlesette, and Larry Polk; daughter, Brenda Coats and husband Frank; son, Gary Henson and wife Mary; step-son Bill Coggin and wife Jo; step-daughter Patricia McKinney and husband Rick; grandchildren, Shane Roach, Elizabeth Cosser, Ashley Phillips, Erik Henson, Brad Henson, Eric McKinney, Mark McKinney, Paul McKinney, Ryan Coggin, T.J. Coggin, Kelsey Coggin and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at First Baptist Church in Stanton on Wednesday, January 13 at 2 p.m.

Death Notices

Lee Roy "Blackie" Adams

Lee Roy "Blackie" Adams, 80, of Midland, Texas, passed away in Midland, on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

He is survived by wife, Ann Adams; one son, Tony Adams; one daughter, Laura Adams; one brother.

Services are pending with American Heritage Cemetery & Funeral Home, 4100 N. FM-1788, Midland, Texas, 79707.

Max Scarbrough, Sr.

Max O'Neil Scarbrough, Sr., 67, of Midland passed away on Monday, January 11, 2016. Memorial services will be held at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel at 1:00pm on Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

He is survived by his wife, Joann Scarbrough; children, daughters, Sandy Copeland, and Tammy Scarbrough; sons, Loren Scarbrough, and Max Scarbrough Jr., and daughter, Jo Anna Builta.

To Submit Obituaries:

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Legendary musician David Bowie dies of cancer at 69

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

NEW YORK — David Bowie, the chameleon-like star who transformed the sound — and the look — of rock with his audacious creativity and his sexually ambiguous makeup and costumes, died of cancer Sunday.

Bowie, whose hits included "Space Oddity," "Fame," "Heroes" and "Let's Dance," died surrounded by family, representative Steve Martin said early Monday. The singer, who was 69, had fought cancer for 18 months.

Long before alter egos and wild outfits became commonplace in pop, Bowie turned the music world upside down with the release of the 1972 album, "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars" which introduced one of music's most famous personas. "Ziggy Stardust" was a concept album that imagined a rock star from outer space trying to make his way in the music world. The persona — the red-headed, eyeliner wearing Stardust — would become an enduring part of Bowie's legacy, and a touchstone for the way entertainers packaged themselves for years to come.

Bowie's birthday was Friday, the same day as he released his new album, "Blackstar."

A statement on social media asked fan's to respect the family's privacy. No more details were provided.

Born David Jones in London, the singer came of age in the early 1970s glam rock era. He had a striking androgynous look in his early days and was known for changing his appearance and sounds. After "Ziggy Stardust," the stuttering rock sound of "Changes" gave way to the disco soul of "Fame," co-written with John Lennon, to a droning collaboration with Brian Eno in Berlin that produced "Heroes."

AP file photo

On June 6, 2005, singer David Bowie and his wife, Iman, pose at the 2005 CFDA Fashion Awards in New York. Bowie, the innovative and iconic singer whose illustrious career lasted five decades, died Sunday after battling cancer for 18 months. He was 69.

He had some of his biggest successes in the early 1980s with the bombastic "Let's Dance," and a massive American tour. Another one of his definitive songs was "Under Pressure," which he recorded with Queen; Vanilla Ice would years later infamously use the song's hook for his smash hit "Ice Ice Baby."

"My entire career, I've only really worked with the same subject matter," Bowie told The Associated Press in a 2002 interview. "The trousers may change, but the actual words and subjects I've always chosen to write with are things to do with isolation, abandonment, fear and anxiety — all of the high points of one's life."

Bowie lived in West Berlin in the late 1970s and Mayor Michael Mueller said Monday that "Heroes" became "the hymn of our then-divided city and its longing for freedom."

Germany's Foreign Ministry added Bowie was "now among heroes" and thanked him for "helping to bring down the wall."

Bowie's performance of "Heroes" was also a highlight at a concert for rescue workers after the 2001 World Trade Center attacks.

"What I'm most proud of is that I can't help but notice that I've affected the vocabulary of pop music. For me, frankly, as an artist, that's the most satisfying thing for the ego," Bowie said.

He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996, but he didn't attend the ceremony. Madonna accepted for him and recounted how a Bowie concert changed her life when she attended it as a teenager. David Byrne, of the art rockers Talking Heads, inducted Bowie and said he gave rock music a necessary shot in the arm.

"Like all rock 'n' roll, it was visionary, it was tasteless, it was glamorous, it was perverse, it was fun, it was crass, it was sexy and it was confusing," Byrne said.

Bowie kept a low profile in recent years after a reported heart attack in the 2000s. He made a moody album three years ago called "The Next Day" — his first recording in a decade. "Blackstar," which earned positive reviews from critics, represented yet another stylistic shift, as he gathered jazz players to join him.

"David always did it his way and his way was the least obvious way," said Tony Visconti, Bowie's longtime producer. "He was a true genius who proved it over and over again through groundbreaking albums."

Bowie released a music video on Friday for the new song "Lazarus," which shows a frail Bowie lying in bed and singing the track's lyrics. The song begins with the line: "Look up here, I'm in heaven."

On the U.S. iTunes albums chart, which updates frequently throughout the day to reflect digital purchases from users, Bowie's "Blackstar" peaked at No. 1 on Monday. "Best of Bowie" was No. 2, and two other Bowie albums reached the Top 10.

His music has also been electrifying audiences this winter in New York in the sold-out new off-Broadway musical "Lazarus," led by Michael C. Hall of "Dexter" fame and inspired by the 1963 science-fiction novel "The Man Who Fell to Earth."

Tributes poured in for the singer after the announcement of his death. British astronaut Tim Peake tweeted about his sadness from outer space aboard the International Space Station, saying "his music was an inspiration to many."

British Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted that Bowie's death is "a huge loss." He wrote he had grown up listening to and watching Bowie and called the singer a "master of reinvention" and a pop genius who kept on getting it right.

Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger, in a statement, said Bowie was his inspiration and "a true original."

"He was wonderfully shameless in his work we had so many good times together," Jagger said. "He was my friend. I will never forget him."

Former Beatle Paul McCartney has also paid tribute, calling Bowie "a great star."

"His music played a very strong part in British musical history," McCartney wrote on his website.

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More law enforcement become mental health officers

By Erin Stone
estone@mrt.com

Early Monday afternoon at the Permian Basin Law Enforcement Academy, a full class listens to former paramedic and mental health officer Roger Turner talk about how to approach a person during a manic episode.

"What would you do with this guy?" Turner asked. "I would give him space." Turner teaches the 40-hour class at PBLEA that allows law enforcement personnel to become certified mental health officers.

Training law enforcement personnel how to approach people in mental health crises has become a top priority for both the Midland County Sheriff's Office and the Midland Police Department.

Calls to both MPD and MCSO involving mental health crises have been on the rise year after year. This past year, MCSO had more than 1,000 calls involving mental health issues, Sheriff Gary Painter said.

"A lot of people look at policing as a confrontational kind of event and it doesn't have to be," Turner said. "When you look at mental health, it's not about putting somebody in jail. This is about getting people help and empowering them to get help."

"For years, nobody knew exactly how to make that happen and we didn't get anywhere because we had this lack of knowledge where either the law enforcement doesn't know, the mental health authority doesn't know. And then, on top of it, look at beds in the state, and you would be surprised. In fact, you would be offended at how few beds we have to help people who never chose this, and we're not helping them as a society," Turner continued. "So this allows peace officers to come in and say, 'Hey, we can actually help somebody and their family.'"

Painter and Chief Price Robinson have come together to create a joint mental health task force. Two MPD officers will join MCSO's Crisis Response Team (CRT), a team of five deputies specially trained to deal with mental health crises on the street.

"My job and my desire is to keep people out of jail," Painter said at the news conference held at PBLEA on Monday afternoon. "People that have a mental health crisis do not belong in jail. They require treatment, and that's what we're trying to do."

This most recent alliance between MPD and MCSO signals the continuation of an 11-year-long effort to confront mental health crisis as a social, not a criminal, issue. The effort was kickstarted when Sgt. Mike Naylor started MCSO's mental health unit with only two deputies.

This year will be a realization of many of Naylor's goals. The Midland County Commissioners' Court also approved a $250,000 grant to set up a mental health court for those with mental illness who have committed felonies.

"(With mental health court) we can move them through the system faster to get them some treatment quicker," Painter said.

The grant will also allow a mental health professional to work in the jail as crises come up, rather than days after the event.

In addition, jailers will receive mental health training, Painter said.

"As many as we can keep out of jail, the better. But once they wind up in the jail, it's a very different problem," Painter said. "I think the more training we can have for the officers, the better understanding of the crisis that's going on and how to handle it will develop."

Sgt. Fernando Carrasco heads MCSO's CRT, and he believes having two extra officers will help tremendously with the increasing call volume the CRT has been dealing with.

"We're getting bigger, and we're getting stronger, and we're gonna respond to (mental health crises) that much better," Carrasco said. "I just can't wait to see it all meshing together once the dust settles and everybody's back to work."

The new officers will receive 80 hours of training over a period of two weeks, Carrasco said. The extra manpower will allow Carrasco to make the decision to have his unit respond to all MISD mental health calls, which can amount to 15 a week, he said.

Over only the past four months, the CRT has responded to 377 calls. Last fiscal year, the CRT responded to a total of 265 over a period of six months.

"This is going help drastically," said Victoria Reyes, one of the five current investigators in the CRT unit. "Yesterday alone, I was out at a call at 6 p.m. and it was 4 a.m. and I was still on the same call. I was on call this weekend, I got called out Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday night. So the fact that we have more manpower is going to be so great for us. It's going to give us relief. We won't be as worn out, so it'll be better for the consumers, as well, because we'll be more focused instead of just tired, saying, 'OK, let's do this and go home.' It'll give us a better opportunity to go out there and help more."

Abundant rain doesn't stop county from extending burn ban

From staff reports

Nearly 7 inches of precipitation, including 7.6 inches of snow in late December, did not stop Midland County Judge Mike Bradford from signing an extension of the burn ban put into place in October.

The burn ban, which was recommended by Fire Marshal Dale Little and authorized again during a Monday meeting of the Commissioners' Court, will continue for 90 days.

Little said low summer rainfall that caused higher, dry vegetation and higher recent temperatures were factors for the recommendation.

The fall was one of the warmest on record, according to the National Weather Service. Last year also was one of the warmest 15 years in Midland's recorded history.

Last year also reversed a serious weather trend as 22.63 inches of rain fell at Midland International Air and Space Port. That is more than 8 inches above normal for the year.

The United States Drought Monitor reports conditions in Midland, the Permian Basin and most of Texas to be normal.

This burn ban, according to the county, does not prohibit:

■ outdoor cooking activities in approved containers or

■ outdoor burning activities related to public health and safety that are authorized by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for firefighter training; public utility, natural gas pipeline or mining operations; planting or harvesting of agricultural crops; or burns that are conducted by a prescribed burn manager and that meet certain code standards.

A violation is punishable by a fine not to exceed $500.

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MCKINNEY

Rangers send pool party investigation to prosecutors

The Texas Rangers' investigation of a suburban Dallas incident where a white police officer is seen on video pushing a bikini-clad black teenage girl to the ground has been forwarded to prosecutors.

A spokesman for the Rangers, Sgt. Lonny Haschel, said Monday the agency never comments on its investigations and that the findings have been turned over to the Collin County district attorney's office.

The county's first assistant district attorney, Bill Dobiyanski, says the office won't comment on the investigation's status or direction.

The June incident involving McKinney Officer Eric Casebolt, who also pulled a gun on other black teens outside a pool party, sparked criticism, protests and eventually Casebolt's resignation.

DALLAS

Man gets 27 years in prison for prostituting disabled girl

A Dallas man has been sentenced to more than 27 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to using the Internet to prostitute a devolopmentally disabled teenage girl.

A federal judge sentenced Kenneth Laray White on Monday in Dallas. The 26-year-old defendant pleaded guilty last March to using a facility of interstate commerce to aid a racketeering enterprise and a weapons count.

His brother, 24-year-old Damion Kentrell White, awaits sentencing later this month after pleading guilty to a similar racketeering and weapons count.

Trial is scheduled for next month for 31-year-old Mecose Mendale Shorter of Dallas, who also was charged in the case.

Police rescued the girl from a Dallas motel in late July 2013, a few weeks after the Whites pressed her into service.

HOUSTON

Former officer admits role in 2013 armored car robbery

A former Houston officer has pleaded guilty to helping pull off a 2013 armored car robbery by monitoring police radios and later lying about it.

Joel Quezada of Houston admitted to a federal judge in Houston on Monday that he concealed from authorities the knowledge that he had taken money for helping the Dec. 6, 2013, heist at the University of Houston student center.

The 33-year-old Quezada remains free on $50,000 bond pending sentencing scheduled for April 4. He could receive up to five years in prison.

BOARD

From 1A

The law states that if school districts choose to put up warning signs indicating a gun-free zone — regardless of whether one has a handgun license — violators would be charged with a misdemeanor that carries a possible $500 fine.

If signs are not installed, all violators — whether purposeful or not — would be charged with a third-degree felony that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

The school is not required by law to post signs, unlike commercial properties that choose to be a gun-free zone, according to Robertson.

Midland District Attorney Teresa Clingman helped the school understand the new law, Robertson said.

Open-carry signs for the school district would cost $35,000, she said. Warren said the district did not have funds in its budget for this year and likely wouldn't have funds next year, either. Board member Jeff Robnett spoke in favor of providing signs, whereas board member Jay Isaacs, Warren and MISD Chief of Police David Colburn noted that MISD campuses already have been a weapon-free zone for several years.

"Everyone is still protected by the law as it was before the open carry," Warren said. "People cannot carry guns into schools. What the conversation was, that there's a part of the law that protects people with concealed handgun licenses if they forget, for whatever reason ... to take it off."

People who walk near campuses but do not enter a building can carry a weapon if they have a license. Teachers and people who park in campus parking lots can leave their weapons in their vehicles, but only if the parking lot is not being used for a school-sanctioned activity, such as marching band practice, Warren said.

Robertson said that violators may not be charged if found to have made a "benign" mistake. It will be at the discretion of the district attorney or Midland police to file charges.

The policy was not an action item and will be decided at a later date, Warren said.

The only incident in recent memory of a person bringing a gun on campus was in September, when a 17-year-old Premier High School student was discovered with a loaded .25 caliber handgun in the school's cafeteria, according to a previous Reporter-Telegram report.

Also at Monday's meeting:

■ Attendance zones for three elementary schools will be re-drawn before the next school year. Warren said that while the team that re-drew attendance zones for the first time in 22 years did an "amazing" job, Bonham, Burnett and South elementary schools needed to be reconfigured because of an unexpected increase in the number of students.

■ The board approved naming two rooms at Lee High School after retired teachers. The choir room will be named after Paula T. Edward, and the ensemble room will be named after Karen Blackstone.

■ The board approved the calendar for the 2016-17 academic year. Warren said in an interview that a new state law requiring a certain number of minutes instead of a certain number of days, meant that students will attend school for fewer days. The district had been "completely over" the minutes requirement. However, the teachers' calendar will continue to be 187 days, which will allow the district to schedule more time for professional development, Warren said.

Follow Cassie on Twitter at @Cassie_Burton51

Heckler to take the helm of MRT's Circulation Department

From staff reports

Publisher Jeff Shabram announced Monday that Sharon Heckler will take over as circulation director of the Reporter-Telegram and Hearst's West Texas Newspaper Group.

Heckler has worked in a similar position for Freedom Newspapers, Gannett Newspapers and the Wall Street Journal. Her previous experience includes daily, weekly and regional markets in Florida, Mississippi, Virginia and Tennessee. She will oversee the circulation operations of the Reporter-Telegram, The Plainview Herald, The Canyon News and The Muleshoe Journal, along with their associated TMC products and magazines.

Heckler is replacing Vincent Cone, who has been promoted to the vice president of Circulation for the Houston Chronicle.

DUTY

From 1A

Robin Darr in an email.

"We were told there was an issue with the software — they thought one set of summonses had been deleted when in fact they were not," Darr said. "This mistake caused more jurors to be summoned than usual."

However, when asked whether the doubling of summonses was intentional or accidental, the District Clerk's Office demurred.

"(The District Clerk Ross Bush) did it to see how many people we would get," said Deputy Chief to the District Clerk Lory Enriquez.

Moreover, with a policy that compensates at least $10 to potential jurors that do fulfill their jury call, the mishap likely cost the county twice what was budgeted.

The news was not all bad, however. The response rate of 26.5 percent this week was a 6.5 percent increase from the county's average.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

Live Trivia, 7 p.m., Basin Burger House.

Meetings schedule

City Council
10 a.m.
Council Chambers City Hall
300 N. Loraine Ave.

Support groups, club meetings today

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

■ Midland Memorial Hospital's Better Breathing Club, 11:30 a.m., Midland Memorial Hospital Scharbauer Tower meeting room. Don at 221-4864 or Joanna at 682-4229.

■ Peer to Peer support group for veterans, active duty, guard, reserves and their families, 6 p.m., Permian Basin Community Center, 401 E. Illinois Ave., Suite 4U3; Wil Hoggard, 213-5342, william.hoggard@wtcmhmr.org.

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

■ ACT IX, 6:30 p.m., Cole Theater, Carolyn Schoolcraft, 685-7416.

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

■ Permian Basin Coin and Stamp Club, 7 p.m., Michael's Charcoal Grill. Dave Taylor,559-9890 or www.midlandcoins.com.

■ Midland Quilters Guild, 7 p.m., Alamo Heights Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. For more info, call 694-0561.

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

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

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

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

Community calendar

■ The Midland County Republican Women's monthly luncheon is 11:15 a.m. Wednesday at Midland Country Club. The guest speaker will be a representative from the Department of Homeland Security.

Tickets are $25 at the door. For more information, visit www.mcrw.us.

■ The Midland County Livestock Show is Thursday through Saturday at the Midland County Horseshoe. The event kicks off noon Thursday with poultry and rabbit shows. The show continues on Friday with goat and lamb shows at 8 a.m., followed by steers and heifers at 1 p.m. The events on Saturday are culinary arts at 10 a.m., pee-wee rabbit show at 12:45 p.m. and finally, the premium auction sale and awards at 1 p.m. A barbecue lunch, which is open to the public, will be served at 11 a.m.

For more information, visit midlandhorseshoe.com or contact Paula Morrison at pmmorrison14@gmail.com.

■ Mayor Jerry Morales is the guest speaker at the monthly Petroleum Museum's Brown Bag Lunch, which is 11:30 a.m. Jan. 19. Topic of his talk is Tall City Tomorrow, long-range plan for the city's development.

Those attending may bring their lunch. Drinks and dessert will be available. For more information, call 683-4403.

Midland College spring registration

Midland College will have extended hours to accommodate students who will registering for the spring semester. The Welcome Center and Enrollment Services Center will be open 1-6 p.m. Monday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday.

Classes begin Jan. 19.

Permian Basin Mensa

Permian Basin Mensa, the local chapter of the international high IQ society, will offer membership testing to the public at 2 p.m. Jan. 23.

Mensa is an International Organization for people who score in the top 2 percent on a standardized, supervised IQ test.

Testing will take place at the Midland County Public Library Centennial branch conference room.

Testing takes two hours. For reservations or more information, call 889-6858.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 6-1-9
Pick 3 day: 5-9-3
Pick 3 evening: 8-3-4
Pick 3 night: 9-7-6
Daily 4 morning: 8-2-0-5
Daily 4 day: 0-0-7-7
Daily 4 evening: 0-9-5-6
Daily 4 night: 3-1-0-0
Cash Five: 07-12-31-34-35
Texas Two Step: 06-11-28-32. Bonus: 35
All or Nothing morning: 02-03-04-06-07-08-10-11-12-13-14-16
All or Nothing day: 03-05-07-10-11-12-13-14-18-19-20-24
All or Nothing evening: 01-02-04-05-09-10-12-13-15-17-21-23
All or Nothing night: 03-04-05-07-11-12-13-14-15-17-21-24

Today in history

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. military should stay in Vietnam until Communist aggression there was stopped.

In 1971, the groundbreaking situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS television.

In 1998, Linda Tripp provided Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's office with taped conversations between herself and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Blue Bell says ice cream safe despite potential concern

By Juan A. Lozano
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Blue Bell Creameries sought to reassure customers Monday that its ice cream in safe, even as the Texas company tries to determine whether listeria has again been found at one of its plants.

Blue Bell is in in the midst of returning its products to stores after it recalled its ice cream and halted sales last year due to listeria contamination at some plants. On Friday, the Brenham-based company said it found locations at one of its three plants where listeria might be present.

In a statement emailed Monday, Blue Bell said customers "can be confident in our ice cream because of all the steps we have taken to ensure a safe product. Our enhanced testing program confirms that these procedures are working."

The company said its enhanced testing flags "suspicious areas as an early warning system so we can take steps to extensively clean and sanitize the areas, refine our procedures or make additional physical enhancements in our facilities."

In addition to a facility in Brenham, Blue Bell has plants in Alabama and Oklahoma. It hasn't said where it found the possible presence of the bacteria.

Carrie Williams, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of State Health Services, said Blue Bell told her agency that it found "a couple of instances of environmental positives for Listeria species at the Brenham plant over the last month" in non-food areas such as floors and floor drains "and the instances were addressed."

In the wake of last year's recall and cleanup efforts, Blue Bell signed agreements with health officials in Texas, Alabama and Oklahoma requiring the company to inform the states whenever there is a positive test result for listeria in its products or ingredients. However, the agreements do not require Blue Bell to immediately notify the states of any presumptive positive test results for listeria that might have been found on floors or other surfaces that don't have contact with food.

The requirement came after the company failed to tell federal or state health officials of repeated findings of listeria at its Oklahoma plant dating back to 2013.

Last April, Blue Bell recalled its products after its ice cream was linked to 10 listeria cases in four states, including three deaths in Kansas. Listeria can cause serious illness, especially in older adults, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems.

The company has been reintroducing its products back into its markets in phases. On Monday, Blue Bell Ice Cream reintroduced products in El Paso, Texas; Little Rock, Arkansas; and Memphis, Tennessee. The company has said the final phase of its market reentry plan was to occur over two weeks beginning Jan. 18.

Brandon Henning, with Sparta Systems, a Hamilton, New Jersey-based company that creates quality control software used by firms to manage products and goods they manufacture, said it's almost impossible to eliminate all of the bacteria that can cause listeria at facilities with raw materials like those at Blue Bell.

"The real question for me is how proactive are companies being in trying to mitigate it," he said. "The good companies you would want to continue as a consumer to buy from are the ones that continue to improve and put plans in place and continue to increase their spending and their desire to make good quality products."

NEWSBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPOSTS

FORT WORTH

Sheriff: Mother of Texas 'affluenza' teen posts bond

The mother of a Texas teenager who used an "affluenza" defense for a deadly wreck is expected to leave jail soon after a judge on Monday sharply reduced her bond.

Tonya Couch's bond was lowered from $1 million to $75,000. Couch posted the bond and will be released this morning "barring any unseen delays" after being fitted with a GPS monitor, Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson said in a tweet posted late Monday night.

Couch will be required to wear the electronic ankle monitor and remain at the home of her 29-year-old son Steven McWilliams, except for appointments with her doctor and lawyer.

"I want her at her son's home, and that's where I want her to stay," said State District Judge Wayne Salvant, who also ordered Couch to pay nearly $3,200 in restitution to the sheriff's office for the cost of transporting her back to Texas from Los Angeles.

The 48-year-old woman is charged with hindering the apprehension of a felon after she and her son, Ethan Couch, were caught in a Mexican resort city. Ethan, 18, killed four people in a 2013 crash and was facing allegations that he violated his probation.

Authorities say Tonya Couch took $30,000 and fled with Ethan to Mexico out of fear that her son would be put behind bars for violating his probation.

The two were caught Dec. 28, 2015, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Tonya Couch was brought back to Texas last week after first being taken to Los Angeles.

Ethan Couch remains in a Mexico City detention facility, where he is contesting his extradition.

Salvant said he understood prosecutors' concerns that Couch might flee again, but that the charge against her, while a third-degree felony, wasn't serious enough to merit a $1 million bond.

NEW MEXICO

Spaceport chief believes Virgin Galactic could fly in 2018

UPHAM — The head of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority says Spaceport America is moving ahead and its anchor tenant could be launching commercial space flights as soon as the 2018 fiscal year.

Spaceport executive director Christine Anderson says she optimistic about the commercial space industry and the role New Mexico's taxpayer-financed spaceport will have as the industry grows.

In an editorial, Anderson says the spaceport expects to earn about $4 million in fiscal year 2017. But that's not enough to pay for construction, equipment and other things that were previously covered by bonds.

She plans to ask the Legislature for $2.8 million, saying fiscal year 2017 will be a bridge year since Virgin Galactic's rent will go up in 2018 from $1 million a year to about $3 million.

LAS VEGAS

Drones are no passing fad

LAS VEGAS — If you're used to thinking of drones as a passing fad, last week's CES gadget show should give you second thoughts.

Tiny, self-piloted copters promise to buzzily follow you around like something out of a Neal Stephenson cyberpunk novel. New drones that could find lost wilderness adventurers or help them see out above treetops; others purport to carry a human passenger at the touch of a button.

None of this, of course, will be happening overnight. Limited battery life means that many commercial models can't fly for more than about 20 minutes at best. Manufacturers haven't yet figured out the best way to keep many tiny drones where they ought to be, given that GPS positioning sucks too much power for their minuscule batteries. Obstacle avoidance systems that would let small drones pilot themselves are still under development. And looming over the entire field are new government rules intended to keep people safe, but which may also slow innovation.

So far, none of those obstacles are slowing down an industry that appears to be in full lift-off. The Consumer Technology Association estimates that U.S. consumer drone spending will more than double to $953 million next year. ABI Research believes the global market for drones will hit $8.4 billion in 2018, with users ranging from the military and oil companies to farmers, journalists, and backyard tinkerers.

As drone capabilities continue to grow, drones may become a mass-market product for average consumers in about three years, says Patrick Moorhead, principal analyst of research firm Moor Insights & Strategy.

"You should be able to get a drone that can effectively follow you, not run into things, and find things on its own," he says. "That's pretty cool."

That's assuming, of course, that you're not commuting to work in one. At CES, Chinese manufacturer Ehang Inc. unveiled a large drone that it said can carry a human passenger at speeds of up to 60 miles an hour. The four-armed quadcopter has been on more than 100 flights, mostly in wooded areas of Guangzhou, according to Chief Marketing Officer Derrick Xiong. Some — he didn't say how many — have carried a human passenger.

Federal aviation regulators declined to comment on Ehang's human-carrying drone, saying the company hasn't submitted any proposal to authorities.

The Federal Aviation Administration advised an Ehang representative at the show to contact its unmanned aircraft system office.

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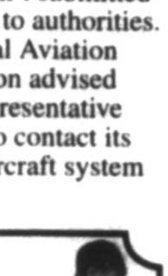

Entomophobia is the fear of insects.

Every US president has worn glasses (just not always in public).

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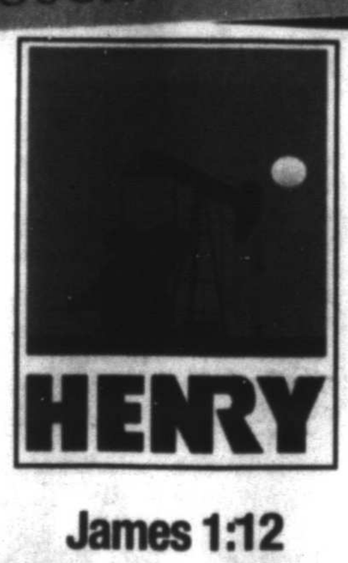


HENRY

James 1:12

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Sean Penn: Nothing to hide over drug lord interview

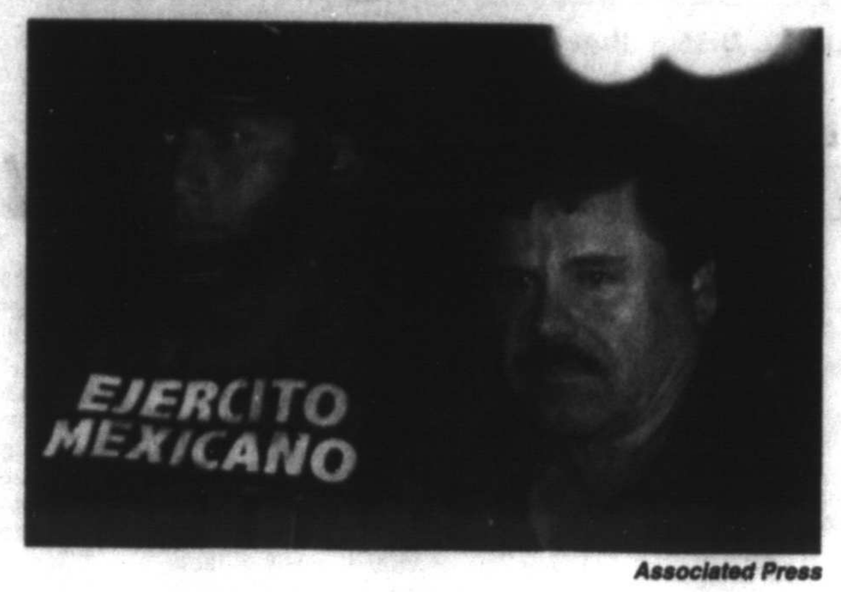
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Actor Sean Penn said he has "nothin' to hide," after images published Monday indicated he was under surveillance when he met with the Mexican actress who led him to Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman — and the pair was apparently followed and photographed as they set out for the supposedly secret meeting with the drug lord.

In a brief email exchange with The Associated Press, Penn also dismissed criticism over his interview with the fugitive, who was captured on Friday, a day before Penn's 10,000-word story was published in Rolling Stone magazine.

Mexican officials have said that contacts between Guzman's lawyers and Penn and actress Kate del Castillo helped them track down the fugitive and they raided his hideout in rural Durango state a few days after their Oct. 2 meeting. Guzman evaded authorities then, but was finally captured after a shootout Friday in the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa.

Penn wrote in the Rolling Stone article of elaborate security precautions, including switching phones. As he flew to Mexico for the meeting, he wrote, "I see no spying eyes, but I assume they are there."



Associated Press

Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, right, is escorted by soldiers and marines to a waiting helicopter, at a federal hangar in Mexico City on Friday. The world's most wanted drug lord was recaptured by Mexican marines Friday, six months after he fled through a tunnel from a maximum security prison in an escape that deeply embarrassed the government and strained ties with the United States.

He was right — and they had apparently been following del Castillo for months based on contacts with Guzman's lawyers.

The Mexican newspaper El Universal published 10 images Monday that appeared to show Penn being monitored as he arrived in Mexico.

In the photographs, Penn, wearing dark glasses and a baseball cap, is shown arriving with del Castillo at an airport, then at a hotel, and greeting the men who apparently took them to a small airstrip, from which they flew to the jungle camp to meet Guzman. The newspaper said the photos were part of a Mexican government intelligence file it had obtained.

Asked about the images Monday, Penn would only say: "I've got nothin' to hide."

The actor also shrugged off a suggestion that he was "taking hits" for agreeing to submit his article to Guzman prior to publication by Rolling Stone.

"No, you're reading hits," he said in the email exchange with the AP. In the article, Penn said Guzman requested no changes.

Penn stressed that he doesn't think his communications were tracked, and in an interview with a local radio station, Mexican Attorney General Arely Gomez said that Mexican investigators were following the movements of one of Guzman's lawyers, not necessarily Penn or del Castillo.

Asked whether Penn or del Castillo were under investigation, Gomez said a "new line" of inquiry had been opened that could include them or Guzman's lawyers, and could involve "covering up" for Guzman "or something bigger."

In an article accompanying the photos, El Universal said Mexican agents were aware of and following del Castillo's contacts with Guzman's lawyers since at least June. Del Castillo has not commented, but Penn wrote in Rolling Stone that Guzman was interested in having a movie made of his life and wanted del Castillo, who had portrayed a drug trafficker in a Mexican television series, involved in the project.

It was not Penn's first foray into Latin American life and politics. The actor has become known in the region for befriending leftist leaders, including late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales in Bolivia. In 2008, he interviewed President Raul Castro for The Nation just after Barack Obama was elected U.S. president in what was billed as the Cuban leaders' first interview with a foreign journalist. He has also been widely hailed for the charity he founded in Haiti after its devastating 2010 earthquake.

Guzman's capture came six months after his dramatic escape through a mile-long tunnel he dug from his cell at the maximum-security Altiplano prison, west of Mexico City.

A movie based loosely on that stunning caper was scheduled to debut Sunday in Mexico. Originally titled: "Chapo: The escape of the century," the name was changed Monday to "Capo: The escape of the century," for what director Axel Uriegas said were production reasons.

Monday evening, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto referenced Guzman's capture in a short new year's message to the nation.

"The detention of the world's most wanted criminal is a credit to the coordination of our institutions in favor of security and the rule of law," Pena Nieto said. "With this action, 98 of the 122 most dangerous criminals no longer present a threat to society, and we are going for all of them."

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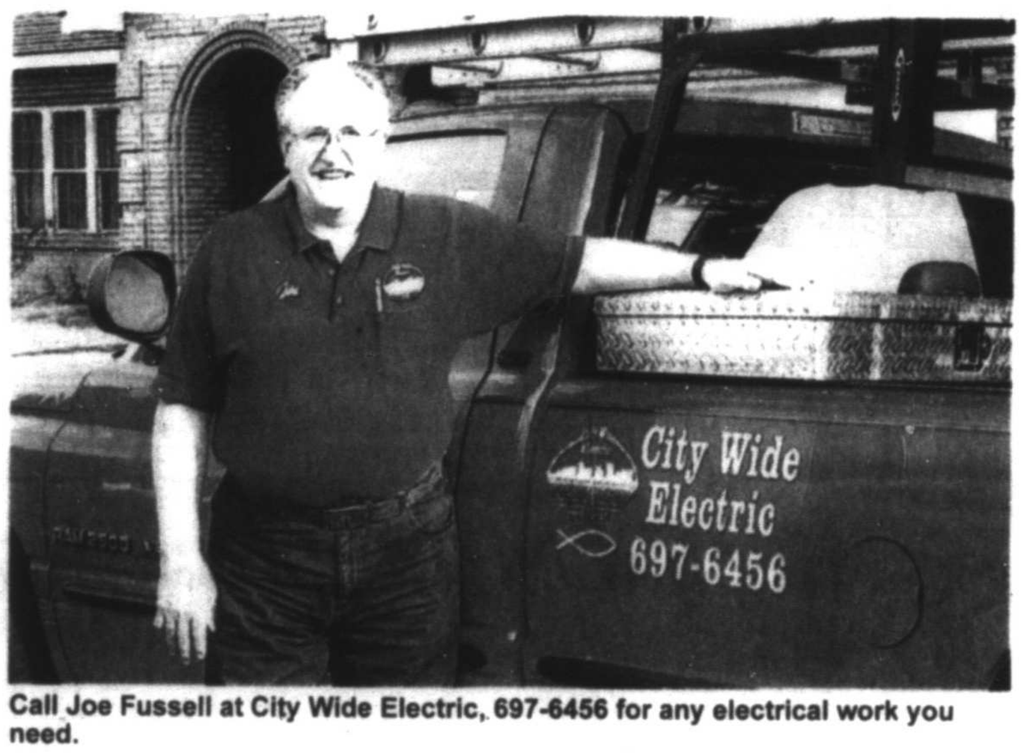

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OPINION

Obama's inner circle offers hard judgment

■ They judge him dramatically wrong on the largest strategic and humanitarian issue of our time

MICHAEL GERSON
Washington Post Writers Group

In the eighth year of a presidency, who is qualified to begin delivering a historical judgment? President Obama and those who serve at his pleasure are naturally biased. His critics are too engaged in the battles of the moment. Journalists and commentators tend to go after darting, shiny, plastic lures of narrative. But events are still too fresh and wriggling for historians to do their mortuary work.

A more promising source of assessment is the opinions of high-level officials who actually participated in recent events. Here, there is already a small library of reluctant but harsh judgments.

The most recent comes from Chuck Hagel. In an interview with Foreign Policy's Dan De Luce, Obama's former defense secretary let loose on a White House that micromanaged the Pentagon while "deferring the tough decisions." Hagel criticizes Obama's inadequate response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine; contends that the refusal to enforce the chemical weapon red line in Syria "hurt the credibility of the president's word"; and complains of getting "the hell beat out of me" for refusing to expedite the release of dangerous Guantanamo Bay detainees.

This might be dismissed as sour grapes from a Republican who believes that White House was eventually out to "destroy" him — if it were not part of a bumper crop of grievance.

Obama's former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta describes a president who "avoids the battle, complains and misses opportunities." Panetta is particularly critical of the administration's eager retreat from Iraq: "I think when we stepped out of Iraq, in many ways, we created this vacuum in which not a lot of attention was paid to what was happening in Iraq, or what was happening in Syria, with the extremists who were developing a base of operations there."

Another former defense secretary, Robert Gates, judges the Obama White House "by far the most centralizing and controlling in national security of any I have seen since Richard Nixon." He consistently found "suspicion and distrust of senior military officers by senior White House officials — including the president and vice president." When the decision was made in 2010 to surge the number of American troops in Afghanistan, Gates recalls thinking that "the president doesn't trust his commander, can't stand [Afghan President Hamid] Karzai, doesn't believe in his own strategy, and doesn't consider the war to be his. For him, it's all about getting out."

