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Midland Reporter-Telegram

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012 mywesttexas.com Vol. 83, No. 349 Daily 75¢, Sunday $2

Mayor signs water agreement with T Bar

Interlocal agreement will allow pipelines to transport water to Midland by 2013

By Kathleen Petty
Staff Writer

Mayor Wes Perry on Wednesday signed an interlocal agreement that officially will allow for the construction of pipelines to Midland's T Bar Ranch property.

Signing the contract was one of the last steps in cementing the agreement between the city and the Midland County Freshwater Supply District No. 1. The City Council awarded a contract to the water supply district to construct pipelines to, and deliver water from, the T Bar Ranch property in Loving and Winkler counties. The contract calls for the district to begin supplying water by May 2013.

"It's a little bit anticlimactic," Perry said, describing his afternoon visit to City Hall where he signed the contract in the City Attorney's Office with few others around.

Still, it's a significant step, he said. It's one that the Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Monday when it hosts a 10:30 a.m. press conference to recognize Perry, the City Council and past city leaders who had the foresight to purchase the T Bar Ranch property.

"I've tried to describe it as, 'We got married at the courthouse (Wednesday), but we'll have the ceremony on Monday,'" Perry said of the interlocal agreement.

José Cuevas Jr., chairman of the freshwater supply district's board, said he will sign the contract today. He said the freshwater district already has been working on the project.

"It just allows us to begin the work with certain protections from the city and certain promises from us," he said.

The contract calls for the water district to design, construct, install, finance, operate, maintain and manage infrastructure that will bring water from T Bar Ranch to Midland.

Through a vote in 2010, the water district was authorized to issue up to $375 million in revenue bonds. Because it is using revenue bonds, the issuance of debt will be paid through money earned by transporting the water, not through an increase in taxes, Cuevas said, speaking when the deal was approved.

The district is not authorized to earn a profit.

In entering the partnership, the city of Midland agreed to pay to transport at least 10 million gallons per day, unless both parties agree to a different amount, according to the contract.

The district will charge the city no more than $2.78 per 1,000 gallons delivered for at

Please see **WATER**/4A

A sign of repentance

Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

The Rev. Mark Stroba blesses Delma Salinas' forehead with ashes Wednesday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine. Church officials across Midland said they had more than 25 Ash Wednesday services to accommodate the larger crowds they expected. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting and derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.

Dewhurst: Pipeline would lessen need for Mideast oil

■ U.S. Senate candidate says he would take Texas experience to Washington, D.C.

By Kathleen Petty
Staff Writer

Passing legislation that will allow to develop the Keystone XL pipeline is instrumental in weaning America from its dependency on Middle Eastern oil, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said Wednesday.

Dewhurst

"I have long wanted to end America's dependence on foreign oil," he said, speaking during an interview at the Reporter-Telegram. "The Keystone pipeline provides 20 percent of what we need to end our demand."

President Barack Obama rejected the proposed pipeline, but TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL could re-submit its application with tweaks to the pipeline route.

Both Dewhurst and fellow Senate candidate Ted Cruz blame Obama for not signing a deal they say would have created jobs, revenue and a decrease in purchasing of oil from foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East.

Obama has responded to criticizing Republicans during speeches by saying he's supporting domestic exploration for oil, the development of alternative energies and nuclear facilities and other possibilities.

Dewhurst said the idea that Obama has done anything supportive of the oil and gas industry is laughable.

"President Obama's claim of supporting oil and gas activity is disingenuous and insulting," he said. "Here's a man who seemingly hates hydrocarbons. Here's a man who has helped propose numerous taxes on the oil and gas industry and restricted their drilling. President Barack Obama is no friend of the oil and gas industry. I know, because I've been

Please see **CANDIDATE**/4A

EZ Rider operating under budget for year

Officials optimistic that reserve funds won't be needed to break even in 2013

By Kathleen Petty
Staff Writer

EZ Rider spent less money and brought in more revenue than anticipated through the first four months of the fiscal year.

The transportation system's finances were discussed Wednesday at the Midland-Odessa Urban Transit District Board meeting. Members heard a presentation on EZ Rider's fiscal year 2011 audit and also discussed financial statements for December and January.

EZ Rider still will have to transfer about $140,000 from its reserve fund to break even this year, according to its budget. But, it's on the right track, and officials already are discussing the fiscal year 2013 budget to ensure such an injection of funds isn't necessary, said Chairwoman Karen York.

"We're looking into the budget for next year and hope to take budgets to the cities by May," she said.

Through January, EZ Rider spent about $1.16 million, which is $53,630 less than was budgeted for expenditures.

Much of the savings came through personnel costs.

York said the staff was restructured, and more employees are working part-time. In doing that, EZ Rider has cut some of its benefits costs.

At the same time, total revenues for the first four months of the fiscal year have come in above what was budgeted, according to EZ Rider's financial statements.

Through January, EZ Rider brought in about $205,223 in revenue, up from the $158,000 it expected to collect. Most of the overage came from an increase in advertising revenue.

Revenue from the fixed bus route

Please see **EZ RIDER**/4A

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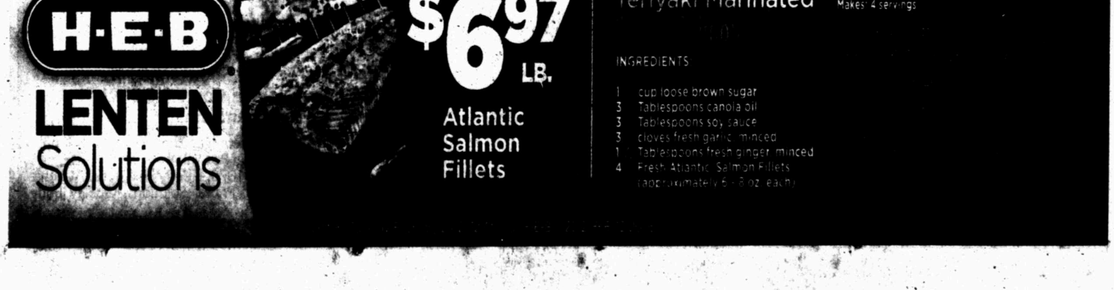
ENERGY PRICES WEDNESDAY

WTI Futures	$106.28 ▲	$0.44
WTI Posted	$102.75 ▲	$0.50
WTS Posted	$99.10 ▲	$0.50
Natural Gas	$2.643 ▲	$0.017
Gasoline	$63.586 ▲	$0.012

Sunny
High: 81 Low: 32

Tourney starts

SPORTS/1C



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what's hot from the MRT on facebook, twitter and mywesttexas.com

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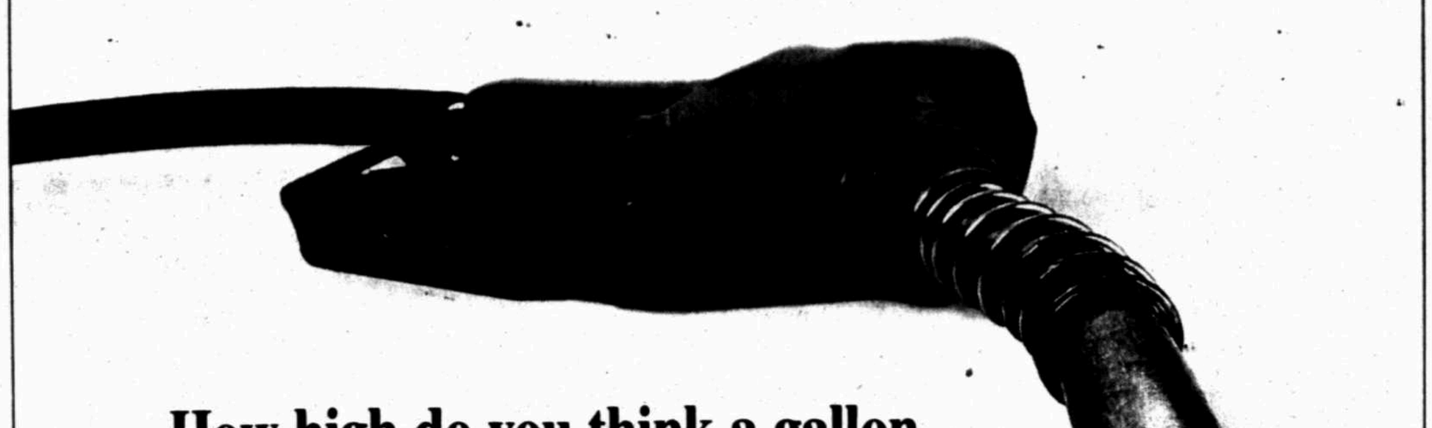


How high do you think a gallon of gas will climb in 2012?

- 3% – Prices have reached their max.
- 16% – $3.75
- 19% – $4
- 72% – *$4.25 or more.*

Sadly, it seems a "staycation" may just be in order for many of us as gas prices go up-up-up this winter.

This week, the price of West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark for oil produced in the U.S., surpassed $106 before taking a small dip Wednesday.

The higher oil prices were no doubt met with grins in the oil field where rising oil prices keep the Midland economy thriving.

Despite the benefit oil prices have on West Texas, it still was hard not to feel the squeeze at the gas pump.

GasBuddy.com listed Midland fuel prices as high as $3.69 Wednesday (and to be fair, as low as $3.48 if you're willing to drive to find it).

Prices are expected to go higher.

Four dollar gas doesn't seem unreasonable, and a large majority of poll respondents at mywesttexas.com thought $4.25 would only be the starting point for rising pump prices in 2012.

Summer of 2008: We meet again.

So unless you're made of 87-octane (and some of you oil types may be), now might be time to downgrade those spring break or summer vacation plans to something more local.

How about an exotic rainforest getaway to Odessa?

Or the beach vacation of your dreams in tropical Abilene?

Maybe you'll even hike the snow-covered Alps of Andrews?

Wherever you go, we recommend you not leave the engine running out in the parking lot. **#readerpoll**

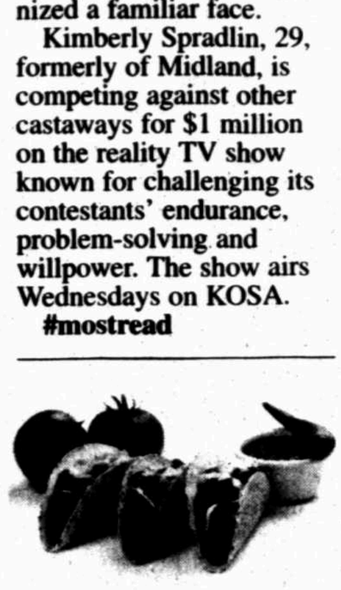
AP/CBS

#survivor

Viewers of Wednesday night's "Survivor: One World" may have recognized a familiar face.

Kimberly Spradlin, 29, formerly of Midland, is competing against other castaways for $1 million on the reality TV show known for challenging its contestants' endurance, problem-solving and willpower. The show airs Wednesdays on KOSA.

#mostread



#delicioso

If there is anything Midlanders can agree on when it comes to naming their favorite Mexican food restaurant, it's that they can't agree on anything.

Reader Cara Bennett-Russell asked our help on Facebook for finding the best Mexican food joint in town. We thought it was an interesting question, so we posed it to our Facebook fans.

Eighty-nine comments (and seemingly 89 different answers) later, no consensus was reached.

#most-facebook-comments

#most-viewed-video

If racism isn't a fireable offense at ESPN, extreme stupidity ought to be.

Either way, someone had to go – and did – after the network used an offensive term for Asian-Americans in an ESPN.com headline to describe a rough night by NBA sensation Jeremy Lin.

Lin is the NBA's first American-born basketball player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent, according to the Associated Press.

The questionable headline (actually the word "questionable" makes it sound like there might be a good way to take it) …

The flat-out wrong headline was removed roughly 35 minutes after it went live following Lin's nine-turnover night.

In its place, a more straight-forward headline was substituted: "Hornets slow down Jeremy Lin, snap Knicks' winning streak."

Simple. To the point. Not offensive to the 17.3 million Asian-Americans living in this country now probably getting their Knicks scores from Fox Sports.

Definitely an improvement.

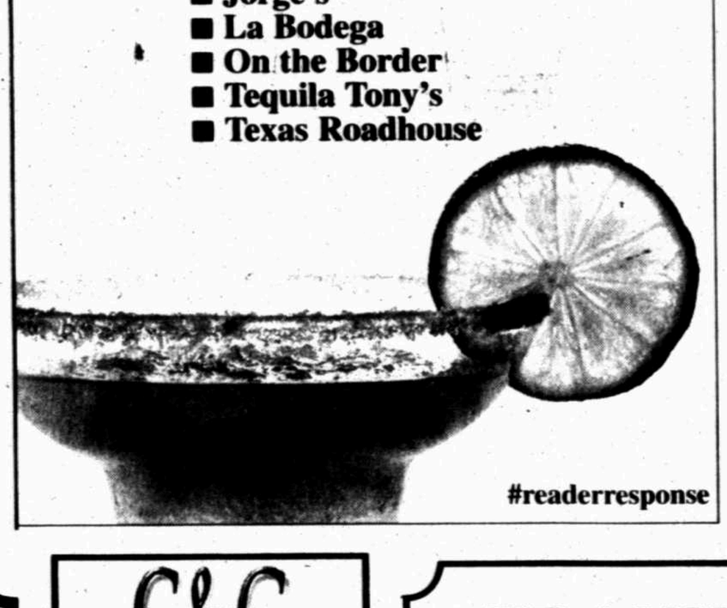
A related video discussing the role Lin's ethnic background has played in his rise to superstardom and his treatment by the media made for an interesting view, and it was our highest trafficked online video of this week.

#Linsanity

#topshelf

Wednesday was National Margarita Day. In celebration, we asked our Facebook readers to tell us their favorite West Texas joint for a margarita. A few of their favorites:

- Charla's
- Chili's
- Jorge's
- La Bodega
- On the Border
- Tequila Tony's
- Texas Roadhouse



#readerresponse

MRT File Photo

#keepyourseats

The Midland Football-Soccer and Baseball Complex Development Corp. (4B) board voted unanimously to recommend to the Midland City Council a potential $1 million-plus upgrade to seating at Grande Communications Stadium and Citibank Ballpark.

Our comment board members made the story the most-commented of the week. A few of their comments:

"Stop wasting our tax dollars and pay off the sports complex so we can get rid of the extra tax added to everything we buy. It's not your money stop acting like it is. There is nothing wrong with seats in the complex." — golfer1059

"We can't keep our schools open because they are falling down and 40-50 years old, but we can WASTE over a million dollars on seats for a sports complex that we don't need or want." — Patriot2905

#mostcommented

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The Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold were actually selected by Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovitch Romanoff of Russia during a visit to New Orleans in 1872.
Purple stands for justice, gold stands for power and green stands for faith.

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

AT YOUR SERVICE
ISSN 0890-5932

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

MAIN SWITCHBOARD
432-682-5311

■ PUBLISHER
Dave Wedel 687-8880
Email: dwedel@hearstnp.com

NEWSROOM
■ EDITOR
Stewart Doreen 687-8856
Email: sdoreen@mrt.com

■ MANAGING EDITOR
Mary Dearen 687-8852
Email: mdearen@mrt.com

■ NEWS EDITOR
Trevor Hawes 687-8854
Email: thawes@mrt.com

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Shanna Sissom 687-8851
Email: ssissom@mrt.com

■ FEATURES EDITOR
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Email: mbuck@mrt.com

■ PHOTO EDITOR
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Email: tfischer@mrt.com

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■ GENERAL ASSIGNMENTS
Audrie Palmer 687-8859
Email: apalmer@mrt.com

■ CITY, COUNTY REPORTER
Kathleen Petty 687-8850
Email: kthurber@nrt.com

■ POLICE REPORTER
James Cannon 687-8858
Email: jcannon@mrt.com

■ EDUCATION REPORTER
Meredith Moriak 687-8853
Email: mmoriak@mrt.com

■ FEATURES WRITER
Sara Higgins 687-8862
Email: shiggins@mrt.com

CIRCULATION
■ DIRECTOR
Tami Gillean 687-8802
Email: tgillean@hearstnp.com

■ DELIVERY/ SERVICE
688-2700
Out of Town: 1-800-542-3952

■ MANAGER
Tony Gonzalez 687-9002
Email: antoniomgonzalez@hearstnp.com

Circulation Fax: 682-3793

ADVERTISING
■ DIRECTOR
Brandi Price 687-8813
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Romney, Santorum swap charges

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — Primed for a fight, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum swapped accusations about spending, taxes and congressional earmarks Wednesday night in the 20th and possibly final debate of the roller-coaster race for the Republican presidential nomination.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul chimed in, saying with a smile that Santorum was a fake conservative who had voted for programs that he now says he wants to repeal.

With primaries in Arizona and Michigan six days away, Romney said Santorum voted five times while in Congress to raise the government's ability to borrow, supported retention of a law that favors construction unions and supported increased spending for Planned Parenthood. He said federal spending rose 78 percent overall while the former Pennsylvania senator was in Congress.

Santorum retorted that government spending declined as a percentage of the economy when he was in the Senate, and he noted that when Romney was asked last year if he would support a then-pending debt-limit increase, "he said yes."

There was a clash over federal spending earmarks, and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich sought to intervene as if serving as a referee instead of a debate participant.

He said he supported the earmarks that Romney had sought for the Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002, then accused Romney of observing a double standard by running television ads attacking Santorum for having voted for different earmarks.

He said it was silly for Romney to take the position that "what you got was right and what he got was wrong."

The debate had a different look from the 19 that preceded it. Instead of standing behind lecterns, the four presidential rivals sat in chairs lined up side by side.

There was another difference in the form of polls that underscored the gains that President Barack Obama has made in his bid for re-election.

An Associated Press-Gfk poll released Wednesday found that Obama would defeat any of the four remaining Republican contenders in a hypothetical matchup. It also found that the nation is showing more optimism about the state of the economy, the dominant issue in the race.

Romney, Santorum, Gingrich and Paul had a different campaign in mind, their own race for the Republican nomination and the right to oppose Obama in the fall.

After a brief lull, the campaign calendar calls for 13 primaries and caucuses between next Tuesday, when Arizona and Michigan have primaries, and March 6, a 10-state Super Tuesday.

Perry says he will travel to promote states' rights

By Peggy Fikac
San Antonio Express-News

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry said in an interview that he'll continue traveling the country to promote the fiscal and state-sovereignty issues he highlighted in his presidential campaign, rejecting calls to reimburse Texas taxpayers for the cost of the state security detail that accompanies him.

Perry — who declared his job as governor is "24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year" — also said he'd favor doing away with the state constitutional provision that the lieutenant governor assume his duties when he's outside Texas.

"I'd do that in a heartbeat. I'd change the Constitution," Perry said Tuesday. "You don't need to switch powers over. When the president of the United States leaves the country, he's still the president. The vice president doesn't go, 'All right, everybody. I'm in charge now.'"

Amending the state Constitution would require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and Texans' approval on the statewide ballot.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst — or the Senate president pro tem, when Dewhurst is out of the state at the same time as Perry — is paid nearly $411 for every full day he subs for Perry. That added up to more than $32,000 last year.

On Perry's security costs, figures from the Texas Department of Public Safety show that the tab for the times Perry or his wife, Anita, traveled outside Texas totaled more than $1.1 million from his November 2010 re-election to part of this past November.

Much of that expense came after he announced for president in mid-August. Perry's direct travel costs are generally paid by his campaign, but the security detail is state-funded.

Some critics have urged Perry to reimburse the state for security costs related to his presidential bid, but he declined.

"I've given it thought, and I will treat it just like (former governors) Ann Richards and George Bush and other governors have treated it. The security comes with the territory. I wish I could tell you that governors don't need security, but they do," Perry said.

Perry said his national role is "good for Texas," noting that he loves to tell "the Texas story" highlighted by its jobs.

A poll conducted by Blum & Weprin Associates Inc. right after he left the presidential race found a combined 48 percent of registered voters said Perry's presidential run had made Texas' image either a little worse or a lot worse.

His interviews Tuesday were the first he's done with Texas newspapers and television since leaving the presidential race Jan. 19, after stumbles including faltering debate performances sank his once-soaring candidacy.

The governor's spokesman has said he would be at Wednesday's presidential debate in Arizona to support Newt Gingrich, whom he's endorsed and for whom he's worked to raise money.

Perry said Gingrich has a chance at the nomination: "I don't think this thing is settled by any sense of the imagination. We've seen so many frontrunners, and so many people up and down, and up and down. And, it may go all the way to the convention. I think there's a real possibility of it."

Perry's presidential campaign committee has asked the Federal Election Commission if it's permissible for him to use unspent funds from his presidential effort in a new political action committee.

Perry said that could be one vehicle for him to promote his 10th Amendment and fiscal message, which he notes are tied because he's pushing for states to have more leeway in areas like Medicaid and education funding. He said another option is working through the Republican Governors Association, which he twice has served as chairman.

"I just think there is a vacuum in this country from the standpoint of a leader who will stand up, and go talk to members of Congress, individuals who want to be in Congress, and get them to pledge their support to devolve that power out of Washington, D.C., back to the states," Perry said.

Perry left the door open to running for re-election in 2014 and trying again for president in 2016.

The Blum & Weprin poll found 56 percent of registered voters didn't think Perry should run for re-election. Perry said he can take his time in deciding.

"We'll make that decision probably around the June 2013 time frame," he said. "Right now I'm focused on the next legislative session, and how to keep this great Texas story going."

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Things to do

■ Shotguns & Stilettos, presented by the Junior League, a multi-day celebration of shopping, shooting and socializing at Midland Center. For more info: visit www.jlmidland.org or call 682-4732.

■ "Once Upon a Mattress," 7:30 p.m., Yucca Theatre. Tickets: $15. For more information, call 681-3334.

Sports on the menu

■ Tall City Classic across tennis facilities in Midland

■ High School softball tournament at Freddie Ezell Complex

■ Boys golf, Jack Ratcliff Tall City Invitational at courses in Midland

For more information, see today's sports section.

Community calendar

■ Humanities Texas will present a grants and exhibitions workshop for organizations in the Permian Basin from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. today at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum. The workshop, which is free and open to the public, will offer information on the resources that Humanities Texas provides to promote the humanities. To register for the free workshop, contact Humanities Texas at 512-440-1991 or email rsvp@humanitiestexas.org.

■ The Petroleum Museum's Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture Series presents David Hickman, Midland Fire Department's assistant fire marshal, at 11:30 a.m. today. Hickman will address the department's involvement in the wildfires that plagued Texas last year. For more information call 683-4403 or go to www.petroleummuseum.org.

■ A memorial for Art Cole, Midland Community Theatre's founding director, is planned for 2-4 p.m. Saturday at MCT, 2000 W. Wadley Ave. There will be a reception in the Cole Theatre lobby followed by a brief ceremony in Davis Theatre I.

■ IHOP is hosting National Pancake Day on Tuesday. The restaurant is serving free short stacks of buttermilk pancakes. Diners may leave donations, which will benefit Shriners Hospital for Children. For more information, call John Cox, with Midland Shrine Club, at 684-3691.

Upcoming education meetings

■ The Midland ISD school board will hold a special workshop at 6 p.m. Sunday to examine the $158 million bond proposal. The meeting will take place in the MISD boardroom, 615 W. Missouri Ave.

■ A public forum to raise awareness of the local impact of budget cuts and possible community solutions will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Cogdell Learning Center, 201 W. Florida St. Speakers include Midland College President Steve Thomas, MISD Superintendent Ryder Warren, Larry Carroll of Permian Basin Community Centers and Joanne Mundy from the Department of State Health Services.

New movies in Midland

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

■ Tall City 14:

Closing today: "The Grey," "Big Miracle" and "Deep in the Heart"

Opening Friday: "Tyler Perry's Good Deeds," "Gone," "Act of Valor" and "Wonderlust"

Saturday at Tall City 14: 11:55 a.m. Metropolitan Opera's HD Live production of Verdi's "Ernani." Tickets: $20 students, $24 adults, $22 seniors, $18 children.

■ Big Sky Drive-in:

Closing today: "The Chronicle," "Woman in Black" and "Red Tails"

Opening Friday: "The Vow, "Act of Valor" and "Star Wars Episode I"

■ Hollywood Theaters, 4101 E. 42nd St., Odessa

Opening Friday: "Murder Capital of the World"

See the Pulse entertainment and dining guide in this issue for movie and DVD reviews.

It's your birthday

■ Ian Anthony LeBlanc, of Alpine, turns 28 today.

■ Andres Gutierrez, of Midland, turns 42 today.

■ Amanda Thomas, of Midland, turns 20 today.

Put your birthday/anniversary in the paper

The Reporter-Telegram has started running birthdays and anniversaries as part of its daily presentation.

If you would like to submit an entry, please send us the following information.

■ Birthdays: Name, age, birthday and place of residence.

■ Anniversaries: Names, years married, anniversary date and place of residence.

Please submit your item to Editor Stewart Doreen (sdoreen@mrt.com). We will run as many items as space allows.

Lottery

Pick 3 day: 7-3-7
Pick 3 night: 0-9-7
Daily 4 day: 3-4-0-8
Daily 4 night: 8-5-2-0
Cash Five: 5-12-19-35-36
Lotto Texas: 3-5-6-12-38-50
Powerball: 7-16-17-39-51
PB: 32

Today in history

Today is Thursday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2012. There are 312 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On Feb. 23, 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, Calif., causing little damage.

On this date:

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio.

In 1927, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill creating the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Obama seeks corporate tax rate cut

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama rolled out a corporate tax overhaul plan Wednesday that lowers rates but also eliminates loopholes and subsidies cherished by the business world. A long-shot for action in an election year, the plan nevertheless stamps Obama's imprint on one of the most high-profile issues of the presidential campaign.

The president's plan to lower the corporate tax rate to 28 percent came on the same day Republican presidential contender Mitt Romney called for a 20 percent across-the-board cut in personal income tax rates, underscoring the potency of taxes as a political issue, especially during a modest economic recovery.

Obama has not laid out a plan for overhauling personal income taxes. But, he has called for Bush era tax cuts to end on individuals making more than $200,000, thus increasing their taxes, and for a 30 percent minimum tax on taxpayers who make $1 million or more.

Obama decried the current corporate tax system as outdated, unfair and inefficient. "It's not right and it needs to change," he said in a statement.

The president would reduce the current 35 percent corporate tax, which is the highest in the world after Japan but which many corporations avoid by taking advantage of deductions, credits and exemptions. Under his plan, manufacturers would receive incentives so that they would pay an even lower effective tax rate of 25 percent.

His plan would eliminate corporate tax benefits like oil and gas industry subsidies and special breaks for the purchase of private jets — two provisions that Obama has long targeted — and do away with certain corporate tax shelters.

Associated Press

President Barack Obama arrives in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex in Washington, Tuesday. On Wednesday, Obama unveiled a corporate tax overhaul plan that not only lowers rates but also eliminates loopholes and subsidies.

In addition, Obama also would impose a minimum tax on foreign earnings, a move opposed by multinational corporations and perhaps the most contentious provision in the president's plan.

"It's a framework that lowers the corporate tax rate and broadens the tax base in order to increase competitiveness for companies across the nation," Obama said.

Romney has also called for a 25 percent corporate tax rate, in line with what some congressional Republicans want. Campaigning in Arizona, the former Massachusetts governor said that if elected president he would propose lowering the top personal income tax rate to 28 percent from the current 35.

In Congress, Republican reaction was mixed. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich., said he appreciated the administration's plan, although it set a corporate tax rate that is higher than the 25 percent he has proposed. He faulted Obama, however, for not offering a wholesale overhaul of the tax system for businesses and individuals.

"While this is a good step by the administration, I will borrow from the president's own words to Congress from just yesterday: 'Don't stop here. Keep going,'" Camp said in a statement.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, dismissed the president's plan as a "set of bullet points designed more for the campaign trail than an actual blueprint for fixing our tax code."

The issue of taxation has been a recurrent theme throughout Obama's presidency. He has reduced some taxes for small businesses and has pressed Congress to temporarily cut payroll taxes on American workers to help prime the weak economy.

But, he has also called for reducing the nation's long-term deficits with a mix of tax increases and spending cuts. Republicans have flatly rejected tax increases. Romney on Wednesday criticized Obama's proposal for corporations, saying they would result in higher taxes.

Under the framework proposed by the administration, the rate cuts, closed loopholes and the minimum tax on overseas earning would result in no increase to the deficit.

Obama signs payroll tax cut extension

The $143 billion measure that Congress passed overwhelmingly Friday continues the 2 percentage-point reduction in the tax that funds Social Security, a cut begun last year to aid the nation's struggling economic recovery. It also extends jobless benefits for between 63 weeks and 73 weeks, and averts a big cut in the reimbursements doctors get for treating Medicare patients.

The president signed the measure without ceremony Wednesday, having already celebrated its passage at an event Tuesday at the White House.

Obama senior adviser David Plouffe emailed his gratitude to people who sent the White House their stories about how losing the tax cut would affect their lives.

— Associated Press

Business 20 crash

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

A two-vehicle accident on the service road of Business 20, west of Loop 250, sent both drivers to Midland Memorial Hospital on Wednesday afternoon.

MPD officer fatally shoots pit bull during attack

From staff reports

A Midland police officer was forced to shoot and kill a blue nose pitbull after it attacked another dog and threatened several people Wednesday evening, authorities said.

Officers were dispatched to the 500 block of South Dallas Street about 7 p.m. in reference to a disturbance with an animal. The pitbull attacked another dog and lunged at a neighbor before turning on the officer, said Tasa Watts, Midland Police Department's public information officer.

In response to the threat, the officer fired one shot, killing the animal.

Watts said the MPD's shoot team was not dispatched to the scene but the case will be reviewed through the proper channels once the paperwork has been completed.

Midland's Animal Control Services was dispatched to retrieve the dog.

CANDIDATE

From 1A

in the oil and gas industry for almost the entirety of my career."

Cruz agreed and said in a statement that Obama's decision is another example of his policies that over-regulate and stunt economic growth.