In one way or another, many of these criticisms concern Syria. The historical record will show that Obama's unanimous national security team — secretary of state, secretary of defense, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, director of the CIA — recommended the arming of the moderate opposition (the Free Syrian Army) early in Syria's civil war. A similar group recommended a serious military response to Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons. Obama rejected both. The administration was "consistently behind the curve," says Obama's former ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford.

Historians will also record the collapse of sovereignty at the heart of the Middle East, creating a vacuum that has attracted, inspired and empowered some of the worst people in the world. These events have produced more than 250,000 Syrian dead, including more than 10,000 children; driven one of every five Syrians from their country; resulted in a refugee crisis that now reaches to Europe and beyond; revealed America as an unreliable strategic partner; and allowed Iran and Russia to make a play for greater regional influence.

It might be argued that this is the very best America could have done. The most direct response comes from Obama's former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. "The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad," she argues, "left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled." A decision to "carefully vet, train and equip early on a core group of the developing Free Syrian Army" would, in Clinton's view, have provided the U.S. with essential intelligence and given the "credible opposition" a place at the table in eventual peace negotiations.

The rise of the Islamic State, in other words, is a catastrophic result of negligence in Syria.

All these former administration officials also express high regard for Obama's knowledge, focus and deliberative style. They only judge him dramatically wrong on the largest strategic and humanitarian issue of our time. That may not be where Obama's historical image ends up; but it is certainly where it begins.

GUEST VIEW

Executive actions are not the proper way to make changes

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

President Barack Obama has been too free with executive actions during his presidency. His recent emotional announcement he would make unilateral actions regarding gun matters continues that troubling practice.

We acknowledge Obama is in a difficult situation for a president — being in the White House while both houses of Congress are controlled by the opposing party.

Although it's easy to understand his frustration, going around Congress and making decisions on his own isn't the proper way to deal with it. His executive actions surely will be challenged in court as soon as possible.

Obama knows the American Constitution has established three branches of government. The executive branch wasn't intended to circumvent the legislative branch.

Obama bitterly criticized Congress when it blocked gun legislation in 2013 — and that was when the Democrats still controlled the U.S. Senate. It was one of his greatest disappointments as president, and now he is taking matters involving guns into his own hands.

The president became emotional during his 40-minute televised speech [last] week and wept as he recalled the 2012 mass shootings of 20 children and six teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

"Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad," he said.

He referred to his plans as "common-sense executive actions" and noted the U.S. is the only advanced country on Earth where the frequency of mass violence is at the level it is in our nation.

Obama even quoted a Republican icon in his speech: "As Ronald Reagan once said, if mandatory background checks could save more lives, 'it would be well worth making it the law of the land.'"

He outlined four steps in his plan:

■ Require gun sellers, including those at gun shows, to be licensed and to conduct background checks. The FBI will add 230 examiners and other staff members to process background checks.

■ Increase enforcement of existing gun laws.

■ Encourage improved gun safety technology, such as tracing devices that could help locate stolen or lost guns as well as the manufacture of smart guns that could only be fired by authorized users and could reduce the risk of accidental gun discharges.

■ Improve mental health care, including a $500 million federal expenditure to increase access, and the sharing of information to prevent the buying of guns by mentally ill people. He noted it could help prevent suicides as well as murders.

It's no surprise Republicans in Congress reacted negatively to Obama's tactic of going around them to make changes on his own.

But Republicans could take the high road by looking for palatable common ground — such as trying to keep guns away from the mentally ill — and attempting to work with Obama.

Even a small amount of cooperation between the parties would be nice to see, but it's not likely, with national politics being as contentious as they are and Obama's defiant decision to once again bypass lawmakers.

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In politics, the shameless succeed

■ Trump is proof, and the Clintons know it

RUBEN NAVARRETTE
Washington Post Writers Group

The rhetorical standoff between Donald Trump and Bill and Hillary Clinton reveals what you really need to succeed in politics.

Not only can this one attribute help get you elected president. It could make it possible for you to be regarded as one of the great political savants of our time. Someday, folks might even call you a "natural."

It's not what you have that matters most: money, smarts, likability, debate skills, academic pedigree, compelling life story, solid organization, dedicated volunteers, ability to communicate, etc.

What really carries weight is what you don't have. The most valuable quality that one needs to be successful in politics is a lack of shame.

In Spanish, we call it being a *sin verguenza* — literally without shame.

In the political arena, if you can't be embarrassed, you can go far. When you're running for office and you can do what you want to do, and say what you want to say, without holding your tongue or worrying about what people think, that's a powerful weapon. You can swing wildly, and not hold back.

In a profession where politicians usually don't dare say what's really on their mind because they're afraid that people will think less of them for it, having the ability to raise unpleasant subjects will make you stand out. You'll be seen as bold and refreshing.

Bill Clinton has this gift. He bounced back from the Monica Lewinsky scandal when a mere mortal would have resigned in disgrace and retreated from the spotlight. Given the salacious material that wound up in the final report prepared by special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, it's hard to imagine how any public figure could survive. Most normal people would want to dig a hole, crawl into it, and then pull the hole in after them. Yet Clinton didn't budge, because he didn't seem to care what anyone else thought of him.

And Trump certainly has this gift. The GOP front-runner has no shame, and he flaunts it every time he opens his mouth. He demonstrates it through his willingness to go where others fear to tread and say what others are thinking but aren't willing to say. Trump likes to brag that he takes on touchy subjects such as illegal immigration from Mexico or whether we ought to deny visas to Muslims. And he claims that he has been proved right in suggesting a get-tough approach.

Not exactly. It's not that Trump is right in what he's saying. Much of it is abhorrent or incorrect. But Trump does have a knack for courageously raising important issues that need to be addressed.

Now the billionaire blowhard has done it again by raising the question of whether Ted Cruz is really a natural-born citizen and thus eligible to serve as president under the Constitution. Cruz's critics, including supporters of Marco Rubio, insist that the Texas senator, who was born in Canada to a mother who was a U.S. citizen, is more accurately described as a "U.S. citizen born abroad."

You can bet that Cruz supporters despise Trump for bringing this up. You can also bet that Trump doesn't care. Whether they're on the right or the left, the real estate mogul doesn't need people to love him. He loves himself enough for everyone.

Meanwhile, Democrats are loving that the GOP is going through its own birther drama. It's poetic given the ruckus that many Republicans — including Trump — kicked up for years by questioning Barack Obama's citizenship.

But Democrats aren't so thrilled about what Trump has to say regarding the Clintons. After all, Hillary has some nerve accusing Trump, or any other man, of treating women disrespectfully. Did she sleep through the 1990s? People who choose to live with a serial philanderer accused of sexual harassment and worse ought not to throw stones.

The left is going ballistic, insisting that what it delicately refers to as the former president's "indiscretions" should be off-limits.

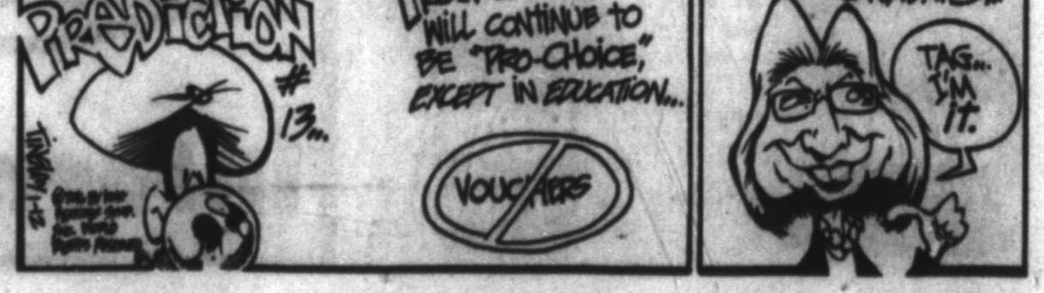
That's absurd. Here's the real issue: Do Americans really want Bill Clinton back in the White House, with nothing to do and time on his hands?

The Clinton campaign doesn't really want to run against Trump. And the Clintons are certainly no longer eager to get into a morality contest with the Republican over his treatment of women. Because you can never be sure what he is going to say.

After all they've been through, and put other people through, the Clintons know shamelessness when they see it. And they respect its power.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



READY TO SERVE THE CITY

Clockwise from top left, City Councilmen John B. Love III, Scott Dufford, Jeffrey Sparks and Spencer Robnett take the oath of office from City Secretary Amy Turner on Monday.

TIM FISCHER | REPORTER-TELEGRAM

Obama's State of the Union address seeks to frame 2016 race

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's final State of the Union address will unmistakably attempt to frame the choice facing Americans as they select his successor, doling out an optimistic vision of the country's future in contrast with what he sees as the pessimism that's pervasive in the Republican primary.

Obama won't directly appeal for Americans to keep the Democratic Party in the White House for a third straight term. And he won't endorse a specific candidate in the 2016 race.

But he will outline domestic and international priorities that build on steps he's taken during his two terms in office, a vision certain to be more in line with Hillary Clinton and other Democrats than the GOP presidential candidates.

"He feels very optimistic about this future," White House chief of staff Denis McDonough said. "That, by the way, is something that's a little different than some of the doom and gloom that we hear from the Republican candidates out there every day."

Today's prime-time address marks a transition for Obama — his last high-profile opportunity to speak to the public before voting begins on Feb. 1. While Obama has so far succeeded in staving off lame duck status — largely through a series of aggressive executive actions — the nation's attention has been drawn inevitably to the presidential contest. Still, Obama's reliance on executive powers means many of his actions could be erased by a Republican president. He's vowed to campaign aggressively for the Democratic nominee, and his administration is seen as favoring Clinton, though the president won't formally back a candidate during his party's primary.

Some presidential candidates, including Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., will be on hand for Obama's address. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent seeking the Democratic nomination, will also be in the audience.

The looming election means that prospects are low for significant legislative accomplishments between the Democratic president and Republican lawmakers. Acknowledging that reality, Obama's speech will have few of the new policy proposals that typically fill the annual presidential address to Congress.

Still, the president will tout progress on the economy, which was plunging into the depths of recession when he took office and is now humming at a more comfortable pace. He's expected to keep up his appeals for broader actions to address gun violence, reform the criminal justice system and formally approve a sweeping Asia-Pacific trade pact. On foreign policy, he'll try to convince a public increasingly skeptical of his foreign policy stewardship that he has a handle on the volatile Middle East and is taking steps to prevent terrorism in the United States.

"There's a lot we have to get done over the course of the next year," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

The pomp and pageantry of the annual address in the House chamber will also have a splash of the gauzy nostalgia that's a hallmark of the Obama political operation. Among the guests sitting in first lady Michelle Obama's box will be Edith Childs, a South Carolina woman who first introduced Obama to the "Fired Up! Ready to go!" chant that became ubiquitous during his 2008 campaign.

Also joining the first lady is Earl Smith, a Vietnam veteran who gave Obama a military patch in 2008 that the candidate carried in his pocket for the rest of the campaign. The White House said the patch will be archived in Obama's presidential library as "a reminder of the people who made up the movement that led the president to the White House."

But the Obamas' guests will also reflect what's likely to be left undone or incomplete when the president leaves office.

A chair in Mrs. Obama's box will be left empty to honor victims of gun violence. Despite a rash of mass shootings during his tenure, Obama has been unable to get Congress to pass gun control legislation, settling instead for more modest executive actions, including steps announced last week to expand background checks for gun purchases.

The president has also invited a refugee from war-torn Syria to attend the address, a symbolic counter to Republicans proposing blocking Syrians seeking asylum in the U.S. But the selection is also a reminder of Obama's inability to end the bloodshed in Syria, where the nearly five-year civil war has spurred a refugee crisis and created a vacuum for terrorism.

Republicans selected South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to give the opposing party's rebuttal. In another reminder of the fast-approaching election, Haley is seen as a potential running mate for the eventual GOP nominee.

Obama takes this year's State of Union online

Wired up, and ready to go.

President Barack Obama is trying to offset dwindling viewership of the State of the Union by pushing Tuesday's address further into cyberspace, hoping to reach Americans increasingly glued to their smartphones and other digital devices. Name your favorite social media site, and chances are the White House is already plugged in.

The latest innovation ahead of Obama's final State of the Union came by way of Snapchat, where users can share photos and short video clips. The White House debuted its own Snapchat account Monday to offer users a behind-the-scenes glimpse at preparations for the big speech, including shots from inside the Oval Office.

In a bureaucratic twist for the see-it-before-it-disappears app, the White House worked out an arrangement with Snapchat to ensure Obama's posts won't truly disappear from the historical record, in line with the Presidential Records Act.

And who was chosen to interview the president after the big address? Not a network news anchor or a big-name correspondent, but a trio of YouTube users who have achieved celebrity status on the video-sharing site.

Adande Thorne, a video game enthusiast known as "sWooZie," and Destin Sandlin, who makes educational videos, will quiz Obama on Friday in the East Room, where replicas of the sets they use for their web videos are being constructed. Rounding out the threesome is Ingrid Nilsen, a 26-year-old fashionista known on YouTube as "Missglamorazzi," who said women's issues, health care, unemployment and gay rights are all are her mind.

"If you're an internet peep like I am, YouTube has got you covered," said the pink-lipsticked Nilsen, who boasts close to 4 million subscribers on her YouTube channel.

The social media blitz continues Obama's campaign to reach Americans who don't watch the speech or follow politics through traditional channels — especially millennials. Obama aides pride themselves on being the first White House to fully deploy online media to disseminate the president's message beyond what he can convey in an hour-long speech.

"We'll be reaching people where they are, and making it possible for them to engage, respond, and share the president's speech themselves in new and different ways," said Jason Goldman, the White House's chief digital officer.

Associated Press

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Powerball prize invites myths, misconceptions about lottery

By Scott McFetridge
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — With up to $1.4 billion at stake in Wednesday's Powerball, questions about the drawing seem to be as abundant as the convenience-store kiosks offering tickets for the record-breaking jackpot.

The inquiries include many myths and misconceptions about the winners, the prize money and the system that decides them. A look at some of the most common issues:

ALL THE JACKPOT WINNERS FROM CERTAIN STATES?: Officials with the Multi-State Lottery Association, a group of state lotteries that oversee Powerball, said this is one of the most frequent complaints.

It's "human nature to think the other guy is winning," said Sally Lunsford, public affairs director for the Kansas Lottery.

It's also wrong, though there are anomalies.

For example, in the past two years, Missouri and Tennessee have each been home to three Powerball jackpot winners, while New York, the nation's fourth most populous state, has only had one winner during that span.

Lottery officials, backed by mathematicians, said probabilities equal out over time, but in shorter periods, oddities can occur, in the same way someone could flip a coin and get heads five times in a row.

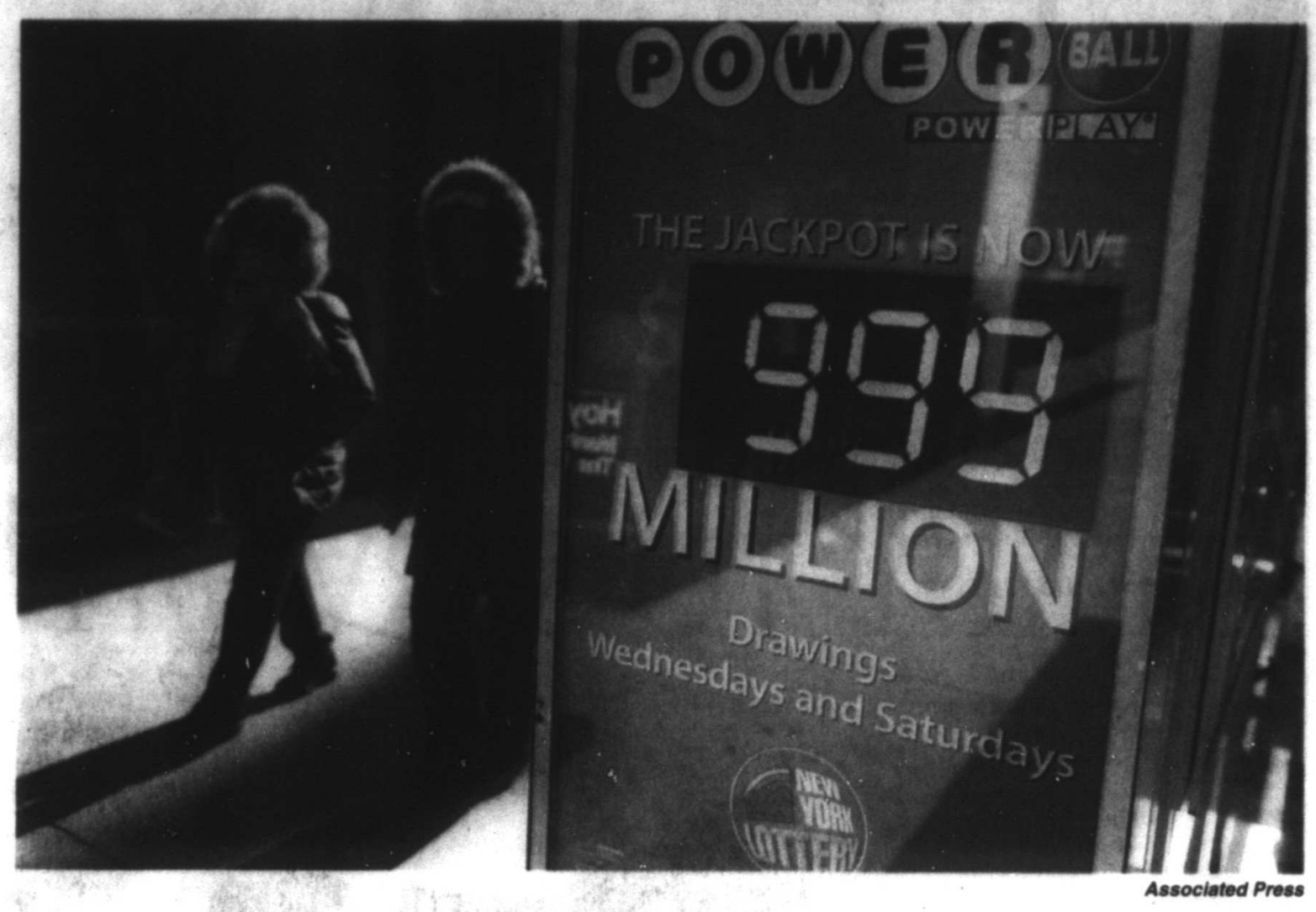
THE POWERBALL JACKPOT OVERSTATES THE WINNINGS: There's more of a rationale behind this claim. The jackpot is the amount paid out over 30 years and not the amount a winner could receive immediately. So while the current jackpot is listed at $1.4 billion, a sole winner would only get that much if the person received 29 annual payments. Winners can also choose the cash prize, which is the total amount currently up for grabs, but that is "only" $868 million.

Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery, responded that Powerball prominently displays both the annuity and cash prize figures. The bigger number gets more attention, and Grief said lotteries have taken that approach for decades.

"When the prize gets so big, the critics come out, as well," he said.

WINNERS WHO TAKE AN ANNUITY FACE BIG TAX DANGERS: One of the most persistent misconceptions, officials said, is that winners risk tax trouble if they opt for an annuity but die before all 29 payments are made.

Terry Rich, chief executive of the Iowa Lottery, said he's heard this one frequently and repeatedly explains that if someone dies, that person's estate will treat the annuity like any other asset. A winner's heirs may choose to cash in an annuity and then pay taxes on the money, but that's a choice they must make.



Associated Press

People walk past a sign advertising the Powerball lottery in New York on Monday. The jackpot is so big that billboards around the country have to advertise the prize as $999 million because they're not built to show billions.

Top jackpots

Wednesday's Powerball jackpot has swelled above $1 billion, the largest in history.

Here's a look at the 10 previous highest jackpots and where the winners were from:

1. $656.0 million, Mega Millions, March 30, 2012 (3 tickets from Kansas, Illinois and Maryland)
2. $636 million, Mega Millions Dec. 17, 2013, (2 tickets, from California and Georgia)
3. $590.5 million, Powerball, May 18, 2013 (1 ticket from Florida)
4. $587.5 million, Powerball, Nov. 28, 2012 (2 tickets from Arizona and Missouri)
5. $564.1 million, Powerball, Feb. 11, 2015 (3 tickets, from North Carolina, Puerto Rico and Texas)
6. $448.4 million, Powerball, Aug. 7, 2013 (3 tickets, one from Minnesota and two from New Jersey)
7. $425.3 million, Powerball, Feb. 19, 2014 (1 ticket from California)
8. $414 million, Mega Millions, March 18, 2014 (2 tickets from Florida and Maryland)
9. $399.4 million, Powerball, Sept. 18, 2013 (1 ticket from South Carolina)
10. $390.0 million, Mega Millions, March 6, 2007 (2 tickets from Georgia and New Jersey)

Associated Press

Investment planners note, however, that when winners choose how to receive their money, they should consider their age and whether they mind if some of the cash remains out of their reach and goes to their heirs instead.

THE ODDS OF WINNING THE JACKPOT ARE WORSE THAN IN THE PAST: This is true, as the Multi-State Lottery Commission last fall added more numbers to choose from. The new system changed the odds from 1 in 175 million to 1 in 292.2 million. But far from hiding the change, the organization trumpeted it as part of an effort to build larger jackpots while also giving away more prizes of $2 million or less. Without the change, it's unlikely a jackpot would ever come close to the current $1.4 billion, or $868 million cash prize.

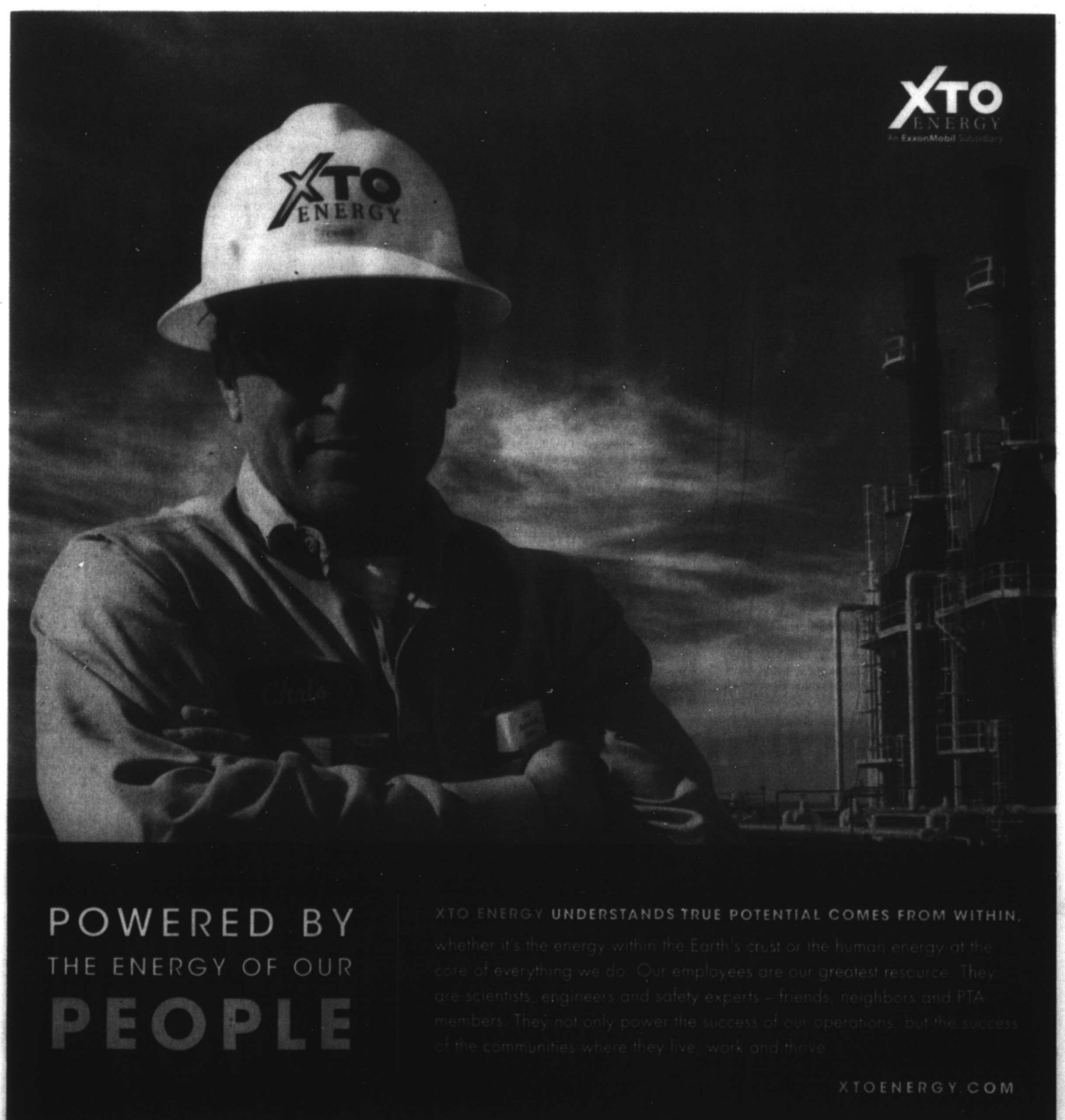
THE SMALLER THE JACKPOT, THE BETTER THE ODDS: This is false. Your odds for each ticket are 1 in 292.2 million regardless of the jackpot size or how many other people play. If you buy more tickets, your odds increase, but they're still woefully small.

However, it's true that as jackpots increase, more people typically play the game. And the more tickets that are purchased, the greater the chance that there will be multiple winners.

But this all largely misses the more important fact: The chances of winning are incredibly remote, so it makes little difference whether you'd have to share the money.

OTHER USES FOR SUCH A VAST SUM OF MONEY: The Powerball prize has grown so large that Gerald Prante, an economics professor at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia, has determined that a single winner would likely be among the top 100 income earners in the nation for 2016.

That has made some people uneasy about so much money going to one person when it might be better spent on public needs. But when weighed against typical government spending, the $1.4 billion looks like a more modest amount. By comparison, California Gov. Jerry Brown last week proposed a $122.6 billion general fund budget for the nation's most populous state.



PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM PRESENT

Classroom Pioneers

CELEBRATING INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Christopher Brooks Hightower

MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

Chris Hightower's environment hasn't changed much in 20 years. In 1996 he was wrapping up his senior year at Midland High School. Today he can be found inspiring his AP U.S. Government and AP Comparative Politics students to think for themselves and be open to new ideas.

"I love the job that I have. I love helping teachers, I love helping students," said Hightower, who currently serves as Midland High social studies department chairman and sponsors the Model Organization of American States team.

Above all, Hightower said he wants students to share the love he has for government and politics and learn how to work within it.

Hightower holds an associate degree in government from Midland College, a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Texas Tech University and a master's degree in political science from Sul Ross State University.

Hightower and his wife, Jennifer, have been married 15 years and have three children — Abigail, 12, Jackson, 8, and Caroline, 6.

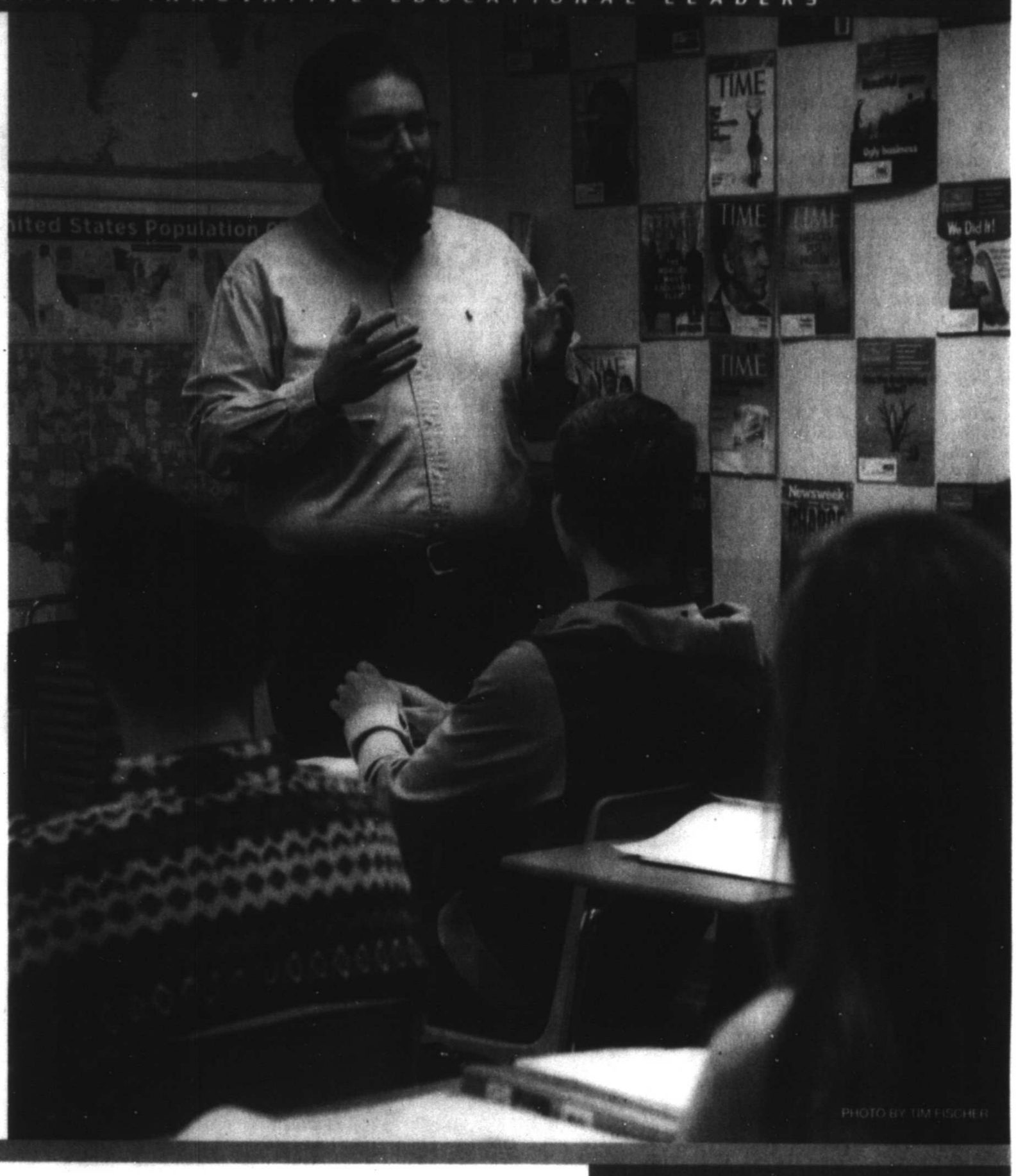


PHOTO BY TIM FISCHER

Q&A with the Pioneer

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

As a department chairperson I try to do all that I can for the teachers in my department so that they can focus on students and teaching. In that role I also work with the campus administration to communicate and provide cooperation between teachers and administrators. As a teacher, I feel the truest purpose of an educator is to make a difference in an individual's life. It is our job to introduce scholastic information and inspire students to achieve. My primary responsibility is to facilitate the progressive development of my students' character, knowledge and citizenship. Utilizing a variety of conceptual approaches, I work to assist the students in this process. I have a passion for government and politics, and I believe that people should not settle for less when it comes to our elected officials. All young people need to learn how to participate in our democracy and why that is valuable. I also want my students to learn to think critically about the role of government and be aware of their rights.

Why did you choose a career in education?

My mother and father (Lynn and Jack Hightower) were both educators in Midland ISD (Lynn - a resource and early childhood educator and Jack - a principal and later on a school board member). I grew up around educators so I suppose it was inevitable that I would become an educator. My goal in college was to obtain a law degree, but after studying history and political science, I made the decision to go into the education profession. While getting my post-bachelor's teaching certification, I reflected on several of the great teachers I had growing up in MISD. There were amazing teachers, and I was really taught to love learning. Perhaps my most influential teacher was my high school economics teacher, Hugh Franks. He was excited about teaching us the fundamentals of economics and got so many of us to love a subject that is difficult to comprehend. He taught us to learn for ourselves and inserted a desire for us to achieve. Eventually, Mr. Franks would help shape my teaching career as well. He was my department chairperson and even helped me get my first teaching job at Midland High. He and the other teachers in the department made me a better teacher by mentoring and helping me. Eventually, Mr. Franks retired, and I followed his example and became the department chairperson for social studies.

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

I like to learn through doing. Learning out of a textbook has its place, but you have to provide real-life examples to students. Classes that allow students to explore on their own are the best ways to enhance learning beyond the basic curriculum. Classes like Model OAS, Comparative Politics, Student Council and Students in Philanthropy get kids motivated and harness their enthusiasm. I wouldn't necessarily say what I do is innovative, but that it reflects that I care about my kids. I want them to share the love I have for the subject I teach and in the process learn how to work and learn within it. I also try to stay active in politics or in exploring new ways to learn about it. I've interned for congressional offices (national and state), I've participated in and worked for political campaigns, and I've even traveled outside the country to understand how diplomacy and international politics work. All this is fun to me but invaluable to my students. Sharing real-life experiences that teach real lessons can be inspiring.

What are your professional goals for the future?

I love the job that I have. I love helping teachers, I love helping students. I suppose if there was any other way I could enhance that and impact the district as a whole I might consider it, but I'm very happy in the position I currently hold. My goal for the future would be to keep thinking outside the box. I would love to have more opportunities to go see what other successful teachers do, and have more experiences that positively impact my students and other teachers.

He is passionate about the success of our students

Mr. Hightower is a true Bulldog in every sense of the word. He is an outstanding teacher. He is innovative and uses a variety of strategies to improve his craft. He is a leader in the implementation of technology at MHS. He is passiortate about the success of our students and makes great efforts to ensure that all of our students are provided the best education possible. As a result, he has taken on leadership duties at MHS. Mr. Hightower serves at the Social Studies Department chair and is the coordinator for the MHS Chapter of the Model Organization of American States. He has served on many campus improvement committees and been involved heavily in campus initiatives to improve student performance. He holds his teachers and students to the highest standards. Even more importantly, he leads by example and holds himself accountable to those high standards. Mr. Hightower has received a number of honors including MOAS Teacher Support Award in 2014, 2004 Outstanding Teacher Award from the Bill of Rights Institute and was named a "Shining Star" teacher for MISD in 2013 and 2014. Mr. Hightower been selected for participation in a variety of programs, including Fund for Teacher's Fellow, John Ben Shepperd Teacher as a Leader Conference, attended Bill of Rights Institute seminars, participated in a three-day intensive study of George Washington in Mount Vernon, Virginia, participated in the Midland to D.C. program for intense study of the Founding Fathers and founding documents and created the "Help Our People Everywhere" project at MHS to serve homeless individuals. Mr. Hightower is most definitely an innovative educational leader and worthy of being recognized as a Classroom Pioneer.

— CARLIN GRAMMER,
MIDLAND HIGH PRINCIPAL

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Nominate leading educators at mrt.com/classroompioneers. *Honorees may not be nominated by a family member.*

Some college campuses ban hoverboards

By Collin Binkley
Associated Press

BOSTON — One of the holiday's hottest presents is now considered contraband at many U.S. colleges.

At least 20 universities have banned or restricted hoverboards on their campuses in recent weeks, saying the two-wheeled, motorized scooters are unsafe. Beyond the risk of falls and collisions, colleges are citing warnings from federal authorities that some of the self-balancing gadgets have caught on fire.

"It's clear that these things are potentially dangerous," said Len Dolan, managing director of fire safety at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. The public school of 14,000 students issued a campus-wide ban effective on Monday, telling students in an email that any hoverboards found on campus would be confiscated.

"These things are just catching fire without warning, and we don't want that in any of our dorms," Dolan said.

Outright bans also have been issued at schools such as American University and George Washington University, both in Washington, D.C. Other schools said they will forbid the scooters in dorm rooms or campus buildings, a policy adopted at colleges including Louisiana State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Arkansas.

After banning hoverboards from dorms in December, officials at the University of Hartford in Connecticut are now considering a full ban because of concerns over how to store them safely, said David Isgu, a school spokesman. Some of the reported fires have occurred while the boards were being charged, authorities say.

At Ohio State University and Xavier University in Cincinnati, students were told they can bring a hoverboard only if it came with a seal showing that the board meets certain safety standards.

Bryce Colegrove, a sophomore at Shawnee State University in Ohio, got an email from his school on Jan. 5 telling students to leave their hoverboards at home after the holidays. It was bad timing for Colegrove, who had just received one as a gift from his girlfriend and had even plotted his new routes to class.

Please see **HOVERBOARDS**/3B

BRAND NEW AT BOWIE

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Construction on the new auditorium at Bowie Fine Arts Academy is nearly complete Jan. 4. Bowie Fine Arts Academy is planning an open house 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 19 for its new 500-seat auditorium. A student art show will be held the same night, according to principal Laurie Sherrod. The auditorium is one of the projects related to the $163.3 million elementary school bond package that voters passed in November 2012.

Teachers hope students use talents to make the world a better place

BRANDON SHUMAN
Midland Classical Academy

In the heart of Plato's "Republic," the main character, Socrates, challenges his interlocutors with an enduring parable concerning human nature and education.

Socrates describes a race of men dwelling deep in the den of a dark cave — cut off from the light of the sun by a long, steep tunnel. But there is something strange about these cave dwellers. From their childhood they have been fastened with bonds so that for their entire lives they have neither seen nor known anything beyond the cave's wall. Their only light comes from the flickering fire that cast uneven shadows of unnatural objects carried by puppet masters walking between the fire and the prisoners. For inhabitants of this cave, their entire world consists of shadows and echoes.

"They're like us," Socrates exclaims when a companion makes a sideways remark.

He then proceeds to describe the painful process of what would happen if one of the prisoners were to be liberated and shown the reality of the fire, and then taken up the tunnel into the light of day. The progression is uncomfortable and difficult but also enlightening and worthwhile.