"President Obama's decision killed tens of thousands of jobs with the stroke of a pen," he said. "The president could do the right thing and let construction of the pipeline proceed, which would transport hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil from Canada to U.S. refineries. But, unfortunately, we've seen this before: The president has engaged in a three-year war on jobs. And, the American people have paid the price."

The topic is one of several that has allowed candidates to focus criticism on Obama and his administration.

Dewhurst and Cruz also have directed comments at one another during the campaign for U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's seat.

Dewhurst made a veiled reference to Cruz when he said some candidates say they're outsiders to the political world but have spent more time in Washington, D.C., than he has as a state official.

Cruz touts himself as the conservative in the race and asks voters to favor him over Dewhurst, whom he described while in Midland this month as a "timid career politician."

In a poll released this week by the University of Texas and the Texas Tribune, Dewhurst was leading Cruz with 38 percent of voters' support to Cruz's 27 percent. Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and Craig James each had just 7 percent of voters' support.

With votes split the way the poll indicates, Dewhurst and Cruz would have to compete in a runoff.

Dewhurst said Wednesday that the race is about bringing tested leadership to Washington. His goals as a future senator are similar to his record in Texas, he said.

"I want to go to Washington to dramatically cut spending," he said. "And, people know I will because I have repeatedly cut state spending by billions of dollars."

Dewhurst also said he would aim to reduce corporate tax rates, approve a balanced budget, pass a balanced budget amendment, appeal Obama's health care legislation and get rid of regulations he believes have decreased American jobs.

When it comes to the Keystone XL pipeline, Obama hasn't been the only one with concerns. A protest was held last week in the East Texas town of Paris, and others have spoken against the pipeline because of concerns for water safety and property rights.

Dewhurst said if cement is lined at a level below the aquifers, water quality will not be an issue. If proper guidelines aren't followed to ensure water quality, Dewhurst said the Railroad Commission would require the operator to clean the mess and mitigate damages.

On property rights, Dewhurst said he has, along with the state Senate, promoted bills that strengthen property rights. He said the state is "criss-crossed" with pipelines in right-of-ways and that most farmers and ranchers don't protest provided the lines are buried at an adequately low level.

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

EZ RIDER

From 1A

service is below what was budgeted. With 149,247 fixed route passengers in Midland and Odessa so far through fiscal year 2012, EZ Rider has made about $101,978 on fixed route ticket sales, compared with the $108,000 that was projected.

Advertising revenue is nearly double what was expected during the first part of the fiscal year. Through January, $45,302 has been earned from ad sales, compared with the $24,666 that was projected.

York said EZ Rider is working with a consultant in Lubbock who is paid on commission and has drastically increased bus wrap sales from what they've been in the past.

In the future, York said the board hopes to see marketing revenue increased further as it helps to support the system.

According to the budget, EZ Rider has $3.58 million to spend during this fiscal year.

Of that, more than $2 million comes from state and federal grants. Midland and Odessa each provide $250,000, about $400,000 is earned through bus fares and $74,000 is budgeted to come from advertising revenue.

Through fiscal year 2011, EZ Rider ended the year with a deficit of about $310,000. The loss was made up through a transfer from the company's reserve fund, said Alonda Massey, EZ Rider's general manager.

If the reserve fund transfers about $140,000 this year, York said the board expects the fund to be drawn down to almost zero. That expectation is part of why officials already are formulating a budget for 2013 to ensure such funds aren't needed, she said.

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

WATER

From 1A

least the first three years of delivery, the contract states. After the first three years, the charge can be raised by no more than 5 percent.

Only Midland can use the water delivered through the pipelines, the contract states. However, the city could decide to sell water to nearby communities if it chooses, Perry said.

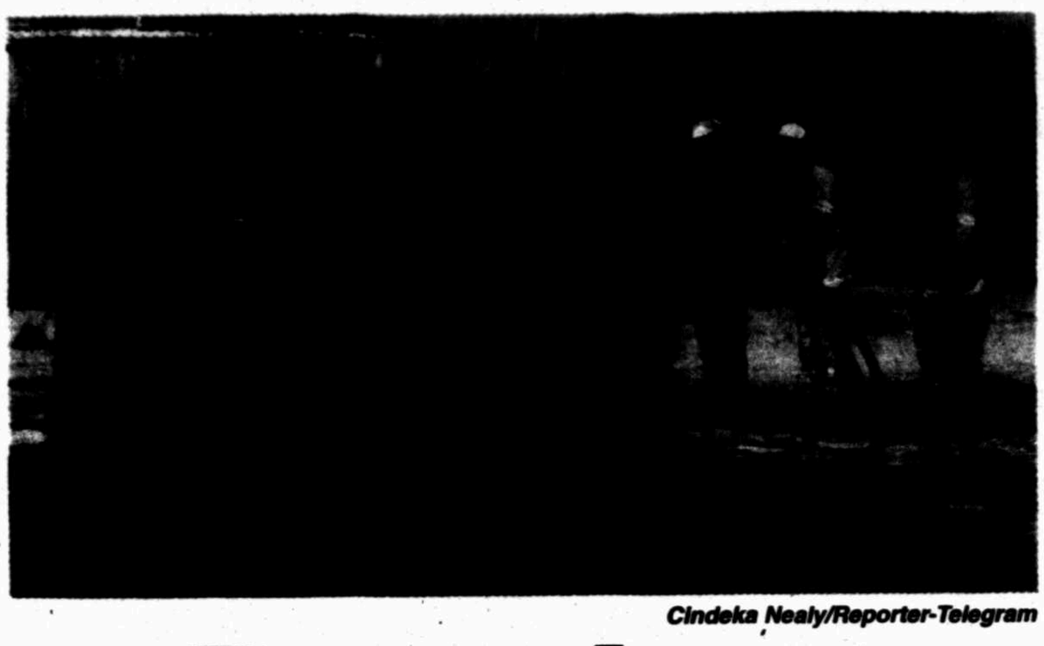
Perry said signing the documents allows the freshwater district to know its expenses eventually will be covered.

If the freshwater district can deliver water to Midland before the May 31, 2013, deadline, the city will pay it a $150,000 bonus for each month it's early. If the freshwater district misses its deadline, it will owe the city $150,000 for each month it's late, the contract states.

During construction, the freshwater district will hold weekly project meetings the city manager or his designee can attend, according to the contract.

The city also can have three people appointed as non-voting members to the Midland County Freshwater District No. 1.

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



Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Burned out

Midland firefighter Mark Collier extinguishes a vehicle fire on the 3000 block of South Highway 349 Wednesday afternoon. The cause is still under investigation, but investigators believe the truck overheated. The emergency call initially went out as a grass fire as a precaution because the blaze was near a stack of pallets and vegetation. The owner was not in the vehicle, and no one was injured.

Newark mayor: NYPD Muslim files 'deeply offensive'

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The mayor and police director of New Jersey's largest city said Wednesday the New York Police Department misled their city and never told them it was conducting a widespread spying operation on Newark's Muslim neighborhoods. Had they known, they never would have allowed it, they said.

"If anyone in my police department had known this was a blanket investigation of individuals based on nothing but their religion, that strikes at the core of our beliefs and my beliefs very personally, and it would have merited a far sterner response," Newark Mayor Cory Booker said.

In mid-2007, the NYPD's secretive Demographics Unit fanned out across Newark, photographing every mosque and eavesdropping in Muslim businesses. The findings were cataloged in a 60-page report, obtained by the Associated Press, that served as a police guidebook to Newark's Muslims. There was no mention of terrorism or any criminal wrongdoing.

Officials reacted strongly on Wednesday.

"It is deeply offensive to me to do blanket surveillance for no reason other than religious affiliation," said Booker, who called on his state's attorney general to investigate.

Newark Police Director Samuel DeMaio, who was deputy chief of the department at the time, said the NYPD asked to be shown around the city. New York police said it was part of an investigation but never revealed what it was about, DeMaio said.

"We really want to be clear: This type of activity is not what the Newark PD would ever do," he said.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who was the top federal prosecutor in the state in 2007, said he didn't remember the NYPD ever approaching him about surveillance in the city or a threat that would justify it. He called the Newark report "disturbing" and said Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa was looking into the report.

"The NYPD has at times developed a reputation of asking forgiveness rather than permission," he said.

High court torn over law banning lies about medals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Free speech cases before the Supreme Court often lead justices to consider far-fetched scenarios, and Wednesday's argument over a law making it a crime to lie about having received top military honors was no exception.

One after another, the justices wanted to know whether a decision upholding the Stolen Valor Act could lead down a slippery slope to new laws against such things as lying about the Holocaust, an extramarital affair, a high school diploma, college degrees or to impress a date.

"Where do you stop?" Chief Justice John Roberts asked at one point.

But, the justices also suggested that it might be possible in this case to uphold the 2006 law anyway by reasoning that Congress has an interest in protecting medals it created to honor war heroes.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who asked about lies about college degrees, also seemed open to sustaining the law.

"Here it does seem to me that you can argue that this is something like a trademark, a medal in which the government and the armed forces have a particular interest, and we could carve out a narrow exception for that. I think we would have to do that," Kennedy said.

The high court has in recent years overwhelmingly rejected limits on speech, striking down a federal ban on videos showing graphic violence against animals and a state law aimed at keep violent video games away from children. The court also rejected the attempt by the father of a dead Marine to sue fundamentalist church members who staged a mocking protest at his son's funeral.

In 1989, the court said the Constitution protects the burning of the American flag.

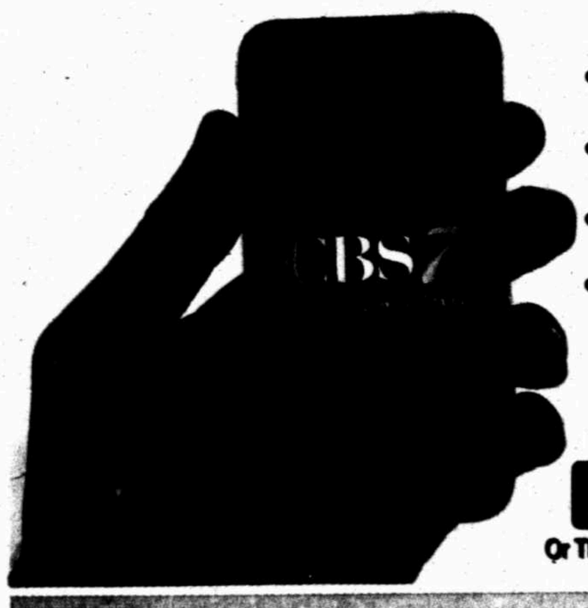
Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the earlier cases made clear that merely offending others by itself is not enough to justify limiting speech.

"So outside of the emotional reaction, where's the harm? And, I'm not minimizing it. I, too, take offense when people make these kinds of claims, but I take offense when someone I'm dating makes a claim that's not true," said Sotomayor, who is divorced.

She seemed the least willing member of the court to accept the Obama administration's defense of the law and disputed the view that the value of the highest award, the Medal of Honor, or any others has been diminished because some people lie about having received them.

The administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr., defended the law as targeted to protect the integrity of the system established by Gen. George Washington in 1782. Wednesday was Washington's 280th birthday.

YOUR EYE ON WEST TEXAS IS NOW AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



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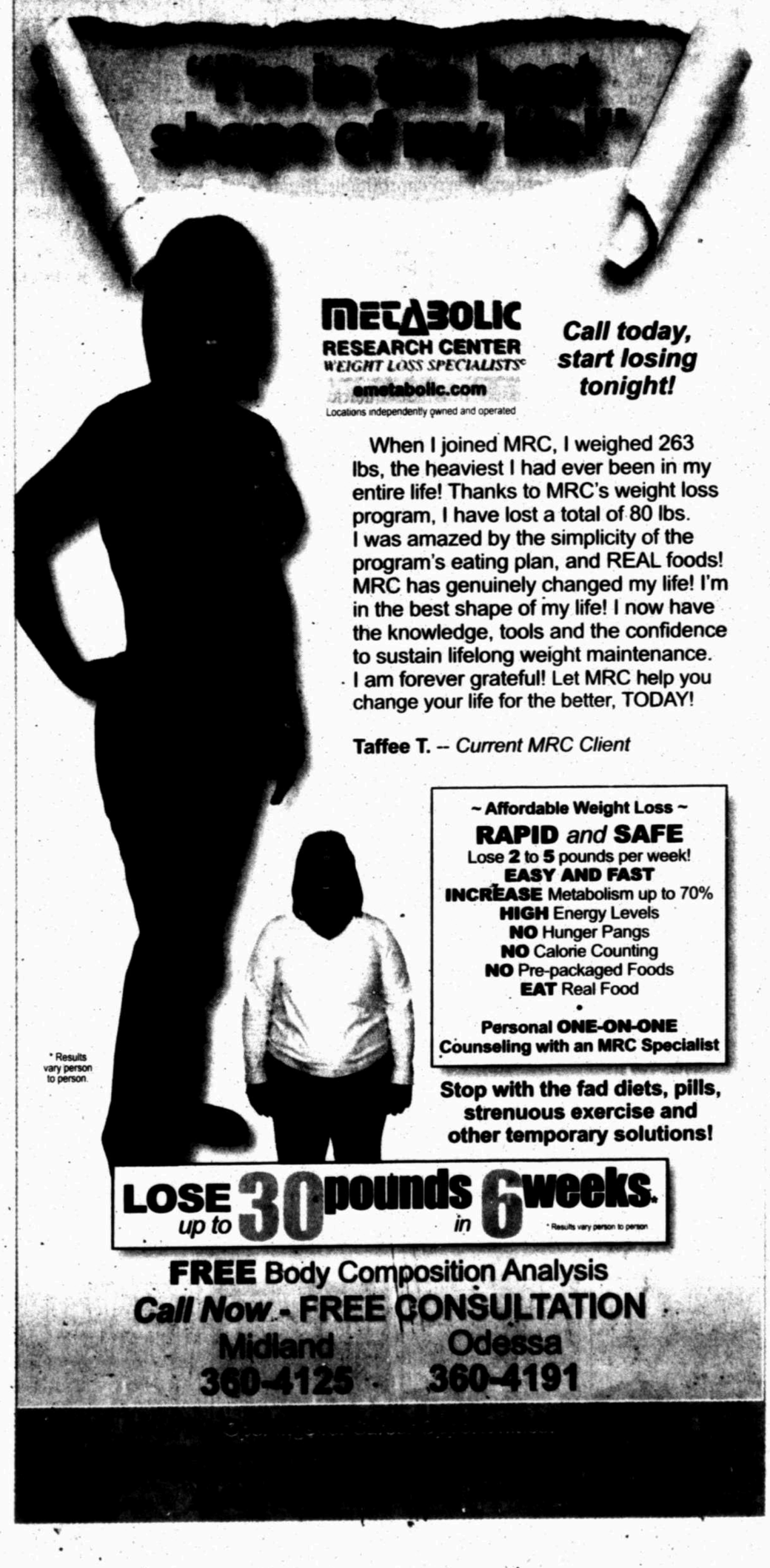

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Opinion

Miscast GOP candidates don't provide promise

■ Flaws prevent Santorum and Romney from having complete pacakge to resonate with voters.

GEORGE WILL
Washington Post Writers Group

The Midwest begins on the western slopes of the Allegheny Mountains, around Rick Santorum's Pittsburgh, birthplace of the Ohio River, the original highway into the Midwest. Pittsburgh fueled the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794, an early eruption of western resentment of the overbearing East, which taxed the whiskey that westerners made from their grain. Santorum the Midwesterner, after victories in Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri, is waging more of his political capital on the region.

Rather than wait for Super Tuesday's (March 6) congenial calendar featuring five culturally conservative states — Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Oklahoma, Idaho — he is contesting Michigan, which votes Tuesday, and Ohio. But instead of keeping his Rust Belt focus on his blue-collar roots and economic program for reviving manufacturing, he has opened multiple fronts in the culture wars.

Santorum has eclipsed Newt Gingrich — his rival for the support of social conservatives — by questioning much prenatal testing, by disdaining Barack Obama's environmentalism as "phony theology," by calling state governments' involvement in public education "anachronistic," by reiterating abortion should be illegal even in cases of rape and incest and by explaining the proper purpose of sex (procreation). But in doing so Santorum has made his Catholicism more central and problematic in this nomination contest than Mitt Romney's Mormonism has been.

The problem is not the phenomena that trouble Santorum are unserious. The use of prenatal testing for search-and-destroy missions against Down syndrome and other handicapped babies is barbaric. Obama's stealthy pursuit of a national curriculum for grades K through 12 is ill-advised and illegal. And no domestic problem — not even the unsustainable entitlement state — is more urgent and intractable than that of family disintegration.

The entitlement state can be reformed by various known — if currently politically impossible — policy choices. But no one really knows the causes of family disintegration, so it is unclear whether those causes can be combated by government measures.

We do know the social pathologies flowing from the fact that now more than 50 percent of all babies born to women under age 30 are born to unmarried mothers. These pathologies, related to a constantly renewed cohort of adolescent males without fathers at home, include disorderly neighborhoods, schools that cannot teach, mass incarceration and the intergenerational transmission of poverty. We do not know how to address this with government policies, even though the nation has worried about it for almost 50 years.

In 1965, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then in President Lyndon Johnson's administration, published his report on the black family's "crisis," which was that 24 percent of black children were then born to unmarried women. Today, 73 percent are. Forty-one percent of *all* children are now born to unmarried women.

Moynihan, a social scientist in politics, proposed various family policies, but also noted this: When the medieval invention of distilling was combined with Britain's 18th-century surplus of grain, the result was cheap gin — and appalling pockets of social regression. The most effective response to which was not this or that government policy, it was John Wesley — Methodism. Which brings us back to Santorum.

He is an engagingly happy warrior, except when he is not. Then he is an angry prophet of a dystopian future in which, he has warned, people will be "holed up in their homes afraid to go outside at night." He has the right forebodings but may have the wrong profession. Presidential candidates do not thrive as apostles of social regeneration; they are expected to be as sunny as Ronald Reagan was as he assured voters that they were as virtuous as their government was tedious.

Today's Republican contest has become a binary choice between two similarly miscast candidates. Romney cannot convince voters he understands the difference between business and politics, between being *a* CEO and *the* president. To bring economic rationality to an underperforming economic entity requires understanding a market segment. To bring confidence to a discouraged nation requires celebrating its history and sketching an inspiring destiny this history has presaged.

Romney is right about the futility of many current policies, but being offended by irrationality is insufficient. Santorum is right to be alarmed by many cultural trends, but implies that religion must be the nexus between politics and cultural reform. Romney is not attracting people who want rationality leavened by romance. Santorum is repelling people who want politics unmediated by theology. Neither Romney nor Santorum looks like a formidable candidate for November.

OUR VIEW

Airline deals another blow to Midland travelers

Midland and the Permian Basin received bad news when Southwest Airlines announced this week that it is ending its non-stop flight to and from Albuquerque, N.M. Starting in August, passengers will have to fly through Dallas to reach Albuquerque.

Southwest is the major carrier for the Midland airport, so any loss of flights has a huge impact on the area. This flight opened up a wide array of options for people wanting to fly westward out of Midland International Airport. Not only did it give Permian Basin residents access to the recreational areas of Albuquerque and Santa Fe, but it also was a direct link to Los Angeles because the flight continued from Albuquerque to LAX.

We had an idea this move was coming because Southwest recently ended its direct flights between Lubbock and Albuquerque.

The bad news was tempered somewhat by the announcement that Southwest planned to test in October an additional non-stop flight to Las Vegas. The flight will be available for a month and then Southwest will decide whether to add it to the rotation. The Las Vegas connection also is a good hub for points west. Midland already has one non-stop Southwest flight to Las Vegas, and city officials said it is one of the more popular flights out of Midland.

However, this is not a permanent deal with Southwest. We have warned air passengers all flights are contingent on enplanements (people boarding an airplane). The airlines in today's world can't afford to continually run unprofitable flights — those that are below 75 percent capacity. The flight to Albuquerque is running at 58 percent capacity.

The "use it or lose it" saying never has been more in vogue to describe the airline industry. Regional airports, such as Midland International, are under major scrutiny by the airline industry, which wants regional stops to be profitable.

This fact leaves us with very little maneuvering room. Airline service is a quality-of-life issue. No one wants fewer options, but we do have fewer. In the past few years, non-stop flights to Austin and El Paso have ended; now Albuquerque joins the list.

If we don't support the Las Vegas test run, it is very doubtful that a second non-stop flight will be added permanently. And the Permian Basin will end up as a big loser for options when flying west.

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MIDLAND COLLEGE
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President Steve Thomas 685-4520

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Transportation bill stalls in Congress

■ It's no surprise that pieces aren't in place to get much done this year.

BEN WEAR
Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN —

It's a delicious if discouraging irony of Congress that the nation's primary transportation law has been caught in gridlock for two years.

Based on a flurry of news on this front out of Washington in the past fortnight, as well as anguished howls from the transit community, a casual observer might think Congress, for better or worse, is about to break that jam. That almost surely would be wrong.

To break this down for you, every five years Congress (at least in theory) "reauthorizes" the law that governs how the U.S. Department of Transportation passes out money for highways, transit and other transportation. This money, most of it raised by the federal gasoline tax of 18.4 cents a gallon and the diesel tax of 24.4 cents a gallon, is combined with state and local tax money, tolls, transit fares and other fees to create our nation's massive transportation funding pie.

But it's a big slice, something like $50 billion a year.

That most recent five-year bill expired in 2009. For the past two-plus years, Congress has kept the whole transportation funding machine running with temporary extensions of the old law at the same funding levels. This has required increased infusions of general tax money (OK, actually, deficit spending) to augment lagging gas tax revenue.

This has been less than a perfect solution. But from the point of view of transit agencies and train lovers everywhere (including in Austin), those extensions are looking absolutely golden about now.

That's because of what the GOP-controlled U.S. House has in mind for the next transportation bill.

Currently, 2.86 cents of the 18.4 cents in that gas tax is allocated legally to transit programs. That raises about $5 billion a year for transit, which the federal transportation agency (with some general tax money added to it) doles out to agencies like Capital Metro to buy buses, build facilities and, sometimes, to build or extend passenger rail lines.

The city of Austin dearly hopes to be one of those recipients for its proposed $1.3 billion urban rail line. Mayor Lee Leffingwell and other city officials have said they're counting on getting half of the cost of the first phase from Uncle Sam, which would be at least $200 million in federal grants.

That would become much less likely if the House has its way. Its $260 billion, five-year transportation bill would dedicate that 2.86 cents of the gas tax to highways instead of transit. Separately, the bill would put $40 billion into public transit from general federal revenue, offsetting that to some degree by opening up oil-and-gas drilling in federal waters offshore and in a part of Alaska now closed to exploration, and by making federal workers contribute more to pension accounts.

The problem, transit advocates say, is that without a guaranteed source of revenue (that piece of fuel taxes), transit would be a part of the annual federal budget smackdown and inevitably would end up with much less money in the long run.

In the Senate, where Democrats have the majority, the transportation bill would be just two years long, with $109 billion. It keeps that dedicated source of transit funding intact, and the two bills have myriad other substantive differences. To top it all off, both bills are underfunded, meaning that future Congresses would have to close some considerable financial gaps to fulfill these bills' transportation promises.

Beautiful.

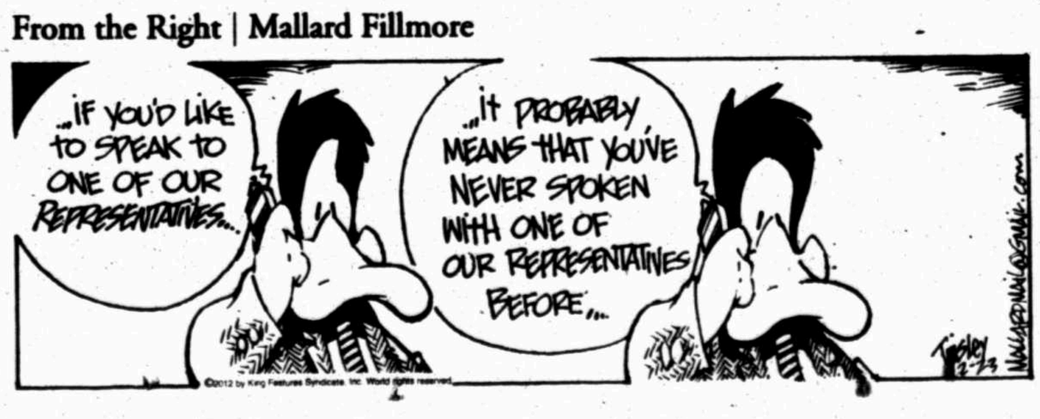
At one point last week, it looked like the House or the Senate, or both, actually might take up these bills on the floor. That didn't happen, and now Congress has recessed for this week.

When they come back, the two bills still will be radically different. The House still will be controlled by a tenuous coalition of moderate, tea party, evangelical and budget hawk Republicans, and the Senate by a narrow margin of Democrats. There still will be a presidential election looming eight months away, a period when generally little gets done politically.

Don't look for a way around the gridlock. The Founding Fathers didn't create a detour Congress.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



WORLD BRIEFS
FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROME
Pope marks Ash Wednesday

Pope Benedict XVI rode on a motorized cart in an Ash Wednesday procession, forsaking the traditional short walk between two Rome churches as the 84-year-old pontiff tried to conserve his energy.

The pope wore an ermine-trimmed crimson cape to protect him from the chilly, early evening air as he stood in the cart during the brief procession atop the Aventine Hill, between St. Anselmo Church and the Basilica of Santa Sabina. The white vehicle resembled a kind of mini popemobile he uses on trips and to get around the vast expanse of St. Peter's Square.

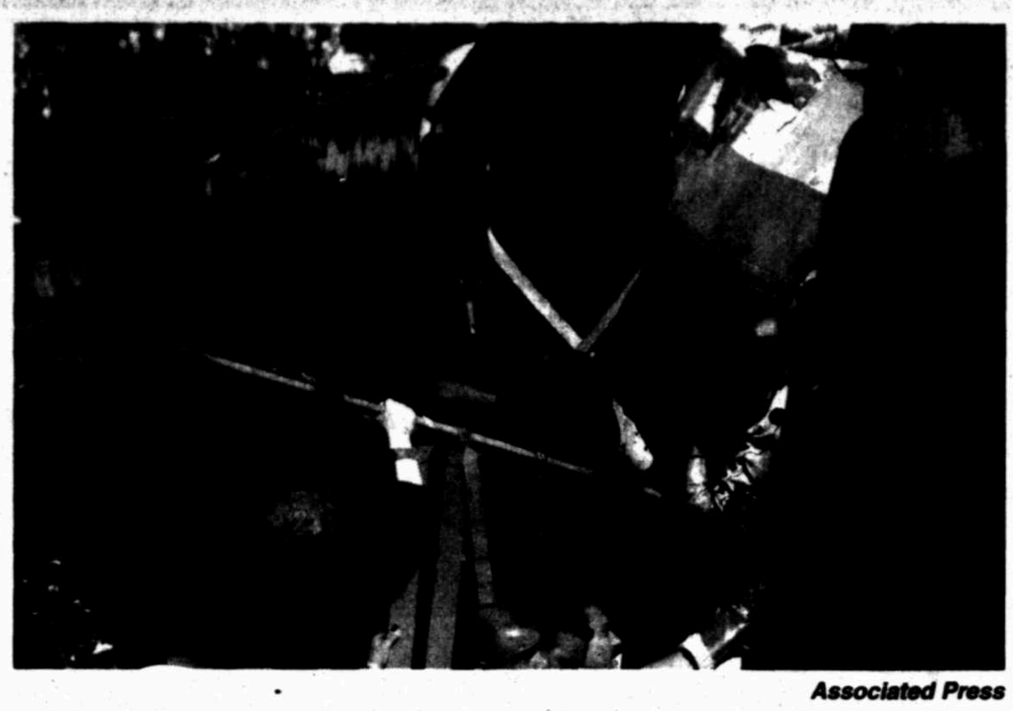
But, Benedict walked briskly and unassisted into and out of the basilica, where he led a solemn service to mark the start of the Lenten season of penitence, including the placement of ashes on the forehead of faithful. He wore purple-colored vestments as he celebrated Mass in the ancient basilica.

AFGHANISTAN
7 killed in protests over Quran burning

KABUL — The Interior Ministry on Wednesday said seven people were killed in clashes between Afghan security forces and protesters demonstrating against the burning of Muslim holy books at a NATO military base.

The anger over the Quran burning has sparked two days of protests across Afghanistan and tapped into anti-foreign sentiment fueled by a popular perception that foreign troops disrespect Afghan culture and Islam. The demonstrations prompted the U.S. to lock down its embassy and bar its staff from traveling.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said in a statement that clashes during a protest in the eastern province of Parwan left four people dead. It said an investigation was under way to determine what happened.



Associated Press

Firemen rescue wounded passengers from a commuter train after a collision in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Wednesday. A packed train slammed into the end of the line in Buenos Aires' busy Once station, killing dozens and injuring hundreds, police said.

Train slams into station, kills 49

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — A train packed with morning commuters slammed into a downtown station on Wednesday, killing 49 people and injuring hundreds as passenger cars crumpled and windows exploded around them. It was Argentina's worst train accident in decades.

The cause wasn't immediately determined, but many pointed to a deteriorating rail system. Some passengers reported signs the conductor was struggling with the brakes before the crash, saying he kept overshooting platforms and missed one entirely.

The dead included 48 adults and one child — most of whom had crowded into the first two cars to get ahead of the rush-hour crowds on arrival. Some 600 people were injured, including 461 who were hospitalized, Transportation Secretary J.P. Schiavi said.

Hours after the crash, passengers' relatives gathered at the morgue anxious for word of their loved ones.

Ezekiel Mercado said he and his mother-in-law had been frantically searching for his wife, Sabrina Espindola, 29, who didn't show up for work Wednesday.