This, Socrates claims, is akin to the soul's journey from ignorance to understanding.

"Education is not what the professions of certain men assert it to be," Socrates teaches. "They presumably assert that they are putting into the soul knowledge that isn't in it, as though they were putting sight into blind eyes."

Education, rather, is a sort of turning of the soul from darkness to light.

It is ineffective for a teacher to shove objects before students who lack the light to see them. Students' greatest need is not more information to be misunderstood, but assistance in turning their souls toward light — light by which objects can be rightly comprehended.

What does this turning look like in more contemporary terms?

Years ago, when I began my teaching career at Midland Classical Academy, a veteran tutor took me under his wing. Jon Snell mentored me about life and education, but one idea grabbed hold and has not let me go.

Each student is at a different stage of their journey and can only be guided from where they currently are if they are to discover brighter horizons. Every student has a perspective toward learning that is somewhere on a spectrum between amusement and influencer of culture. This spectrum is not based on age, but maturity.

On one end of the education spectrum are students whose main goal is to be amused. The very word "amuse" is derived from the Greek term "muse" with means to think, ponder, inspire. In mythology, the muses were beings who inspired mortals to create works or accomplish tasks worthy of immortal praise.

But what does amusement have to do with inspiration and greatness?

Nothing. Because when the letter "a" is placed at the front of a Greek word its meaning is negated. It renders the opposite definition of the original word. In this case, "amuse" equates to "brain dead" or "uninspiring." Students whose goal is amusement wish to be entertained with minimum effort. Education is a hindrance to these aims.

For such students, a teacher can make learning enjoyable or offer a more fulfilling vision of reality beyond their state of amusement. If these do not spur them to growth the final recourse is to allow the grade book to usher the natural consequences of their decisions. When this occurs students often are denied their amusements by their parents or administrators and hopefully re-evaluate their approach.

Next on the spectrum are students who endure education for the grade. The number of the grade is of little importance: merely passing to maintain eligibility, making B's to avoid being grounded, or earning a 4.0 to be accepted into the university of their choice. Depending on a number of factors, students in this category can be lazy or driven. A student whose highest concern is grades is interested only in the most expedient path toward achieving a certain number. Learning may occur, but only as the necessary but lesser byproduct of more arbitrary ambitions.

Students with this mentality are the most difficult to teach. To them, the teacher is a necessary evil — a sort of tax collector. Yet a teacher can employ some strategies to help them turn to fuller light. The teacher of "gradebook students" aims to demonstrate the superior value and worth of knowledge over mere grades. When students recognize the true power and possibilities understanding affords, it reverses the scales of education and makes grades the necessary evil or byproduct and knowledge the desired treasure.

The penultimate position on the education spectrum is students who have a love for learning. They are hungry to discover all the secrets a subject may hold. Their character is marked by enthusiasm because learning is not a burdensome chore, but a joyful end unto itself.

Instructing these students is likewise joyful because the energy they have for learning and life is contagious.

The final place on the education spectrum is for students who desire to influence culture. Guiding a student to take the final step from the love of learning phase to the influencer phase is natural because it invites them to share what they love with others. If such students are grounded in basic morality and hold to the Golden Rule, they seek to positively affect their world.

And isn't this the hope of every teacher: that students would develop their talents, sharpen understanding and fulfill every potential to make this world a better place?

Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is a fine aim, but it reeks of misery and selfishness alongside the higher aims of bettering our communities, serving our fellow man and investing in other people.

This is what Socrates and Mr. Snell taught. It is what I strive to teach my students — one student, one turn at a time.

Brandon Shuman is dean of arts and humanities at Midland Classical Academy.

ESTHER J. CEPEDA
Washington Post Writers Group

Teacher training is in a dismal state

CHICAGO —

At the end of "The Special-Education Charade," a recent article in The Atlantic about why having a "special" child in public schools is "hell, or its equivalent," readers confront a pertinent phrase: "the dismal state of teacher training."

This was only one of several factors noted in Tracy Thompson's emotional — and spot-on, as I can attest as a former special education teacher — 2,000-plus-word tirade about how educating special-needs kids in mainstream classrooms has become a labyrinth of pain and nonsense. But it's a factor worth illuminating.

Not least because the special education trend in schools is increasingly to move away from separate special ed classrooms, catering to specific needs such as learning disabilities or emotional/behavioral disorders, in favor of putting students with sometimes-profound disabilities in general classes.

This is called putting a student in the "least restrictive environment" so he or she can learn in the company of students who are roughly the same age, regardless of whether they have the same capacity for being able to perform the tasks expected of them, with or without assistance.

This placement results in anything from an eighth-grader who reads at a first-grade level getting placed in a mainstream history course to a high school senior who can't readily compute simple mathematical problems but is placed in a regular biology class. Sometimes, but not always, such students are provided with a "one-on-one" assistant to facilitate their learning.

More often these students simply show up in the classrooms of regular teachers who have no specialized training in the instruction of children with cognitive, behavioral or emotional disabilities. The teachers are likely, but not always, privy to the student's background and will have, at most, a few excerpts from a very long legal document called an "Individualized Education Program" (IEP) that explains what accommodations the teacher is required to provide the student.

These assistive methods usually fall within the realm of things like "preferred seating," "permission to leave class as needed," notes provided to the student ahead of class, the opportunity for longer times to take quizzes and tests or having them read aloud.

Many of these teachers in middle school and high schools have more than 100 students spread across multiple classrooms per day. In some cases, six or seven students with IEPs wind up in a single class period.

Setting aside whether this is good policy — that is, whether both the special needs children and non-special needs students in a given classroom get the most benefit out of their educational experience — you have to consider the extra burden on teachers who are already not as well equipped for such high-stakes teaching as one would hope.

According to the National Council on Teacher Quality's 2015 State Teacher Policy Yearbook, a scant 26 states require all middle-school teachers to pass a test in every core subject they will teach. And just five states — Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota and Tennessee — require secondary school teachers to demonstrate their knowledge of the subjects they'll teach.

And it's not as though teachers who do have special education expertise are so rigorously prepared, either.

According to the council, "With just a few exceptions, state licensing policies for special education teachers are

Please see **CEPEDA**/3B

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TUESDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 12, 2016

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	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Fresh Off the Boat	The Muppets	State of Union View coverage of the State of the Union Address. (L)			Goldberg "Lucky"	KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live		(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7 News	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Personal Day"		State of Union View coverage of the State of the Union Address. (L)			Mike & Molly	CBS 7 News	(:35) Stephen Colbert		(:35) J.Corden
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H "Back Pay"	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Happy Days	Laverne & Shirley	Hogan's Heroes	Hogan's Heroes	Carol Burnett	P. Mason "The Case of the Poison Pen Pal"		McCloud
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	New Girl (N)	Grandfathered (N)	State of Union View coverage of the State of the Union Address. (L)			2 Broke Girls	Modern Family	Two and Half Men	Met Your Mother	Hot in Cleveland
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Jean-Claude	Joshua Caleb	Update News	Rocks/Manuscripts	Light of the Southwest		Light of the Southwest		Israel Inspired	Mission: M25	Ministerios Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		Game Night "In the Garden of Eva" (N)		State of the Union Address View coverage of the State of the Union Address. (L)				NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) The Tonight Show		(:35) Seth Meyers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Finding Your Roots "The Irish Factor" (N)		State of the Union Address View coverage of the State of the Union Address. (L)				Charlie Rose (N)		World News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Muchacha italiana viene a casarse		Antes muerta que lichita		Pasion y poder				Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Contacto Deportivo	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Fam. Feud	Dead "Chupacabra"		Dead "Secrets"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Office	Access H.
FLIX	340	575			165	(3:25) Billy's Holly...		The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou						★★★★ The Station Agent		★★ The Last Days of Disco	
HBO	300	550	14	14		(4:30) Exodus: Go...		★★ Wonder Boys Michael Douglas.				★★★ Horrible Bosses 2			(:50) Heroin: Cape Cod, USA		
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	(5:15) ★★ Disturbia		★★★★ Mad Max: Fury Road				J. Cole Forrest Hill				★ Focus Will Smith.	
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:10) ★ Calvary ('14, Dra) Brendan Gleeson.				★★ Fighting Channing Tatum.			Making	Real Sports		★ Don't Say a Word	
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(5:05) ★ High Fidelity		★ A Million Ways to Die in the West				★ Blackhat ('14, Act) Chris Hemsworth.				LifeTop	LifeTop
MAX2	382	558	18	122		Movie	★★ Lucy Scarlett Johansson.			★★ The Astronaut's Wife			(:50) ★ Another Me			(:15) ★ The Nutty ...	
PLEX			96			(5:30) ★ Going Apes!		★★ Max Keeble's Big Move			★★★ Dirty Rotten Scoundrels				(:25) ★★ In God We Trust		
SHOW	320	565	19	140	25	(5:00) ★ Black Snak...		Shameless		Inside the NFL (N)		Shameless		Inside the NFL		★ Welcome to Ne...	
TMC	336	573	22	155	26	(5:00) ★ The Hand T...		★★★ Pulp Fiction ('94, Cri) John Travolta.					(:35) ★★ Color of Night Bruce Willis.				Movie
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Married at First Sight "Moving In"		Married/ First Sight "Meet the In-Laws"		Married at First Sight "Intimacy" 1/2		Born This Way "Don't Limit Me" (N)		Born This Way "Fears and Gears"		Married/ First Sight "Meet the In-Laws"	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(4:30) ★ Gone in 60...		★★ Armageddon (1998, Adventure) Liv Tyler, Ben Affleck, Bruce Willis.								★★ Sniper Tom Berenger.	
BET	58	-		40		★★ Just Wright (10, Com) Common, Paula Patton, Queen Latifah.						Zoe (N)	Zoe Ever	Husbands	Husbands	Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	76		41		Beverly "Will Power"		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills (N)		Girlfriends' Guide (N)		Watch (N)	Beverly Hills		Guide
CNBC	46	52		39	72	The Profit "Da Lobsta"		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		State of the Union Address (L)				A. Cooper 360		State of the Union	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Moonshiners		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners (N)		Killing Fields (N)		Moonshiners		(:05) Killing Fields	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Bunk'd	Underc.	★ How to Build a Better Boy		(:45) Jessie	(:10) Austin	Liv/Mad		Girl M.	Friends	Jessie	Jessie
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball Maryland at Michigan (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Kansas at West Virginia (L)				NCAA Basketball Iowa State at Texas (L)				Globetrotters 90th		NFL Live	
FAMILY	53	63	34	42	33	Pretty Little Liars		Pretty Little Liars (N)		Shadowhunters (N)		Pretty Little Liars		Shadowhunters		Pretty Little Liars	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped Junior (N)		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Insider (N)	Insider "Hot Stove"	Mavs Pre (L)	NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Dallas Mavericks Site: American Airlines Center Dallas, Texas (L)					Maverics Live (L)	Big 12 Champ	WPT Poker Bay 101 Shooting Star	
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(4:30) ★★ Elysium		★★★★ Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol Tom Cruise.								★ Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol	
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	69	26	48	44	Renovation		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		H.Hunt	House (N)	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Curse of Oak Island		Oak Island (N)		Curse/Oak Island (N)		(:05) DrillingDown (N)		(:05) Live to Tell		Curse of Oak Island	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	Dance Moms "No Moms Allowed"		Dance Moms "New Season, New Rules" (N)		Dance Moms "Abby vs. Melissa		Pitch Slapped "Will They Stay Two?" (N)		Pitch Slapped "Aca-Gnds"		Dance Chat "New Season, New Rules"	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	43				NHLTop10	NHLTop10	NHL Live! (L)		NHL Hockey Tampa Bay vs Colorado (L)					NHL Overtime (L)		Rivals
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	MakePop	Thunder	H.Danger	Nicky	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Movie	★ To Be Announced					★ To Be Announced					
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	Movie	★★★★ The Fifth Element ('97, Sci-Fi) Bruce Willis.							The Expanse (N)		12 Monkeys "Atari"	12 Monkeys
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinf. "The Apartment"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Mike Schultz (N)		2 Broke Girls	Conan
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	Movie	Men/ Sky	★★★ The Little Fugitive			★ Never Fear Sally Forrest.			★ Don't Bet on Women			Movie
TELE	20	-	10	20		Caso cerrado		Celia		Bajo el mismo cielo		Querida centauro		Al rojo	Est.Unión	Hermano	La novela
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Kate Plus Eight "Deck Party"		The Little Couple "Zoey's 4th Birthday"		The Little Couple "Back to School" (N)		Kate Plus Eight "School Prep" (N)		The Little Couple "Back to School"		Kate Plus Eight "School Prep"	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Castle "Deep Cover"		Castle "Dressed to Kill"		★★ Rush Hour 3 (2007, Action) Jackie Chan, Roman Polanski, Chris Tucker.				Castle "Smells Like Teen Spirit"		CSI: NY "The Dove Commission"	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	FactsLife	FactsLife	FactsLife	(:50) Ray	(:25) Loves Ray		Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern "Benched"	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern "Hawaii"	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
WGN	19	85				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		★★★★ Children of Men in 2027, a pregnant teenager becomes a barren Earth's hope for salvation.					Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother

CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children
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HOVERBOARDS

From 2B

"Honestly I was really disappointed," said Colegrove, 20. "I don't think it's right to ban them. I mean, it's a college campus; it's not a high school."

Others took to social media to voice their frustration, with some saying they planned to bring their scooters to school anyway.

Hoverboards, which are made by several brands, already have been banned by the three largest U.S. airlines, citing potential fire danger from the lithium-ion batteries that power them.

The devices also are prohibited on New York City streets, and a new law in California requires riders to be at least 16 and wear a helmet in public.

On Jan. 4, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that it's now investigating 28 fires in 19 states tied to the motorized scooters.

Fire officials from New Jersey to California have blamed the boards for fires that damaged homes. The federal commission also said there have been serious injuries caused by falls.

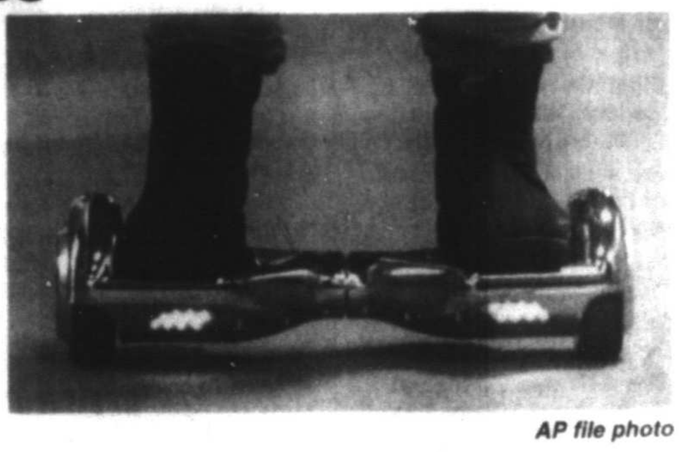
Colleges reported that even though the gadget has been gaining popularity, it's still relatively rare on campuses.

Dolan, of Kean University, said he saw about six students riding the scooters last fall. News of swift sales over the holidays, plus the reports of fires, led him to propose the ban.

"If that may inconvenience a couple dozen students, then that's what it's going to have to be," he said.

Fire officials in several states have issued their own warnings about the devices, including in New Jersey, were authorities recommended that all public colleges ban them.

Still, several colleges have suggested that they may allow hoverboards in the future. American University said its ban is temporary, but will last "until further notice." At Wellesley College near Boston, a policy bans the motorized scooters "until safety standards can be developed and implemented by the manufacturers."



AP file photo

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver B.J. Daniels rides through a hallway at CenturyLink Field on an electric self-balancing scooter commonly called a hoverboard as he arrives for an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Seattle. Since December 2015, several universities have banned or limited hoverboards on their campuses, saying the two-wheeled, motorized scooters are unsafe. Beyond the risk of falls and collisions, colleges are citing warnings from federal authorities that some of the self-balancing gadgets have caught on fire.

CEPEDA

From 2B

abysmal. Twenty-one states still allow special education teachers to earn a generic special education license to teach any special education students in any grade, K-12. ... Only 14 states require elementary special education candidates to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test — similar to what would be expected of any other elementary school teacher. Only Missouri, New York and Wisconsin require secondary-level special education teachers to pass a test in every subject they are licensed to teach."

There are no quick and easy fixes for the many factors that lead public schools to perform poorly in educating our children — regardless of whether individual students need special help. But the low standards for training teachers who are in charge of our nation's classrooms should be a no-brainer way to start remedying at least part of the problem.

Teacher training *is* dismal and, unfortunately, not a headline-grabbing education issue that motivates parents and other advocates to demand change.

But shouldn't it be?

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LEVEL

For each of the three words below, change one letter to an A, and then rearrange the letters to spell a dog breed.

L A M I N A T E D

T A L I S M A N

T E M P L E S

Yesterday's Answer: PIKE, JOINER, ZONE, RIPEN

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1.12

OREGON SCHOOLS REOPEN

Rick Bowmer/AP

Students arrive at the Hines Middle School after Harney County School District reopened its doors Monday in Hines, Ore. The armed takeover of an Oregon wildlife refuge forced area schools to close for the week.

School named after Eisenhower opens

By Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A new elementary school named after President Dwight D. Eisenhower has opened in his boyhood home of Abilene, Kansas, 46 years after he left office.

Parents considered Eisenhower as a name for an Abilene elementary school in the 1960s. But it wasn't until Thursday that fourth- and fifth-grade students began classes in a building bearing the name of the 34th president and supreme Allied commander during World War II.

"It just seemed to be the thing to do," school board vice president Barb Brittan said of naming the new, 38,000-square-foot, $7.4 million building Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School. "This was our opportunity to finally have a school building with his name on it."

At least 80 other schools are named after Eisenhower, including one in Ecuador, said Samantha Kenner, a spokeswoman for the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, where Eisenhower moved when he was 2. She said the institution was "thrilled" that Abilene had a school named after the late president, who died in 1969.

The school that some parents wanted to name Eisenhower decades earlier was ultimately named after President John Kennedy following his 1963 assassination. The decision was made in part because the district had a tradition of naming its elementary schools after assassinated presidents. The district hadn't built a new elementary school since then.

Some community members had asked over the years to change the name of an already established school to Eisenhower, but the board was reluctant to do so, said Abilene School District Superintendent Denise Guy.

"In building a new one it was a great opportunity to name it Dwight D. Eisenhower," Guy said. "We are extremely proud to be in a community where we raised a president, and he participated in our educational system."

The new school is part of a $24.2 million bond issue approved by voters in November 2014. It replaces the smaller Garfield School, which was built as a project of the Works Progress Administration, a New Deal-era federal agency.

GOP push to free cash for state-related universities fails

By Peter Jackson
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A push by the state House Republican majority to bypass a months-old state budget standoff and free up $578 million for state-related universities foundered Monday as party leaders failed to attract the required two-thirds majority.

Bills containing the annual state appropriations for four universities — Penn State, Pitt, Temple and Lincoln — and the University of Pennsylvania's veterinary school have languished as lawmakers from both major parties and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf struggled to make a deal on a state budget for the fiscal year that began July 1.

GOP proponents of immediately approving the university appropriations argued that negotiators for all sides supported the increases of at least 5 percent and contended that the cost could be absorbed by spending that the governor cut from a scaled-down GOP budget plan approved last month.

Wolf released most of the spending in the $30.3 billion GOP budget, including some long-delayed funding for schools and social services. He supports a $30.8 billion alternative that calls for about $500 million more in spending than the GOP plan and unspecified tax increases totaling more than $1 billion.

Majority Leader Dave Reed said lawmakers should approve the bills and "keep our commitment" to the universities and their students, who are halfway through the academic year.

"The math adds up," Rep. William Adolph, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said in urging that the bills be approved. "I know how people in this chamber feel about Penn State University."

Democrats said approving an appropriation for non-state entities before a complete state budget is in place could violate the state constitution.

It's "an exercise in wishful thinking. The money is not there," said Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny. "We are on our way to a train wreck."

Rep. Frank Dermody, the House minority leader, said enacting the university bills would amount to "teasing the students of the commonwealth because there's no money to pay for it."

"It's time to tell the people of Pennsylvania the truth," the Allegheny County Democrat said.

One by one, the bills fell at least 19 votes short of the needed 134-vote majority.

Most of the proposed increases are 5 percent, but Lincoln would get 7 percent boost and the Pennsylvania College of Technology, a Penn State affiliate, would get an 11 percent increase.

Judge puts sweeping Nevada school choice program on hold

Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — A district judge put Nevada's sweeping school choice program on hold just weeks before money was expected to flow to parents for private school tuition.

Carson City District Court Judge James Wilson granted a preliminary injunction Monday that orders the state treasurer to stop implementing Nevada's new education savings accounts pending further court deliberations. Wilson said the plaintiffs proved they had a reasonable chance of prevailing in the case, and ordered the parties to work out a date for the next hearing.

The program "has such a real chance of being such a harm to schools," said attorney Tamerlin Godley, who argued against the ESAs and said the 4,500 or so applicants would represent $20 million diverted away from public schools. "Those are real dollars and have a real impact."

The Republican-backed program, authorized in the spring by the Nevada Legislature, allows parents to claim more than $5,000 in state per-pupil school funds each year and use it for qualified education expenses for their child.

A coalition including parents in Reno and Las Vegas and Democratic former state Sen. Justin Jones challenged the program, saying it would divert money from public schools and could run afoul of the state constitution.

"The Nevada Constitution makes it crystal clear that the funding provided for our public schools can only be used to operate those schools, and not for any other purpose," Jones said when the suit was filed in August. "The voucher law, by taking funding out of the public schools to pay for private school tuition and other private services, blatantly violates this explicit mandate enshrined in our state constitution."

Plaintiffs also argued that it would disproportionately benefit wealthier families who could afford to pay more when the cost of private school tuition exceeded the value of the ESA.

Thousands of families who applied were told they could receive funds by February if courts didn't object. Some moved their children into public schools temporarily so they could meet one of the program's requirements — that children attend public school for at least 100 days before becoming eligible.

Godley said it was critical to get the injunction now, before money flowed to families, because it would be tough to claw the funds back to the state. She also said it was encouraging for opponents of the program.

"It's a good sign for prevailing on the merits in the long run," she said.

The program has been touted by Republicans and has garnered national headlines for its scope, but its future has long been uncertain. It's subject to two other lawsuits, including one from the American Civil Liberties Union that one argues ESAs violate the Blaine Amendment, a Nevada constitutional provision banning the use of public funds for religious purposes.

A judge hasn't ruled yet in that case.

Program defenders, including the Nevada Attorney General's Office and the Nevada State Treasurer's Office, didn't immediately have comment on the injunction on Monday afternoon.

Walker announces college affordability proposals in Wisconsin

By Greg Moore
Associated Press

PEWAUKEE, Wis. — Gov. Scott Walker announced a series of legislative proposals Monday aimed at making college more affordable, unveiling plans that include removing the cap on tax-deductible student loan interest, increasing need-based assistance programs at technical colleges and bringing on more internship coordinators across the state.

The timing of the announcement, just before legislators begin the push to wrap up their two-year session and hit the campaign trail and eight days before the State of the State address, underscores how important the issue has become politically. The Republican governor, however, framed his proposals as the next step in his efforts to keep college costs down.

Walker repeatedly touted his moves to freeze University of Wisconsin System tuition for four consecutive years and said they halted years of significant increases. "The best thing we've done over the last four years is freeze tuition," he said.

Democratic Sen. Jennifer Shilling, meanwhile, said in a statement Monday that Walker has refused to meet with members of her party about their plan to allow students to refinance school loan debt. "Wisconsin families are struggling, and it's disappointing that Gov. Walker refuses to work across the aisle to solve the challenges facing our middle class," the Democratic leader said.

Walker, however, said his office has studied the idea and that it hasn't worked elsewhere. "Instead," he said, "we're looking at ways of keeping costs down in the first place."

College costs have become a key issue in national politics. During Walker's presidential run last year, he sparred with Democrat Hillary Clinton over his plan to cut University of Wisconsin system funding by $300 million during the two-year budget cycle. The UW System budget was ultimately trimmed by $250 million, and Walker pushed back against Clinton's criticism by holding up his tuition freezes as examples of specific action he has taken on the issue.

In Wisconsin, Shilling and other Democrats say Walker's moves haven't been enough and that the $19 billion in student loan debt held by more than 800,000 people has been a drag on the state's economy.

Despite the tuition freezes, college costs haven't remained static.

At UW-Madison, for example, student fees have gone up about 3 percent and room and board costs have increased about 10 percent over the last four school years, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. At UW-Milwaukee, student fees jumped nearly 23 percent and room and board expenses rose nearly 7 percent.

Walker cited the same office, however, saying that in the 10 years before his freezes went into place, tuition went up annually at a rate of more than 8 percent.

Walker said lifting the tax-deduction cap, which is currently $2,500, would cost about $5.2 million, and his plan to increase need-based assistance at technical colleges would cost about $1 million and help about 1,000 students.

He said the initiatives would be paid for using part of the state's nearly $136 million surplus.

EDUCATIONBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Petroleum Academy meetings planned

Midland ISD is hosting meetings about Petroleum Academy for parents of current eighth-graders. The meetings are planned for 6 p.m. Jan. 26 and Jan. 28 at the Advanced Technology Center Lecture Hall, 3200 W. Cuthbert Ave.

MISD Petroleum Academy is for students interested in the the oil and gas industry. Courses are aimed toward career-ready, technical, and engineering fields.

Mental health conference to be presented

Midland ISD Office of Guidance and Counseling is to host Permian Basin Mental Health Conference 8 a.m.-5 p .m. Jan. 29 and 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Jan. 30 at First Baptist Church. Registration and breakfast are an hour before the conference begins each day.

The conference, sponsored by Chevron and Midland ISD Education Foundation, will provide tools and strategies for preventing suicide. Members of the public are invited to attend. To register, go to bit.ly/1HF0hSn.

Simon Youth Foundation to award scholarships

Midland County seniors may apply for scholarships to be awarded by Simon Youth Foundation. Simon Youth Community Scholarship will provide recipients with up to $1,500.

Students can apply online at syf.org/scholarships. Simon Youth Community Scholarships are awarded in cities in which there is a Simon Mall.

MISDCALENDAR

FROM STAFF REPORTS

■ Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Jan. 18
■ Presidents Day: Feb. 15
■ Midland Reporter-Telegram Regional Spelling Bee: Feb. 20
■ Lee High School's RebeLee Court: Feb. 25.
■ Spring break: March 7-11.
■ Good Friday: March 25.
■ Midland High School's Catoico: April 16
■ Memorial Day: May 30
■ Bad weather make-up days: Midand ISD and Richard Milburn Academy - Feb. 15 and March 4; Greenwood ISD - Feb. 15 and April 22; Midand Academy Charter School - April 25 and May 16; Texas Leadership Charter Academy - April 29 and May 23
■ Last day of school: MISD - June 3; Greenwood ISD - May 27; Trinity School - May 26; Midland Christian School - May 19; Midland Classical Academy - May 6; MACS - May 26; RMA-June 3; St. Ann's School - May 27; Hillander School - May 20; TLCA - May 26; Midland College - May 12.
■ Graduation: MISD - June 4; GISD - May 27; Trinity School - May 20; MCS - May 20; GISD - Midland Classical Academy - May 7; St. Ann's School (eighth grade) - May 24; Hillander (sixth grade) - May 18; MC - May 13.

TODAY: Sunny High: 57 Low: 30

WEDNESDAY: Sunny High: 60 Low: 33

THURSDAY: Sunny High: 61 Low: 37

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny High: 67 Low: 35

SATURDAY: Sunny High: 53 Low: 32

SUNDAY: Mostly sunny High: 54 Low: 33

Local forecast

The National Weather Service is reporting no rain or high winds in its forecast this week. This weekend expect lower-than-average high temperatures, culminating in a high temperature in the upper 40s Monday.

The record high for Jan. 11 is 78 set in 1935. The record low is -8 set in 1962. On Jan. 11 of last year, the high was 63 and the low was 30.

Weather brief

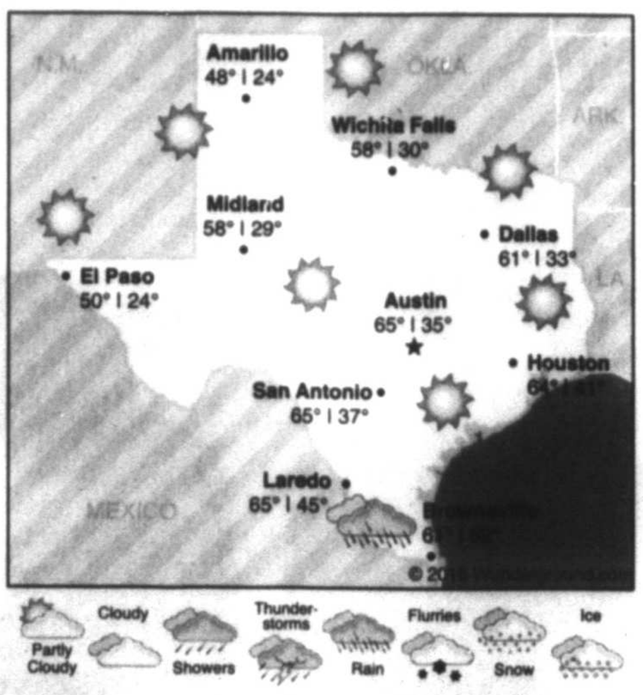
KENTUCKY

Forecast calls for snow showers

LOUISVILLE — Forecasters are calling for snow showers to sweep across Kentucky beginning today.

The National Weather Service is calling for up to 3 inches of snow to fall in parts of central Kentucky, though deeper accumulations are possible in some areas.

The weather service said snow showers are expected to move into Kentucky from the west around daybreak and continue through much of the day. While central Kentucky is expected to get the largest snowfall, areas of eastern Kentucky could get 1-2 inches.



Precipitation

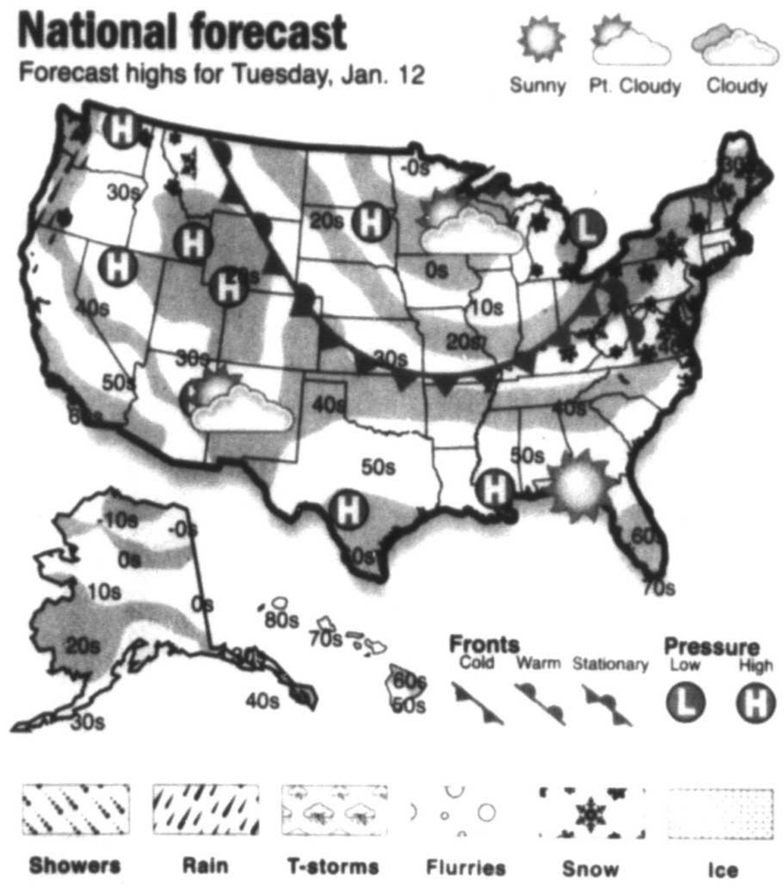
Sunday	0.00 in.
Monday	0.00 in.
Month total	0.09 in.
Year total	0.09 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.16 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	54
Low	27
Normal high	41
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:50 a.m.
Sunset	6:04 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Tuesday, Jan. 12



Father ignoring gum disease needs a good chewing-out

DEAR ABBY

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

DEAR ABBY: My husband has developed a bad case of periodontal disease. I'm afraid to kiss him because I don't want the bacteria causing the disease to spread and his bad breath is unbearable. Our sex life is suffering because of it.

We have two beautiful children together, and I love him very much — even if he loses all his teeth at the age of 37. I have explained how extremely important oral hygiene is to overall health, especially heart health, and how his unwillingness to deal with this sends the wrong message to our kids. He simply refuses or conveniently "forgets." When I asked him why, he said his mother traumatized him about it as a child.

My children are starting to take notice now. My daughter doesn't want to go near him, and my son thinks it's OK to not brush his teeth because his father doesn't. As you can see, this is disrupting our family. What kind of advice could I give him to get him to start taking care of his mouth? — WIT'S END IN FLORIDA

DEAR WIT'S END: That your son is modeling his behavior after his father is terrible. There are psychologists who help patients overcome phobias and dentists who specialize in patients with your husband's problem. If necessary, dental work can be done under complete sedation.

If your husband would be willing to listen to your family doctor or the children's pediatrician, perhaps one of them can get through to him the importance of conquering his fear before it causes lasting damage to the next generation.

DEAR ABBY: I recently began a relationship with a wonderful man I'll call "Edward." He's smart, successful, sweet and has a wonderful sense of humor. I adore him and can see myself spending many happy years, if not forever, with him.

The problem is my parents. I'm 24 and a recent college graduate. I have a good job and have been living independently since I was 19. Edward is 31, divorced and has two kids (ages 5 and 8). Because of his kids and marital status, my parents refuse to even meet him. They claim I'm making a terrible mistake being involved with someone with so much "baggage."

I am very close to my parents, and their reaction is hurtful. This is the happiest I have been in a long time in a relationship, maybe ever. Neither Edward's kids nor the fact that he's divorced is an issue for me. I've met his children and enjoy spending time with them. He has a civil relationship with his ex-wife, who also has a new partner.

Do you think my parents' reaction is fair? Do you think in time they'll come around? — BITTERSWEET IN LOVE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR BITTERSWEET: Whether your parents' reaction is fair or not is beside the point. Their feelings are their feelings. The relationship you have with Edward is new, and where it may lead is anybody's guess. If it lasts, your parents may come around. But as an adult, the choice of whom you date or will one day marry should be yours and no one else's.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Chances

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 4 3 2
♥ 7 6
♦ Q 9
♣ J 10 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 9 5
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ J 10 8 7 5
♣ Q 5

EAST
♠ 7
♥ 8 3 2
♦ K 4 3 2
♣ K 9 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K J 10 8 6
♥ A J 5 4
♦ A 6
♣ A

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠*	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All pass		

*Stronger than 4♠

Opening lead: King of ♦.

South was dreaming of a grand slam when he cue bid four clubs, but he settled for a small slam when partner didn't co-operate. Even that contract was in doubt when the disappointing dummy came down.

Declarer smoothly ducked the opening heart lead, hoping for a heart continuation. West, a wily veteran, didn't fall for it. His keen table feel, plus his partner's discouraging deuce of hearts at trick one, induced him to shift to the jack of diamonds. South tried dummy's queen, hopefully, but this was topped by the king and ace.

Despite the discouraging start, the contract still had chances. South cashed the ace of clubs, then the ace of spades and led a low spade to dummy's queen, drawing the trumps. This was followed by a club ruff, declarer noting the fall of the queen from West. South cashed the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, hoping the queen would fall. No luck there, but a good guess in clubs would see him home. Did West start with a doubleton queen, or three to the king and queen. Our good friend Abner, the great mathematician, assures us that queen doubleton is more likely than king, queen third. Knowing this, South led the jack of clubs for a ruffing finesse against the king. Success! South now had a discard for his diamond loser and he could ruff his remaining heart in dummy. Well done!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016:

This year you can expect a lot of snap, crackle and pop to surround your personal life. You might try to ignore all the excitement, but you won't succeed. Eventually, you will get used to this type of infusion into your normal day-to-day life. If you are single, you could enjoy a lot of special romantic moments. You also might go through several potential suitors until you find Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, as a couple, you either will become very lucky with money or you'll create uproar in your budget by overspending. Romance remains present between you and your sweetie. PISCES is a good listener.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. Your high energy and fiery impulsiveness will help you complete what you want to do. Others support you in a project, and you like to know that they are there. As a result of their support, you'll be more confident. Tonight: Get some R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ You might be inclined to take charge. Others respond to your energy. The unexpected plays a big role in your actions. Be more forthright in your decision-making process. A meeting might be more important than you realize. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. Your ability to read between the lines could play out with a friend or with an unexpected development. Be ready to take the lead with an important matter. Others will work with you more easily. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You could be in a situation where you find that someone else is totally amenable to your ideas. This person will support you by approaching someone who is in charge. What happens could surprise you! Tonight: Brainstorm with someone who often plays devil's advocate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Be more forthright with a partner, even though you might expect a strong reaction. What you hear might force you to rethink a creative venture. You'll gain insight into what someone else expects. Your visions could be very different. Tonight: Go with a loved one's suggestion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Defer to others, as they seem to want to run the show. You could discover that you enjoy yourself far more than you had anticipated, especially when dealing with someone who has been difficult. Work on a project that has been on the back burner. Tonight: Be with favorite people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Understand what is happening with a relative; he or she might open up more than you had anticipated. You might question a loved one's actions, as they don't seem to reflect what he or she says. Understand how much effort you must put forth. Tonight: Get some exercise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ If you can work from home, do. You could be distracted by an event, but you'll cover a lot of ground regardless. Make an extra effort toward an associate who is unpredictable. You might not always like what happens when working with this person. Tonight: Off to the gym.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Your smile adds to someone else's spontaneity. You never know what will happen next with this person. You'll discover how important it is to be at peace with your actions, even if others aren't. Take time to check in with yourself. Tonight: Reflect on today's events.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You could be in the position of making a major change, yet some unexpected uproar forces you to stop and take another look. Timing is more important than you realize. Wait until the end of the month to make a decision, and you will be a lot happier. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Be direct, yet maintain a sense of humor with a close friend. You might not be sure which way you should head when dealing with others, especially after today's happenings. Just let everything happen naturally and respond accordingly. Tonight: Make it your treat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ You might be at the end of your patience with an unpredictable family member. This person means well, but he or she knows how to create chaos. Your sense of humor emerges later in the day, when you relax more. Tonight: You feel ready to take on the world.