Shelling kills 2 journalists in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian gunners pounded an opposition stronghold where the last dispatches from a veteran American-born war correspondent chronicled the suffering of civilians caught in the relentless shelling. An intense morning barrage killed her and a French photojournalist — two of 74 deaths reported Wednesday in Syria.

"I watched a little baby die today," Marie Colvin told the BBC from the embattled city of Homs on Tuesday in one of her final reports.

"Absolutely horrific, a 2-year old child had been hit," added Colvin, who worked for Britain's Sunday Times. "They stripped it and found the shrapnel had gone into the left chest and the doctor said, 'I can't do anything.' His little tummy just kept heaving until he died."

Colvin and photographer Remi Ochlik were among a group of journalists who had crossed into Syria and were sharing accommodations with activists, raising speculation that government forces targeted the makeshift media center, although opposition groups had previously described the shelling as indiscriminate. At least two other Western journalists were wounded.

Hundreds of people have died in weeks of siege-style attacks on Homs that have come to symbolize the desperation and defiance of the nearly year-old uprising against President Bashar Assad.

The Syrian military appears to be stepping up assaults to block the opposition from gaining further ground and political credibility with the West and Arab allies.

Russia: Don't draw 'hasty conclusions' over Iran

Associated Press

VIENNA — Russia said Wednesday the world should not draw "hasty conclusions" over Iran's most recent rebuff of U.N. attempts to investigate allegations the Islamic Republic hid secret work on atomic arms, but the U.S. and its allies accused Tehran of nuclear defiance.

Under international pressure to show restraint, Israel, which has warned repeatedly that it may strike Iran's nuclear facilities, pointedly urged major world powers to mind their own business, saying it alone would decide what to do to protect the Jewish state's security.

France said Iran's continued stonewalling of the International Atomic Energy Agency "is contrary to the intentions" expressed by Tehran in its recent offer to restart talks over its nuclear activities.

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Race Start Times
½ Marathon 9:00am
Fun Run 9:45am
5K/10K 10:00am

Walkers: (you will not be tabulated in results)
☐ 10K Walk ☐ 5K Walk ☐ Kid's 1K Fun Run/Walk (No Walkers for 1/2M please, the course won't be supported long enough)
Runners:
☐ 1/2 Marathon ☐ 10K Run ☐ 5K Run
Adult Technical Race Shirt: ☐ Women X-Small ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large ☐ XX-Large
Youth Cotton T-shirt: ☐ Youth Medium
Entry Fee: All Pre-Registration Forms Must Be Postmarked By March 26, 2012
☐ Blood Donation in 2012 with United Blood Services (includes shirt); 5K/10K only - with proof of donation ..... FREE
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Jury convicts Barrio Azteca members

Charges against 4 men include attempted murder, aggravated robbery

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

A Midland County jury returned guilty verdicts late Wednesday on three federal counts against four members of the Midland-Odessa Barrio Azteca gang.

The men were found guilty when the seven-woman, five-man jury returned at 5:40 p.m. with their decision. They were accused of a total of 10 racketeering acts such as aggravated robbery, attempted murder and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

Santos Almanza, Miguel Nieto, Carlos Hernandez and Ramon Morales have been on trial in Judge Robert Junell's court since Feb. 13. They were indicted June 23, 2011, on federal charges that included extortion, drug distribution, aggravated assault, aggravated robbery and attempted murder after an 18-month long Drug Enforcement Administration investigation.

DEA agent Dante Sorianello told the El Paso Times in 2011 that the gang was seeking to dominate the drug trade in Midland, and the men were trying to set up a stronghold in the Tall City.

U.S. Assistant District Attorney John Klassen told the court in closing arguments Wednesday morning that to be an active member of the Barrio Azteca, the criminal acts were committed to support themselves in the group, and the men were willful participants.

"This is not the Knights of Columbus. This is not the Ector County Woman's Club. When they exist outside of the prison context, this is what they do," he said.

During the trial, testimony showed that on Oct. 20, 2009, Almanza shot at Midlander Robert Yorkman at his business, Yorkman's Car Wash and Detail Shop.

Yorkman was arrested by DEA agents after he was released from the hospital and sentenced to 18 years in prison for distributing more than 330 pounds of cocaine in Midland since 2006.

The men also were involved in several robberies at homes and apartments in Midland, including the robbery, cutting and stabbing of a pizza delivery driver.

Since January 2006, the defendants had conspired to carry out the mission of the Barrio Azteca criminal organization through a pattern of smuggling and distribution of cocaine and marijuana, robbery, extortion, as well as violence and intimidation in the Midland-Odessa area, court documents showed.

The men also were found guilty on one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

Court documents also charged the members of the Midland-Odessa Barrio Azteca with violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

A pre-sentence report was ordered Wednesday by Junell, who will sentence the men at a date yet to be determined.

Each of the men could face up to life in prison, officials said.

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

Medicine takeback event collects more than 85K pills

By Audrie Palmer
Staff Writer

Midland Coalition staff said Wednesday they collected almost as many pills this month alone as they did in all of 2011.

Staff said a total of 85,201 pills were collected at a Feb. 4 medication takeback event, said Kim Henderson, the coalition's program coordinator.

In 2011, about 100,000 pills were collected at four takeback events. Two additional collections were held last year at Casa de Amigos and Manor Park, officials said.

About 60 people volunteered Feb. 4 at Fairmont Park Church of Christ to help with the event, Henderson said.

"That helped us to not feel the intensity and magnitude of it," she said.

Another 3.58 gallons of liquids such as cough syrup and other medicines also were collected. Creams, gels and aerosols also were collected.

While staff and volunteers expected their numbers to decrease over the months, Henderson said it's been just the opposite, as more unused and unwanted medications have been dropped off.

"I guess when we started this we thought we would get less and less. But, we've actually been getting more and more," she said. "People are becoming informed and it's growing. They're wanting to protect the water and dispose of the drugs properly."

Since the event, staff said their phones have been ringing daily with people wanting information on the next event.

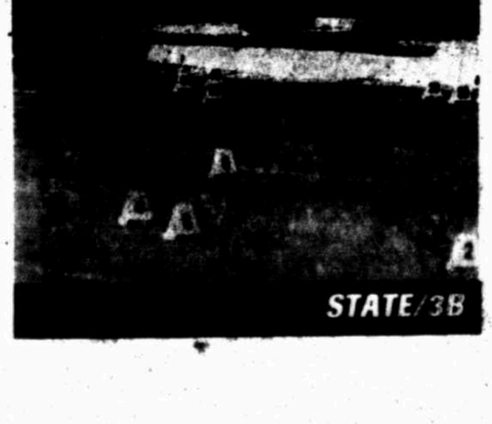
To provide more opportunities, the organization has designed a system so prescription drugs and medicines can be disposed at any time in two secure metal lock boxes.

The boxes will be placed at Graham's Pharmacy and the Midland County Sheriff's Office within the next two weeks. The box at the Sheriff's Office will provide 24 hour access.

The next two takeback events for the year have been scheduled for April 28 and Aug. 4. The August event will be held at Fairmont Park Church of Christ while the April event still does not have a set location.

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

Border gunfire



STATE/3B

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Scott Vaughan looks over the finish on a table at his furniture refinishing store.

ED TODD *profile*

IN THE NIX OF TIME

Scott Vaughan reflects on his uncle and popular downtown surplus store

'Life is a highway," said the philosophizing Scott Vaughan, who prefers traveling the river solo aboard his kayak in the scenic wilderness of the Devils River that winds toward the Rio Grande.

His is a peaceful passion, demanding alertness, boldness, preparation and wonderment.

"It is pretty wild," he said of the highway metaphor from ruts and detours to the serenity of adventuresome pathways toward horizons. "I am going my way. Things are good."

At age 53, Vaughan enjoys life. He leaves boredom in his wake.

Always with him is the spirit of his Uncle Tommy, his mentor, inspiration and a cause for tears and gratitude.

Thomas D. Nix rarely talked about "his battles in the war" when uncle and nephew had coffee at a Main Street café before the day's work at Nix Trading Post.

Nix's father, Thomas M. Nix, established the business early in World War II at another Main Street address near Agnes Fitzsimmons's downtown café.

When Vaughan recalls war tales sparingly told to him by his late uncle, he is enlivened as if he were transported into his uncle's position as gunner and radio-radar operator in the cockpit of the U.S. Marine Corps Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber in the Pacific Theater.

Descending from high altitude with airbrakes deployed, Nix's Dauntless would release her bomb as the target loomed. Aviator and gunner in the dual-control, tandem-seat aircraft would "crank back on that stick" in pulling out of the dive before they would black out or crash.

Once, Nix's Dauntless miraculously "crippled in" with 274 Japanese bullet holes. Pilot and gunner were fit to fly again.

Nix — who volunteered the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor — was a sergeant and received the Distinguished Flying Cross for valiant flights into combat.

With peace restored, Nix in 1946 joined his father at Nix Trading Post, a popular store specializing in household goods, furniture, pottery, camping gear and surplus military items.

Vaughan said "Tom Nix was an absolutely wonderful man, gentle and kind, firm and knowledgeable," and was much like his father, Clint.

In 1946 the younger Nix married Clint Vaughan's sister, Joyce. The senior Nix died in 1963 at age 73.

By the early 1980s, Scott Vaughan and his wife, Deborah, had settled in Midland — which by then "was booming" — after leaving New Mexico. Both were graduates of New Mexico State

Please see VAUGHAN/2B

SHANNA SISSOM
City Editor

Lee students carry on with life, talent, class

For the second year in a row, I've had the honor of spending an entertaining evening with Lee High School students during their annual talent show.

Last year, I shared in this space how impressive not only was the talent, but the class shown by an audience that was comprised mostly of the student body. This year was no different as other female judges and I were greeted with roses, and then random students thanked us for coming as we made our way out the door.

This year, the show went on despite the heavy burden students and Midlanders have been enduring in the wake of several tragic deaths.

But, the auditorium was filled with those celebrating life as the school's best talent was on display.

In judging any student competition, reaching a consensus on who should get trophies often can be a grueling task. Sometimes, there's that one kid who, for whatever reason, touches our heart beyond the talent. But the judging criteria must be followed.

One of the judges said she wished we could give all the kids a trophy. But, in the end, a decision was made at the superintendent's suggestion that there be a tie for first place. A second top-place trophy would be ordered. That's how difficult the choice was.

Hands down, every single one of these students had talent.

But, while watching these kids this year, it caused me to reflect on my own teenage years, and how difficult it could be to get on stage for any reason.

While kids can be cruel, usually they have sympathy for peers brave enough to grab a microphone.

I'm reminded of the equivalent of a talent show during my school days.

Unlike the Lee students who performed, not everyone was so talented. But, it didn't stop some from trying.

There was a girl who had almost everything going for her. She was exceptionally beautiful, a straight-A student, cheerleader and her father was both wealthy and prominent.

But, bless her heart, she couldn't carry a tune despite multiple attempts in front of audiences.

I am musically challenged. After piano lessons, and then attempts to play the viola, my mother accepted the fact her first-born never would be on stage singing or playing an instrument. And I never wished to do so beyond softly blending in with the church youth choir.

Thinking about school days, I recalled my unsuccessful attempt at trying out for cheerleader. That was, and still is, a glamorous role for a girl in junior high or high school. It took a lot of courage to try out, and provided a heavy dose of humility for those of us who didn't make the cut.

Somewhere between childhood and adulthood, we all accept our limitations and hopefully embrace whatever talents God gave us.

But, in the case of Lee High School, those Rebels not only have talent, but also lot of class.

Shanna Sissom can be reached at shanna@mrt.com.

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Obituaries

Dorothy Jean Richardson

Dorothy Jean Richardson, 76, passed away on February 20, 2012; she was born June 6, 1935, in Sylvan, Tx., to Tom and and Helen Alexander. She worked for the William H. Martin family, as a Caregiver and Housekeeper, for over 40 years.

Preceeding her in death were her parents and sister, Etta Ruth Thurman of Midland, Tx.

Dorothy leaves behind one sibling, Betty Jo Harris of Midland, Tx.; five children: Gloria J. Alexander of Midland, Tx., Kenneth W. Alexander of Midland, Tx., Rita Alexander Brown of Midland, Tx., Kelvin D. Alexander of Maui, Hi., and Wilbur A. Richardson of Midland, Tx.; fourteen grand children; six great grandchildren; and a host of nephews, nieces, and cousins.

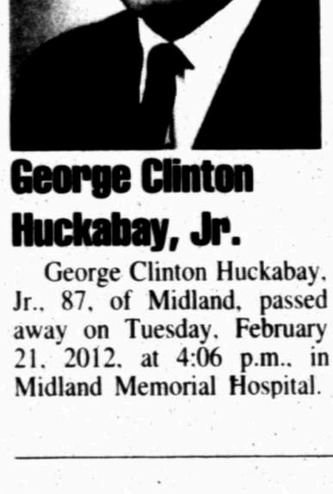
Pallbearers: Gerald Hart, Danny, Manuel Sanchez, Oline Basped, Peter Brown, and Sirron Norman.

Visitation will be held on Friday, February 24, 2012, at Thomas Funeral Home from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 25, 2012, at Faith Temple Church of God in Christ, 1601 N. Terrell, Midland, Tx., with Rev. W.C. Kenan Officiating .

Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park North, under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home.

Thomas Funeral Home



George Clinton Huckabay, Jr.

George Clinton Huckabay, Jr., 87, of Midland, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 4:06 p.m., in Midland Memorial Hospital.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 23, 2012, at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2012, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland, with Rev. Larry Bailey officiating.

George was born on 14 May 1924, to George Clinton Huckabay, Sr. and Earline Yarbrough Huckabay in Bossier Parrish, Louisiana. Upon graduation from Bossier City High School in 1942, George volunteered in the U.S. Navy and was stationed at the 6-22 Naval Training Station in San Diego, California. He had many entertaining navy stories of dancing to the big bands playing San Diego. After an Honorable Discharge on 18 May 1946, he returned home to Bossier, where he began selling Studebakers at Hutchins Motors in Shreveport, Louisiana.

George married Dorothy Atchley on 26 June 1947, in Shreveport. He served as sales manager for Red River Chevrolet and received Red River Chevrolet's Distinguished Salesman Award for 1963, and also received Chevrolet's highest selling award, induction into Chevrolet Hall of Honor.

Huckabay Chevrolet was incorporated in 1967, when George moved his family to Midland. George embraced this community and loved to sponsor programs for young people. He was Vice President of Junior Achievement from 1969-1977 and was an honorary member of Midland's Future Farmers of America. Huckabay Chevrolet sponsored a little league baseball team for ten years. George loved it when kids rang the doorbell selling products for club and school fundraisers. Friday night always included the radio broadcast of a Lee or Midland High football game. Saturday, he followed his LSU Tigers and Sunday brought a Cowboys game.

He supported all local businesses and served on the Midland Chamber of Commerce. The son of a Bossier City police chief and deputy sheriff, George held law enforcement and our local officials in high regard. George loved Midland and chose to sell his dealership and to enjoy early retirement here.

A known perfectionist, George never got his golf game exactly where he wanted it, but he scored a hole-in-one playing with Bob Johnson, Tom Nesbitt, and Bill Mewhorter on the Ranchland Hills' 11th hole.

Lifelong hunter and fisherman, George began skeet shooting with friends Bill Smith, Charles Eiland, and Gordon Marcum and competed in the National Skeet Shooters Association events.

The love of horses ran deep in his heart as he rode his pony, Nippy, at an early age, with his father. A member of the National Quarter Horse Association, George rode, showed, and raced his beloved quarter horses for many years.

George's last years have been spent learning and painting western art and enriching the lives of his family and friends.

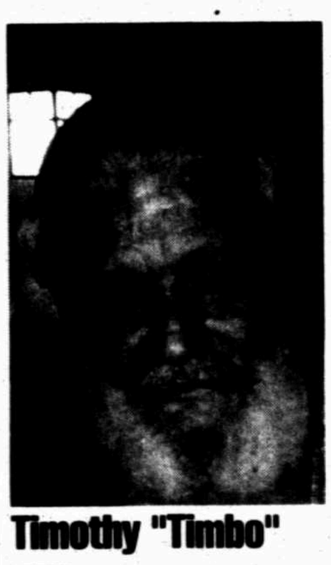
He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, and six sisters. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Huckabay; two daughters, Paula Huckabay of Midland and Pamela H. Byrd and husband, James Charles Byrd of Shreveport; one granddaughter, Amy Byrd Johnson and her husband, Heath Johnson of Dallas; two great-granddaughters, Lila Claire and Elizabeth Mae Johnson; and one sister, Annie Loyd Hall of Benton, LA.

Pallbearers are Larry Crowder, Walter Laufer, Bill Smith, Herb McKinley, and Bobby Gotovac.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorials be directed to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3011 W. Kansas Ave., Midland, TX 79701; or Junior Achievement of the Permian Basin, 303 W. Wall St # 807, Midland, TX 79701.

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



Timothy "Timbo" Wilkerson

Tim Wilkerson, 56, of Midland, Tx, passed away February 14, 2012, visiting his brother in Fouke, Ak. He was born in Denver, Co., April 25, 1955, to Wesley and Margaret Wilkerson.

He attended school in Texarkana, Tx. and studied Graphic Art at A.T.I., in Fort Worth, Tx. He could draw and paint some very unique pictures. Tim could do anything he set his mind to do; oilfield work in Oklahoma, all forms of construction, and he built a cabin with his dad and brother.

He moved to Midland, Tx., 17 years ago. At that time, his tile setting started and ended with his death.

His favorite sport was football. Tim started a journey numerous years ago, that took him to a spiritual place, that forever changed his life. He was at peace with himself at last.

He was proceeded in death by his mother and father and 2 sisters.

Left to cherish his memory: wife, Connie; daughter, Leesa; sisters, Glenda Jorden, Sheri McCurdy (Rob) of Midland, sister, Rae Kerby (Danny) of Wake Village, Tx.; brother, Steve Wilkerson, Fouke, Ak.; brother-in-law, Rowe Bright (Renee); numerous nieces and nephews. Also, extended family, "The Torah Group", so much of his life, whose out pouring has been awesome, Thank you! To all who've called, visited, and shared your memories, and love of Tim.

Remembrance Memorial, Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., 4605 Princeton, Midland, Tx.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Special Olympics Team Midland, C/O Company of Rockhouse, 211 E. Texas, Midland, Tx. 79701.

Death Notices

Betty P. Bernal

Betty P. Bernal, 77, of Andrews, passed away Tuesday, February 21, 2012, in Andrews.

A rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 23, 2012, at McNett Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 20122, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Andrews. Burial will be in Andrews North Cemetery, under the direction of McNett Funeral Home.

Betty is survived by three daughters, Belinda Tercero, Margie Garcia, and Carol Flores; one brother, Cruz Bernal, Jr.; one sister, Sarai Flores; grandchildren, Fabian Garcia, Martin Garcia, Valarie Diaz, Nicole Lemons, and Edward Bustamante, who preceded her in death; sixteen great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

George R. Clark

George R. Clark, age 89, of Snyder, passed away on February 21, 2012, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder, TX.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2012, at Hillside Memorial Gardens, under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Thomas Joe "T.J." Kendrick, Sr.

Thomas Joe "T.J." Kendrick, Sr., of Llano, formerly of Rankin, passed away on Tuesday, February 21, 2012.

Funeral services are scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at Waldrope Hatfield Hawthorne Funeral Home Chapel, Llano, Texas. Burial will take place at Rankin Cemetery, Rankin, Texas, on Friday, February 24, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.

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

VAUGHAN

From 1B

University, where he studied business after bowing out of engineering, and she majored in medical technology via biology and chemistry.

The "extraordinarily busy" Nix hired his nephew, who took over the store's operation when Nix retired in 1986.

"I had the very best training in the world of business," Vaughan said of his mentoring by his uncle and father, both "brilliant businessmen" who had opposing but complementary management styles. One was more laid-back than the other.

"The store was a lot of fun when we were rocking and rolling together," Vaughan said. "It was a rush." But, it didn't rival the birth of their youngsters, Jennifer, Ryan and Taylor.

"When I was young, I liked the excitement of being busy, doing 15 things at once. I dwelt on learning as much as I could (about the merchandise)."

Like the Nix couple the Vaughans maintained a want list for their customers. The store was so "spick-and-span.

"You could eat a hamburger off the floor," he said.

"I enjoyed my customers, the rapport," Vaughan says. "I enjoyed it every day for 17 years."

But, the years and the routine become wearisome. Work became "more and more difficult and less and less fun to deal with the inventory."

Nix Trading Post closed down at 11 p.m. June 1, 2003.

By then, Vaughan had become adept in furniture refinishing and set up shop.

"It is totally joyous to see a piece of junk turn into a thing of beauty," said Vaughan, who especially delights in working with mahogany.

Vaughan's lifetime adventure is steeped in family, work, kayaking and fishing for smallmouth bass. "The passion is still the Devils River — the serenity."

Deeply embedded in his soul is the remembrance of his uncle whose last days were tormented by Alzheimer's disease.

"I would cry at night," Vaughan said.

Vaughan said to his amazement his uncle — seemingly with astounding clarity — whispered to him an ethical code of the astute businessman: "Never take a dime too much, but always get every penny that is due."

Vaughan bawled. He said Nix hugged him that day in 2001 as death neared. Nix died at age 82.

"When times are tough, I have no choice but to be upbeat, and neither do you," said the contemplative Vaughan. But added "We all have a choice, but what is the reason?"

Ed Todd is a writer for the Reporter-Telegram.

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Arnulfo M. Galindo, 41, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by U.S. marshals on a charge of violation of parole.

Amy S. Gaspar, 32, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Midland police on a charge of endangering a child.

Raymond E. Glover III, 18, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Midland County deputies on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Andres M. Gomez, 28, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Midland County deputies on a charge of burglary of a building.

Andrew F. Johnson, 29, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Midland police on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Carlos A. Ochoa Jr., 32, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Midland County deputies on a charge of violation of probation.

Fernando Orozco, 21, of Greenwood, was arrested Tuesday by Midland County deputies on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

Matthew A. Pflugh, 29, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on a charge of violation of probation.

Elijah J. Sullivan, 20, of Midland, was arrested Tuesday by Midland County deputies on a charge of violation of probation.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

Cops: NM 9-year-old passed out drunk on playground

Associated Press

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Police said a 9-year-old boy was very drunk when he was found passed out and barely conscious on a New Mexico playground.

KRQE reported that two kids found their 9-year-old friend passed out at a Carlsbad playground last month. The boy was rushed to the hospital and doctors said the boy had a blood alcohol level of 0.24 — three times the presumed level of intoxication for drivers under state law.

Police said Tuesday that a 13-year-old boy admitted stealing a bottle of vodka from Albertsons that the 9-year old then drank. The 13-year-old was cited for shoplifting and being a minor in possession of alcohol.

The 9-year-old also was cited for minor in possession but that charge was later dropped.

Filmmaker to show cartel movie in Odessa

By Nathaniel Miller
Odessa American

Juarez may be a four-hour drive from Midland-Odessa, but a New York filmmaker is bringing his second film about the Mexican city to highlight the violence that continues to plague the area.

Charlie Minn, director of "8 Murders a Day," will bring his new film, "Murder Capital of the World" to Hollywood Theaters, 4101 E. 42nd St., starting Friday.

Minn said he would be available Friday and Saturday after the showings for a question-and-answer session regarding his film.

Following up his film, "Murder Capital of the World" continues to highlight the violence in Juarez during the Mexican drug wars between cartels and the Mexican military. The new film looks at the violence in the Mexican city during a year after "8 Murders a Day" and how the war has affected surrounding states.

"The main news is the murder rate is down 35 percent (from 2010)" Minn said.

Despite all the negative news about the drug wars and the murders, Minn said he hopes to show with his new film something he didn't get to do with his last film — a nicer side of the city.

"With this film, I felt it was necessary to show the good of Juarez," Minn said. "Ninety percent of the people are beautiful; it's just the last 10 percent who are messing it up."

The filmmaker also said the film looks at the July 1 general election in Mexico, which takes place every six years as opposed to every four years in the United States.

Working with El Diario de Juarez, a newspaper in Juarez, Minn said journalists there helped him and his crew with interviews and navigation of the city. Despite the reported violence, Minn said he and his crew never were in any danger while traveling in Mexico.

"I don't know if I would have made any films without them," he said of the journalists.

The film has been shown in El Paso. Odessa is the film's second stop, Minn said. The director said he also plans to show his movie in Houston, Laredo, Las Vegas and New York.

"I think people have a big interest in what's going on here because (Juarez) is so close," Minn said.

The movie is timely, especially because an Odessa family still is waiting to hear about news regarding three missing men in Ojinaga, Mexico.

Barnaby Gabaldon, David Garcia and Alfredo Gabaldon were reported missing more than a week ago after family members reported they were taken into vehicles while in Mexico. The FBI is involved in the case. As of Tuesday, the whereabouts of the three men is unknown.

Ector County Sheriff Mark Donaldson said the department is aware people who work for the cartels are in Ector County, but he said drug runners always have found ways to be in Odessa.

"Because the cartels are stronger it seems ... there's more knowledge about them," Donaldson said.

Agencies investigate intentional trash bin fires

From staff reports

Midland police and fire investigators are seeking a man who allegedly set fire to trash bins at the Meridian Apartment complex on Wednesday afternoon.

Firefighters were dispatched to the complex twice Wednesday to extinguish the fires. Each time, witnesses said they saw a thin white male run from the complex.

Fire Investigator James Howard said the fires are dangerous because a gust of wind could spread the fire to nearby vegetation or to an apartment building.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Fire Department or the Police Department.

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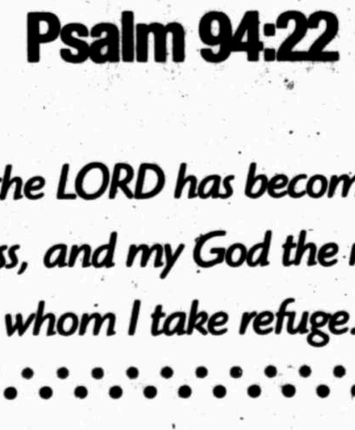

HENRY

Psalm 94:22

But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

El Paso residents accustomed to gunfire

By Juan Carlos Llorca
Associated Press

EL PASO — El Paso residents say they're accustomed to hearing gunfire across the border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and won't be taking any additional safety measures after a woman shopping in the West Texas city was struck by one of the bullets.

"We can't put up a wall, and even if we did, it wouldn't stop bullets from flying over it." El Paso resident Margarita Guajardo, 43, said Wednesday, a day after Maria Romero was wounded while pushing a stroller downtown. "I'm not going to lock myself inside my house because of just one bullet," she said in Spanish.

Romero is believed to be the first person to be hit by a bullet from drug war violence across the border. The bullet that struck her calf Tuesday is believed to have come from a gunfight between Ciudad Juarez Municipal Police and alleged carjackers in a street alongside the Rio Grande levee. Romero, 48, was treated at a local hospital for non-life threatening wounds and released that afternoon.

"We live so close to the bullets. It was not the first time (bullets crossed the border), won't be the last," Raul Betancourt said Wednesday outside his house in El Paso, a few hundred yards from the Rio Grande.

Though bullets from Mexico have struck buildings in El Paso before, none have struck a person. And though it is across the border from one of the deadliest cities in the hemisphere, El Paso is one of the safest cities in the U.S.

El Paso Mayor John Cook stressed that the city remains a safe place to live. "There is no way to prevent an incident like this from happening," Cook said during a news conference Tuesday.

Locals think of Ciudad Juarez and El Paso as sister cities. Both share a large metropolitan area, have strong commercial and social ties, and their downtown areas are separated by just the Rio Grande.

El Paso isn't the only border city where stray bullets have come flying from Mexico since violence spiked in 2008. In 2009 and 2010, shots fired in Matamoros reached the University of Texas-Brownsville. But unlike some other places along the border, there's little foliage or other obstructions to block bullets.

Shots fired in Ciudad Juarez have reached El Paso at other points in history, as well, author and local historian Fred Morales said. It's been an issue since the Mexican Revolution and, years later, during the gunfights between the U.S. Border Patrol and Prohibition-era alcohol smugglers.

In 1911, during the Battle of Ciudad Juarez, bullets rained all over downtown El Paso in the exchange of gunfire between Pancho Villa's revolutionaries and Mexican government forces. Twenty people were hit; eight died, Morales said.

Eight years later, Pancho Villa led his men on a second assault on Ciudad Juarez and, again, bullets struck El Paso. "They had to evacuate the whole Chihuahuita neighborhood," said Morales.

Julio Silva, 60, who lives in the Chihuahuita neighborhood, said he remembers his mother talking about how as a child she would climb on rooftops to watch the fighting in Juarez. Now, with drug cartels fighting each other and the Juarez police, he said, it's not uncommon to hear gunfire.

Dolores Reyes-Kennedy, 48, who also lives in that neighborhood, said that when violence in Ciudad Juarez rose in 2008, "We were really scared, but then you get used to it."

Lone Star State not winning any popularity contests

By Emily Wilkins
Hearst Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Texas is big, proud and not really liked much by people in other states.

According to a recent Public Policy Polling survey, Texas ranked as the 37th most popular state among the 50 United States.

Overall, 40 percent of Americans have a favorable view of the Lone Star State. That placed Texas behind favorite state Hawaii. And North Dakota. And Rhode Island.

You get the idea.

However Texas is viewed, residents can take comfort in knowing Americans aren't indifferent to its Lone Star. More than half of respondents answered "not sure" when asked about their opinions of most states. But, only 29 percent were unsure whether they liked Texas or not — a credit to Texas's distinct culture and style, said Mark P. Jones, chairman of the Department of Political Science at Rice University.

"States like Texas, given that it's a well known brand and elicits a lot of positive support, it also has high negatives," Jones said.

Only California — the most hated state on the list — left fewer people on the fence.

Some more findings from the survey: If you are black, you probably don't like Texas, but it's better than Mississippi or Alabama. If you are a Republican, you probably love Texas and hate California, (the reverse is true if you are a Democrat.)