BORN TODAY

Radio personality Howard Stern (1954), entrepreneur Jeff Bezos (1964), musician Rob Zombie (1965)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 In any way
6 Brief
11 Pack the groceries
14 Actress O'Donnell
15 "Peter, Peter, pumpkin ..."
16 TV brand
17 *Alabama team
19 Boston Bruin great Bobby
20 Fisherman's Wharf entrée
21 Kevin of "Dances With Wolves"
23 Honey makers
25 Okla. neighbor
26 Fighting
30 Item inserted through eyelets
34 Nappy leather
35 Woodwind instrument
36 "Veep" channel
38 x or y, on graphs
39 Dickens' Drood
41 Crystal ball gazer
42 Cribbage marker
43 One of 14 in a pro's golf bag
44 Like xenon and krypton
45 Dietary supplement obtained from predatory fish
48 Up on a map
49 Letter before upsilon
50 Clearasil targets
52 Vein in the neck
56 Actress Wood
61 Eggs
62 Lengthy litany ... and, literally, what the ends of the answers to starred clues comprise
64 Hawaiian wreath
65 Cubs Hall of Famer Banks
66 One committed to a military career
67 Coppertone user's goal
68 Lear daughter
69 Cosmetician Lauder

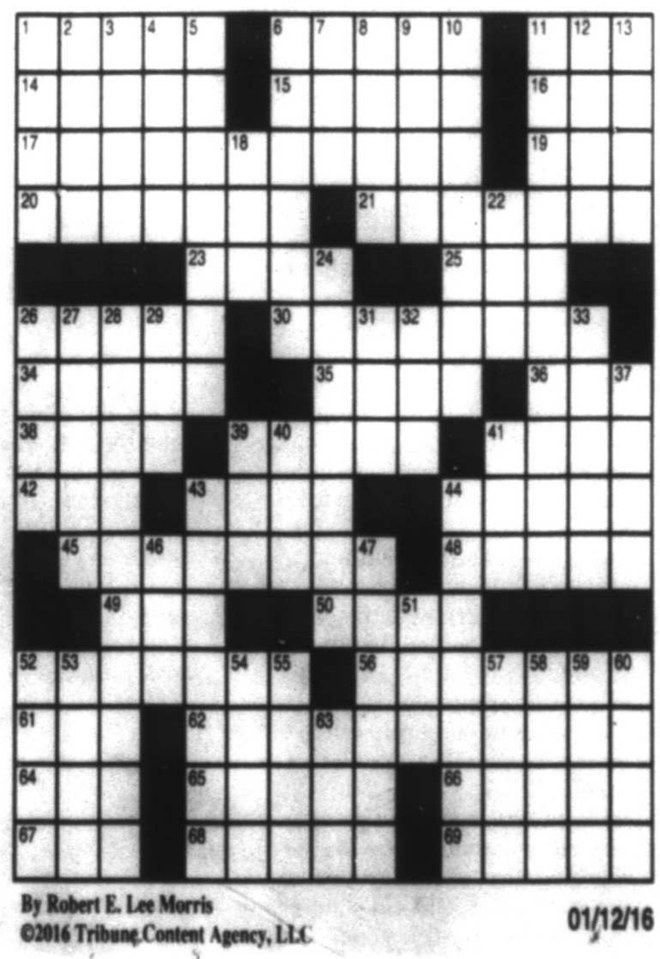
DOWN

1 Circle segments
2 Ripped
3 Cambodia's continent
4 Swing support
5 Longtime Buick model
6 Feels
7 Boater or bowler
8 Suffix with psych
9 Decorate again
10 Railroad bridge support
11 *Raspberry
12 43,560 square feet
13 Actress Teri
18 Sugary ending
22 Earl Grey, for one
24 *Tinseltown trade
26 "Now!" in memos
27 Monkey suits
28 *Dieter's concern
29 Newspaper revenue source
31 __-Wan Kenobi
32 Very long time
33 Longtime partner of Siskel
37 Sports MD's specialty
39 Yellowstone grazer
40 Batman and Robin, e.g.
41 __-cone: shaved ice dessert
43 Doughnut with a twist
44 Fashionable
46 Nonpro sports org.
47 Tree also called basswood
51 La Brea goo
52 Quite a blow
53 Eye layer containing the iris
54 Swiss river
55 Step on a ladder
57 Boxers Muhammad and Laila
58 English elevator
59 "Gotcha"
60 French I infinitive
63 Actress Vardalos

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	A	C	K		S	P	I	T		E	L	B	O	W
N	E	H	I		W	A	C	O		R	O	U	G	E
O	R	E	S		I	R	O	N		A	C	C	R	A
B	O	X	S	P	R	I	N	G		T	A	K	E	N
				E	E	L	S		N	O	T	E		
P	A	B	S	T		P	D	A		E	T	C	H	
A	L	A		A	D	I	E	U	S		S	L	A	Y
S	I	N		L	O	V	E	T	A	P		I	M	P
H	E	A	T		J	E	K	Y	L	L		S	E	E
A	N	N	E		O	S	S		A	U	T	O	S	
		A	N	T	S			V	I	N	S			
P	I	P	P	I		S	E	A	T	B	A	C	K	S
O	N	E	A	L		P	A	G	E		B	R	A	T
N	T	E	S	T		O	V	U	M		L	U	L	U
D	O	L	T	S		T	E	E	S		E	X	E	D

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/12/16



By Robert E. Lee Morris
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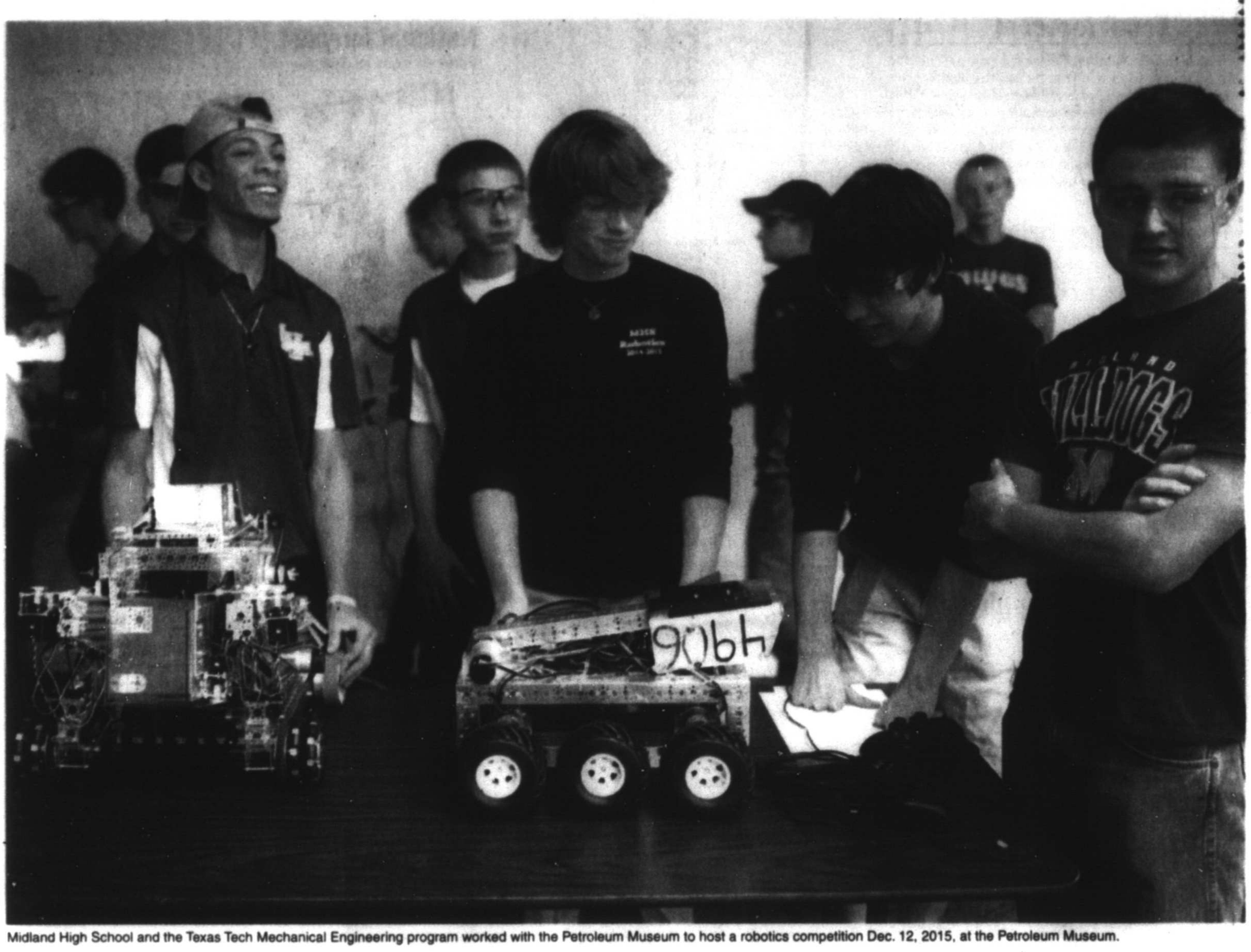
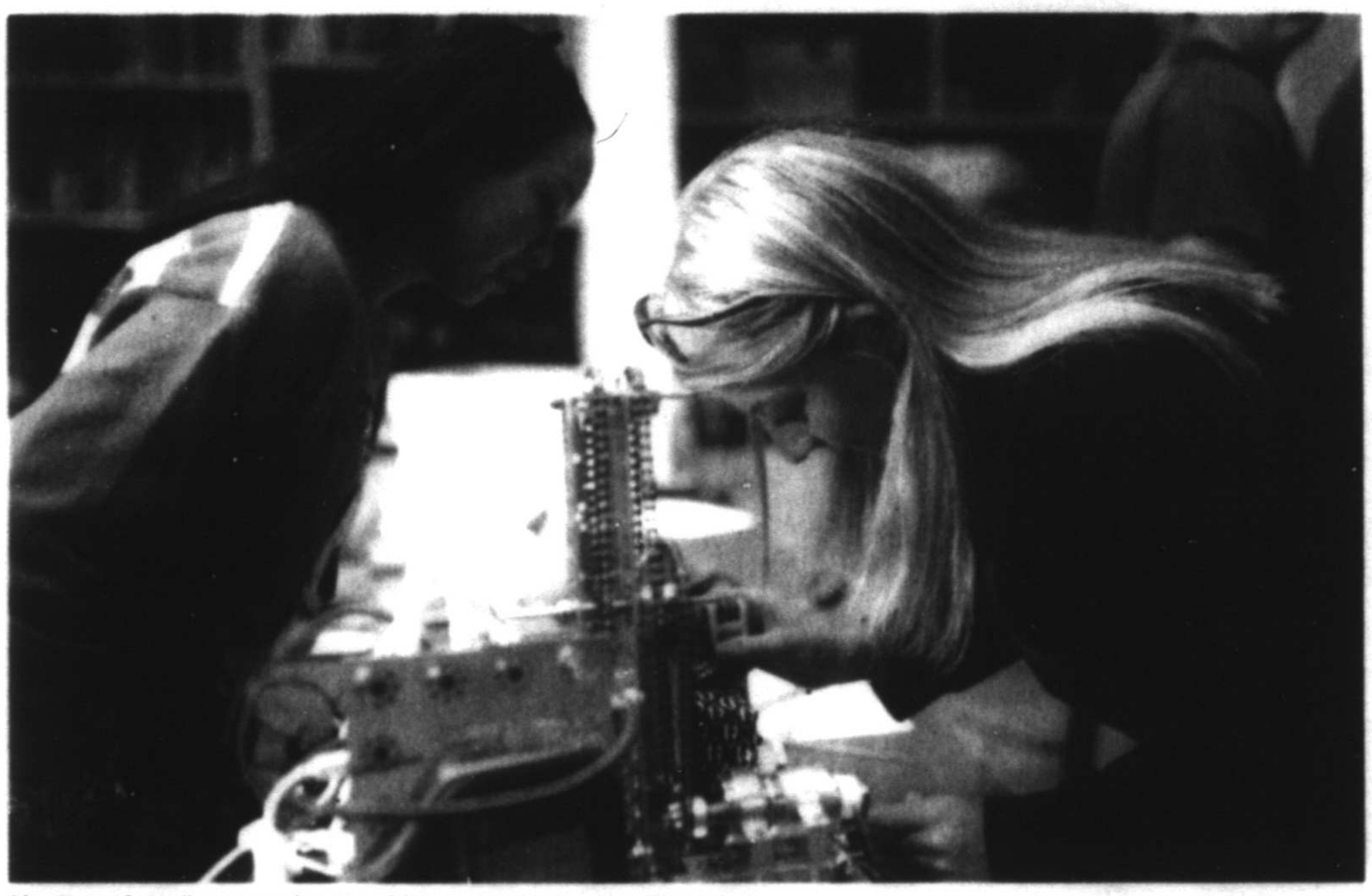
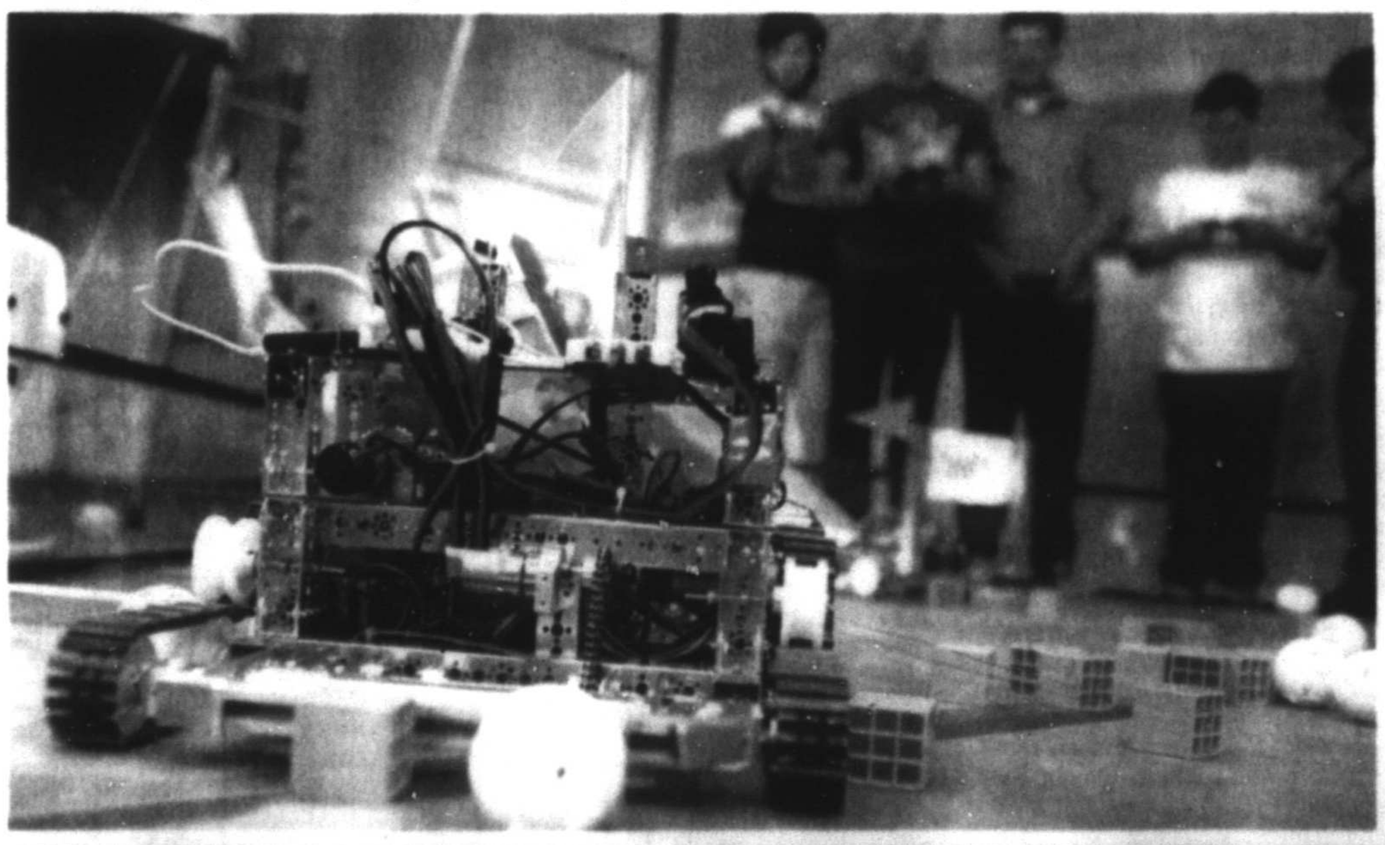


Midland High School and the Texas Tech Mechanical Engineering program worked with the Petroleum Museum to host a robotics competition Dec. 12, 2015, at the Petroleum Museum.



Members of an all-girl team from Lee High work on their competition robot.



ROBOTS TAKE THE STAGE

PHOTOS BY JAMES DURBIN
REPORTER-TELEGRAM

MISD to host area robotics competition

From staff reports

Midland ISD will serve as the host district for the Texas Computer Education Association Area 18 Robotics Competition, planned for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Midland College PE Building.

Eighty-two teams of fourth- through 12th-graders will participate in four robotics competitions.

The event is open to the public. For more information, go to www.tcea.org.

Gutsy play helps Tide beat Clemson 45-40 for national title

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Arizona — Alabama needed it all to win the toughest national title game it had ever played during the Nick Saban dynasty. All of its power. All of its speed.

Even one gutsy trick.

Derrick Henry, O.J. Howard and Kenyan Drake hit No. 1 Clemson with huge plays, and Alabama outlasted the dynamic play of dual-threat quarterback Deshaun Watson to win the College Football Playoff championship 45-40 on Monday night.

The Crimson Tide (14-1) won its three previous championship game appearances in runaway fashion. This game was an instant classic — and it turned on maybe the boldest call of Saban's career.

With 10:34 left in the fourth quarter and Alabama having just tied the game with a short field goal, Saban took a gamble to try to keep the ball away from Watson and the Tigers. He called for a high-bouncing onside kick that Tide defensive Marlon Humphrey caught over the shoulder at midfield.

Tide ball.

Moments later, Alabama also took back the lead. For the second time, Clemson (14-1) lost track of the tight end Howard in coverage and Jake Coker hit him in stride deep for a 51-yard touchdown to make it 31-24 with 9:45 left.

Clemson and Watson proved to be every bit Alabama's equal. The Tigers just kept coming.

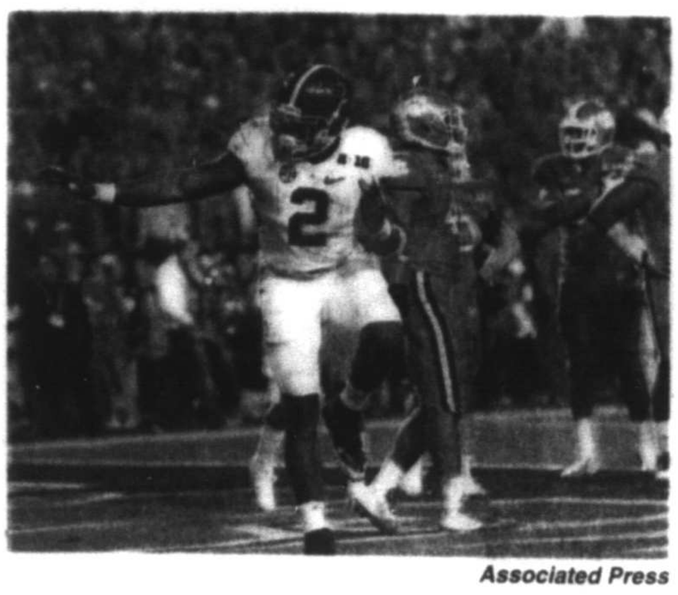
Watson led Clemson to a field goal to make it 31-27, and boom! Another Alabama big play. Kenyan Drake broke free and streaked down the sideline for a 95-yard kickoff return touchdown.

Watson threw his third touchdown pass to make it 38-33 with 4:40 left, and then Alabama went back to its workhorse Heisman Trophy winner. Derrick Henry plunged into the end zone for his third touchdown of the game to make it 45-33 with 1:07 left.

Watson threw another touchdown pass, but would not get another chance. Clemson's onside kick went out of bounds. Coker took a knee and Alabama's dynasty was very much alive and well.

The Crimson Tide (14-1) became the second team in college football's poll era, dating back to 1936, to win four titles in seven seasons.

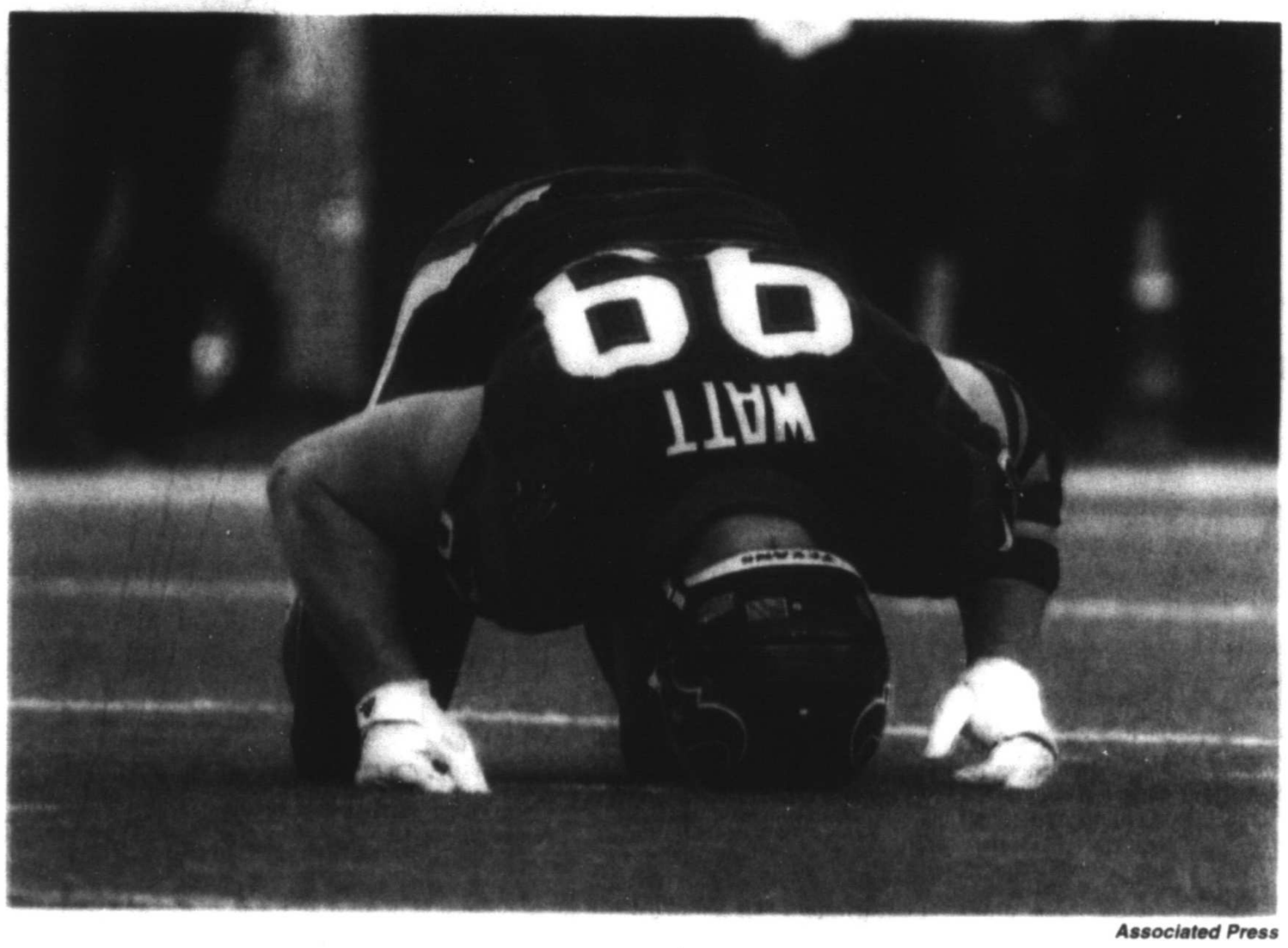
Alabama joins Notre Dame, which won four titles from 1943-49.



Associated Press

Alabama's Derrick Henry (2) celebrates a touchdown run during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Clemson, on Monday, in Glendale, Ariz.

A valiant effort, but alas



Associated Press

Houston Texans defensive end J.J. Watt (99) holds his head to the turf after he was injured during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Saturday, in Houston.

Texans fight through QB issues but foiled in end

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans dealt with quarterback problems all season, so it was fitting that more struggles at the position ended their season in the wild-card round of the playoffs.

Brian Hoyer signed a two-year contract before this season, but his five-turnover debacle in the loss to the Chiefs could have the Texans looking for a new quarterback. Though he had a career-high four interceptions and a fumble in the 30-0 blowout to Kansas City, coach Bill O'Brien was careful not to place all the blame for the defeat on Hoyer.

"I think everybody has to look at themselves and figure out what they can do better," O'Brien said. "I think at that position, it's a very difficult position. Obviously, he didn't play well (Saturday). I mean, that's obvious. But nobody on offense really lit it up (Saturday), including the coaches."

Hoyer was asked if he expects to keep his job as Houston's starter next season.

"That's nine months away (but) I am going to prepare every day like I am that's for sure," he said. "I owe it to those guys in that locker room and these coaches to do everything I can to be a better player the next time I step on the field."

Struggles by Hoyer got him benched in the season opener and the Texans started Ryan Mallett for four games. But he won just one of those games and soon Hoyer was starting again and Mallett was released after missing a team flight. The Texans had to start both T.J. Yates and Brandon Weeden late in the season when Hoyer missed three games because of two concussions in less than a month.

Their offense got another blow in October when they lost star running back Arian Foster to a season-ending Achilles tendon injury.

Despite all those setbacks, Houston managed win seven of its last nine games to rebound from a 2-5 start and win the AFC South for its first playoff berth since 2012.

They did it with a defense led by J.J. Watt that improved steadily after a slow start to the year. Watt had another standout season, leading the NFL with 17 1/2 sacks to join Reggie White as the only players in history to have three 15-sack seasons in their first five years in the league. He also had 76 tackles, 29 tackles for losses, 50 quarterback hits, batted down eight passes, forced three fumbles and recovered one.

Please see TEXANS/4C

NFL owners set for another round of LA relocation talks

By Schuyler Dixon
Associated Press

NFL owners will try again to settle the issue of relocation to Los Angeles, this time knowing that Commissioner Roger Goodell has declared the stadiums inadequate in Oakland, St. Louis and San Diego.

Two days of meetings in Houston start Tuesday, six weeks after owners delayed a vote because they wanted more information on possible moves involving the Raiders, Rams and Chargers. Any move would involve one or two teams.

All three cities have tried to make their cases with the NFL, and each team recently submitted a formal relocation bid.

The latest development was Goodell's report last week to all 32 teams that says the existing stadiums are "inadequate and unsatisfactory," and that the proposals the Raiders, Rams and Chargers received to remain in their current cities lacked certainty. The report is required in the relocation process.

Rams owner Stan Kroenke is planning a $1.8 billion stadium in Inglewood, California, at the site of the old Hollywood Park racetrack. The Raiders and Chargers have a joint project in mind for nearby Carson. Kroenke also is willing to share his proposed stadium with either the Chargers or Raiders.

A move requires approval from at least 24 owners.

"It's a long, tedious process," New York Giants co-owner Steve Tisch said at the December meetings in the Dallas area. "There's a lot of questions and there are not answers to every question yet. And there will be more questions when we meet in mid-January for sure."

The St. Louis proposal calls for an open-air, $1.1 billion stadium along the Mississippi River north of the Gateway Arch to replace the Edward Jones Dome.

The plan includes $150 million from the city, $250 million from Kroenke, at least $200 million from the league, and $160 million in fan seat licenses. The rest of the money comes from the state, either through tax credits or bonds. Goodell has countered that NFL policy limits the league's contribution to $100 million.

San Diego has a $1.1 billion proposal to replace aging Qualcomm Stadium, but it will require a public vote that likely wouldn't happen before June. The Chargers walked away from negotiations with the city and have focused their efforts on the Carson project.

Houston owner Bob McNair, a member of the relocation committee, canceled a meeting with San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer last month, and made disparaging public remarks about city leadership.

Oakland is still in debt from a renovation 20 years ago when the Raiders moved back from Los Angeles. City officials have said they won't seek help from taxpayers with a new stadium, and asked the NFL for more time to develop a project in a league-required response to the Raiders' relocation plan.

No NFL franchise has moved since the Houston Oilers went to Tennessee in 1997. The Raiders and Rams both left Los Angeles after the 1994 season.

"I think the league, the NFL, looks at the disruption to any home city that potentially could lose their team to another city," Tisch said. "And they look at it very seriously. No one is doing this to encourage clubs moving from Oakland, San Diego or St. Louis to Los Angeles."

Chaparrals win in OT vs. Western Texas College

From staff reports

SNYDER — It was gut check time for the Midland College men's basketball team on Monday night.

With MC leading late in regulation, Western Texas College fought back to tie it at 57 to send it to overtime.

But the Chaparrals responded in the extra period when they went on a 9-3 run to escape with a 66-60 victory at The Coliseum.

With the win, Chaparrals improve to 15-3 overall and 3-1 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

"The key was changing up our intensity and wanting to win a basketball game," MC coach Jordan Dreiling said.

Dreiling said his team obviously didn't play its best game but added than any road win is a good win.

"It was an ugly win, but I'll take it," Dreiling said.

Western Texas (10-8, 1-3) led 36-30 at halftime as Dreiling said his team didn't do a good job of blocking out and crashing the boards.

The Chaps also were just 15 of 28 at the free-throw line for the game and leading scorer Daeshon Francis got into early foul trouble and was held to just seven points before eventually fouling out.

Dreiling said his team defended much better in the second half and that helped the Chaps take a lead. He added that James McPherson (eight points) gave the team some much-needed energy off the bench.

Jachai Simmons led MC with 14 points, while Solomon Hainna added 11.

Shannon James led WTC with 16 points, Traylin Prejean had 13 and Shane Johnson added 11.

MC next hosts Frank Phillips College at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Please see MEN/2C

Lady Chaparrals win over WTC

From staff reports

SNYDER — The No.-10 ranked Midland College women's basketball team overcame a slow start and got a big game from sophomore post Walnatia Wright for a 76-61 victory over Western Texas College on Monday night.

Wright

Wright had 25 points and 14 rebounds as the Lady Chaparrals won their eighth straight game and improved to 17-2 overall and 4-0 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

Western Texas (13-5, 0-3) had a 17-16 advantage after the first quarter but MC took a 38-36 lead at the half, thanks in part to shooting 50 percent in the first 20 minutes of play.

MC coach Ron Jones said Western Texas had a lot to do with his team being down as the Lady Westerners came out with a lot of energy an the WTC guards hustled for loose balls.

"We got that corrected in the second

Please see WOMEN/2C

DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

TV

Boxing

Miguel Flores vs. Mario Briones, 10 p.m., FS1, FXDEP

Men's College Basketball

DePaul at Xavier, 5:30 p.m., FS1

Mississippi State at Kentucky, 6 p.m., ESPN

Kansas at West Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Miami-FL at Virginia, 6 p.m., ESPNU

Tulane at USF, 6 p.m., ESPNews

Florida at Texas A&M, 6 p.m., SEC

Wisconsin at Northwestern, 6 p.m., BTN

George Washington at UMass, 6 p.m., SNY

Davidson at Dayton, 7 p.m., CBSSN

Texas Tech at Kansas State, 7 p.m., ESPN3

Providence at Creighton, 7:30 p.m., FS1

Maryland at Michigan, 8 p.m., ESPN

Iowa State at Texas, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Auburn at Vanderbilt, 8 p.m., ESPNU

Arkansas at Missouri, 8 p.m., SEC

Minnesota at Nebraska, 8 p.m., BTN

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

New Mexico at UNLV, 9 p.m., CBSSN

Men's Soccer

English Premier: Newcastle vs. Manchester United, 1:45 p.m., NBCSN

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

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

French Ligue Cup: Girondins de Bordeaux vs. Lorient, 2 p.m., beIN

Copa del Rey: Sevilla vs. Real Betis, 3 p.m., beIN2

National Basketball Association

San Antonio at Detroit, 6:30 p.m., FSSWSA

Chicago at Milwaukee, 7 p.m., NBAtv

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

National Hockey League

Tampa Bay at Colorado, 8 p.m., NBCSN

Tennis

ATP/WTA: Australian Open Qualifiers, 5:30 p.m., TENNIS

Women's College Basketball

West Virginia at Baylor, 7 p.m., FSSW+

RADIO

Boys High School Basketball

Miles at Forsan, 8 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring)

Girls High School Basketball

Big Spring at Lubbock Estacado, 6:30 p.m., KBYG 106.3 FM, 1400 AM (Big Spring); KBST 1490 AM (Big Spring)

Miles at Forsan, 6:30 p.m., KXCS 105.5 FM (Big Spring)

Andrews at Lubbock, 7:30 p.m., KACT 1360 AM (Andrews)

National Basketball Association

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

WHAT'S ON DECK

High school

HS Boys Basketball

Rankin at Borden County, 5 p.m.

San Angelo Lake View at Lee, 6 p.m.

Imperial Buena Vista at Stanton, 6 p.m.

Midland Christian at Alpine, 7:30 p.m.

MCA at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Andrews at Lubbock High, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring at Lubbock Estacado, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan at Miles, 8 p.m.

Grady at Dawson, 8 p.m.

Garden City at Blackwell, 8 p.m.

HS Girls Basketball

MCA at Trinity, 6 p.m.

Rankin at Wink, 6 p.m.

Stanton at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan at Miles, 6:30 p.m.

Grady at Dawson, 6:30 p.m.

Garden City at Blackwell, 6:30 p.m.

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

MHS vs. Odessa High, 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center

Greenwood at Andrews, 7:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

National League

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Seung-hwan Oh on a one-year contract.

American Association

SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Signed 1B Jordan Brown. Traded RHP Cameron McKitty to Lancaster for RHP Madison Boer.

ST. PAUL SAINTS — Sold the contract of 1B Angelo Songco to the L.A. Dodgers.

Frontier League

JOLIET SLAMMERS — Signed OF Charlie White to a contract extension.

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS — Signed RHPs Pat Dyer and Tyler Ferguson. RHPs Matt Haudin, Jeremy Holcombe and Luke Wilkins. OF Cody Herald, INF/1B Matt Peters, Austin Wolbrock and Jimmy Yezzo and C Eddie Sordano to contract extensions. Signed RHPs Sam Agnew, Weeland and Chase Cunningham. INF Justin Fox and OF Ricky Rodriguez.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Suspended Cincinnati LB Vontaze Burfict without pay for the first three games of the 2016 regular season for repeated violations of safety-related playing rules.

CHICAGO BEARS — Promoted quarterbacks coach Dowell Loggains to offensive coordinator. Signed DL Keith Browner to a reserve/future contract.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed G Jeame Fagiane. IR/injured. Placed OT Toby Johnson, DB John Lowdermilk, FB Blake Renaud and LB Terrance Plummer and Alex Singleton to reserve/future contracts.

NEW YORK JETS — Signed OT Jesse Davis. Lawrence Okoye, TE Anthony Robinson and G Craig Watts to reserve/future contracts.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed CB Steven Clarke to a reserve/future contract.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Signed RB Mack Brown, WR LaRon Byrd, OT Takoby Cofielo, DL Anthony Johnson, CB Al Louis-Jean, G Austin Reiter and LB Jordan Tripp to reserve/future contracts.

Canadian Football League

EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Signed PK Sean Whyte to a contract extension.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BUFFALO SABRES — Recalled C Marcus Foligno from a conditioning assignment in Rochester (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned D Jakub Kindl to Grand Rapids (AHL). Removed D Kyle Quincey from injured reserve. Placed LW Drew Miller on long-term injured reserve.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Recalled D Christian Marth from Reading (ECHL) to Lehigh Valley (AHL).

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Recalled F Josh Leivo from Toronto (AHL).

American Hockey League

BAKERSFIELD CONDORS — Assigned F Greg Chase to Norfolk (ECHL).

STOCKTON HEAT — Assigned F Mitchell Heard to Adirondack (ECHL).

UTICA COMETS — Recalled F Curtis Valk from Kalamazoo (ECHL).

WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON PENGUINS — Returned G Casey DeSmith to Wheeling (ECHL).

ECHL

ALLEN AMERICANS — Loaned D Eric Roy to Lake Erie (AHL).

ALASKA ACES — Released D Nilan Nagy.

CINCINNATI CYCLONES — Claimed G Andy Iles off waivers from Kalamazoo.

MISSOURI MAVERICKS — Signed D Mike Donnellan and F Eddie Sordano.

ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Released G Mike Nepsa as emergency backup. Added G Chris Nooner as emergency backup.

READING ROYALS — Loaned F Robbie Czarnke to San Diego (AHL).

TULSA OILERS — Released G Colten Wilson as emergency backup.

WHEELING NAILERS — Released G Daniel Spence.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

LOS ANGELES GALAXY — Re-signed F Alan Gordon.

SEATTLE SOUNDERS FC — Named Tony Perkins to the academy staff as a goalkeeper coach and Wade Webber under 15 coach.

COLLEGE

AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE — Promoted Michael Coyne to director of broadcast scheduling.

EAST CAROLINA — Named Ryan Anderson inside linebackers coach.

INDIANA — Signed football coach Kevin Wilson to six-year contract.

MISSOURI — Named Glen Elarbee offensive line coach.

NEBRASKA — DT Vincent Valentine announced he will enter the NFL draft.

NJIT — Announced the resignation of women's soccer coach Marie Reeder.

NEW MEXICO — Agreed to terms with football coach Bob Davie on a contract extension through the 2021 season.

N.C. STATE — Named Eliah Drinkwitz offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

NOTRE DAME — Announced LB Jaylon Smith will enter the NFL draft.

RIO GRANDE — Named Tony Daniels women's soccer coach.

SOUTHERN CAL — Named Clancy Pender past defensive coordinator.

SUNY OLD WESTBURY — Named Cameron Drake men's and women's assistant swimming coach.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	42	26	12	4	56	116	89
Detroit	42	22	12	7	51	105	108
Montreal	43	23	17	3	49	120	107
Boston	41	21	14	6	48	124	110
Tampa Bay	42	21	17	4	46	107	102
Ottawa	42	20	17	5	45	119	131
Toronto	42	18	17	7	43	104	114
Buffalo	42	16	22	4	36	97	111

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	42	32	7	3	67	139	95
N.Y. Rangers	42	23	14	5	51	123	110
N.Y. Islanders	42	22	11	9	49	114	107
New Jersey	41	21	11	9	51	97	103
Pittsburgh	41	20	16	5	45	97	105
Philadelphia	40	18	15	7	43	91	108
Carolina	43	18	18	7	43	102	118
Columbus	43	15	24	4	34	109	139

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	44	29	11	4	62	149	116
Chicago	44	27	13	4	58	126	104
St. Louis	45	24	14	7	55	111	112
Minnesota	42	22	12	8	52	111	99
Nashville	42	19	16	7	45	107	115
Colorado	43	21	19	3	45	125	123
Winnipeg	42	19	20	3	41	111	121

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	41	26	12	3	55	108	90
Arizona	41	21	16	4	46	116	125
Vancouver	42	16	16	10	42	102	118
Anaheim	41	17	17	7	41	78	99
San Jose	39	19	18	2	40	109	108
Calgary	40	19	19	2	40	105	124
Edmonton	43	17	23	3	37	106	127

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

Scores & schedule

Monday's Games

N.Y. Rangers 2, Boston 1

San Jose at Calgary, late

Florida at Vancouver, late

Detroit at Los Angeles, late

Tuesday's Games

Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Carolina, 6 p.m.

New Jersey at St. Louis, 7 p.m.

Buffalo at Minnesota, 7 p.m.

San Jose at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.

Nashville at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Colorado, 8 p.m.

Edmonton at Arizona, 8 p.m.

SKI REPORT

New Mexico

Angel Fire — Mon 5-24 am packed powder machine groomed 25-41 base 78 of 78 trails 100% open. 6 of 7 lifts. Mon-Thu 9a-4p Fri 9a-6p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Pajarito — Sun Reopen 1/13 packed powder machine groomed 20-40 base 34 of 44 trails 77% open. 5 of 7 lifts. Wed-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p Open Wed-Sun

Red River — Sat 7-17 am powder machine groomed 35-40 base 58 of 58 trails 100% open. 250 acres, 7 of 7 lifts. am Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Sandia Peak — Sun Reopen 1/15 packed powder machine groomed 16-30 base 36 of 39 trails 97% open. 5 of 5 lifts. Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p Open Fri-Sun

Sipapu — Mon 5-29 am powder machine groomed 41-47 base 42 of 42 trails. 100% open 10 miles. 290 acres, 6 of 6 lifts. am Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Ski Apache — Sun 11-47 pm machine groomed 54-140 base 54 of 55 trails 98% open. 10 of 10 lifts. am Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Ski Santa Fe — Sun 6-04 am powder machine groomed 76-90 base 79 of 79 trails 100% open. 7 of 7 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Taos — Mon 5-49 am powder machine groomed 84-94 base 109 of 110 trails. 99% open 1381 acres. 11 of 15 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat Sun 9a-4p

Colorado

Arapahoe Basin — Mon 5-38 am packed powder machine groomed 40-40 base 94 of 109 trails 86% open. 925 acres. 7 of 8 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 8:30a-4p

Aspen Highlands — Mon 4-03 am packed powder machine groomed 36-52 base 120 of 122 trails 98% open. 1040 acres. 5 of 5 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun 9a-3:30p

Aspen Mountain — Mon 4-01 am packed powder machine groomed 29-33 base 76 of 76 trails 100% open. 675 acres. 6 of 6 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun 9a-3:30p

Beaver Creek — Mon 6-26 am powder machine groomed 35-35 base 142 of 150 trails 95% open. 1789 acres. 24 of 25 lifts. Mon-Fri 9a-4p Sat/Sun 9a-4p

Breckenridge — Mon 6-29 am packed powder machine groomed 39-39 base 187 of 187 trails 99% open. 2832 acres. 34 of 35 lifts. Mon-Fri 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun 8:30a-4p

HIGHSCHOOLBASKETBALLCAPSULES

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ODESSA HIGH AT MIDLAND HIGH

When/where: 7:30 p.m., Chaparral Center

Records: OHS 12-11, 0-1 in District 3-6A; MHS 13-7, 1-0

Last game: Lee 58, Odessa High 24; MHS 55, Odessa Permian 50

Notes: Trailing 22-18 at halftime, the Lady Bulldogs rallied in the second half to outlast Permian 55-50 in their District 3-6A opener on Friday. The game turned in the third quarter when MHS outscored Permian 19-10. ... Odessa High struggled to control the glass versus Lee, an area that the Lady Bulldogs could exploit with their capable post players that include Kaylyn Evans, Claire Lancaster and Kilee Frazier. Evans led MHS with 15 points versus Permian, while Frazier finished second on her team with 12 points. ... Odessa High returns to the Chaparral Center for its second straight game. ... Junior point guard Jaziyn Sanchez led the Lady Bronchos with 11 points in their 58-24 loss to Lee on Friday.

Next: MHS at Abilene High, 7:30 p.m. Friday; Central at Odessa High, 7:30 p.m.

LEE AT SAN ANGELO CENTRAL

When/where: 7:30 p.m., San Angelo High

Records: Lee 15-4, 1-0 in District 3-6A; Central 9-14, 0-1

Last game: Lee 58, Odessa High 24; Abilene High 54, Central 37

Notes: In their District 3-6A opener versus Odessa High on Friday, the Lady Rebels went on a 40-10 run during the final 19 minutes to close out the 58-24 victory on a high note. ... Lee senior forward Kyra Lewis recorded a double-double with 13 points and 16 rebounds in the win. ... The Lady Bobcats led Abilene High 14-13 after one quarter in their 3-6A opener, but lost control of the game after being outscored by the Lady Eagles by a combined 33-9 margin in the second and third quarters. Abilene High won 54-37. ... Bric Turner is in his first year as Central head coach after previously holding the head position at Sanger and Del Rio.

Next: Odessa Permian vs. Lee, 7:30 p.m. Friday at Chaparral Center; Central at Odessa High, 7:30 p.m.

Compiled by Christopher Hadorn

MEN

From 1C

MIDLAND COLLEGE 68
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE 60, OT

Midland College (15-3, 3-1) – William Tchiengang 0-0 0-0 0. Jachai Simmons 5-12 3-9 14. Jordan Furlow 0-0 0-0 0. Dylan Cham 1-2 1-2 3. Bryce Ervin 3-7 1-2 8. Solomon Hanna 3-6 5-8 11. Norbertas Giga 3-6 2-4 8. Travon Cead 2-7 2-2 7. Daeshon Francis 3-9 1-1 7. James McPherson 3-5 0-0 8. Austin Dasent 0-0 0-0 0. Jalen McGaughy 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-54 15-28 68.

Western Texas (10-8, 1-3) — Jeffrey Uju 0-1 0-0 0. Kevin Hicks 0-0 0-0 0. Shannon James 7-18 0-0 16. Xavier Leder 2-7 4-4 9. Shane Johnson 4-13 3-7 11. Curtiss Anderson 2-6 1-2 5. Jason Nunez 0-3 2-2 2. Tavon Ngangum 0-0 0-0 0. DJ Thorpe 1-5 1-2 3. Christian Hewitt 0-4 1-2 1. Taylin Pegean 6-12 0-1 13. Kolbe Kinghorn 0-1 0-2 0. Totals 22-70 12-22 60

Halftime — MC 36, WTC 30. End of regulation — MC 57, WTC 57. 3-point goals — MC 5 (McPherson, Simmons, Ervin, Coad). WTC 4 (James 2, Ledet, Pegean). Total fouls — MC 20, WTC 23. Fouled out — Francis. Rebounds — MC 41 (Gigi 8), WTC 46 (Anderson 11).

Next: Frank Phillips College at Midland College, 7:30 p.m.

WJCAC Men's basketball

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa College	4	0	15	2
New Mexico JC	4	1	14	5
Midland College	3	1	15	3
Frank Phillips	3	1	14	4
South Plains	3	2	12	6
Howard College	1	3	11	7
Western Texas	1	3	10	8
Clarendon College	1	4	13	6
NMMI	0	5	8	10

Monday's Games

Midland College 68, Western Texas College 60, OT; Frank Phillips College 77, Howard College 71; New Mexico JC 97, Clarendon College 87; South Plains College 99, New Mexico Military Institute 62; Odessa College was open

Thursday's Games

Frank Phillips College at Midland College; South Plains College at Howard College; Western Texas College at Odessa College; New Mexico Military Institute at Clarendon College; New Mexico JC is open

WOMEN

From 1C

half," Jones said. "Our guards only had five rebounds in the first half and they had 17 rebounds in the second. We weren't just standing around. But Western Texas was a desperate team and they played really hard.

"I was proud of the way we responded in the second half," Jones added. "Every game is a learning experience and we continue to grow and understand what it takes to win on the road."

MC then got quite a bit of separation with a 24-11 run in the third quarter.

The Lady Chaps also continued to defend and rebound well as they held the Lady Westerners to 32.4 percent shooting and had a 50-45 edge on the boards.

Lisa Kaempf added 15 points, Tae'lor Hodge had 10 and Sierra Dixon added nine points for the Lady Chaps.

Brittany Thompson had 15 to lead WTC, while Jocelyn Jeffrey added 10.

The Lady Chaps return to Chaparral Center at 5:45 p.m. Thursday to host Frank Phillips College. MC will be wearing special warm-up tops for "Energy Industry Appreciation Night".

WJCAC Women's basketball

	Conference W	Conference L	Overall W	Overall L
Midland College	4	0	17	2
New Mexico JC	4	0	17	2
Howard College	3	1	13	6
Odessa College	2	1	13	4
Frank Phillips	1	2	8	6
South Plains	1	3	13	7
Western Texas	0	3	13	5
Clarendon College	0	5	5	16

Monday's Scores

Midland College 76, Western Texas College 61; Howard College 84, Frank Phillips College 60; New Mexico JC 115, Clarendon College 64; South Plains College and Odessa College were open

Thursday's Games

Frank Phillips College at Midland College; South Plains College at Howard College; Western Texas College at Odessa College; Clarendon College and New Mexico JC are open

NO. 10 MIDLAND COLLEGE 76, WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE 61

Midland College (17-2, 4-0) — Morgan Ashton 1-4 0-0 3. Tae'lor Hodge 4-4 2-2 10. Sierra Dixon 3-7 0-0 9. Toni Taylor 0-1 0-0 0. Valentine Zambelli 2-4 2-2 7. Tichina Coleman 1-4 0-0 2. Walnatia Wright 8-18 9-17 25. Kayla Bretherton 2-3 1-1 5. Terashia Dixon 0-1 0-0 0. Thabiti Deumitiur 0-0 0-0 0. Lisa Kaempf 5-14 4-8 15. Totals 26-61 18-30 76

Western Texas (13-5, 0-3) – Jasmine Green 1-9 0-0 3. Jasmine Richardson 2-11 2-2 6. Mulaik Muhammad 1-10 0-4 2. Karli McCord 1-6 0-0 3. Carolina Dos Santos Bianchi 3-4 1-2 7. Esther Udonsi 2-4 4-4 8. Brittany Thompson 6-10 3-4 15. Jocelyn Jeffrey 3-8 1-2 10. Toni Smith 0-1 0-0 0. Tiffany Finley 3-5 1-2 7. Totals 22-68 11-18 61

Midland College	16	22	24	14	—76
Western Texas	17	19	11	14	—61

3-point goals — MC 6-16 (S. Dixon 3-6, Ashton 1-3, Zambelli 1-3, Kaempf 1-3, Bretherton 0-1). WTC 6-30 (Jeffrey 3-8, Green 1-7, McCord 1-5, Bianchi 1-2, Muhammad 0-7, Richardson 0-1). Total fouls — MC 12, WTC 19. Fouled out — Green. Rebounds — MC 50 (Wright 14), WTC 45 (Bianchi 7).

Next: Frank Phillips College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m. Thursday

Montezemolo sees no 'necessity' for Rome bid referendum

By Andrew Dampf
Associated Press

ROME — The chairman of Rome's bid for the 2024 Olympics sees no need for a public referendum on the candidacy.

Rome's city council voted "nearly unanimously" in support of the bid last year, "and the government has expressed maximum support, so we don't see the necessity," Luca Cordero di Montezemolo said Monday.

Last week, the small, left-wing movement Radicali Italiani called for a referendum on the Rome bid, citing spiraling costs of recent Olympics.

"If someone wants to make publicity in an electoral campaign, let them do it," Montezemolo said at Rome's foreign press association. "But we're accustomed to dealing with institutions. I don't see the necessity for a referendum right now."

The German port city of Hamburg dropped out of the 2024 race in November after the bid was defeated in a referendum. Budapest, Hungary, another 2024 bidder, is also facing calls for a referendum.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL GLANCE

Scores

MEN'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST

Sam Houston St. 70, SE Louisiana 63
Texas A&M-CC 91, Lamar 82

SOUTH

Alcorn St. 69, Grambling St. 53
Ark.-Pine Bluff 59, Alabama St. 55
Bethune-Cookman 72, Norfolk St. 70
Chattanooga 77, Wofford 68
Claflin 76, LeMoyne-Owen 58
ETSU 88, VMI 51
Elizabeth City St. 70, Winston-Salem 69
Furman 77, Samford 57
Hampton 71, Florida A&M 65, OT
Howard at Delaware St., ppd
Incarnate Word 71, New Orleans 68
Lees-McRae 96, Piedmont 68
MVSU 79, Alabama A&M 73
Md.-Eastern Shore 69, Morgan St. 65
Mississippi College 65, Lee 57
NC Central 69, Savannah St. 46
SC State 62, NC A&T 85
Southern U. 74, Jackson St. 66
St. Andrews 71, Johnson & Wales (NC) 65
Virginia Union 77, St. Augustine's 63
W. Carolina 83, UNC Greensboro 77, OT
Winthrop 81, Fernuh 63

MIDWEST

Benedictine (Kan.) 74, Central Methodist 70
Bethel (Minn.) 79, St. Mary's (Minn.) 70
CS Bakersfield 67, Chicago St. 56
Carleton 81, Macalester 47
Concordia (Moor.) 81, Hamline 66
Dickinson St. 71, Viterbo 64
Indiana-East 76, Point Park 74
MidAm Nazarene 94, Grand View 77
Saginaw Valley St. 86, Grace Bible 59
St. Olaf 65, Gustavus 60
St. Thomas (Minn.) 88, Augsburg 77

EAST

Albertus Magnus 91, Baruch 69
Bucknell 82, Lehigh 76
Monmouth (NJ) 86, Fairfield 74
Philadelphia 66, Caldwell 61
Shaw 88, Lincoln (Pa.) 61
York (NY) 89, William Paterson 77

WOMEN'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST

Cent. Arkansas 74, Lamar 49

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 79, MVSU 68
Alabama St. 72, Ark.-Pine Bluff 63
Bethune-Cookman 53, Norfolk St. 45
Claflin 59, LeMoyne-Owen 45
Delaware St. 87, Howard 68
Fayetteville St. 55, Bowie St. 52
Florida A&M 66, Hampton 59
Grambling St. 85, Alcorn St. 76
Lee 91, Mississippi College 68
Morgan St. 77, Md.-Eastern Shore 69, OT
NC A&T 57, SC State 54
Radford 62, Campbell 59
Savannah St. 57, NC Central 39
Southern U. 84, Jackson St. 57
Virginia Union 102, St. Augustine's 53

MIDWEST

Baker 71, William Penn 46
Central Methodist 63, Benedictine (Kan.) 58
Central St. (Ohio) 97, Marygrove 59
Dickinson St. 72, Viterbo 31
Indiana-East 62, Point Park 54
Mid-Am Nazarene 73, Grand View 61

EAST

Bryant 70, Mount St. Mary's 59
CCSU 78, Fairleigh Dickinson 75
Columbia 72, NJIT 52
Philadelphia 72, Caldwell 63
Robert Morris 52, LIU Brooklyn 49
Sacred Heart 73, Wagner 62
Shaw 76, Lincoln (Pa.) 67
St. Francis (Pa.) 63, St. Francis Brooklyn 76

Polls

MENS POLLS

The top 25 teams in the USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 10, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prvs
1. Kansas (32)	14-1	800	2
2. Oklahoma	13-1	743	1
3. Maryland	15-1	742	3
4. Michigan State	16-1	694	5
5. North Carolina	15-2	673	7
6. Duke	14-2	596	10
7. Villanova	14-2	557	13
8. Xavier	14-1	555	12
9. Miami	13-1	551	11
10. West Virginia	14-1	477	15
11. Virginia	12-3	426	4
12. Providence	14-2	400	9
13. Kentucky	12-3	393	8
14. Texas A&M	13-2	383	17
15. South Carolina	15-0	361	20
16. Arizona	13-3	337	6
17. Pittsburgh	14-1	283	21
18. Iowa State	12-3	253	14
19. Iowa	12-3	226	23
20. Louisville	13-3	205	18
21. Gonzaga	13-3	173	22
22. Baylor	12-3	156	25
23. Butler	12-4	147	19
24. Purdue	14-3	122	18
25. Indiana	14-3	38	—

Others receiving votes: UConn 34, Oregon 18, Southern Cal 16, UCLA 12, George Washington 11, California 9, Dayton 5, Houston 5, Valparaiso 5, Texas Tech 3, Washington 3, UALR 2, Cincinnati 2, Boise State 1, Hawaii 1, Saint Mary's 1, Utah 1

WOMENS POLLS

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 10, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Prv	Record	Pts	
1. UConn (32)	14-0	800	1
2. South Carolina	15-0	765	2
3. Notre Dame	15-1	735	3
4. Texas	15-0	706	4
5. Ohio St.	12-3	640	5
6. Baylor	16-1	632	6
7. Mississippi St.	16-1	621	7
8. Maryland	14-2	592	8
9. Kentucky	13-1	543	10
10. Arizona St.	12-3	502	14
11. Stanford	13-3	447	9
12. Oregon St.	12-3	406	11
13. Tennessee	11-4	371	12
14. Oklahoma	12-3	358	17
15. Texas A&M	12-4	301	13
16. Florida St.	11-4	293	19
17. UCLA	11-4	287	15
18. Michigan St.	13-0	265	23
19. South Florida	10-4	234	22
20. Florida	14-2	134	—
21. Miami	15-2	121	—
22. Duke	12-5	116	18
23. Louisville	12-5	111	—
24. Missouri	14-2	99	20
25. Southern Cal	14-2	69	—

Others receiving votes: Northwestern 58, DePaul 50, Purdue 47, West Virginia 18, Duquesne 17, Syracuse 13, California 12, Oklahoma St. 9, St. John's 7, Iowa 6, UTEP 6, Green Bay 3, S. Dakota St. 2, Seton Hall 2, Utah 2

Schedules

MEN
SOUTHWEST

Florida at Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Northwestern St. at Abilene Christian, 8 p.m.
Cent. Arkansas at Stephen F. Austin, 8 p.m.
Iowa St. at Texas, 9 p.m.

SOUTH

Mississippi St. at Kentucky, 7 p.m.
Tulane at South Florida, 7 p.m.
Miami at Virginia, 7 p.m.
Auburn at Vanderbilt, 9 p.m.

FAR WEST

Air Force at Utah St., 9 p.m.
New Mexico at UNLV, 10 p.m.

MIDWEST

DePaul at Xavier, 6:30 p.m.
Akron at Cent. Michigan, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at E. Michigan, 7 p.m.
Miami (Ohio) at Kent St., 7 p.m.
Wisconsin at Northwestern, 7 p.m.
Bowling Green at Ohio, 7 p.m.
N. Illinois at Toledo, 7 p.m.
Ball St. at W. Michigan, 7 p.m.
Davidson at Dayton, 8 p.m.
Drake at Evansville, 8 p.m.
Illinois St. at S. Illinois, 8 p.m.
Texas Tech at Kansas St., 8:15 p.m.
Providence at Creighton, 8:30 p.m.
Maryland at Michigan, 9 p.m.
Arkansas at Missouri, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Nebraska, 9 p.m.

EAST

New Hampshire at Albany (NY), 7 p.m.
Canisius at Dartmouth, 7 p.m.
George Washington at UMass, 7 p.m.
Kansas at West Virginia, 7 p.m.

WOMEN
SOUTHWEST

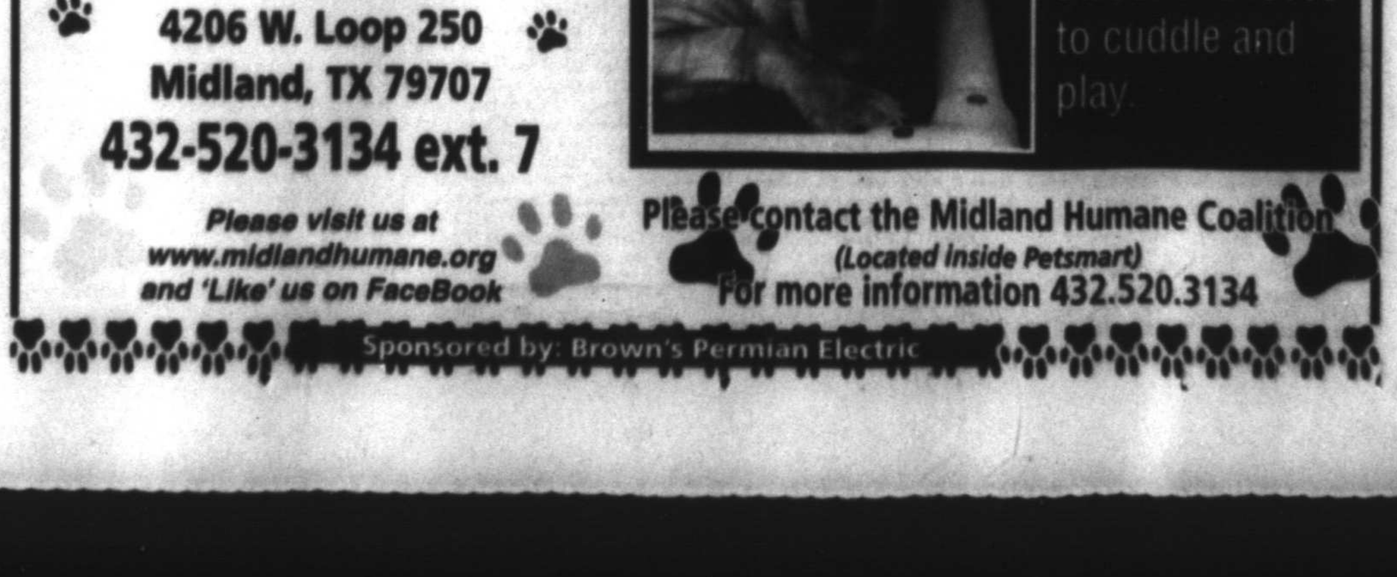
West Virginia at Baylor, 8 p.m.

SOUTH

Charleston Southern at Gardner-Webb, 7 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at High Point, 7 p.m.
Campbell at Radford, 7 p.m.
Longwood at UNC Asheville, 7 p.m.
Presbyterian at Winthrop, 7 p.m.

EAST

Marist at Manhattan, 11 a.m.



Phoenix area enhancing its reputation as major sports mecca

By John Marshall
Associated Press

PHOENIX — College football fans were greeted by rain and chilly temperatures this week, a rarity in the Valley of the Sun this time of year. It did little to dull the buildup to Monday's national championship game between Alabama and Clemson.

When it comes hosting big events, the Phoenix area has plenty of experience doing it right — even when the weather doesn't cooperate.

"We've hosted so many over the years that we have a tremendous amount of experience, a tremendous amount of infrastructure built in, certainly the hotel resorts — our tourism industry is at the top of the nation — and our weather, outside of what's happening right now, is a pretty good lead to allow us to host these things," said Tom Sadler, president and CEO of the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority, the public agency that owns University of Phoenix Stadium.

Starting with Penn State's win over Miami in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl, college football's national champion has been crowned here seven times, including twice in the BCS championship.

Phoenix has been the site of three Super Bowls, the latest last year when the Pro Bowl also was played at University of Phoenix Stadium.

There also have been two NBA championship series in the desert, a World Series, NBA and Major League Baseball All-Star games, NCAA Tournament games and the 1993 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. The Phoenix Open, which seems to set PGA Tour attendance records every year, is played here annually, along with Cactus League baseball and two NASCAR races. IndyCar racing also is returning to the Valley this year.

Phoenix is in the midst of a big-event bonanza, with Monday night's college football national championship sandwiched between the Super Bowl and the 2017 Final Four.

The success of the Valley's previous major events became the building block for the latest run — and beyond.

"I think that sports culture that we have is really woven into our identity," said Debbie Johnson, director of the Arizona Office of Tourism. "It becomes a positive for us because when you're going to bid on these major events, people already know about Arizona and the Phoenix metro area, and all we can do to make them successful."

The foundation of Phoenix's success is an infrastructure that's already in place.

The area relies heavily on tourism and is dotted with resorts and hotels. Finding a room is never a problem. Neither is locating a good spot to eat or grab a drink.

Most fan activities for big sporting events are held in downtown Phoenix and posh Scottsdale often becomes the party hub with its cache of nightclubs and five-star restaurants.

Once game day arrives, the festivities shift to the west in Glendale and University of Phoenix Stadium, where tailgating and the main event are held.

"It's not about one city over the other, it's about us as a region and a destination and our cities get it," Johnson said. "When I talk to my counterparts across the country, they don't always have the same thing, so I think we're lucky."

With the weather, too — at least most of the time.

While the Valley of the Sun is brutally hot for about four months every summer, it typically has ideal weather the rest of the year. Temperatures during the winter, when most of the big sporting events are held, are often in the T-shirt-and-shorts range and the nights cool, not freezing.

The mild weather allows tourists — and visiting sports fans — to take advantage of all the outdoor activities, including golf, hiking, biking or just walking around town.

The week leading up to the national championship game was a bit of an anomaly — thanks, El Nino — with rain early in the week and highs around 50 instead of the usual mid-60s and up.

The weather should be a little closer than normal for Monday's title game, with sunny skies and a high of 59 expected.

NBAROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SPURS 106
NETS 79

LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 points and 11 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs extended their winning streak to eight with a 106-79 victory Monday night over Brooklyn in the Nets' first game since an organizational shake-up.

A day after coach Lionel Hollins was fired and general manager Billy King reassigned, the Nets dropped their 10th straight at home and fifth in a row overall.

Kawhi Leonard added 17 points for the Spurs, who go to Detroit on Tuesday before putting their 31-game home winning streak on the line Thursday in a showdown with Cleveland.

The Spurs (33-6) were up seven at halftime before dominating the second half, just as they did in their 102-75 victory over the Nets on Oct. 30. Those are two of their 14 wins by 20 or more points this season.

WIZARDS 114
BULLS 100

John Wall had 17 points and 10 assists to help the banged-up Washington Wizards pull away from the Chicago Bulls for a 114-100 victory on Monday night.

Washington had seven players score in double figures in its second straight win after a stretch of five losses in six games. Ramon Sessions had 16 points, and Garrett Temple, Otto Porter Jr. and Nene scored 14 apiece.

The Wizards led by as many as 18 points while playing without key performers Marcin Gortat, Kris Humphries and Bradley Beal. Gortat was scratched with a sore left knee, Humphries missed his fourth straight game with a sore right knee and Beal remains out due to a stress reaction in his lower right leg.

Derrick Rose scored 23 points in the first of four games in five nights for the Bulls. Jimmy Butler had 19 points and seven assists, and Pau Gasol added 15 points and 10 rebounds.

NBA STANDINGS

Standings

	W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Toronto	24	15	.615	—
Boston	19	18	.514	4
New York	19	20	.487	5
Brooklyn	10	28	.263	13½
Philadelphia	4	36	.100	20½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	23	15	.605	—
Miami	22	15	.595	½
Orlando	20	18	.526	3
Washington	17	19	.472	5
Charlotte	17	20	.459	5½
Central Division				
Cleveland	26	9	.743	—
Chicago	22	14	.611	4½
Indiana	21	16	.568	6
Detroit	21	16	.568	6
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	13
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	33	6	.846	—
Dallas	22	16	.579	10½
Memphis	21	18	.538	12
Houston	19	19	.500	13½
New Orleans	11	25	.306	20½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	26	12	.684	—
Utah	17	20	.459	8½
Portland	16	24	.400	11
Denver	14	24	.368	12
Minnesota	12	26	.316	14
Pacific Division				
Golden State	35	2	.946	—
L.A. Clippers	25	13	.658	10½
Sacramento	15	22	.405	20
Phoenix	13	26	.333	23
L.A. Lakers	8	31	.205	28

Scores & schedule

Monday's Games

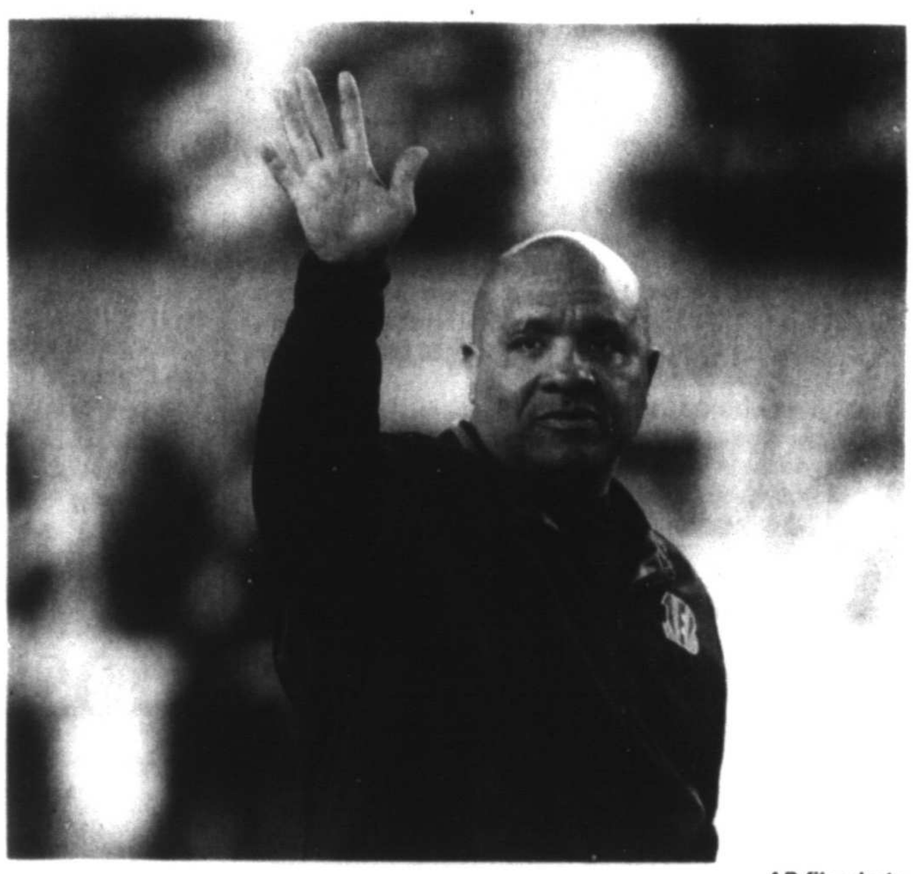
San Antonio 106, Brooklyn 79
Washington 114, Chicago 100
Miami at Golden State, late

Tuesday's Games

Phoenix at Indiana, 6 p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
Boston at New York, 6:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Houston at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Browns pause in search for coach, Jackson the front-runner

By Tom Withers
Associated Press



AP file photo

Cincinnati Bengals offensive coordinator Hue Jackson before an NFL wild-card playoff football game between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Pittsburgh Steelers in Cincinnati. Just hours after Cincinnati lost to Pittsburgh — and after meeting with the San Francisco 49ers about becoming their next coach — Jackson interviewed for the Browns' coaching vacancy.

CLEVELAND — The Browns' coaching search has gone strangely silent.

After interviewing seven candidates last week, the team did not conduct any meetings on Monday, a break that could indicate owners Jimmy and Dee Haslam have someone in mind to become their eighth coach since 1999.

Or they could just be catching their breath.

Cleveland's search committee was back at the team's headquarters to regroup after a busy few days talking to prospective coaches.

On Sunday, the Browns concluded the first week of their search with a four-hour interview with Bengals offensive coordinator Hue Jackson shortly after the 50-year-old visited with the San Francisco 49ers about their vacancy.

Jackson, who has spent 15 years as an NFL coach, appears to have emerged as the front-runner to replace Mike Pettine, fired following a 3-13 season. However, as of Monday night, the Browns had not offered their job to Jackson, also drawing interest from the New York Giants.

Both complicating and adding intrigue to the pursuit of Jackson is that NFL owners will be in Houston the next two days to vote on which team or teams will relocate to Los Angeles.

Jackson's familiarity with the AFC North — and the work he has done with Cincinnati quarterback Andy Dalton — may give him an edge over the other candidates. Jackson, too, has head coaching experience, another bonus for the Browns. He led the Oakland Raiders to an 8-8 record in 2011.

Jackson and Jacksonville offensive assistant Doug Marrone are the only coaches the Browns have met with thus far who have been NFL head coaches.

Fired by Oakland in 2012, Jackson joined Marvin Lewis' staff in Cincinnati as the secondary coach. He coached the Bengals running backs in 2013 before taking over Cincinnati's offense the past two seasons.

Dalton blossomed under Jackson, passing for 3,250 yards with 25 touchdowns and seven interceptions this season.

Jackson has a history of working with quarterbacks. He was a quarterback at Pacific, although he spent a lot of time handing off. After 14 seasons of college coaching, including the offensive coordinator at Southern California when it was recruiting Carson Palmer, Jackson got his first pro job with the Redskins in 2001. He was promoted to coordinator there two years later.

Nets' Prokhorov: easy decision to hit reset button now

By Brian Mahoney
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mikhail Prokhorov wanted a championship, and the Nets never got close.

Now he wants a reset, and said it was an easy decision to start it now.

"If we look at the team for the time being, it's clear we're doing not the best way," Prokhorov said Monday.

A day after firing coach Lionel Hollins and reassigning general manager Billy King, Prokhorov blamed himself for a win-quick strategy that's left the Nets in one of the NBA's worst situations — then said he hopes to contend for a title next season.

He'll try to do that with new leadership that he hopes will help clarify what kind of team the Nets want to be and what kind of personnel they will need. The Russian billionaire had determined more than a month ago that King and Hollins weren't among them.

"I have to look at the reality and make a change if things are not going in the right direction," Prokhorov said. "That's what we have done. It was just very easy."

The Nets made the playoffs the last three years but are 10-27 entering Monday night's game against San Antonio. Their likely lottery spot will go to Boston as payment from one of King's big trades, and they don't fully control their own first-round pick until 2019.

"Our approach helped us to reach three playoffs in a row but we have failed to go further. And for us it's important to go further," Prokhorov said. "That's why we need a small reset for this year and I hope we'll be back not as a playoff team, as a championship contender. This is my only goal."

He wanted a title within five years of buying the team in 2010, and King was aggressive in trying to build a contender quickly. He acquired Deron Williams, Joe Johnson, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett in moves that resulted in just one series victory and consistently came at a future cost the Nets are paying now.

"I take full responsibility for the state of the team and I think Billy King did his best," Prokhorov said. "Just, we need a fresh look."

King released a statement Monday night thanking Prokhorov and Nets executives, coaches and players.

"My family and I thoroughly loved our experience in New Jersey and here in Brooklyn, and hope fans experience the success they deserve," he said.

Tony Brown is the interim coach and Prokhorov said assistant general manager Frank Zanin will oversee the front office until King's replacement is hired. He offered no timetable for either job — he ideally wants it to be two people — and expects to have a long list of candidates.