"One's the Alamo and one's the Grateful Dead," said Bill Bishop, co-author of "The Big Sort," a book on the growing cultural and political divides in America.

Take heart, Texas — 25 million people can't be wrong. You will always be the biggest (as long as you're not counting Alaska). You have lots of oil and presidents and a really big water park. And people like you more than New Jersey.

Case reopened on 11 Dayton kids tied to beds

By Cindy Horswell
Houston Chronicle

Liberty County prosecutors announced this week they plan a criminal investigation into what happened inside a small brick house that once housed 11 children who investigators say were often confined inside a tiny room and tied to their beds.

"We're going to look into it and then present our findings to a grand jury for review," District Attorney Mike Little said Tuesday.

That reverses a decision that assistant prosecutor Logan Pickett made a month earlier after Child Protective Services took emergency custody of all the children in the house on Ford Avenue in Dayton and placed them in foster care. Pickett then found insufficient evidence to pursue any criminal charges.

Little declined to discuss the reason for the change in course. But he said proof needed for an emergency CPS removal does not always meet the criminal standard for child abuse, which requires evidence of serious bodily injury or mental impairment.

Dayton police Sgt. Clinton O'Quinn said his investigators are now digging deeper into what was going on at that residence owned by Tanda and Odice Smith.

In the past seven years, he said his officers had been called to the home on numerous domestic issues but were unaware so many children lived there.

On Jan. 24, CPS found 11 children, ages 5 months to 11 years, believed to be Tanda Smith's grandchildren, living in the three-bedroom home with 10 adults.

O'Quinn said his officers met with adults at the home on everything from loud arguments, borrowed cars, slashed tires and stolen copper wiring.

The owners of the home and others living there could not be reached for comment.

State fires worker over graphic sex pamphlet

Associated press

ROSWELL, N.M. — The state health department has fired a contract worker in Roswell over a graphic sex pamphlet that nearly made into the hands of teenagers.

Dr. Maggi Gallaher, the acting director of the state's public health division, said the material was not appropriate for the age group.

The website for the California-based company that designed the pamphlet made it clear the brochure is intended for gay men.

According to the center's health and wellness manager, about a month ago, a public health contract worker asked officials at the Job Corps Center in Roswell if she could distribute the pamphlet to clients age 16 and up.

When she and the center's director took a look at the brochures, she said they immediately declined and got rid of them.

More habitat set aside for endangered Southwestern fish

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday pointed to prolonged drought, climate change and an increase in nonnative fish for its decision to reclassify as endangered two fish found in New Mexico and Arizona.

The agency also designated another 200 miles of critical river and stream habitat for the spikedace and loach minnow in response to a lawsuit filed by environmentalists.

In all, more than 700 river miles are now considered critical for the fishes' survival. The list includes portions of the Gila and San Francisco rivers, the Blue River and its tributaries and a handful of creeks.

"We're glad there's a recognition that these guys are really in trouble," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center for Biological Diversity, which challenged the agency over a 2005 decision to limit critical habitat to fewer river miles.

Biologists estimate the range of the two fishes has been reduced by more than 80 percent.

At less than three inches long, the fish are found in moderate to swift-flowing rivers and streams. Their populations in central and eastern Arizona and western New Mexico have become smaller and more fragmented over the years.

With an endangered classification, the fish are considered on the brink of extinction. Federal rules for managing such species and protections under the Endangered Species Act are more rigid than those for threatened species.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will not have as much flexibility when dealing with the two species. Recovery of the fish will depend greatly on partners in both states, the agency said.

Greenwald acknowledged that persistent drought and increased water withdrawals throughout the region will continue to be challenges for those working on saving the fish.

"The Southwest is definitely going to have to get better at using water than it already is if there's going to be any hope, not just for these fish, but virtually every native fish," Greenwald said. "The population of almost every species that depends on rivers and streams in the Southwest has gone down."

The Fish and Wildlife Service prepared an economic analysis before making its decision to designate more critical habitat. It found the designation could result in impacts ranging from $2.3 million to $6.7 million over 20 years for activities such as water use, grazing, recreation, development and fire management.

The agency excluded some areas from the critical habitat designation, including streams on tribal lands in Arizona and those on lands owed by the copper producer Freeport McMoRan in Arizona and New Mexico because of existing commitments to recovery of the fish.

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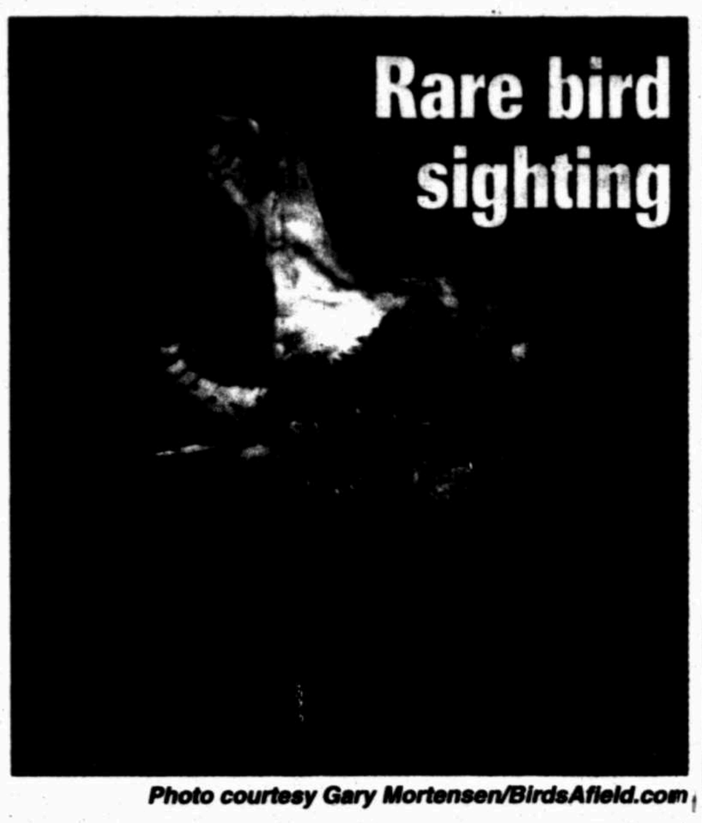

Photo courtesy Gary Mortensen/BirdsAfield.com

A bird believed to be a rare snowy owl has turned up in Robertson Park at Lake Ray Hubbard in Dallas.

Dogged by military families, United Airlines puts pause on pet policy

-By Kiah Collier
Houston Chronicle

Facing a backlash from pet-owning American military families stationed in Asia, United Airlines said Wednesday that military personnel who are relocating will be exempt from a new, more expensive program for transporting animals.

The families protested changes coming next month in the airline's pet policy, which will add hundreds or even thousands of dollars in costs to passengers transporting pets.

The change is part of the airline's ongoing integration with Houston's former hometown carrier, Continental Airlines.

As part of the merger, the two airlines' parent company has selected what it considers the best policies and programs from each airline as it creates what it calls "the new United." On March 3, the Chicago-based airline will switch to Continental's pet program called PetSafe.

PetSafe — which is somewhat pricier than United's program — requires pets that are too big to be carried in the cabin with their owners to be checked as cargo rather than excess luggage, as they were with United. Charges are based on the animal's weight and the length of the flight.

But, all cargo shipped from certain countries, including Japan, where many American military personnel are based, must receive customs clearance through a third-party vendor before it is flown out. The vendors charge airlines fees as high as several thousand dollars that the carriers pass on to shippers, which now will include pet owners.

When the Chronicle inquired about the policy on Tuesday, United defended its decision to use PetSafe, which it described as an "industry leader," and said the added vendor cost is "not our fee."

In a statement released to the Houston Chronicle on Wednesday morning, the airline said it had reconsidered and will make a special exception for military personnel.

"As a result of the constructive feedback about our PetSafe product, we more fully understand the impact of our implementation of this product on our military families," the statement said.

The airline developed a special policy that will allow transportation of pets without the third-party vendor — but only for military personnel changing stations or otherwise traveling on orders.

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high 81	high 55	high 60
low 32	low 31	low 43

LOCAL FORECAST

Expect sunny skies today with a high around 81 and west winds between 15 and 25 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for mostly clear conditions with a low around 32 and north winds between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday, look for mostly sunny skies with a high around 55, a low around 31 and northeast winds between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday, look for sunny skies with a high around 60 and a low around 43.

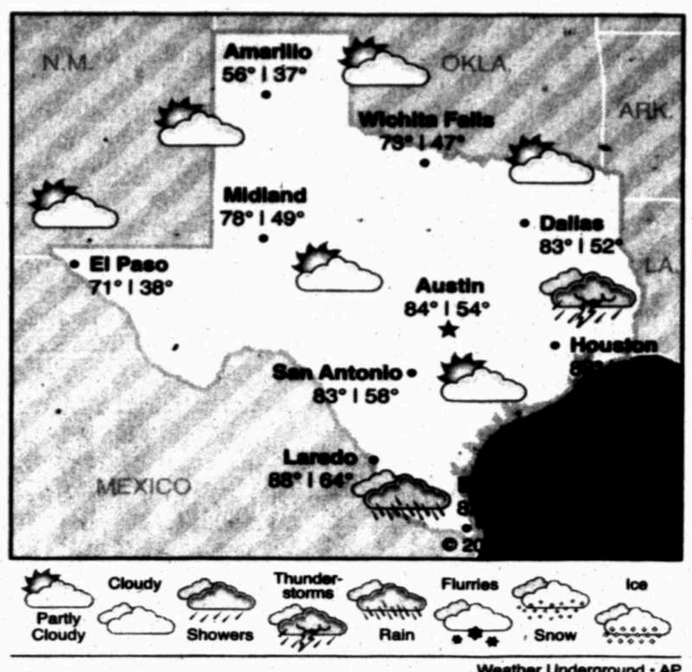
The high on Wednesday reached 80 while the low dropped to 36. The record high for Feb. 23 is 87 set in 1996. The record low is 19 set in 1966.

***

In New England, a storm with snow and rain will exit Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire today. But, clearing will be limited farther south and west.

Along the eastern third of the nation, cool air will hold over upstate New York, New England and the Great Lakes, while very warm conditions for February either build or hold on in the South, the Ohio Valley and part of the mid-Atlantic states.

A second storm will push across the Midwest today with an area of accumulating snow.



Weather Underground - AP

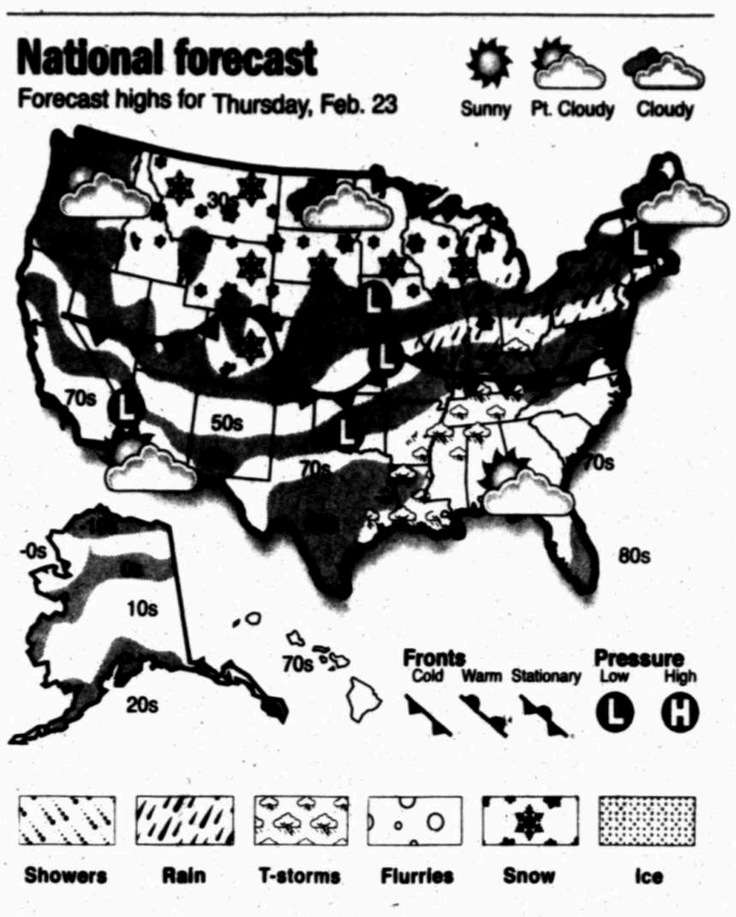
Precipitation

Tuesday	0.00 in.
Wednesday	0.00 in.
Total for month	0.18 in.
Total for year	1.18 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.12 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	80
Low	36
Normal high	64
Normal low	36

Sunrise ... 7:23 a.m.
Sunset ... 6:41 p.m.



Couple can't come to terms over bathroom battleground

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 otherwise loving, honest, generous, kind and attentive husband of 10 years feels it's his right to walk into the bathroom whenever he wants, even when I'm in there. He says it's coincidence, but I think he does it intentionally. We don't have locks — or even doors — to shut our master bathroom. We do have other bathrooms in the house.

I have asked him repeatedly not to come in or to make some noise so I know he's coming. He says he "forgets." If I'm in the shower or bent over with my head upside down blow-drying my hair and turn around or look up and see another person, I get startled. My adrenaline pumps and I end up yelling at him.

I'd prefer to get clean and pretty in peace. My husband thinks I'm overreacting. Am I?— BOTHERED IN THE BATHROOM

DEAR BOTHERED: Feeling as strongly as you do, it's surprising that you would move into a house in which the master bedroom and bath are set up this way. And yes, I do think you're overreacting.

However, you have a couple of options: The first would be for you to get clean and pretty in one of the other bathrooms. The second would be to start a remodeling project and have a door (or doors) to your master bath installed so your husband can knock before entering.

DEAR ABBY: I am married to a wonderful and unique man. Despite his privileged upbringing he is down-to-earth. His parents' affluence afforded him many opportunities and still does. Unfortunately, my in-laws are snobbish, self-absorbed and competitive. They are critical of everyone — especially their grown son. They put him and each other down constantly. They cause scenes and can't enjoy life.

My husband is trying to be patient because he knows his parents aren't going to change at their age. But, they consume so much of our energy with their constant dramatic highs and lows. Any advice for dealing with drama queens (and kings)? They do love us and can be considerate. — LIVING IN THE REAL WORLD IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR REAL: It may help you and your husband to understand that people who act the way your in-laws do are usually insecure on some basic level. They put others down to inflate their egos and reassure themselves that they're "OK" by magnifying (or inventing) flaws in others. When your in-laws start to criticize, be pleasant and make a point of saying something positive about their target. It will short-circuit the rant.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-year-old working mother raising a daughter who is the joy of my life. Once in a great while I'll accept an invitation to go on a date and hire a baby sitter to watch my daughter.