Kentucky coach John Calipari, who formerly coached the Nets in New Jersey, could be on it.

TABC PREPS RANKINGS

SUGAR LAND — High school basketball rankings as compiled by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches and Tex Preps Basketball magazine for the week of Jan. 11:

BOYS

Class 6A

1. Humble Atascocita, 23-0; 2. DeSoto, 20-1; 3. Cibolo Steele, 20-1; 4. SA Northside Brandeis, 21-0; 5. Houston Sam Houston, 18-4; 6. Amarillo Tascosa, 20-0; 7. Spring Dekaney, 16-6; 8. Cedar Hill, 16-2; 9. Killeen Shoemaker, 20-2; 10. Aldine Davis, 16-2; 11. North Crowley, 17-3; 12. Richardson, 17-4; 13. Arlington Martin, 16-3; 14. Dallas Skyline, 17-1; 15. South Grand Prairie, 15-6; 16. Fort Bend Travis, 19-3; 17. Fort Bend Hightower, 19-4; 18. Klein Forest, 15-4; 19. Plano East, 16-5; 20. Brownsville Veterans, 20-2; 21. Spring Westfield, 16-6; 22 Irving MacArthur, 12-4; 23. EP Americas, 20-1; 24. SA Churchill, 18-4; 25. Allen, 16-5.

Class 5A

1. FB Ellis, 20-1; 2. Lancaster, 19-2; 3 FB Bush, 16-7; 4. Cedar Park Vista Ridge, 21-1; 5. Houston Yates, 10-3; 6. Beaumont Central, 18-5; 7. Beaumont Ozen, 16-2; 8. Fort Bend Marshall, 17-6; 9. EP Bel Air, 16-1; 10. Frisco Liberty, 17-2; 11. Edinburg Vela, 21-2; 12. West Mesquite, 18-5; 13. EP Burges, 17-0; 14. Rockwall Heath, 14-4; 15. Amarillo Palo Duro, 13-3; 16. McKinney North, 14-2; 17 Lufkin, 19-3; 18. FW Chisholm Trail, 13-5; 19. The Colony, 16-0; 20. Humble Kingwood Park, 15-4; 21. SA Alamo Heights, 13-7; 22. Plainview, 14-5; 23 Boerne Champion, 16-5; 24. Laredo Nixon, 15-4; 25. SA Brackenridge, 16-6.

Class 4A

1. La Marque, 17-4; 2. Dallas Lincoln, 11-6; 3. Silsbee, 15-4; 4. Dallas Carter, 15-4; 5. Paris, 19-2; 6. Winnsboro, 12-0; 7 Houston Wheatley, 17-3; 8. Brazosport, 17-4; 9. Abilene Wylie, 16-5; 10. Stafford, 14-7; 11. Bridgeport, 14-8; 12. Argyle, 16-4; 13. Liberty Hill, 16-7; 14. Dallas Madison, 9-8; 15. Lubbock Estacado, 12-5; 16. Decatur, 14-7; 17. Wharton, 17-5; 18. Dallas Triple A, 11-8; 19 Navasota, 10-5; 20. Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson, 18-6; 21. Tatum, 16-7; 22. Lufkin Hudson, 18-6; 23. Taylor, 12-5; 24. Wimberley, 18-2; 25. Burkburnett, 15-7.

Class 3A

1. Van Alstyne, 15-5; 2. Kountze, 14-7; 3 Brownfield, 17-3; 4. Ponder, 13-7; 5. Childress, 18-1; 6. Kermit, 19-2; 7. Dallas Faith Family, 13-6; 8. Peaster, 13-5; 9 Weatherford Brock, 15-8; 10. Aransas Pass, 15-9; 11. Jarrell, 16-3; 12. Wall, 13-4; 13 SA Randolph, 13-4; 14. Nixon-Smiley, 16-4; 15. Red Oak Life, 20-3; 16. Shallowater, 8-7; 17. Pollok Central, 19-5; 18. White Oak, 14-6; 19. Coleman, 13-1; 20. East Chambers, 17-6; 21. Franklin, 5-2; 22. Whitewright, 12-7; 23. Santa Rosa, 12-8; 24. Daingerfield, 9-5; 25. Golliad, 20-2.

Class 2A

1. Deleon/Dublin Big Sandy, 22-2; 2. Canadian, 2-0; 3. Martins Mill, 18-4; 4. Clarksville, 17-4; 5. Thorndale, 18 2; 6. Teneha, 11-7; 7. Muenster, 16-3; 8. San Augustine, 14-3; 9. Farwell, 14-3; 10. Panhandle, 16-2; 11. Schulenburg, 14-6; 12. Plaitonia, 16-4; 13. Clarendon, 15-3; 14. La Rue La Poynor, 16-4; 15. Stratford, 5-2; 16. Dallas Gateway, 11-9; 17. Grapeland, 14-6; 18. Harper, 14-5; 19. Vega, 9-7; 20. Port Aransas, 9-12; 21. San Isidro, 10-4; 22. Avery, 15-4; 23. Smyer, 13-4; 24. Shamrock, 16-0; 25. SA Hawkins, 17-1.

Class 1A

1. Lipan, 21-0; 2. Avinger, 15-2; 3. Grady, 13-4; 4. Coolidge, 16-9; 5. Tadmo, 11-7; 6. Chisholm, 15-8; 7. Lorenzo, 10-9; 8. Nazareth, 9-10; 9. Happy, 12-6; 10. Jayton, 15-4; 11. Menard, 16-4; 12. Calvert, 12-3; 13. Water Valley, 14-1; 14. Whitehouse, 13-2; 15. Westbrook, 13-7; 16. Turkey Valley, 7-9; 17. Knox City, 16-4; 18. Orme Box, 15-6; 19. May, 19-0; 20. Lingleville, 12-5; 21. Huckabay, 12-8; 22. Borden County, 8-3; 23. Lometa, 15-3; 24. McMullen County, 18-4; 25 New Home, 12-4

Large Private Schools

1. Addison Trinity Christian, 20-3; 2. Plano Prestonwood Christian, 15-3; 3. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 24-4; 4. Bellaire Episcopal, 19-4; 5. Houston Christian, 20-6; 6. SA St. Anthony Catholic, 22-5; 7. SA Antonian, 14-4; 8. Houston Westbury Christian, 17-7; 9. Beaumont Monsignor, 16-3; 10. Saint Mary's Hall, 15-5; 11. Austin St. Stephen's, 11-4; 12. SA Central Catholic, 21-5; 13. FW Nolan Catholic, 18-4; 14. FW Southwest Christian, 17-6; 15. Holy Cross of San Antonio, 23-5; 16. Lubbock Trinity Christian, 18-6; 17. Austin St. Michael's Catholic, 18-6; 18. Austin St. Dominic Savio, 18-7; 19. Houston Kinkaid, 16-5; 20. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 13-3; 21. Houston St. Thomas, 13-4; 22. Dallas Greenhill, 12-6; 23. Houston The Village School, 15-0; 24. Tyler All-Saints Episcopal, 15-7; 25. Colleyville Covenant Christian, 18-7.

Small Private Schools

1. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 19-4; 2. Arlington Grace Prep, 16-5; 3. Houston St. Thomas Episcopal, 10-11; 4. Beaumont Legacy Christian, 16-4; 5. Austin Waldorf, 18-2; 6. Midland Classical, 15-8; 7. Bastrop Christian, 19-3; 8. The Woodlands Christian, 17-7; 9. Conroe Lifepoint Christian, 21-6; 10. Lubbock Christian, 19-6; 11. Waco Vanguard College Prep, 10-9; 12. San Antonio Lutheran High School, 19-6; 13. Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, 12-4; 14. FW Lake Country Christian, 11-11; 15. Katy Faith West, 15-5; 16. Geneva School of Boerne, 20-5; 17. Granbury North Texas Christian, 7-4; 18. Dallas Trinity, 13-4; 19. League City Bay Area Christian, 11-12; 20. Kingwood Northeast Christian, 21-7; 21. Lubbock All Saints Episcopal, 16-6; 22. Dallas First Baptist, 9-3; 23. San Marcos Hill Country, 9-3; 24. Mission Juan Diego, 12-4; 25. Huntsville Alpha Omega, 15-6.

GIRLS

Class 6A

1. Duncanville, 24-0; 2. Galena Park North Shore, 23-1; 3. Spring Dekaney, 23-1; 4. Plano West, 22-3; 5. Amarillo, 21-4; 6. Cibolo Steele, 25-1; 7 Harlingen, 23-1; 8. Cypress Woods, 15-6; 9. Killeen, 22-4; 10. South Grand Prairie, 19-7; 11 Cedar Hill, 18-6; 12. League City Clear Springs, 17-7; 13. Euless Trinity, 20-3; 14. Mesquite Horn, 13-4; 15. SA Northside Clark, 24-3; 16. SA Johnson, 17-6; 17. Flower Mound, 16-4; 18. Fort Bend Hightower, 17-6; 19 Laredo United South, 20-6; 20. Katy Seven Lakes, 18-6; 21. SA Northside Brandeis, 17-6; 22. Converse Judson, 18-3; 23 Richardson, 15-6; 24. Round Rock Westwood, 19-5; 25. Waco Midway, 20-5.

Class 5A

1. Mansfield Timberview, 22-0; 2. Canyon, 19-1; 3 EP Burges, 17-3; 4. WF Rider, 23-1; 5 Lufkin, 21-0; 6. Cedar Park Vista Ridge, 20-4; 7. Tyler, 21-2; 8. Floresville, 19-3; 9. Barbers Hill, 17-6; 10. Bryan Rudder, 20-4; 11. Prosper, 20-3; 12. Frisco Liberty, 19-6; 13. Hereford, 17-3; 14. Georgetown, 13-8; 15. West Mesquite, 14-6; 16. Beaumont Ozen, 17-3; 17. McKinney North, 16-8; 17. Mansfield Summit, 14-4; 19. Fort Bend Bush, 12-6; 20. San Angelo Lake View, 23-3; 21. Tomball Memorial, 12-3; 22. Plainview, 14-8; 23. Mission Sharyland, 19-7; 24. Aledo, 16-7; 25. Laredo Cigarroa, 22-6.

Class 4A

1. Argyle, 19-1; 2. Navasota, 27-0; 3. Waco La Vega, 18-2; 4. Abilene Wylie, 19-4; 5. Sanger, 21-2; 6. Tatum, 19-2; 7. Dallas Lincoln, 17-4; 8. Godley, 19-5; 9. Waco Connally, 27-1; 10. Brownsboro, 21-4; 11. Mexia, 18-4; 12. Devine, 20-2; 13. Canton, 18-4; 14. Wharton, 21-0; 15. Kennedale, 15-9; 16. Bullard, 19-5; 17. Liberty Hill, 21-3; 18. Madisonville, 17-7; 19. Brazosport, 17-5; 20. Taylor, 16-3; 21. Houston Wheatley, 16-4; 22. Carrollton Ranchview, 19-3; 23. Tyler Chapel Hill, 17-5; 24. Brownwood, 15-6; 25. Levelland, 15-8.

Class 3A

1. Wall, 18-4; 2. Shallowater, 19-4; 3. Nacogdoches Central Heights, 17-4; 4. Jarrell, 20-3; 5. Bowie, 17-6; 6. Weatherford Brock, 19-4; 7. SA Cole, 23-3; 8. Alba-Golden, 16-7; 9. Winnsboro, 18-5; 10 Mathis, 27-9; 11. Buffalo, 16-0; 12. Malakoff, 17-3; 13. Life Oak Cliff, 17-5; 14. Tapocita Jim Ned, 15-8; 15. Mount Pleasant Chapel Hill, 19-6; 16. Little River Academy, 18-6; 17. Sunnyvale, 18-6; 18. Idalou, 15-6; 19. Grandview, 14-7; 20. Hitchcock, 23-3; 21. Hallettsville, 21-5; 22. Woodville, 19-3; 23. Golliad, 22-5; 24. Lubbock Roosevelt, 19-3; 25. Littlefield, 19-4.

Class 2A

1. Canadian, 15-3; 2. Weimar, 23-2; 3. Mason, 22-3; 4. Martins Mill, 16-6; 5. Panhandle, 20-1; 6. La Rue La Poynor, 23-2; 7. Gruver, 16-4; 8. Muenster, 15-5; 9. Windthorst, 17-3; 10. Goldthwaite, 18-2; 11. Claude, 19-2; 12. San Saba, 18-4; 13. Thorndale, 18-3; 14. Hico, 18-4; 15. Christoval, 19-5; 16. Rosebud-Lott, 19-4; 17. Santa, 20-2; 18. Slocum, 18-4; 19. Smyer, 16-6; 20. Gladewater Union Grove, 19-4; 21. Evadale, 20-4; 22. Falls City, 14-8; 23. Wellington, 16-4; 24. Frost, 16-2; 25. Wolfe City, 14-5.

Class 1A

1. Garden City, 19-2; 2. Lipan, 17-6; 3. Nazareth, 16-5; 4. Chireno, 21-3; 5. Dodd City, 20-1; 6. Nueces Canyon, 15-2; 7. Richland Springs, 15-2; 8. Ballinger, 17-6; 9. Turkey Valley, 14-2; 10. O'Donnell, 17-6; 11. Iraan, 17-2; 12. May, 17-1; 13. Huckabay, 14-6; 14. Newcastle, 17-4; 15. Goodrich, 15-4; 16. Follett, 10-7; 17. Roby, 18-2; 18. Coolidge, 18-4; 19. Roscoe Highland, 13-5; 20. Lorenzo, 15-6; 21. Whitehouse, 13-5; 22. Robert Lee, 14-4; 23. North Zulch, 13-3; 25. Sidrell, 18-3

Large Private Schools

1. Argyle Liberty Christian, 21-4; 2. Tomball Concordia Lutheran, 22-6; 3. SA Antonian, 27-3; 4. Dallas Bishop Lynch, 13-7; 5. Plano Prestonwood, 12-4; 6. SA Incarnate Word, 16-6; 7. Dallas Christian, 19-5; 8. Victoria St. Joseph's, 21-5; 9. CC Incarnate Word, 19-4; 10. Dallas Greenhill, 14-4; 11. Houston Westbury Christian, 18-7; 12. Houston Kinkaid, 16-7; 13. Bellaire Episcopal, 17-7; 14. Austin St. Michael's, 14-11; 15. Lubbock Trinity, 12-12; 16. Houston Duchesne, 20-3; 17. Austin Regents, 14-5; 18. Dallas Parish Episcopal, 12-5; 19. SA Christian, 17-8; 20. Austin St. Dominic Savio, 13-9; 21. Houston Village School, 16-3; 22. Houston Christian, 13-11; 23. Houston St. Agnes, 15-12; 24. Dallas Ursuline, 13-6; 25. Plano John Paul II, 8-9.

Small Private Schools

1. Lubbock Christian, 17-5; 2. FW Lake Country Christian, 22-5; 3. Houston Lutheran North, 21-5; 4. Marble Falls Faith, 20-5; 5. Beaumont Legacy Christian, 13-7; 6. McKinney Christian, 14-2; 7. Cedar Hill Trinity Christian, 16-4; 8. Tomball Rosehill Christian, 17-3; 9. Austin Brentwood Christian, 12-9; 10. Sherman Texoma Christian, 10-9; 11. **Midland Classical, 8-6**; 12. League City Bay Area Christian, 17-3; 13. Austin Waldorf, 15-4; 14. Kennedale Fellowship, 14-7; 15. Waco Vanguard, 12-5; 16. Dallas Lutheran, 12-3; 17. Austin Texas School for the Deaf, 14-5; 18. Temple Central Texas Christian, 13-2; 19. Austin Veritas Academy, 12-8; 20. Denton Calvary, 12-9; 21. Conroe Covenant Christian, 12-6; 22. Bryan St. Joseph Catholic, 15-5; 23. WF Notre Dame, 11-8; 23. Shiner St. Paul Catholic, 14-8; 24. Garland Christian, 10-8; 25. SA Christian Academy of SA, 14-8.

Vikings' Walsh maintains confidence in spite of missed kick

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — For the second time in a span of about 18 hours, this time at team headquarters instead of the home stadium, Blair Walsh stood in front of his cubicle and spoke to reporters about his now-infamous 27-yard field goal try that went wide left into the wind.

The kick that Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer described as "a chip shot" and one Walsh ought to make.

The kick that could have given the Vikings a win over Seattle in the wild-card playoff game on Sunday.

The kick that will forever overshadow the three others he converted earlier in the subzero cold, the only points Walsh's team scored against the Seahawks.

"I think it's important that people understand that, as hard as this is, I'm not a charity case. I'm somebody who's really confident in my abilities," Walsh said. "I know that sounds strange, but I'll be back next year and I'll be just as good. I know I will."

Yes, he still managed a smile. Several of them, actually. The bitter disappointment wasn't as painfully obvious on Walsh's face as it was the day before, when he sobbed heavily in the locker room after the game. His comments, still, were heavily laced with culpability. Laces in, left hash, cold ball, stiff wind. None of that ultimately mattered.

He had to make it.

"I've got to do better than that," Walsh said.

His miss was the shortest in the NFL this season, according to STATS research. Jason Myers failed to make a 26-yard field goal for Jacksonville on Nov. 15, but that was blocked. So were three other tries that missed from closer than 30 yards in the league this season. The only other non-blocked failed kicks from inside 30 yards were 29-yard attempts, by Adam Vinatieri for Indianapolis on Sept. 21 and Kyle Brindza for Tampa Bay on Oct. 4.

That's just seven misses in 250 tries, per STATS.

"It's unfortunate. Personally, I feel really bad for Blair," New England kicker Stephen Gostkowski said. "Professionally, it's just part of the game. We've all been there. I've seen the best of the best miss kicks."

Gostkowski was far from alone in extending sympathy and support in various ways to Walsh, who expressed appreciation for the kind words from family members, close friends, teammates and Vikings fans. As for the predictable vitriol targeted toward him through social media, well, Walsh was unfazed.

"The people who are going to say mean stuff? That says a lot about them. And I think the people who say kind stuff and go out of their way to be kind toward me, that says a lot about them as well," said Walsh, whose 34 field goals made during the regular season were the most in the NFL.

So he'll take a belief in the goodness of people into the offseason, along with confidence, determination and that stinging failure.

"It's important to realize at the end of the day that it's football," Walsh said. "There's plenty of things that people are going through, battling cancer and sickness and other things, that are real adversity."

Wild-card teams go unprecedented 4 for 4. What's next?

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

Just get in is the mantra of NFL teams as they chase playoff berths. Wild-card weekend displayed why that philosophy works.

Now, can the Packers, Seahawks, Steelers and Chiefs carry it further?

All four took to the road and won, the first time that's happened since the current playoff format was adopted in 1990. It was anything but easy for Seattle and Pittsburgh, slightly less challenging for Green Bay, and a romp for Kansas City.

Still, they swept, and Aaron Rodgers suspects for the same main reason.

"We've got a great home-field advantage, but when you go on the road, you galvanize together," he said after a 35-18 win at Washington. "It's you and your loyal fans there against the entire stadium.

"We came together (Sunday). We played for each other. There was a time there, down 11-0, where people could have started to have that doubt creep in. But it didn't happen today."

The doubt could have crept in even more so for the Steelers, who needed some bone headedness by the Bengals — did someone say Bungles? — to advance. And for the Seahawks, who stood frozen on the sideline and watched Minnesota's Blair Walsh miss a chip-shot field goal at game's end.

"I think we were fortunate that we got the win," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said after the third-coldest NFL game on record. "A lot of those times, guys make those kicks. There's a high percentage that they make them, but you've still got to do it."

What the Seahawks (11-6) now have to do is win at Carolina (15-1), which had the NFL's best record, including a win at Seattle. The Packers (11-6) also have an unenviable task, heading to Arizona (13-3), which routed them 38-8 in Week 16.

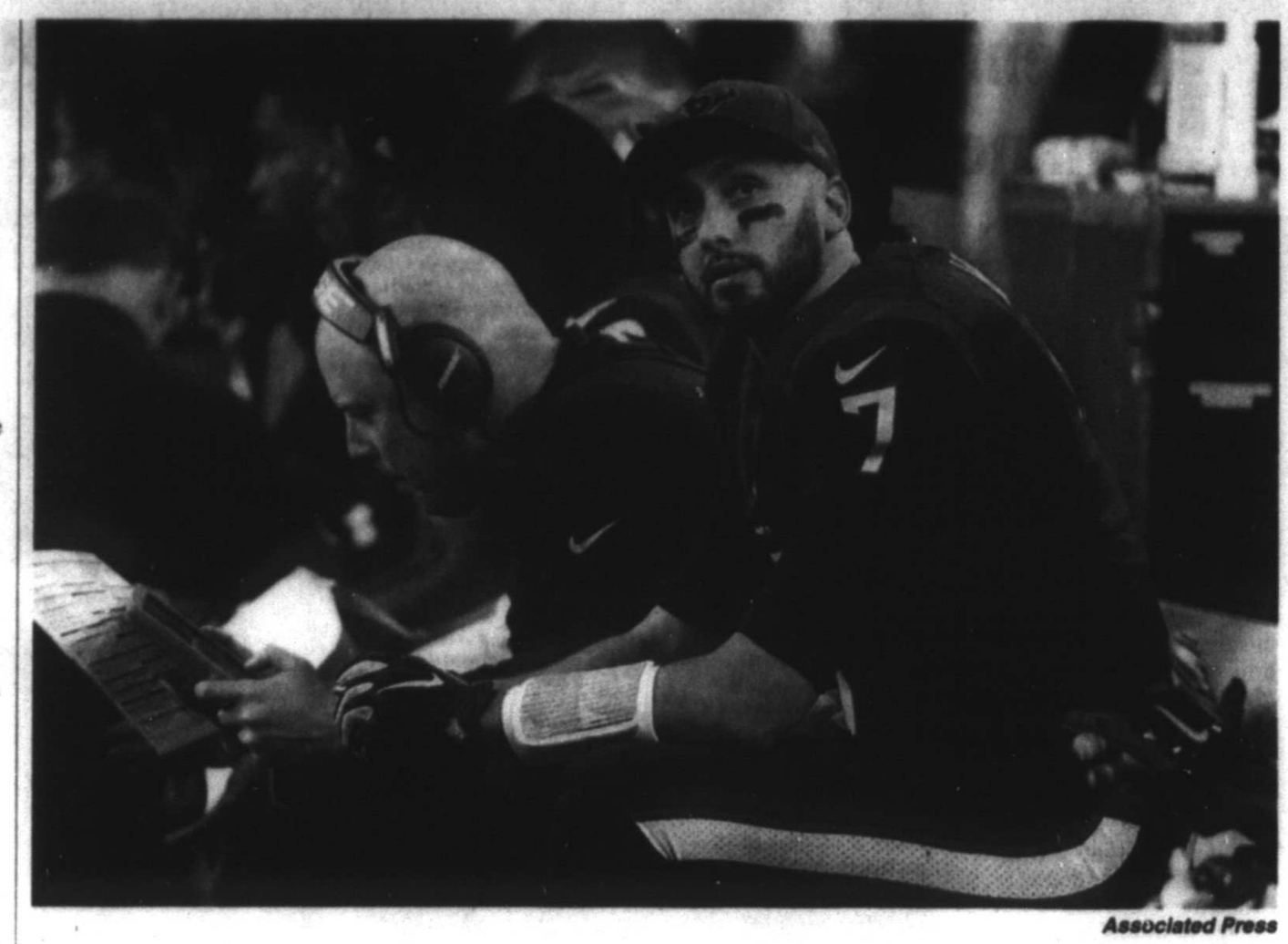
The Chiefs (12-5), winners of 11 in a row, earned a trip to New England (12-4), and might head there without star receiver Jeremy Maclin. A battered Pittsburgh (11-6) goes to Denver (12-4), which it beat 34-27 in Week 15 at Heinz Field.

Formidable challenges, for sure — particularly for the Steelers if three key offensive players are sidelined. All-Pro receiver Antonio Brown suffered a concussion at Cincinnati, QB Ben Roethlisberger hurt his right shoulder, and running back DeAngelo Williams (foot) didn't even suit up on the weekend.

But all four wild cards should be brimming with confidence, even if unlike in the opening round, they aren't favored by the oddsmakers.

"They put everything in it. That's how playoff games are, you just exhaust yourself and get ready for the next one, and exhaust yourself for that one, and that's kind of how that thing rolls. I didn't sense anything different from them. That's just kind of how they've been. We'll do our thing, and do it again."

All four wild-card winners have done relatively well away from home. Kansas City, Seattle and Green Bay were 5-3, Pittsburgh was 4-4 during the regular season. The upcoming hosts were 7-1 (New England, Carolina and Arizona) or 6-2 (Denver).



Associated Press

Houston Texans quarterback Brian Hoyer (7) sits on the bench during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, Saturday, in Houston.

TEXANS

From 1C

He did it despite fighting through injuries for most of the second-half of the season. He played the last four regular-season games with a broken left hand and dealt with a nagging groin injury for the last couple of months of the season. That groin injury got worse in Houston's playoff game and he missed most of the second half; he will have surgery Tuesday.

Watt, who won his second Defensive Player of the Year award, last year wasn't interested in looking at the bright side of what Houston did this season.

"Did we do some good things? Yeah, we obviously turned it around from a crappy situation," he said. "But I'm not too big into that whole narrative of: 'Just look at what they did good.' Because quite frankly at the end of the day, it doesn't matter. It's about results ... I want to win a world championship. Until we do that, no, I'm not going to be satisfied and it's going to hurt whenever we get knocked out before that."

Watt got help on defense from linebacker Whitney Mercilus who had a career-high 12 sacks to give Texans two players with at least 10 sacks for the first time in franchise history. They also got 13 games out of Jadeveon Clowney, who played just four games as a rookie because of various injuries. The top overall pick in the 2014 draft finished with 4 1/2 sacks after failing to get one in his first season.

Another bright spot for the Texans and perhaps the biggest reason the offense was able to stay afloat amid all the quarterback changes was the career-best season by receiver DeAndre Hopkins. The third-year receiver was named to his first Pro Bowl after finishing third in the NFL with a career-best 1,521 yards receiving and his 11 touchdown catches were a franchise-record.

Now Texans fans must wait to see if Hoyer will return to throw to him next season or if the team will find a new quarterback in the offseason.

Broncos still smarting from loss to Pittsburgh last month

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

"We're going to get them between the lines, between the plays, the whistle. So, I mean, he's going to be sore after the game. That's how I see it, man. He come out on a screen, he'd better not come at 2-6. Shoot, I'm cutting him."

Darian Stewart

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos are still smarting from their most recent encounter with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

They blew a 17-point lead and lost 34-27 at Pittsburgh on Dec. 20 when Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown capitalized on Denver's dearth of healthy safeties to hook up for a pair of second-half TDs.

The Broncos were without T.J. Ward, Darian Stewart and Omar Bolden that game. Plus, David Bruton Jr. played 75 snaps on a broken right leg and was speared by Steelers center Cody Wallace.

Bruton went on IR with a fractured fibula. He and his teammates were angered that Wallace wasn't suspended like Giants receiver Odell Beckham Jr. was for his helmet-to-helmet hit on the Panthers' Josh Norman that same weekend.

Cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said a 300-pound lineman with a running start spearing an unsuspecting player with his head down was way worse than what the Giants' star receiver did to Carolina's star cornerback.

The Broncos (12-4) promised Wallace would pay the price if they got another shot at the Steelers (11-6).

They have just that this weekend thanks to the way the Cincinnati Bengals imploded with personal fouls in the final minute of their wild-card game against Pittsburgh last weekend.

Back-to-back 15-yard penalties on linebacker Vontaze Burfict and cornerback Adam Jones set up Chris Boswell's 35-yard field goal with 14 seconds left that gave the Steelers a stunning 18-16 win.

There was plenty of talk in the Broncos locker room Monday about keeping their cool. But there was also more chatter about retaliation for Wallace hit on Bruton that drew a flag for unnecessary roughness.

"No, it's not going to be anything as far as cheap or anything," Stewart said in response to a question from The Associated Press.

"We're going to get them between the lines, between the plays, the whistle. So, I mean, he's going to be sore after the game. That's how I see it, man. He come out on a screen, he'd better not come at 2-6. Shoot, I'm cutting him."

The illegal hit on Bruton, "really (ticked) me off last time," Stewart added. "You got me mad right now just thinking about it."

Coach Gary Kubiak said every Saturday he shows his team cutups of clean hits and plays that crossed the line.

"So, we're always talking about those things. But penalties here or there, one play here or there, is the difference in playing another week and not playing at all this time of year," Kubiak said, "and our guys understand that."

Defensive end Malik Jackson, who has been penalized aplenty this season for over-the-line hits, said what he learned from the Bengals' meltdown Saturday night was "you have to keep your composure."

The Broncos promised to do just that.

They also vowed this rematch will be different because they'll have their star-studded secondary intact.

Although Stewart (hamstring) and Harris (shoulder) were the only two Broncos who missed Monday's practice, both said they expect to be back on the field Wednesday and should be at full strength come Sunday.

The Steelers are the only team that topped 30 points on Denver's league-best defense, and Roethlisberger is the only quarterback who threw for 300 yards against the Broncos.

Both Roethlisberger and star receiver Antonio Brown, who burned Denver for 189 yards and two TDs on 16 catches last month, were injured on hard hits from Burfict on Saturday night.

Roethlisberger hurt his right shoulder on a sack, and Brown was knocked cold by an illegal hit in the closing seconds. Combined with Adam Jones' subsequent 15-yard flag, the Steelers got 30 yards closer for Chris Boswell's 35-yard field goal and an 18-16 win.

The Broncos expect to face Roethlisberger on Sunday even if his shoulder is sore: "His legs still work," Stewart said. "So, he'll be able to move around."

The Broncos also expect to see Brown running routes.

"We want those guys to be there," cornerback Aqib Talib said. "If we didn't want them to be there, that means I'd want A.B. to be messed up. That's a good dude, a good family dude. We don't want him to be messed up."

Harris wants another crack at Brown, who ended Harris' streak of 35 games without giving up a touchdown.

"He'll bounce back strong," said cornerback Bradley Roby, adding it will help everyone on defense to have the Broncos' starting safeties back.

"It's going to be huge because the first game we kind of had some communication issues," Roby said.

He vowed to play better this time, too.

Broncos healthier as they prepare for Steelers

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos are back at practice, preparing for the one team that solved their league-best defense.

The only two players who were absent from Monday's practice were safety Darian Stewart (hamstring) and cornerback Chris Harris Jr. (shoulder).

Denver (12-4) hosts the Pittsburgh Steelers (11-6) on Sunday in the AFC divisional playoffs.

The Broncos blew a 17-point lead in a 34-27 loss at Pittsburgh on Dec. 20. Denver was without safeties Stewart, T.J. Ward and Omar Bolden that day and David Bruton Jr. played 75 snaps on a broken right leg.

The Steelers were the only team to top 30 points on Denver this season, and ailing Ben Roethlisberger was the only QB to throw for more than 300 yards against them.

NFL PLAYOFF GLANCE

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
Kansas City 30, Houston 0
Pittsburgh 18, Cincinnati 16
Sunday, Jan. 10
Seattle 10, Minnesota 9
Green Bay 35, Washington 18
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 16
Kansas City at New England, 3:35 (CBS)
Green Bay at Arizona, 7:15 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday, Jan. 17
Seattle at Carolina, 12:05 p.m. (FOX)
Pittsburgh at Denver, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 24
AFC, 2:05 p.m. (CBS)
NFC, 5:40 p.m. (FOX)

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 31
At Honolulu
Team Rice vs. Team Irvin, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 7
At Santa Clara, Calif.
TBD, 5:30 p.m. (CBS)

Spieth sends statement as big as his 8-shot win

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Jordan Spieth went on Twitter in the final hour of 2015 to say, "Would rather this year not end."

Maybe it never did.

Coming off a blockbuster year including the Masters, U.S. Open, five victories and the FedEx Cup, Spieth delivered a statement Sunday in the Hyundai Tournament of Champions by crushing the winners-only field at Kapalua for an eight-shot victory.

Happy New Year, Jordan.

"I felt like it was a short three-week break and continue what we were doing last year," he said. "That's the way I'll keep on thinking about it. It worked well this week. All parts were firing."

He made an 8-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for a 6-under 67 and a spot in the PGA Tour record book with Ernie Els. They are the only two players at 30-under par or lower in a 72-hole event. Spieth, playing smart with a big lead on the back nine, finished at 30-under 262. That was one short of the record Els set at Kapalua in 2003.

He also joined Tiger Woods as the only players since full records began in 1970 to win seven times on the PGA Tour at age 22. Woods was a month younger, and he turned pro later. Spieth collected his seventh win in his 77th start. Woods won his seventh in only his 38 tournament as a pro.

It really was a perfect week in paradise for Spieth.

He spent 11 days in Maui with his family and girlfriend, playing golf every day at Kapalua, jumping off the rocks at the famed Cliff House, spearfishing, taking little sister Ellie in the ocean and whipping the strongest field at Kapalua in 10 years.

And he still managed to leave Sunday night with one regret.

If only the Masters could start next week.

"My putting feels like it's 100 percent ready for major championships, and I've just got to dial in everything else just a little bit more," he said. "But I can sit here and say that my putting certainly is ready for the Masters to be next week. It's a really good feeling to have that confidence with the flat stick."

It was a sick feeling for everyone else.

Brooks Koepka played with Spieth in the final round and started five shots behind. On the first hole, Spieth's approach somehow settled inches away on the top of a steep bunker about 50 yards from the hole. His pitch rode the grain to 4 feet for par. Koepka three-putted for bogey. Then, Spieth rolled in a 35-foot birdie putt.

"It's incredible the way Jordan manages his game going around all 18 holes," Koepka said. "He doesn't seem to make a mistake. When he does get in trouble, he gets out of it and he makes those 15-foot clutch putts to keep the round going. It's impressive to watch, it really is. It's fun to watch."

Lionel Messi wins FIFA world player award for 5th time

By Graham Dunbar
Associated Press

ZURICH — Now score it Lionel Messi 5, Cristiano Ronaldo 3.

Messi won the Ballon d'Or trophy on Monday as the world's best player in 2015, ending Cristiano Ronaldo's two-year hold on soccer's top individual honor.

"It's incredible that it's my fifth," said the 28-year-old Barcelona and Argentina forward, who won four straight FIFA awards from 2009-12.

Messi earned his record-extending fifth after being runner-up to his great rival for the past two years.

"It's a very special moment for me to be back here on the stage," Messi said in Spanish in his acceptance speech, "after being there in the audience watching Cristiano win."

Five major titles for Barcelona last year — leaving none for Ronaldo's Real Madrid — brought the golden ball back into Messi's hands. It was not even close.

Messi got 41.33 percent of total voting points in a 23-candidate ballot. Ronaldo received 27.76 percent and third-place Neymar, Messi's Barcelona teammate from Brazil, got 7.86 percent. Voting was by national team captains and coaches, plus invited journalists, from FIFA member countries.

As usual, Argentina captain Messi and Portugal captain Ronaldo ignored each other on their own ballot papers. Messi voted for three Barcelona teammates and Ronaldo listed three Madrid colleagues. However, Portugal coach Fernando Santos did put Messi second to Ronaldo.

Associated Press

Argentina's Lionel Messi delivers a speech after winning the FIFA Men's soccer player of the year 2015 prize during the FIFA Ballon d'Or awarding ceremony at the Kongresshaus in Zurich, Switzerland, on Monday.

It was a stellar night for Barcelona and the World Cup-winning United States women's team.

Luis Enrique was named best coach after guiding Barcelona to win the Champions League, Spain's La Liga and cup, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup.

The women's awards were won by U.S. captain Carli Lloyd and coach Jill Ellis.

Lloyd stood out by scoring six World Cup goals, including a stunning hat trick in the opening 16 minutes of a 5-2 rout of Japan in the final.

At first unable to speak with emotion, Lloyd was loudly applauded as she prepared to begin her acceptance speech.

"I honestly wouldn't be sitting up here, standing up here, without my incredible teammates," said Lloyd, who made the three-player shortlist for the first time at age 33.

Lloyd got 35.28% of the voting points, ahead of Germany's Celia Sasic with 12.6 percent. Third-place Aya Miyama of Japan got 9.88 percent. Sasic also scored six goals in Canada to win the tournament Golden Boot, then retired aged just 27.

Ellis won the coaching award in women's football ahead of two men: Japan coach Norio Sasaki and Mark Sampson, who led England to third place at the World Cup.

English-born Ellis got the most dominating win. She scored 42.98 percent, ahead of Sasaki on 17.79 percent and Sampson's 10.68 percent.

The Americans last swept the women's awards after its 2012 Olympic title, when forward Abby Wambach and Swedish coach Pia Sundhage were rewarded.

Barcelona also swept the 2011 men's awards when Messi and then-coach Pep Guardiola won following the club's previous Champions League title.

Guardiola, now coaching Bayern Munich, placed second to his former teammate Monday, getting 22.97 percent against for 31.08 percent for Luis Enrique. Neither could attend due to team commitments.

Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli placed third, on 9.47 percent, for guiding the host to a first Copa America title.

Messi lost out in the Puskas Award for most beautiful goal to Wendell Lira of Brazil. Lira's bicycle kick for Goianesia against Atletico-GO in a league game topped an online poll that logged more than 1.6 million votes.

The gala night allowed FIFA to forget its corruption crisis and many legal problems in 2015 to focus on soccer highlights.

Still, FIFA withheld the Presidential Award that Sepp Blatter would traditionally pick and present. The outgoing Blatter was absent Monday due to this eight-year ban imposed by the FIFA ethics committee last month.

Four of the five candidates competing to succeed Blatter in the Feb. 26 election attended on Monday: Prince Ali bin al-Hussein, Jerome Champagne, Gianni Infantino and Tokyo Sexwale. Only Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim al Khalifa skipped the event.

In Blatter's absence, acting FIFA President Issa Hayatou of Cameroon made the formal opening speech. He noted the election meeting in Zurich where 209 member federations will also vote on restructuring and modernizing the embattled soccer body.

"After these last few difficult months we can now focus fully on the main mission that is FIFA's," Hayatou said in French, referring to developing the game worldwide.

WESTTEXASSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

To submit an item for West Texas Sports, please either fax, bring in, mail or email your information in hard-copy form to the Reporter-Telegram sports department.

Please make your submission as detailed as possible, including dates of events, deadlines, fees, age groups, etc.

To bring your item to the MRT, come to 201 E. Illinois Ave. in Midland. To mail your information, send it to Reporter-Telegram, c/o Sports Department, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

To fax your information, send to 570-7650 or you can email it to sports@mrt.com.

Baseball

GCM Baseball Academy
What: Professional private baseball lessons & clinics covering pitching, fielding, catching and hitting provided by three former professional players.
For: Ages 5 & up.
Cost: Individual lessons $65 an hour or $40 for 30 minutes. Bulk purchases & group lesson rates available at discount.
For more info: Call (432) 425-6108

Private batting and pitching instruction
For more info: Call Danny Jordan at 230-0096 for instruction on mechanics and pitch selection in a one-on-one setting

Private hitting and catching instruction
For more info: Call Scott Chapman at 967-2364 for instruction in a one-on-one environment

Pitching, hitting and fielding lessons
For more info: Call Midland High baseball coach Barry Russell at 296-2348

Private Baseball/Softball lessons
For more info: Contact Extra Innings Midland/Odessa at (432) 617-4487 or visit www.extrainnings-midlandodessa.com

Midland Little League Umpires Needed
For more info: Contact 889-6080

WTX Baseball
What: Instruction for players 5 and up
For more info: wtxbaseball.com; facebook.com/wtxbaseballmidland; 413-0329

Private lessons
For more info: Call Mike Mungia 432-230-6477 or email mmungia@midlandchristianschool.org

Basketball

Permian Basketball Association needs officials
For more info: Jim Cox, 685-4143 or 553-3714

YMCA needs basketball referees
For more info: 682-2551

Midland Hoops 32 Basketball Skills Training
Cost: $25 per session, one to two people; $15 for groups of three or more
For more info: Contact Eddie Venzant at 254-6894 or go to midlandhoops32.com; venzaintedie@yahoo.com

Bowling

Tuesday Night Petroleum Men's League
When: Meets at 6:45 p.m.
For more info: Melton Post 684-5176 or Cactus Lanes 694-0177

Edith McElmore Three-Person League
When: 10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: AMF Lanes
For more info: Call AMF Lanes at 689-9725

Camps/Clinics

Ten Star All Star Camp
For whom: Boys and girls ages 10-19
For more info: Call (704) 373-0873 for a brochure

COM Aquatic Camps
What: Swimming, diving, snorkeling
Ages: Preschool and grade school
For more info: Call 684-7755

Tennis clinics and lessons
Contact Coach Jon Tanner for clinics and lessons at jtanner@midlandchristianschool.org

Don Eddy Basketball Camp
Featuring: The shooting game and the one on one game
Where: Trinity Schools gyms
For: Kids age 8 through 12th grade
When: June 13-17, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Cost: $225
For more info: Contact Coach Young at 432-528-5208 or go to www.debb.com to register.

Cycling

Permian Basin Bicycle Association Meetings
When: 7 p.m., third Monday of every month
Where: Steak Park Ranch House, 5200 W. Wall St., Midland
Dues: $25/$30 for a family
For more info: Peyton's Bikes 699-1718 or go to www.pbbabb.com

Dodgeball

Sticks and Kicks Leagues
Who: Kids, adults, co-ed players
Cost: $35 per player (8 game season)
Where: Register at Sticks and Kicks, 3918 W Wall
For more info: Call 520-6633

Flag Football

YMCA Officials Needed
What: The YMCA needs officials for Youth Flag Football games Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call 682-2551

Football

Permian Basin Officials Chapter seeks officials
Note: Education and training will be provided
For more info: Call Terrell Pierce at 559-5004 or Jesse Mendoza at 432-254-9214

Lacrosse

West Texas Lacrosse spring "Learn-2-Play" clinics and scrimmages
For: Boys 3rd through 8th grade
When: 2:30-4 p.m. Sundays March 20-May 8 (except Easter Sunday on March 27)
Where: Hogan Park South, 1307 E. Wadley Ave (across from Sibley Nature Center)
For more info: Go to www.westtexaslacrosse.org or email: info@westtexaslacrosse.org

Martial Arts

Aikido
When: Monday-Friday, 7 to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 p.m.
Note: Specializing in traditional Hombu style Aikido.
For more info: Call John Riggs, 684-7008 or 770-3155

Private Martial Art/Self-Defense Lessons
Ages: Men-Women-Children
What: Learn Basic Skills to Advanced Techniques
Note: Private, Semi-Private and Group Lessons are available
For more info: Call Master Oscar Jimenez 432-559-5009, ojimenez3@att.net

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
When: 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. Saturdays
Where: Perez Martial Arts Academy, 350 N Midland Dr., Suite A
For more info: Call 634-9621 or (469) 248-8472

Matthews Martial Arts
When: Monday through Thursday, 5-8 p.m.
What: Karate-Judo-Jujitsu-Kempo-KungFu
For: Ages 3 and up
Where: 3205 Cuthbert
For more info: Contact Jason Matthews at 488-7467 or 689-8444

Miscellaneous

Student-Athlete Sports Consultant
For: Assisting high school student athletes with academic-athletic scholarships.
For more info: Call Jacob Santillano at (915) 240-1030

Poker

Lone Star Poker League
What: Free to play Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments.
For: Beginners to experienced players. Ages 21+and up.
When/where: 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at Woofers & Tweeters; 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday at Rednecks Drafthouse. Players must be signed in by 6:15 p.m. each night.
For more info: Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net

Professional Wrestling

Old School Wrestling School
What: Professional wrestling school for all ages.
*Where: 404 E. 81st St., Odessa
* When: 7-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 2-6 p.m. Sunday
Cost: $50 down, $35 a month.
For more info: Call Fred, 770-7001, or Sam, 349-3055

Rugby

Mad Dog Rugby Football Club
Practices: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. at Reyes-Washburn Park (north field)
For more info: call: 432-697-6418

Running

Permian Basin Running Club
Cost: $20 per year for individual membership. $30 for per year for family membership
For more info: Go to www.pbrunningclub.com or email Shawn Hailey, president at haileyshawn@pbrunningclub.com

Gazelles Training Group
When: 6 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
For more info: Call Popcorn Leonard at 512-762-1020 or 682-0988

Shooting

Comanche Trail Shootists
What: Single Action Shooting Society affiliated club in Midland
When: Monthly shoots first Saturday and third Sunday of each month; first Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.; Third Sunday from 1 p.m. (Mandatory safety meeting at 12:30 p.m.) Also shoot on fifth Sunday on months that have them (begin at 1 p.m. and are no cost to the shooter). Mandatory safety meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Where: Timberline Ranch adjacent to Jake's Clays
For more info: Go to comanchetrailshootists.org or call Hoodoo Brown 682-1422

Midland Shooters Association
What: All types of shooting practice and competition, featuring archery, benchrest rifle bulls-eye rifle, high power rifle, pistol silhouette, rimfire silhouette, 3 gun, practical pistol, skeet, trap 5 stale and sporting clays.
When: Members can access rifle and pistol ranges from sunrise to sunset seven days a week. Shotgun ranges open 11 a.m. until dusk Wednesday to Sunday.
For more info: Go to www.midlandshooters.com

Soccer

Permian Basin Soccer Association
What: Registration for women's spring summer season
Where: Dunagan Park, located at corner of Gist and Terrell
When: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
For more info: Contact Jesus Chavez at 557-7032 anytime or Josh Chavez at 238-6947 after 6:30 p.m.

Midland Soccer Association
For: Youth Recreational League Ages 4-18
When: Spring/Fall Games
Note: Also information on becoming a certified referee
For more info: Register online at www.midlandsoccer.com and go to 432-684-5425

Softball

Midland Softball Association Tournament Schedule
Now available at www.midlandsoftball.com.
For more info: call Tommy Hawkins at 520-9100

Midland Men's Woodbat Fastpitch Association
What: Men's fastpitch softball
For more info: Call 634-6474 or visit www.facebook.com/pages/Midland-Texas-Mens-Fastpitch or wyofastpitch@gmail.com

Midland United Girls Softball Registration
What: Online registration is now open and registration will only be available online
Fees: T-ball ($75), 8U-18U ($100), late fee $25
For ages: A girl must be 4 by Jan. 1, 2015 to play T-ball. The same date will used to place child in each division. A parent may have opportunity to bump their child up one division.
To register: go to Midlandfastpitch.com or registration will also be available at Midland Park Mall on March 7 and March 14 from 1-5 p.m.

Concho Valley Fast Pitch Jamboree
What: A preseason varsity tournament
When/where: Jan. 16-17, San Angelo
Team entry: $275 (15 players max)
Deadline: Jan. 12
To enter: Call Tournament Director Chris Cardenas at 325-374-2910

Swimming

COM Pre-competitive swimming
Where: Mabee Aquatic Center
Cost: $49 per month
Prerequisite: Must be able to swim 25 yards or freestyle or backstroke
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Aerobics Classes
When: All times, Monday through Saturday
Who: All skill levels
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Learn to Swim
Ages: All ages
Note: Private, semi-private and group lessons are available
For more info: 684-7755

COM Masters Swimming
What: Competitive or non-competitive program for adults of all skill levels
When: 5-6 a.m., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Cost: $40 per month (includes cardio training)
For more info: Call 684-7755

COM Diving Instruction
Who: All ages and levels invited
For more info: 684-7755

COM Learn to Dive
What: Learn basic skills for beginners then advance to pre-competitive and competitive diving that emphasize skilled diving techniques and participation in diving meets
Ages: 4 and up
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Dive Team
Who: Try out for Bronze, Silver, Gold Prep or Gold levels of COM Dive Team.
What: Emphasizes is on diving techniques and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Elite Dive Team
What: Highest level of COM diving. Concentrates on perfecting Olympic level skills, national and international travel
For more info: 684-7755

COM Competitive Swim Team
Who: Try out for COM Swim Team. tryouts available by appointment
What: Emphasizes stroke correction and participation in local and out of town competitive meets
For more info: 684-7755

COM Adult Conditioning
What: Allows adult participation use of top quality lap pools and fitness room during specified hours
For more info: 684-7755

COM Water Walking Class
What: Unstructured, self-paced class
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

COM Senior Fitness Class
Who: Senior citizens that need help with physical conditions resulting from injury, disease chronic conditions, advanced age, etc
For more info: Call Tommy McAlister at 684-7755

Central YMCA Water Aerobics Classes
When: Early morning, morning and evening
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Arthritis Water Exercise Classes
When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Swimming Lessons
Who: All ages and ability
For more info: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Central YMCA Synchronized Swimming
For: Ages 6 and up
For more information: Call Leaf Faller 682-2551

Tennis

West Texas Tennis Association
What: West Texas Tennis Association, a non-profit community tennis association, promotes and oversees USTA leagues, programs and events in the area.
For more info: Call 432-210-0611 or www.westtexastennis.com for more information.

Bush Tennis Center Clinics
What: Balloon Tennis 34 (ages 3-4); Redball 98 (ages 5-8); Orange and Green Ball 910 (ages 9-10); Junior Development (8th-9th grade; freshman-JV); Junior Select (varsity); RSR Adults (adult beginners); Intermediate Adults; 4.0-5.0 Adults (advanced adults); Also Junior Team Tennis registration now open
Where: Bush Tennis Center
For more info: Visit www.bushtenniscenter.com and or call, 620-8180.

USTA Team Tennis Adult Leagues
When: Leagues run May through November
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Sherry 620-8610 or Email www.midlandtennis@aol.com

Midland College Tennis
What: Clinics, lessons, leagues, tournaments
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
For more info: Call 687-4046

Midland College Tennis Club
When: A community tennis club
Where: Midland College Tennis Center
Annual Dues: Adults $65, youths $30, families $140
For more info: Call 563-1333 or email midlandtennisclub@aol.com
Note: Will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 11 a.m.

Midland Women's Tennis Association
For more info: 559-7208

Ultimate Frisbee

Midland Drought Ultimate Frisbee Club
What: The Club plays weekly casual pick-up games on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and offer occasional opportunities for tourney travel
For ages: Males and females from the high school level to adult
For more info: Go to www.midlandultimatefrisbee.weebly.com or call Matt at 432-288-3139

Walking

Midland Walkabout AVA Club
For: All Ages
Annual dues: $15 per family
Walks: One Saturday morning per month
When: First Monday of the month at Murray's Deli on Wadley at 6 p.m.
Who: All ages
For more info: Call 432-697-4310, email goeteren3@suddenlink.net or visit midlandwalkabout.wordpress.com

Midland College Lady Chap and Chaparral Basketball
"Energy Industry Appreciation Night"
Al G. Langford Chaparral Center
Thursday, January 14, 2016

Both MC basketball teams will be wearing commorative shooting shirts during pregame warm ups (modeled by Morgan Ashton and Jachai Simmons).

5:45 PM
Frank Phillips College Plainswomen
vs
Midland College Lady Chaps

7:30 PM
Frank Phillips College Plainsmen
vs
Midland College Chaparrals

Tickets are available at various locations throughout the city, including the Midland Chamber of Commerce and the Permian Basin Petroleum Association as well as in the Midland College Athletic Department - Physical Education Building (432-685-4576).

Redeem your ticket(s) at the game (Door #2 of the Chap Center) for a $1.00 general admission ticket (up to a family of five for $5.00).

There is attendance can enter a prize drawing with four lucky fans winning shooting shirts that night!

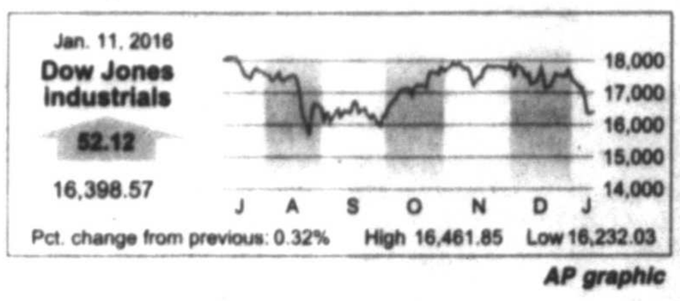
There will also be two silent auctions for the shirts with the funds going to a local charity to be chosen by the members of the Lady Chap and Chap basketball teams (TBA the following week).

CHAP ATHLETIC CLUB DINNER
Lemon Pepper Chicken, Veggies, Roll, Dessert, Iced Tea and Water

Come out to the Chap Center on Thursday, January 14th as we fill the arena with "Energy" on "Energy Industry Appreciation Night"!

BUSINESS & OIL

A DAY ON WALL STREET



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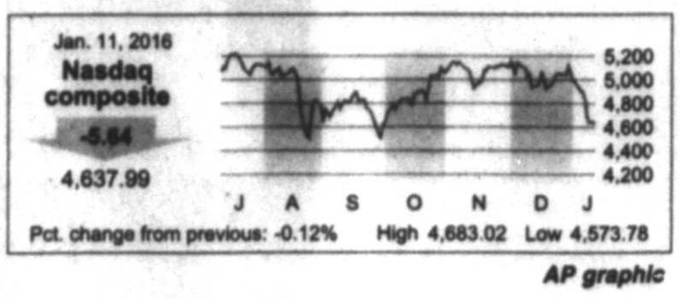

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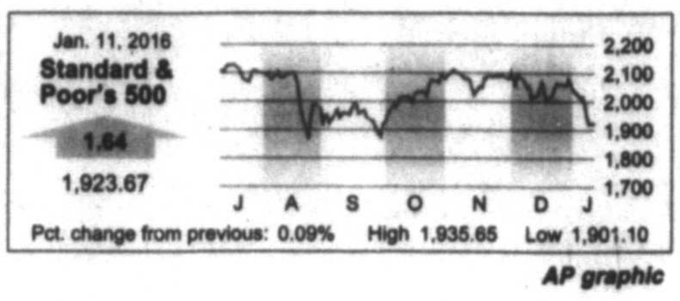


AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES

Monday: $31.41
Previous: $33.16

POSTED

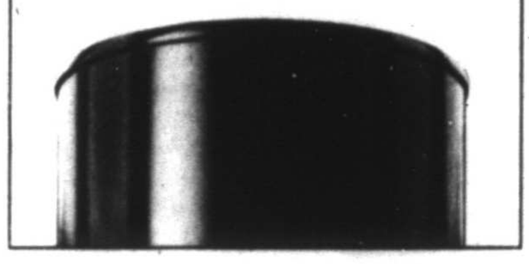
Monday: $28.25
Previous: $29.50

WEST TEXAS SOUR

Monday: $24.60
Previous: $25.85

NATURAL GAS

Monday: $2.396
Previous: $2.472



Oil dips below $31 in intraday trading, closes at 12-year low

From staff reports

The price of oil dipped below $31 a barrel in intraday trading Monday but recovered slightly to finish above $31 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate futures contracts for February closed the trading day at $31.41 barrel, down $1.75 or 5.3 percent, and marked the lowest closing price in 12 years. During the course of the day, the price fell as low as $30.88 a barrel and reached a high of $33.20.

Monday's close was the lowest since Dec. 5, 2003, when oil fetched $30.73 a barrel, according to data from the Energy Information Administration.

The Plains All American posted price for WTI was $28.25 a barrel, down $1.25. West Texas sour fetched $24.60 a barrel, also down $1.25. The lowest posted price for Texas crude was $15.50 for South Texas sour.

Brent crude, the benchmark for international oils, ended Monday at $31.55 a barrel, falling $2 or about 6 percent.

Are unlimited data cellphone plans on their way back?

Associated Press

NEW YORK — AT&T is once again experimenting with offering unlimited data plans to smartphone customers while promoting its DirecTV service, signaling a potential reversal of industry trends toward data caps and charges for big video watchers.

AT&T is trying to capitalize on its $48.5 billion purchase of DirecTV last year. On Monday, it's announcing an unlimited data plan for cellphones, if you also get DirecTV or AT&T's home-TV service, U-verse.

The unlimited data deal may be cheaper than AT&T's limited-data plan if you have a family that watches a lot of video and want cable; if it's one person, sticking with the existing plan is likely a better value, especially if you don't want cable. It's a limited-time offer but AT&T won't say when the promotion would end. People who sign up can keep their plans when or if the promotion ends.

While AT&T killed its unlimited data plan in 2010 for new customers, followed by Verizon in 2012, unlimited plans — with qualifiers — do still exist. Both the biggest wireless carriers let their existing customers keep unlimited plans, although the price has gone up recently. Late last year, they announced price increases — Verizon charging an extra $20 per line, AT&T another $5.

T-Mobile and Sprint, the No. 3 and No. 4 carriers, currently offer unlimited plans for new customers (T-Mobile also just raised the price). But they may throttle, or slow your speed, after you use up 23 gigabtyes. Likewise, AT&T also says it may do this if there's a lot of demand on the network once you've hit 22 GB. That translates to about 25 hours of high-definition video in a month. Verizon says it has stopped doing this.

AT&T's move follows T-Mobile's new "Binge On" plan, which lets you stream video without it counting against your data cap from companies T-Mobile has signed up — including DirecTV. As part of that program, T-Mobile automatically degrades the quality of all video you watch to standard definition from HD. That has upset advocates of net neutrality, the concept that all Web traffic should be treated equally.

T-Mobile began shaking up wireless industry practices after the government blocked AT&T from acquiring it in 2011, scrapping contract plans to give customers more flexibility, lowering prices and introducing Binge On. In recent years, its share of new users has been growing, according to research from MoffettNathanson. Amid T-Mobile's changes and as more than 90 percent of U.S. adults now has a cellphone, AT&T, Verizon and Sprint have been lowering prices and offering promotions to compete.

Figuring out if AT&T's latest is a good value is a little tricky.

For one person:

■ The unlimited plan with one phone, including a first year of DirecTV, costs at least $110 a month and will rise to at least $140 a month after a year because of the DirecTV promotional price. This does not include fees, taxes or the cost of the phone itself.

■ Just getting a phone plan with 5 GB of data would cost you $75 a month, before the cost of the phone, taxes and fees; it's $85, to start, including DirecTV.

For two people:

■ The unlimited plan costs at least $150.

■ A 5 GB phone plan costs $100; 15 GB costs $130. Adding TV costs at least $10 a month more to start.

Figuring out family finances is more complicated. A family of four would save money with the unlimited plan if they would have opted for a plan with 20 GB, but spend more if they just wanted to share 15 GB.

VW CEO plans to submit emissions fixes to EPA chief

DETROIT — Volkswagen's new chief executive plans to present remedies for fixing diesel engines that cheat on emissions tests when he meets with the top U.S. environmental regulator this week.

CEO Matthias Mueller said that as of now VW has only given technical data to the Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board. But he hopes to reach agreement with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Wednesday in Washington when he presents her with solutions. VW requested the meeting.

Mueller's trip comes as the German automaker and U.S. regulators are at an apparent impasse over how to proceed with the expected recall of nearly 600,000 "clean diesel" vehicles sold with secret software designed to make their engines pass federal emissions standards while undergoing laboratory testing. The vehicles then switch off those measures in real-world driving conditions, spewing harmful nitrogen oxide at up to 40 times what is allowed under federal environmental standards.

Gold price drops

TGold fell $1.70 to $1,096.20 an ounce, while silver fell 5 cents to $13.86 an ounce. Copper slipped 5 cents, or 2.4 percent, to $1.97 a pound.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $23.11 Down 2.59

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $82.17 Down 2.25

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $3.09 Down 0.01

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $57.60 Down 3.16

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $1.25 Down 0.22

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $2.25 Up 0.05

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $19.89 Down 0.16

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $20.23 Down 0.91

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $5.29 Up 0.19

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $13.02 Down 0.33

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	1764192	111.19	+.19
B iPVixST	1261417	24.02	-.81
FrptMcM	1165997	4.31	-1.10
BkofAm	1029789	15.31	+.11
US OilFd	809187	9.25	-.55

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AcornInt rs	7.34	+3.33	+83.0
FXCM rs	16.55	+2.95	+21.7
MesaRoyl	9.17	+1.44	+18.6
NthStarAst	11.59	+1.13	+10.8
Macys	38.82	+2.93	+8.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
TimkinSteel	3.99	-2.79	-41.2
DiamaShip	2.49	-.97	-28.0
AzureMid	2.25	-.73	-24.5
DBCmdDS	70.50	-19.69	-21.8
ForsightEn	2.11	-.56	-21.0

DIARY

Advanced	1,095
Declined	2,032
Unchanged	83
Total issues	3,210
New Highs	11
New Lows	598
Volume	4,540,013,626

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BanroGSOil	61062	5.35	-.32
CherwellEn	48357	33.79	-1.22
Globalstar	46191	1.16	-.07
NwGold g	37258	2.21	-.17
TherapMD	33977	7.79	-.59

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
GreenH pfC	2.84	+.34	+13.6
AttarcAst	16.82	+1.13	+7.2
Netw1Tcr	2.10	+.14	+7.1
IncOpR	7.34	+.45	+6.5
Innsuites	2.45	+.15	+6.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
OncoCyte n	4.97	-2.02	-28.9
ActinumP	2.22	-.41	-15.6
CRH Med	2.41	-.36	-13.0
Aerocntry	11.54	-1.35	-10.5
Inuvo	2.33	-.26	-10.0

DIARY

Advanced	120
Declined	266
Unchanged	19
Total issues	405
New Highs	1
New Lows	44
Volume	93,451,143

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
CSVlxSh rs	620728	8.78	-.62
Affymetrix	522621	13.96	+4.75
Apple Inc	480128	98.53	+1.57
PwShs QQQ4	711953	104.33	+.32
MicronT	430583	12.53	-.80

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Affymetrix	13.96	+4.75	+51.6
SkylineM un	9.50	+2.25	+31.0
Sientra	7.94	+1.36	+20.7
KonaGrill	16.03	+2.07	+14.8
Cemtrex rs	2.85	+.35	+14.0

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Schulmn	21.49	-7.12	-24.9
NaturlAll	8.45	-2.79	-24.8
Connecture	2.72	-.80	-22.7
AmETfech	2.64	-.76	-22.4
Brainstorm	2.39	-.69	-22.4

DIARY

Advanced	1,077
Declined	1,737
Unchanged	145
Total issues	2,959
New Highs	12
New Lows	486
Volume	2,338,345,166

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.92f	37	33.95	+.41	-1.3
Abraxas	...	5	.87	-.08	-18.0
AdaDvsEq	.92e	...	12.06	...	-6.0
AMD			2.34	+.20	-18.5
Affymetrix			13.96	+4.75	+38.4
Alcoa	.12	12	8.00	-.07	-18.9
Alibaba		28	69.92	-.88	-14.0
AlonUSA	.60	8	13.02	-.37	-12.3
AlpAlerMLP	1.19e	...	10.40	-.59	-13.7
Ambev	.19e	...	4.11	-.07	-7.8
AmAirlines	.40	6	41.08	+.71	-3.0
Amgen	4.00f	18	147.69	-3.02	-9.0
Anadarko	1.06	...	37.75	-2.81	-22.3
Apache	1.00	...	35.06	-1.59	-21.2
Apple Inc	2.08	11	98.53	+1.57	-6.4
ApldMatl	.40	15	16.88	-.11	-10.7
ArcelorMit			3.54	+.10	-16.1
Archrock	.60	18	5.82	-.28	-22.6
ATMOS	1.68f	20	62.47	+.21	-.9
AutoData	2.12f	25	78.51	+.38	-7.3
BP PLC	2.40	...	28.84	-.07	-7.7
BabsCCInv	1.20		17.09	-.10	-.9
BakrHu	.68		41.51	-.07	-10.1
BkofAm	.20	11	15.31	+.11	-9.0
B iPVixST			24.02	-.81	+19.5
BarrickG	.08	23	8.15	-.27	+10.4
BasicEnSv			1.78	-.13	-33.6
Baxalta n	.28		39.10	-.91	+.2
BerkHa A	...	14193	0060.03	-839.98	-2.4
BkHillsCp	1.62	31	47.04	-.42	+1.3
BrkfldSq	1.52f	61	62.98	-.85	-8.4
BrownFA	1.36f	32	103.69	-.06	-6.9
BrownFB	1.36f	29	93.90	+.87	-5.4
CVS Health	1.70f	21	94.92	+1.36	-2.9
Cameron	...	15	59.84	-.09	-5.3
Caterpillar	3.08	12	61.47	-1.82	-9.5
Celestic g	...	13	10.20	-.35	-7.5
Celgene	...	52	103.03	-5.95	-14.0
CntryLink	2.16	17	24.12	+.15	-4.1
ChesEng	...	...	4.17	-.27	-7.3
Chevron	4.28	18	80.77	-1.36	-10.2
Chicos	.31	47	10.80	-.15	+1.2
Cimarex	.64	...	80.74	-1.58	-9.7
Cisco	.84	14	25.27	+.49	-5.2
Citigroup	.20	11	46.85	+.72	-9.5
ClayEng	...	...	23.11	-2.59	-21.8
CocaCola	1.32	27	41.58	+.07	-3.2
ColgPalm	1.52	23	62.81	+.26	-6.7
ConAgra	1.00	21	40.19	-.37	-4.7
ConchoRes	...	49	82.17	-2.25	-11.5
ConocoPhil	2.96	46	41.12	-2.17	-11.9
Corning	.48	12	17.31	+.16	-5.3
CrackerB	4.40a	17	121.81	+1.67	-4.0
CSVLgNG rs			2.55	-.35	+4.5
CSVLgCrd rs				2.31	-.44
-41.5					
CSVelIVST			21.00	+.55	-18.6
CSVlxSh rs			8.78	-.62	+40.3
CrosTim	1.56e	8	12.52	-.55	-3.8
DCP Mid	3.12	11	20.62	-1.21	-16.4
DTE	2.92f	15	79.15	+.77	-1.3
Dataram			.66	-.03	...
DevonE	.96	...	26.97	-1.53	-15.7
Disney	1.42f	19	99.92	+.67	-4.9
DowChm	1.84f	12	45.40	-.88	-11.8
EOG Resc	.67	...	63.67	-1.86	-10.1
EmpDist	1.04	21	27.72	+.11	-1.2
EnCana g	.28	...	4.72	-.17	-7.3
Energen	.08	...	35.05	-.87	-14.5
EgyTrEq s	1.14f	11	10.29	-.53	-25.1
EngyTsfr	4.22f	88	28.04	-1.66	-16.9
EnPro	.80	...	43.36	-1.02	-1.1
EnProdPt	1.58f	18	23.10	-1.15	-9.7
Ericsson	.70e	...	9.19	+.09	-4.4
ExxonMbl	2.92	18	79.69	-1.00	-5.5
Facebook		98	97.51	+.18	-6.8
FordM	.60	11	12.77	+.23	-9.4
FreeSea hrs	...	...	.01	-.00	-50.0
FrptMcM	...	...	4.31	-1.10	-36.3
GATX	1.52	7	37.97	+.44	-10.8
GabMulT	.94e	...	7.07	-.03	-6.7
GAInv	1.15e	...	29.31	-.06	-6.2
GenElec	.92	...	28.88	+.13	-6.3
GenMotors	1.44	11	30.25	+.72	-11.1
GrPalmEn	1.60f	20	27.29	+.29	-.1
HP Inc	.50	...	10.65	+.07	-10.1
HalconRs rs	...	...	.84	-.21	-69.0
Halliburtn	.72	39	31.58	-.91	-7.3
iShJapan	.13e	...	11.52	+.08	-5.0
iShChinaLC	.76e	...	31.45	-.17	-10.9
iShEMIdx	.84e	...	29.50	-.01	-8.4
iS Eale	1.70e	...	55.16	+.23	-6.1
iShBxHYB	5.09	...	79.40	-.12	-1.5
iShR2K	1.73e	...	103.40	-.45	-8.2
Intel	.96	14	32.06	+.55	-6.9
InterDig	.80	17	45.66	-.08	-6.9
JD.com	...	...	27.03	-.59	-16.2
JPMorgCh	1.76	11	58.83	-.09	-10.3
JohnJn	3.00	18	97.57	-.59	-5.0
Keycorp	.30	11	11.94	+.02	-9.5
KimbClk	3.52	67	125.71	+.48	-1.2
KindMorg	.50m	27	14.16	-.61	-5.1
LegacyRes	.60m	...	1.25	-.22	-28.6
Lubys	...	...	4.18	+.06	-6.5
Macys	1.44	10	38.82	+2.93	+11.0
MarathnO	.20m	80	9.62	-.73	-23.6
MidVGold	.12e	...	13.92	-.60	+1.5
McDnlds	3.56f	24	116.69	+1.21	-1.2
Merck	1.84f	14	51.25	+.17	-3.0
MerMfad	...	27	16.34	-.04	-12.1
MexcoEn	...	...	2.25	+.05	-30.3
MicronT	...	7	12.53	-.80	-11.5
Microsoft	1.44	35	52.30	-.03	-5.7
MorgStan	.60	10	28.46	+.08	-10.5
Nabors	.24	...	6.93	-.26	-18.6
NatGrid	3.35e	...	69.10	+.73	-.6
NOKsVarco	1.84	8	29.95	+.01	-10.6
Netflix s	...	...	114.97	+3.58	+.5
NokiaCp	.16e	...	7.42	+.09	+5.7
NvMAd	.79e	...	13.96	-.04	+.8
NvPfII	.79e	...	13.76	-.12	+.7
NuvPI	.82e	...	14.22	+.02	+.9
NSTFR	.55e	...	14.62	-.11	+.6
NTXGI	.65	...	14.36	-.13	-.5
OcciPet	3.00	27	61.22	-1.96	-9.5
Oracle	.60	17	34.94	+.29	-4.0
PerTech	...	...	5.85	-.04	-13.1
PerlDrl	...	...	1.47	-.11	-19.2
PetMTI	.60	...	12.06	-.30	-14.1
PennaRE	.84	...	21.00	+.17	-4.0
Pmian	.38e	11	5.03	-.13	-.8
Petrobras	...	...	3.71	-.04	-13.7
Pfizer	1.20f	23	31.07	+.07	-3.7
PioNtrl	.08	22	113.51	-2.33	-9.5
PlainsAAP	2.80f	12	20.36	-1.60	-11.9
PwShs QQQ	1.52e	...	104.33	+.32	-6.7
Praxair	2.80	18	98.44	+.59	-3.9
PrmEgy	...	23	50.00	...	-5.7
PUVixST rs	...	...	39.90	-2.92	+40.7
ProctGam	2.65	27	78.87	+.70	-3.5
ProUShSP	...	...	22.42	-.04	+12.5
RangeRs	.16	15	24.97	-.78	+1.5
RegionsFn	.24	13	8.68	-.08	-9.6
Rowan	.40	...	13.72	-.62	-19.1
RoyDShNA	3.76	61	40.04	-.34	-12.6
SpdrDJIA	3.90e	...	163.83	+.59	-5.8
S&P500ETF	4.13e	...	192.11	+.19	-5.8
SpdrOGEx	.73e	...	26.54	-1.08	-12.2
SabnR	3.09e	8	26.92	-.39	+2.5
SanderPm	.88e	8	77.89	+2.67	+.2
Schlmbrg	2.00	22	64.83	-.25	-7.1
Schwab	.24	29	28.74	-.26	-12.7
SiriusXM	...	38	3.82	+.01	-6.1
Smucker	2.68	34	120.74	+.70	-2.1
SwstnEngy	...	...	6.54	-.41	-8.0
SP HlthC	.97e	...	67.21	-.81	-6.7
SP CnSt	1.28e	...	49.48	+.46	-2.0
SP Engy	1.98e	...	54.85	-1.20	-9.1
SPDR Fncl	.44e	...	22.13	+.03	-7.1
SP Inds	1.12e	...	49.75	+.03	-6.1
SP Tech	.78e	...	40.35	+.26	-5.8
SP Util	1.55e	...	43.34	+.23	+.1
SunEdison	...	...	3.34	-.07	-34.4
SunocoLog	1.83f	...	21.70	-.78	-15.6
TeleflEsp	1.03e	...	10.29	-.06	-7.0
Tesoro.	2.00	8	101.07	-.55	-4.1
3M Co	4.10	18	140.46	-.03	-6.8
Torchmark	.54	13	64.44	+.02	-4.5
TriContl	.81e	...	18.99	-.06	-5.1
Twitter	...	...	19.65	-.33	-15.1
TylerTech	...	77	160.57	-.06	-7.9
UBSI	1.32f	18	34.82	+.43	-5.9
US OilFd	...	...	9.25	-.55	-15.9
Vale SA	.29e	...	2.54	-.06	-22.8
ValeroE	2.00f	7	69.07	+.81	-2.3
VangEmg	1.10e	...	29.87	-.13	-6.7
Vulcanlll	.40	65	85.86	-.39	-9.6
WEC Engy	1.98f	20	51.89	+.42	+1.1
WalgBoots	1.44	24	81.02	-.03	-4.9
WellsFargo	1.50	12	50.09	+.53	-7.9
WstnRefin	1.52f	7	37.96	-.54	+6.6
WhitingPet	...	...	7.28	-.49	-22.9
WmsCos	2.56	53	18.69	-1.62	-27.3
XcelEngy	1.28	19	36.47	+.29	+1.6
Xerox	.28	32	9.40	-.19	-11.6

Can't find your favorite stocks or mutual funds listed?
Send your favorite to sdoreen@mrt.com or mmcewen@mrt.com.
We will regularly update the Permian Basin stocks list.

INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,351.36	15,370.33	Dow Jones Industrials	16,398.57	+52.12	+.32	-5.89	-7.04
9,214.77	6,934.69	Dow Jones Transportation	6,914.56	-31.80	-.46	-7.91	-21.49
657.17	539.96	Dow Jones Utilities	582.21	+3.39	+.59	+.76	-6.41
11,254.87	9,500.59	NYSE Composite	9,527.66	-1.11	-.01	-6.07	-10.46
5,231.94	4,292.14	Nasdaq Composite	4,637.99	-5.64	-.12	-7.39	-.57
2,134.72	1,867.01	S&P 500	1,923.67	+1.64	+.09	-5.69	-5.18
1,551.28	1,307.30	S&P Midcap	1,304.00	-4.49	-.34	-6.76	-9.04
22,537.15	19,619.26	Wilshire 5000	19,848.27	-18.83	-.09	-6.23	-8.95
1,296.00	1,045.10	Russell 2000	1,041.89	-33.40	-3.11	-8.27	-11.71

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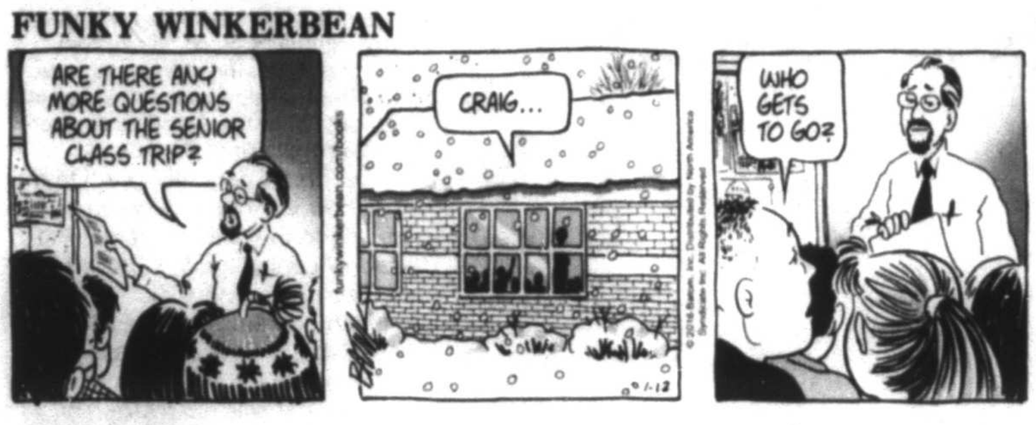
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE

GARFIELD

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

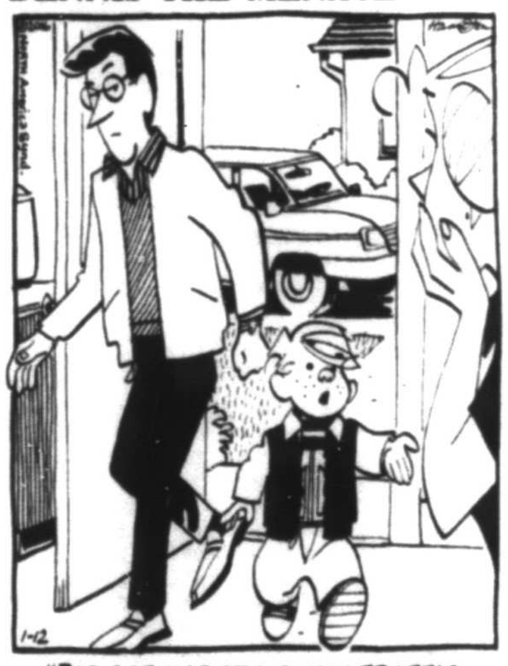
BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

As Ken showed Carol how he could floss his teeth with his feet, she felt the last ounces of passion drain from their marriage.

DENNIS THE MENACE

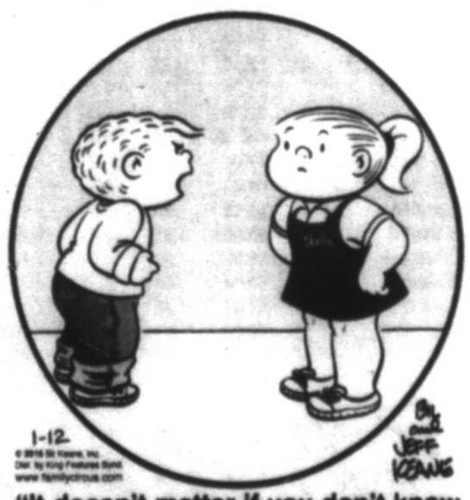


"DAD GOT MAD AT A GUY IN TRAFFIC AND SAID SOMETHING IN *CURSIVE*."

LOCKHORNS

"WE'RE THINKING OF MOVING CLOSER TO A WAREHOUSE CLUB."

FAMILY CIRCUS



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ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Commercial Lending Assistant

Lone Star State Bank of Midland is seeking an experienced Commercial Lending Assistant to support the President and Vice President of the bank. Qualified candidates will demonstrate a high-level of customer service skills and familiarity with commercial loan documentation. Please submit your resume to Mdavis@LonestarWTX.com

★ Lone Star State Bank

Producer Accounting Position

Oil & Gas Energy firm in Midland, TX. is looking to fill an entry level Producer Accounting Position. Position involved monthly settlement of Gas Processing plants. Candidate must have excellent computer and communication skills. Four year degree in Accounting or Finance required. Benefits include Health Insurance, 401K and Cafeteria Plan. Mail resume to: Producer Accountant, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, TX. 79701 or email to employment@westtexasgas.com

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Sales Assistant

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for a dynamic self-starter with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment with minimal supervision. Duties include supporting the advertising sales staff in day-to-day operations and helping the sales team consistently reach its revenue targets. Conducting sales and marketing research, creating sales presentations, event coordination and preparing reports are a few of the duties required. Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Construction Plan Room

Full Time office position in Midland working 8-5 M-F for Construction Plan Room requiring computer knowledge and skills. Customer Service and capable office skills required. One person office demands dependability. Benefits include health insurance, vacation, and optional 401K. Interested individuals may send a resume to chughes@wtagc.org

EDUCATION & TRAINING

CHILD CARE WORKER

MRS. IRENE'S CHILD CARE FT/PT

Immediate openings Full and Part-time Child Care Worker. Wages start at $9/hour. Apply in person at 1007 Austin St., Midland. Call 432-520-8888.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Permian Basin Area Sales Manager

UMC Energy Solutions an oilfield industry leader since 1966 in the design of LACT, VRU and compression packages is currently seeking a qualified candidate for PERMIAN BASIN AREA SALES MANAGER. Prior oilfield sales experience is required. Email resume to lacy@umcenergy.com. EOE

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

$10.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifiting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

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MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE

Sales Manager

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for an experienced and dynamic sales manager with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment and lead by example with confidence and enthusiam. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of the inside sales department and lead generation process, including training and coaching Account Executives, helping the sales team consistently meet/exceed established revenue targets, monitoring and reporting on sales metrics, managing the administration process and providing support to the Director of Advertising as needed.

Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

OTHER JOBS

Cleaning Staff

Lucio's Janitorial Services is now hiring for a Floor Man and Cleaning Ladies. $10/hr. M-F. 5pm-8pm. One Daytime Person. M-F 11am-2pm. Must pass background check. Call Esmeralda Lucio 432-894-9310

Day People & Floormen

Now hiring janitorial Day People. Flexible schedules. Perfect for retired or semi retired person. Also hiring Floormen with experience maintaining floors. Pay DOE. Apply in person at 1307 N. Big Spring.
Monday - Friday 8:30am-5:30pm

Delivery Driver

American Glass Dist. FT
Help wanted: Male or Female Delivery Driver, must be able to drive standard transmission. Must be 25 years of age, have social security card, driver's license & have a decent driving record. Good benefits after 6 months of employment. Starting at $12/hr. Please call 432-699-5235 or come by 5002 Basin Street, A-2, to fill out an application.

Dispatcher

Purity Oilfield Services (EOE) is now hiring a Dispatcher with oilfield dispatching experience located in Midland. Competitive salary with excellent benefits. Please send your resume to cyonan@purityoilfieldservices.com or call 432-699-8600 for more information.

Full Time Office Manager

Turf Specialties Inc. *Full time office manager with bookkeeping experience needed Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Must be proficient in Quickbooks Premiere 2015 A/P, A/R, Payroll. Pay and other benefits will be discussed during the interview. Send resume via email to Susan Armendarez at susan@turfspec.com for interview consideration.*

REAL ESTATE

Leasing Agent

Experienced in Commercial properties. Call 432-352-2067 ask for Don.

SALES JOBS

Sales Manager

Midland Reporter-Telegram - A Hearst Media Company

Immediate opening for an experienced and dynamic sales manager with great communication skills. Must be able to multi-task in a deadline oriented environment and lead by example with confidence and enthusiam. Responsibilities include managing all aspects of the inside sales department and lead generation process, including training and coaching Account Executives, helping the sales team consistently meet/exceed established revenue targets, monitoring and reporting on sales metrics, managing the administration process and providing support to the Director of Advertising as needed.

Working knowledge of PowerPoint and Excel is necessary. Excellent wage and benefits package.

Please send resume to: jhouston@mrt.com or Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701, attn: Jeri Houston, Director of Advertising. No calls please.

SALES JOBS

Sales

Purity Oilfield Services (EOE) is now hiring a Sales Representative with oilfield and/or rental sales experience located in Midland. Competitive salary with excellent benefits. Please send your resume to wschiwart@purityoilfieldservices.com or call 432-699-8600 for more information.

SKILLED LABOR

Drillers & Roughnecks

Pacesetter Drilling is looking for Safety minded Drillers and Roughnecks experienced in the operation of Top Drive and Mechanical Rigs. Applications are being accepted in person only at 12505 WCR 125 in Odessa, TX. We are between Midland and Odessa right off of Business 20. If you need directions please call 432-563-4000. All applicants must be able to pass a drug and alcohol screening before employment will be offered.

Mid-Tex of Midland

Mid-Tex of Midland, Inc. Now hiring commercial construction project superintendents and assistant project coordinators. Competitive pay plus excellent benefits. Experience in commercial construction a must if applying for the project superintendent position. Experience not necessary, but a plus if applying for the coordinator position. Please send resumes to 5206 W. Wadley Ave., Midland, Texas 79707 or email them to Billy Mays at billy@midtexofmidland.com. You may also fax your resume to (432) 694-9627.

Production/Facilities Engineer

Arris Petroleum Corporation
Currently seeking a 5-10 year experienced engineer with a wide range of production and facilities experience. Located in Midland, TX. Candidates are asked to send their resumes to: **HR@arrispetroleum.com**

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Drivers

Purity Oilfield Services (EOE) is now hiring drivers with Class A CDL winch and/or vac truck experience with hazmat and tanker endorsements. Competitive pay and excellent benefits. Please contact 432-699-8600 for more information, submit a resume at mkiker@purityoilfieldservices.com, or stop by in person to apply at 11109 West CR 46, Midland, TX 79707.

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General Announcements

Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ. Teach the Lords' Word 1-4

Lost & Found

APPLE COMPUTER & camera equipment taken from SUV at LaQuinta on Loop 250. Reward No questions ask 432-889-1562

Classified CAN 682-6222

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

CADALLIC 2006 CTS good condition, black, $6,200. See at 2109 Western Drive, Midland TX 432-238-0614

FORD 1997 Taurus, good condition, new tires & battery asking $1800. Call 432-528-1029

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Legal & Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers (per TAC § 11.1402)

SHA, L.L.C. dba FirstCare, 12940 N. Hwy 183, Austin, TX 78750, a basic health service, individual practice model health maintenance organization will accept written applications during the period of February 1, 2016, through February 20, 2016, from physicians and providers who wish to participate in the FirstCare network. Applicants must meet FirstCare's practice standards and qualifications for acceptance. Applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or non-acceptance within 90 days after FirstCare receives an application for participation. Applications should be sent to the attention of the Provider Relations Department.

Legal & Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers

The following healthcare organizations are accepting applications for physicians and providers who wish to become contracted physicians and providers during the period of **February 1, 2016 through February 20, 2016.** UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, offered by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Texas, L.L.C. is a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) located at 14141 Southwest Freeway, Suite 800, Sugar Land, TX 77478, offers Medicaid Managed Care (STAR and STAR+PLUS) and Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). UnitedHealthcare of Texas, Inc. and UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc. both located at 1311 W. President George Bush Highway, Richardson, TX 75080 offer basic health care service Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans. United HealthCare Insurance Company and PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company offer Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) and Exclusive Provider Organizations (EPOs). Applicants must meet practice standards, qualifications and other participatory criteria established by the HMO and/or PPO/EPO's. To initiate the application process, have your tax ID number available and please call 1-877-842-3210. Select the following prompt: 4) Credentialing.

Legal & Public Notices

Notice to Physicians and Providers: Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation (HMO Blue Texas and Blue Advantage HMO) administers individual practice association health maintenance organizations that arrange for the provision of both basic and supplemental health services to their members. Any physician or provider can make application to participate in the HMO Blue Texas and/or Blue Advantage HMO networks, at BCBSTX, 3300 N. A Street, Bldg. 8, Ste. #120, Midland, Texas 79705 or Fax: 432-620-1428 from January 15, 2016, until February 3, 2016.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS and PROVIDERS

Applications for participation in DentiCare, Inc.'s network of general and specialty dental commercial providers will be accepted March 1, 2016 through March 20, 2016. All applications will be reviewed and responses will be made within 90 days of receipt. To request an application, or for further information please write: Humana, Attention: Specialty Networks-Den, N19 W24133 Riverwood Drive, Suite 100, Waukesha, WI 53188, or email your request to dentalrecruitment@humana.com

Legal & Public Notices

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND DIVISION

In re:	§	
	§	
RREAF O&G PORTFOLIO #2 LLC;	§	**LEAD CASE NO. 15-70094-rbk**
	§	
RREAF O&G PORTFOLIO #2 MANAGER LLC;	§	**CASE NO. 15-70095-rbk**
	§	
RREAF O&G PORTFOLIO #3 LLC;	§	**CASE NO. 15-70096-RBK**
	§	
RREAF O&G PORTFOLIO #3 MANAGER LLC;	§	**CASE NO. 15-70097-rbk**
	§	
Jointly Administered Debtors.	§	**CHAPTER 11**
	§	
	§	**(Jointly Administered Under**
	§	**CASE NO. 15-70094-rbk)**

NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING CONFIRMATION OF CHAPTER 11 PLAN

TO: ALL HOLDERS OF CLAIMS, HOLDERS OF INTERESTS, AND PARTIES IN INTEREST IN THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED CHAPTER 11 CASES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on December 10, 2015 RREAF O&G Portfolio #2 LLC, RREAF O&G Portfolio #2 Manager LLC, RREAF O&G Portfolio #3 LLC and RREAF O&G Portfolio #3 Manager LLC, as debtors in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the "Debtors") filed with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas (the "Bankruptcy Court") a proposed chapter 11 plan of reorganization [Docket No. 147] (the "Plan") and proposed disclosure statement [Docket No. 148] (the "Disclosure Statement") pursuant to sections 1125 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"). Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plan or the Disclosure Statement, as applicable.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT a hearing (the "Confirmation Hearing") will be held before the Honorable Ronald B. King, United States Bankruptcy Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court, 615 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205, on January 28, 2016, at 02:00 p.m., prevailing Central Time, to consider confirmation of the Plan, any objections thereto, and any other matter that may properly come before the Court. Please be advised that the Confirmation Hearing may be continued from time to time by the Bankruptcy Court or the Debtors without further notice other than by such adjournment being announced in open court or by a notice of adjournment filed with the Bankruptcy Court and served on other parties entitled to notice.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT objections (each, an "Objection"), if any, to the Plan must: (a) be in writing; (b) comply with the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas; (c) state the name and address of the objecting party and the amount and nature of the claim or interest beneficially owned by such entity or individual; (d) state with particularity the legal and factual basis for such objections, and, if practicable, a proposed modification to the Plan that would resolve such objections; and (e) be filed with the Bankruptcy Court (contemporaneously with a proof of service) and served so as to be actually received no later than **January 25, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.**, prevailing Central Time, by those parties who have a filed a notice of appearance in the Debtors' chapter 11 cases as well as each of the following parties: (i) counsel to the Debtors: Holland & Knight LLP, 200 Crescent Court, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas (Attn: Robert W. Jones and Brent R. McIlwain); (ii) counsel to Spectrum Origination LLC, King & Spalding LLP, 1180 Peachtree Street N.E., Ste. 1700, Atlanta, GA 30309 (attn: Sarah Borders and Jeff Dutson); and (iii) the office of the United States Trustee, 615 E. Houston Street, #533, San Antonio, TX 78205, attn: James Rose.

UNLESS AN OBJECTION IS TIMELY SERVED AND FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE IT MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT.

Dated:January 12, 2016

HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP

/s/ Robert W. Jones
Robert W. Jones
Brent R. McIlwain
Brian Smith
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
200 Crescent Court, Suite 1600
Dallas, TX 75201
Telephone: (214) 964-9500
Facsimile: (214) 964-9501
Email: robert.jones@hklaw.com
brent.mcilwain@hklaw.com
brian.smith@hklaw.com

Counsel for the
Debtors and Debtors in Possession

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Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. 432-685-4078

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86 Camaro IROC-Z T-tops. As seen on E-bay. $5,000. 432-559-0692.

Pickup Trucks

FORD, 2008 Ranger, $11,000. 53,500 miles, dark grey, excellent condition, bed liner & locked cover, clean title. Call or text Mike 432-664-6924.

TOYOTA 2006 Tundra, exterior black, cloth seat, all power, AC, automatic, 5.7 V8, grill guard, Rhino lined bed, running boards tool box, 91K miles. Asking $15,500. 432-254-1007.

4WD & SUV

LEXUS 1995 SC400 135k miles, runs but needs work $1,500 OBO. 432-238-8480

TOYOTA 2008 Highlander Hybrid. Pearl White, leather seats, great condition. 196K. Asking $10,000. Call 432-557-2869

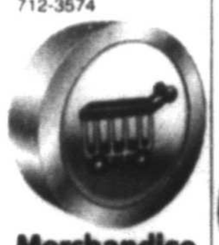
RVs

RV PARK spaces between Midland & Stanton: quiet, clean, & safe. Adults only please. 432-238-3937.

RV SPACES for rent. $500 month, utilities, furnished. Call 432-694-8234

Recreational Vehicles

2015 ROYAL TRAVEL 5th wheel. 39 ft. 2 bedroom, 4 slides, island kitchen, king bed, garden tub, 3 ACs, washer/dryer, loaded with upgrades $41,500 OBO 682-712-3574



Merchandise

Antiques

AKC SCOTTISH TERRIER PUPPIES for sale. Adorable black beauties, born 12-06-15. Credit cards accepted. Call 325-207-0042

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Appliances

AAA Appliance 15 minute pickup. 432-556-0104 / 432-528-3046

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram
(on dock side)

MOVING BOXES 100 plus just come pick up Call Steve at 432-559-6028.

Furniture

For Sale-Invacare Semi Electric Hospital Bed $350, Sprague & Carleton Solid Rock Maple Kitchen Table and 6 Chairs with Hutch $800, Encore Oak Roll Top Desk $200. Broyhill End Table $50. For more information, call (432) 413-8583

Miscellaneous for Sale

FOR SALE Bridal shop merchandise. Chair covers, sashes, table clothes, various sizes of vases, flowers. Call 432-741-9829 to view.

MODINE WAREHOUSE gas heater $175, steel self dumping hopper, forklift accessible. $175, 17" floor buffer with attachment pads $125. 432-352-8419.

Sporting Goods

GOLF CART 2004 Electric Club Car, white w/blue cover. Blue & white seat covers. Call 432-699-6979

OAK, PECAN, mesquite, pinon. 432-209-0418 or 325-762-4262

Animals & Pets

Pets

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs. www.pooleslabs.com. Call (806) 633-4364.

Real Estate Rentals & Sales

Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Furnished

2901 W ILLINOIS. 1600sft 2BD/2BA Remodeled Executive Patio apartment with garage. $1,150 monthly. Call 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

4409 CROCKETT Apt. A 2bed/1bath $900 mo, $900 dep. 432-978-2074.

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5904 W Hwy 80 • Midland, TX 79706
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TRY US ONCE YOU'LL BE BACK
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Residential Rentals

Apartments for Rent Unfurnished

2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, unfurnished apartment with garage. Lee High district. Rusk Elementay 2 blocks. 432-682-4781.

DUPLEX FOR LEASE. 3005 A Moss Court. 3bed, 2 bath 2 car garage, fireplace Appx 1600 sf. $1575 per month, $1000 deposit 432-557-5557.

LOWEST RENT! Spacious 1 - 2 - 3 Bedroom Apartments. 432-687-4514.

MIDLAND VILLAGE APARTMENTS, single story, never an upstairs neighbor. 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms 432-683-9726.

MOVE IN SPECIAL! FIRST MONTH FREE! Hunters Ridge Apartments now leasing! 4201 Andrews Hwy. Midland Texas. 1 Bedroom 432-520-5271

ONE BEDROOM, electric, water, cable paid. Monthly or weekly. American Realty. 432-520-7577

SPECIAL
★ Come to unique, owner in residence, very quite Whispering Oaks. 1 bedroom 1 bath, very nice,cathedral ceilings, covered parking, basic cable & water paid. 2 bedroom 1 bath, fireplace, cathedral ceilings, covered parking, basic cable & water paid. 2 bedroom 2 bath, garage, covered parking, fenced patios. Basic cable & water paid. Call for our special discounted rates, for quality tenant. 432-694-4001 ★

Townhouse/ Condo for Rent Unfurnished

2811 MOSS Ave Patio Home for Rent 4/3/2 Near Emerson Elementary & Goddard Junior High 432-934-4938 or 432-685-1711

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

2811 MOSS
Beautiful large 4/3/2 Emerson/Goddard/ MHS. $2,150
UP Group 889-2934

2 BEDROOM 1 bath house for rent in Old Midland. 1 year lease, fridge & stove included. Washer & dryer connections. Must pay all utilities. Call for appointment to see 432-689-4241.

304 SUNSET, 3 bedroom 1 bath, fenced yard, washer/ dryer connection, ref., stove. $1,600 month 432-634-6445

3515 STANOLIND, nice 3 BD/2BA, 2car garage, credit check required, non-smoker. $1700 dep, $1700 rent. $500 non refundable dog dep. 432-631-6914

3 bedroom 2 bath, brick home with sunken living area, fireplace, attached garage, & large backyard. Quiet neighborhood. 1908 Woodlawn $1,500 per month year lease. $1300 deposit. 903-385-2017

3 BEDROOM 3 bath, 2 car garage, has washer & dryer, refrigerator. 3200 Elma, Town home in nice neighborhood. $2,000 month, $1,500 deposit. 432-230-0157

405 W. Dengar, 4 bedroom 1 bath, fenced yard, washer/ dryer. $1,500 month. 432-634-6445

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Residential Rentals

Houses for Rent Unfurnished

4412 TANNER 3bed/2bath, double garage. $1,500 mo, $1,500 dep. 432-979-2074.

4707 A Harvard, Cute 2BD/2B duplex, 2 carports, fenced yard, appliances, non-smoker, no pets prefered. $1,200 mo. 432-620-9222 or 432-425-2739.

DUPLEX FOR LEASE 5112 Shadylane Dr., Side A. 3 bed, 2 bath, 1 car garage, $1400 per month ($1500 with pet). 432-770-9569.

NEW HOME 4 bedroom, 2 bath, washer dryer connections, central air & heat. 2502 W. Kentucky $1,700 monthly, $1,700 deposit. Available immediately. Liz 432-853-7558

NICE HOMES remodeled with garage, great neighborhood. Northwest Midland, 3 bed 2 bath and larger. From $1,500 monthly. Call 432-631-8100 or 432-266-1212

VERY NICE, newer, 2 bedroom mobilehome in quiet individually owned 6 unit park. Covered parking, appliances, landscaped. $1000 monthly, $750 deposit. Credit check, rental references required. No pets. 432-296-0951.

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Ranches

15.6 AC. W. OF MENARD, LIVE OAK, MESQUITE COVER. NATIVE, EXOTIC GAME. $2,485 DOWN. $453/MO. 800-876-9720 ranchenterprisesltd.com

Commercial

COMMERCIAL BLDG
For Lease 2817 W. Industrial Ave. Office Area includes reception area, 5 offices, 2 restrooms and break area. Shop area includes 1 restroom with overhead door. Gross building area approx 8500 sq ft. Fenced Yard. Call 683-6276 ext 305 leave a message.

Commercial

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• East County
*11,159 ac. ft. of Snyder, 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. elev., creek, lakes, Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
*4,212 ac. Maverick Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $625/ac
*1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders, great w-tail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850/ac
• Nolan County
*648 ac. over 1 mile SOLD d creek, blinds, feeders, extension charge, cedar/mesquite $3,550/ac
*365 ac. Pecan Creek, tiny Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $1,150/ac
• Howard County
*842 ac., canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
*150 ac. big canyons SOLD ecks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey $895/ac
• Martin County
*135 ac. Sulphur Springs SOLD deer and whitetail, hogs, varmints, metal sheds $1,150/ac
(432) 664-7764 or (432) 934-7777
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Deal with Landowners that know the Country!!!
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Residential Sales

We buy homes in any area in any condition.
Call the Scott Williams Team of Realtors 432-689-7770.

Homes for Sale

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL real estate advertising herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to indicate any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations of discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

To file a complaint, contact www.hud.gov or 1800-669-9777

Residential Sales

Condos/ Townhouses

NEW TODAY!
4747 Boulder Dr. 3BR/2.5BA/2GR, $30,000 recent updates. New roof, new paint inside and out, new wood floors, New carpet, new granite counter tops, much much more! $242,500. 432-559-0692.

OWNER FINANCE
Flexible terms updated, 2 bedroom 1 bath, new carpet. $2,500 down & $695 per month
3205 Storey
Call 432-803-7051.

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					2		1	
9		8	5			7		3
		3						
2		7		1				
		1	7		5	8		
3				9		1		4
						9		
6		4			8	2		7
	5		4					

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

7	1	5	9	4	8	3	6	2
4	3	6	7	2	5	8	1	9
2	9	8	6	3	1	4	5	7
3	7	9	1	8	4	6	2	5
1	8	2	5	7	6	9	3	4
6	5	4	2	9	3	7	8	1
9	6	3	4	1	2	5	7	8
5	2	7	8	6	9	1	4	3
8	4	1	3	5	7	2	9	6

1/12/16

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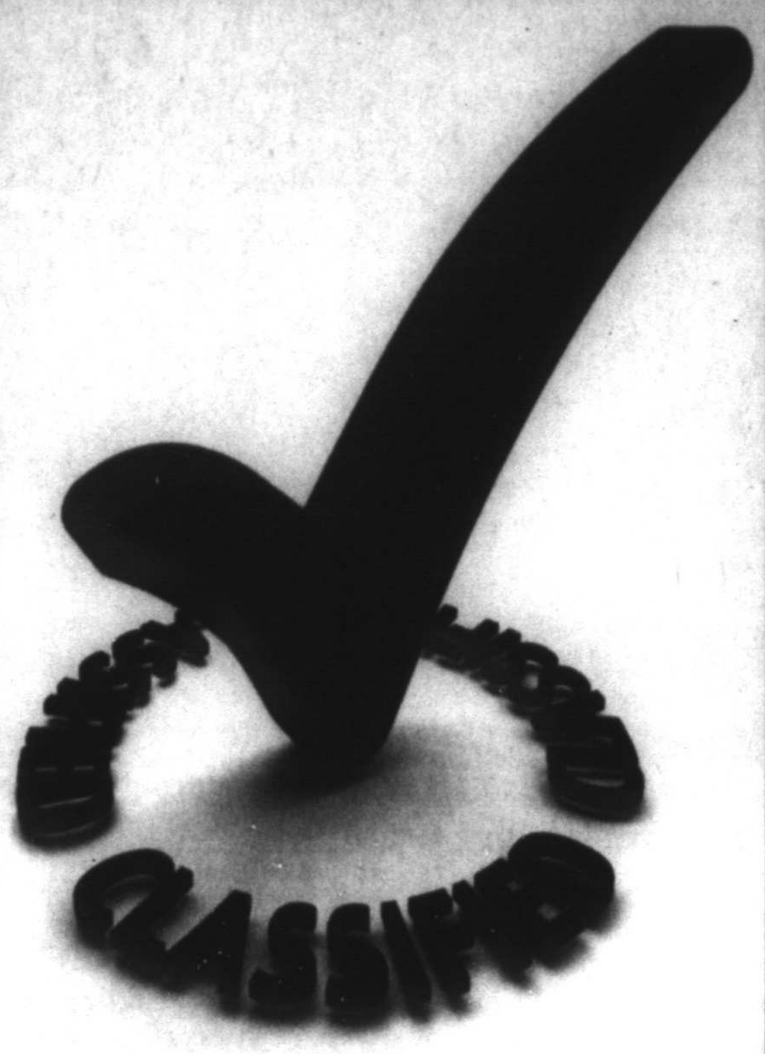

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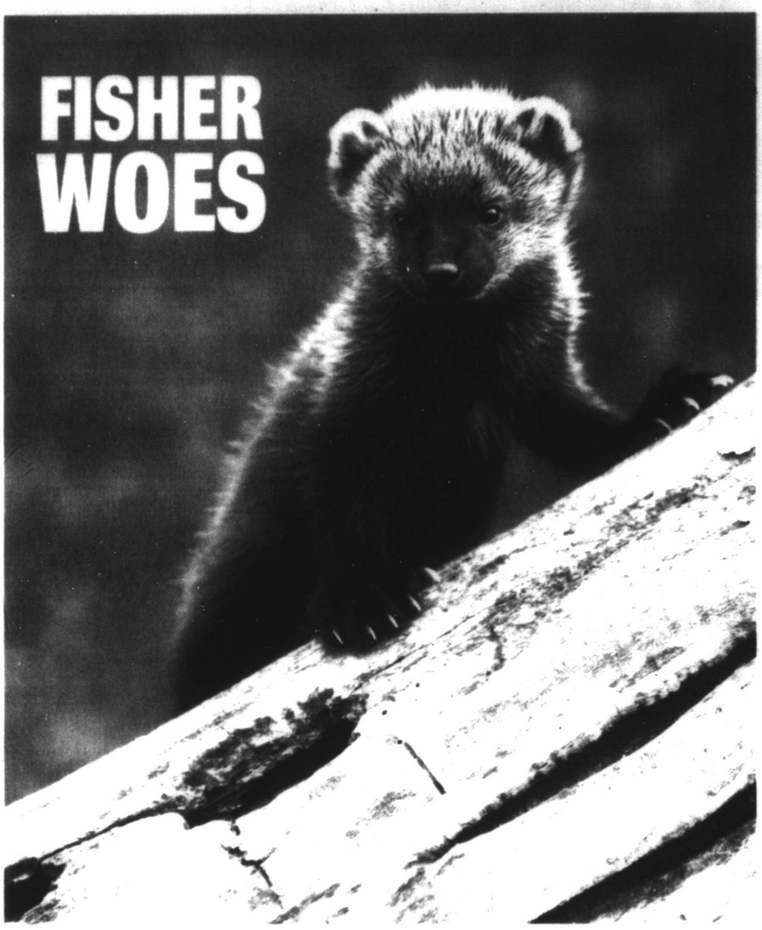

Feds mull protections for cat-like predator

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Government officials will consider new protections for a small, fanged predator that thrives in old-growth forests of the Northern Rockies over concerns that trapping, habitat loss and poisoning could be harming the animal's population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Monday that it plans a yearlong review to determine if the Northern Rockies fisher should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

The species historically occupied a Rocky Mountains range that stretched across parts of Washington, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, wildlife advocates said. The animals are now limited in the Rockies to an area along the Montana-Idaho border.

The government in 2011 rejected protections for the cat-like animals. Biologists concluded at the time that while fishers are sensitive to trapping pressures, harvest levels did not appear to be harming the overall population.

Officials changed course after receiving new details on the accidental trapping of fishers in a 2013 petition from a coalition of advocacy groups led by The Center for Biological Diversity.

Monday's announcement does not mean that protections are likely, only that the groups provided enough information to warrant a more in-depth look, said Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Serena Baker.

"We felt there was enough new evidence to suggest trapping, habitat loss and perhaps poisoning may still be concerns," she said.

Center for Biological Diversity attorney Andrea Santarsiere said statistics from the states point to a significant increase in the number of fishers being killed. Montana allows trappers to harvest a combined seven fishers annually — an activity banned elsewhere in the West.

"The fact that these fishers are completely isolated from any other population shows an increased threat," Santarsiere said.

A small West Coast population of the animals was deemed eligible for protection in 2004, although the government said other species had priority. They remain relatively abundant in parts of the Midwest and New England.

Sometimes likened to otters, fishers are agile furbearers that can reach about 15 pounds and nearly 4 feet long. They prey on small mammals and birds, and are the only known species to target porcupines.

In separate actions announced Monday, the Fish and Wildlife Service responded to petitions to change the legal status of two other Western species — bison in Yellowstone National Park and grizzly bears in the Cabinet-Yaak area along the Idaho Montana border.

Grizzlies retained their prior status as a threatened species. Protections for bison were rejected.

Replacement in works for climate modeling computer

By Mead Gtover
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — One of the most powerful computers in the world dedicated to climate change, weather and other earth science research will be replaced in 2017 by an even faster machine, officials announced Monday.

The Yellowstone supercomputer in Wyoming currently ranks among the 60 fastest in the world. The new supercomputer, to be named Cheyenne, will be at least 2 1/2 times more powerful, the National Center for Atmospheric Research said.

Capable of 5.3 quadrillion calculations, or petaflops, per second, Cheyenne will be some 100,000 times faster than a typical home computer. The speed provides unprecedented detail in climate-change predictions, including regional modeling of effects, the center said.

A more powerful computer will allow researchers to see results in higher resolution, like a higher density of pixels sharpens images on a television or a stronger telescope brings a greater number of far-off galaxies into focus, explained Rich Loft, the center's director of technology.

Scientists since 2012 have been using the Yellowstone supercomputer near Cheyenne for a range of research that also includes modeling air pollution and ocean currents.

The atmospheric research center plans to install Cheyenne later this year and put it to work early next year. Questions it might help answer include:

- Is the California drought a fluke or due to global climate change?
- Can scientists predict the intensity of solar flares — streams of radiation released by the sun that can endanger satellites and astronauts — during an upcoming solar cycle?
- How might climate change increase the likelihood of drought and change the extent of arctic sea ice from decade to decade?

The Yellowstone computer, located in a business park a few miles west of Cheyenne, put Wyoming's capital on the map as a potential technology hub. Facilities including a huge Microsoft data center have set up nearby since the center opened.

The old machine won't shut down when the new one boots up. The computers will be side-by-side for much of next year but won't operate in direct coordination.

Time and bandwidth on supercomputers typically gets divvied up among researchers and rarely goes to a single project at a time.

"The machine is usually working on dozens of problems at the same time in a kind of mix of jobs that are running on it. Some of those jobs might take a quarter of the machine. Others might take only 1 percent," Loft said.

More than 2,200 scientists from more than 300 universities and federal labs have used Yellowstone since 2012.

Officials moved to replace the first Yellowstone computer so quickly because of the rapid pace of technology.

"Things get better, faster cheaper. That's the whole story of computers," Loft said. "Certainly you know, if you have a phone, it starts to feel clunky after a few years."

The Cheyenne supercomputer will be about three times as efficient as Yellowstone, using 90 percent as much electricity but taking up to a third as much space. The machine will be built by Milpitas, California-based Silicon Graphics International Corp.

The University Corp. for Atmospheric Research, a consortium of more than 100 North American universities and colleges, oversees the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Both organizations are based in Boulder, Colorado.

Slack offers simplicity of email without lag time

Dear PropellerHeads: I work for a small ad agency and several of our employees work from home. Is there a better way than email for us to communicate and share files?

A: So what you're saying is, "Email is too slow, but chat apps are too hard to use — there's got to be a better way!" Well, hold on to your huge bowl of Cheetos, because we have just the thing for you!

It's called Slack (slack.com) and it combines some of the best features of email, instant messaging, chat apps, and wikis into a single product. Similar tools have been available for a while — HipChat (hipchat.com) is probably their main competitor — and does anyone remember the now-defunct Google Wave (bit.ly/1mYEUC4)?

Slack's ease of use and third-party integrations have made it increasingly popular among dis-tributed teams. To get started, create a Slack team for your agency, and then invite your co-workers to join the team. Use the box in the bottom right to type out a message — if you've ever used Facebook or Twitter, you'll know what to do here.

You can send direct messages, which are private between you and another user. Or you can type the message in a channel,

Ask the PropellerHeads

which is how different topics are organized in Slack.

You might create a channel for each client, so all your messages concerning the Acme Packing Company account are separate from your communications regarding Vandelay Industries. Some companies create channels for each department instead, so Sales & Marketing isn't distracted by all those HR and Accounting messages. Channels can be locked down so that only certain users can join certain channels.

This all makes for a flexible way of organizing your internal communications. If you've ever spent much time in chat rooms or old bulletin board systems, you'll feel right at home. If not, watch the short demo at slack.com/is to get started.

Messages can be edited or deleted after you post them, and you can star (bookmark) mes-sages for quick access later. Everything is easily searchable using the big "search" box in the upper right.

So far, we have a fancy chat app with a few features aped from Facebook and Twitter, so what's the big deal?

First, file uploads: Slack makes it super-easy to upload files by clicking a link or using drag-and-drop. Any documents you upload are included in searches, and that goes for files you share in Slack through its Dropbox and Google Drive integrations.

Second, you can create longer-form content with posts, but think "blog posts" instead of "Fa-cebook posts," which are shorter. If you've used a wiki or SharePoint pages in the past, you've seen this before. Use this feature to add short documents or project check-lists, for example.

If there's a feature you're missing in Slack, one of the 80 or so third-party integrations might have you covered (slack.com/apps). Hook it up to your Trello account (trello.com) to get notifications in Slack whenever someone edits a Trello card, or use the Twitter integration to share tweets with other members of your team.

Add a little levity with the Cat Facts integration which posts a random cat fact to your Slack channels every few days. ("Cat Fact 3: A group of cats is called a clowder.") Fun stuff! If you're not a cat person, maybe try the Google Calendar, Foursquare, or MailChimp integrations. Mee-wow!

Slack works great in a browser but it also provides a stand-alone desktop version with all the same features. Use the Slack app on iPhone or Android to read and write messages and receive notifications when something new happens in one of your channels.

The service is free for small teams, but does limit you to 10,000 messages. Standard and Plus plans remove that limit and add more features for a monthly fee of about $7 to $13 per user (slack.com/pricing). There is also the issue of hosting all your company communica-tions on a third-party site instead of having it in-house, but they do allow you to export your data and mitigate this risk somewhat.

So, if you need a better way to communicate with your team, head over to slack.com and act now while supplies last!

When the PropellerHeads at Data Directions aren't busy with their IT projects, they love to answer questions on business or consumer technology. Email them to questions@asktheropellerheads.com or contact us at Data Direc-tions Inc. 8510 Bell Creek Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Visit our website at www.asktheropellerheads.com.

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