My question is, who should pay for the sitter? The man who asked me out or should I? I have yet to have a suitor offer to pay. Is that just the way it is, or are these men just cheap? — MOM ON A BUDGET

DEAR MOM: Paying for your daughter's sitter is YOUR responsibility. When you become involved in a steady relationship and the cost of a sitter becomes a financial burden, discuss it then with your boyfriend, who should be willing to share some of the cost.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Count your tricks

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 5 2
♡ 9 7 4
◇ K 9 6 3 2
♣ 10 2

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8
♡ Q 10 8
◇ J 8
♣ Q 9 8 4

EAST
♠ Q 6 4
♡ J 6
◇ Q 10 5 4
♣ J 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K 7 3
♡ A K 5 3 2
◇ A 7
♣ A K 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2◇	Pass
2♡	Pass	3◇	Pass
4♣	Pass	4◇	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣	Pass
6♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Before you play to the first trick, count your losers. Here is a case in point. An aggressive cue-bidding sequence landed South in an optimistic slam. First, declarer needed a 3-2 trump break to limit his losers to one trick, so there were only four heart winners to go with six plain suit winners. A club ruff in dummy brings the total to 11, so a diamond trick must be established to bring the total to 12. A 3-3 diamond split would make it easy for declarer, but the percentages favor a 4-2 break. How should you, South, proceed?

Win the spade opening lead in hand. Cash the ace and king of hearts in hand and, when both defenders follow, the first hurdle is surmounted. It's time for the ace and king of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Whether or not West overruffs is immaterial. Cash the top clubs and enter dummy with a club ruff to trump another diamond. Get to the table with the ace of spades and discard your spade loser on the table's long diamond. All you lose is a trump!

Today's Crossword Puzzle brought to you by Quiroz Custom Home Builders
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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 Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012:

This year you forge a new path, but only after you are sure that the status quo does not work. Tension and sarcasm often mark your endeavors. Are they a reason to move in another direction? Only you will be able to decide this, and you will. Deal with funds carefully. Your communication excels. If you are single, you will see the results of being able to present yourself well. Look for romance after June. If you are attached, the two of you work through some hot-button issues. Passion plays a significant role in your bond. ARIES always encourages you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Much might be going on at work and also within yourself. You could become angry, but try not to act on that feeling. Sarcasm could be a whole other issue. You probably just need time to yourself. A walk might work. Close your door, if possible. Tonight: Perking up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ You benefit in the daylight hours. Whatever you decide to do works out even better than you thought possible. Meetings work well. Ideas flourish when talking with a group of people. Surprises surround you. Tonight: Make it early.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Conflict is possible with a boss. Honor your differences and remember who is in charge. Your words could come off as harsh-sounding when dealing with this person. Postpone an important conversation until dinnertime. Tonight: Where the fun is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ If you are not sure as to which way to go, reach out to a trusted friend. Together, if you are open, you can figure out the proper path. When you detach, you gain a better perspective about conversations and interactions. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ Sarcasm marks the morning. Be smart, and avoid playing into this behavior. You know what you want and where you are going. Do not get caught up in trivial matters. Let your mind expand in order to grasp the details of a new situation. Tonight: Get away from the here and now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Others continue to knock on your door, and will call and email you. You might be surprised at all the inquiries. Do not get short-tempered simply because you have too much on your plate. Instead, tell them what ails you. Close relating earmarks the afternoon. Tonight: Make nice with a favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Focus on work and your accomplishments. You have so much to do and so little time. Your effectiveness emerges. Schedule distractions and meetings for as late as you can. An associate or co-worker could be a source of frustration. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Remove yourself from situations where you might not be energized or interested. Others will be able to see your lack of involvement. Focus on what is challenging. If you opt for a bohemian route, you will succeed. Sometimes a staid attitude does not work. Tonight: Try to make it early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ You move slowly when dealing with a boss or older relative. You wonder why you have done what you have as of late, especially with another person's attitude. Stay centered, and remember that you also gain in this situation. Tonight: Paint the town red.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Make phone calls and schedule meetings. Above all else, do not stand on ceremony — especially with a key person. Rather than encouraging separation, you will melt down emotional walls. News involving travel and/or new information forces thought and possible action. Tonight: Mosey on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Refuse to get involved with others financially, or to accept another person's idea regarding your funds. You might not be right, but he or she might not be right either. Time is your ally, though you might feel pressured by a situation. Schedule a discussion with a respected adviser for later in the day. Tonight: Listen to the pros and cons.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★ Someone might be trying to push your buttons. Stay centered and nonreactive, and this person will stop. Now is not the time to clear the air. Get done what you must, then decide when you would like to clear the air. Tonight: Get another opinion.

***

BORN TODAY

Author John Sandford (1944), rock/blues guitarist Johnny Winter (1944), actor Peter Fonda (1940)

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Payment option
5 The Arthur Ashe Award for Courage is one
9 Detergent target
13 Peek-__
14 One-named singer of "Rolling in the Deep"
15 Creepy lake?
16 Joint Chevrolet/Kia vacation package?
19 Burns rubber
20 Sources of inspiration
21 Spy novelist Deighton
22 Pres. before RWR
23 Joint GMC/Hyundai vacation package?
32 Sheepshank, e.g.
33 Cleveland's Quicken Loans __
34 Blend
35 Elihu for whom an Ivy is named
36 Took the wheel
37 Colada fruit
38 Sidewall letters
39 Glistened
40 Feature of American paneling, but not British?
41 Joint Ford/Chrysler vacation package?
45 Chap
46 ICU workers
47 Two-time loser to Ike
50 Sought at auction
56 Joint Dodge/Toyota vacation package?
58 Clock radio letters
59 Colleague of Thomas
60 Pale-green moth
61 Homer's tavern
62 Legendary Brazilian footballer
63 Celtic land
29 Essential acid
30 Of a higher quality
31 Praise
36 Played, but not in the field, briefly
37 Ice cream truck offering
39 1992 Summer Olympics country
42 Roosters, at times
43 Lyre-playing Muse
44 Ladies' court gp.
47 Stuck, after "in"
48 Major-__
49 Rapper __ Fiasco
50 Pulitzer-winning WWII journalist
51 $150 Monopoly prop.
52 Carry
53 Gloomy
54 Present opening?
55 Asian flatbread
57 "The Purloined Letter" monogram

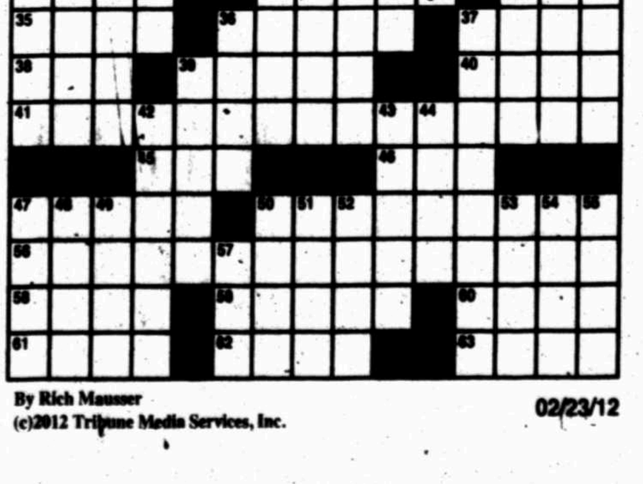
DOWN

1 Cleveland cagers
2 Contribute to, as a crime
3 Sound measure
4 Portable cooker
5 Site of an early exile
6 Space exploration org.
7 It's hatched
8 Ja or da, stateside
9 Take off, as a discount
10 Malleable metal
11 Thieves' group
12 Earl Grey et al.
14 Rice-__
17 App downloader
18 Colleague of Clarence
22 Dick's partner
23 Internet telephony provider
24 Jawbone of __ Samson's weapon
25 Type of acid found in veggies
26 Mystic's medium
27 Home to Maine's Black Bears
28 Lowest card in klaberjass

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 02/23/12



By Rich Mauser
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25th Annual Regional Spelling Bee
Saturday, February 25, 2012
Midland College • 9:00 am
Allison Fine Arts Building auditorium
SPONSORED BY
Midland Reporter-Telegram
Delivering life...every day.
Students from Midland and Big Spring will compete for a chance to represent Midland at the 2012 Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is May 29-31 in Washington, D.C.
These students are scheduled to compete in the regional bee from their respective schools.
Prizes
In addition to an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., the regional champion receives Merriam-Webster's Third New International Dictionary, unabridged, the Samuel Louis Sugarman Award, a $100 Series EE U.S. Savings Bond; $125 cash; one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online and a trophy.
The REGIONAL RUNNER-UP will receive Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Eleventh Edition), $75 cash; one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online and a trophy.
THIRD PLACE will receive $20 Amazon.com gift certificate; $50 cash; one-year subscription to Encyclopedia Britannica Online and a trophy.
FOURTH PLACE will receive a $20 Amazon.com gift certificate, $25 cash and a trophy.
FIFTH PLACE winner will receive $25 cash and a trophy.
John Deats, Director of Learning Resource Center at Midland College, is the pronouncer for this year's bee. The judges are Dr. Pamela Howell, an English professor at Midland College; John Binns, a drama teacher at Greenwood High School and Cheree Smith, who is with Region 18 Education Service Center.
Webster's Third New International Dictionary
Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary
Vijay Dimri, Carver Center
Chastin Ellison, Washington Math and Science Institute
Dominic Fernandez, Burnet Elementary School
Chloe Fitting, Fannin Elementary School
Nikkie Galindo, Midland Christian School
Trinity Galloway, Marcy Elementary School, Big Spring
Manuel Garcia, Santa Rita Elementary
Dilan Guzman, Washington Elementary School, Big Spring
Tristan Huckabee, Goliad Intermediate School, Big Spring
Brandon Kam, San Jacinto Elementary School
Sophia Koo, Abell Junior High School
Phillip LaCroix, Scharbauer Elementary School
PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE
Brittney Manchip, Crockett Elementary School
Serena Martinez, Rusk Elementary School
Josiah McDougall, Midland Classical Academy
PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE
Justin Metcalfe, Long Elementary School
Christopher Mora-Brandt, Parker Elementary School
Waseem Nabulsi, Trinity School
Amaris Portillo, Houston Elementary School
Rocky Ramirez, Bauer Elementary School, Big Spring
Juan Reza, Henderson Elementary School
Marcos Rodriguez, DeZavala Elementary School
Thomas Rubio, Alamo Junior High School
Rick Salcido, Lamar Elementary School
Anthony Sarmiento, Moss Elementary School, Big Spring
Marisela Saucedo, Goddard Junior High School
PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE
Quarria Scott, Bonham Elementary School
Alex Sotelo, Big Spring Junior High School
Rachel Stansell, Greathouse Elementary School
Keara Thibeault, Kentwood Elementary School, Big Spring
Hannah Wineinger, Hillander School

Sports

West Texas Classic to draw 19 teams this year

By Jonathan Hull
Sports Writer

There's a different feel surrounding this season's West Texas Classic, but Lee softball coach Wes Overton can't quite put his finger on what exactly the difference is.

The annual high school softball tournament returns to Freddie Ezell Softball Complex this afternoon with action lasting through Saturday featuring 19 teams from Abilene to El Paso and Amarillo to Ozona.

But the tournament is once again missing some once familiar faces such as Lubbock Coronado, Lubbock Monterey, Monahans and Odessa Permian.

"It does seem a little different this year. I don't know why," Overton admitted. "I think it was travel. Everyone's travel budget is catching up with them. But it's kind of about even as far as number of teams we've had each year."

One difference in the structure of this year's Classic is the way the Division I pool play is structured. Last season, there were three pools. This season there are just two -- Purple and Maroon.

The Purple Pool is headlined by Midland High and also features Canyon, Coahoma, Plainview, Andrews, El Paso Hanks, Odessa High, Lamesa and Ozona. Lee is in the Maroon Pool along with Big Spring, Midland Christian, Abilene High, Greenwood, Amarillo Palo Duro, El Paso El Dorado, Kermit, Amarillo High and Alpine.

Greenwood coach Lee Anne Curry personally feels the Rangerettes will see a high quality of competition in the Maroon Pool.

"I'm excited about this weekend. I believe we're going to see some great competition," Curry said. "It's nice to play close to home and still see some really strong competition."

And while many of the teams making up the two pools and perennial visitors to the West Texas Classic, Overton was happy to see some new faces such as Lamesa and Amarillo High making the trip to the Tall City.

"We still don't have teams like Permian and that's fine," Overton said. "But Amarillo High is

Please see CLASSIC/2C

Wes Overton: Lee softball coach says he's glad this year's tournament has drawn new teams.

Building on experience

Lee's Ward to make 2nd appearance at state meet

By Len Hayward
Sports Editor

To say Alan Ward was a little shocked at the level of competition at the state diving meet in 2011 is an understatement.

Ward was a freshman at Lee when he earned his spot in the University Interscholastic League state diving championship a year ago, and he thought it was just going to be another meet.

And then he walked in the venue for his first warm up.

"The seniors were really tall, really muscular, and you could just tell they were pretty good," Ward said.

Now a sophomore, Ward fully knows what kind of competition he will face beginning Friday at the UIL state meet. But, he also is going in with more experience and a diving list that could help him earn a spot in the top eight.

Diving preliminaries will begin at 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swim Center in Austin.

"I have stepped up a bunch of my dives that are a lot harder, and I will get more points," Ward said.

Ward won the regional meet with more than 417 points and finished 27 points ahead of the runner-up. But, that number reveals Ward is becoming more confident as he gets older and is more confident in the dives he puts on his list.

It's something that Midland ISD swimming and diving coach Jennifer Mangum has made a difference in this year. It will help

Please see WARD/2C

The meet

UIL State Swimming & Diving Championships

When: Friday-Saturday
Where: Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center, Austin
Local Competitors: Class 5A diving, Alan Ward, Lee; Class 4A swimming, Alyson Drennan, Greenwood (50-yard freestyle).

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Lee diver Alan Ward practices Wednesday afternoon before this weekend's state tournament in Austin. The sophomore will make his second consecutive appearance at the tournament and hopes a tougher diving list will help him finish in the top 10.

Greenwood's Drennan looks to crack 25-second mark

By Len Hayward
Sports Editor

It's easy to see that Alyson Drennan is both excited and nervous about competing in her first state meet this weekend in Austin.

Also evident is a confidence that has Drennan thinking she can put up a personal best time and improve on her 15th place seeding in the 50-yard freestyle.

To those who know Drennan, it's nothing new, and it's a reason the Greenwood freshman has been so successful this year in her first in UIL competition.

"I think for the 50, (confidence) is huge," said City of Midland Aquatics coach Andy Korda, who coaches Drennan. "A lot of people do get nervous and not having that confidence that you can go fast you are more likely to flinch and have a false start. You are more likely to make mistakes."

Alyson Drennan: Greenwood High School freshman will compete in the 50-yard freestyle event at the UIL State Swimming & Diving Championships.

Korda said Drennan has the right combination of confidence and excited nervousness that allows her to be so successful in the short sprinting events.

Drennan said she is nervous and is feeling some pressure because the state meet is the equivalent of a high-level club meet. But, she also said she can break the 25-second barrier.

Drennan won the 50 freestyle at the regional meet in Andrews two weeks ago with a time of 25.39 seconds. But, Drennan said she has it in her to break into the 24-second range.

"You have to think, 'I'm going to win it, I'm going to win it' because a difference is tenths of a second," Drennan said. "I think I'm going to go 24 and go under 25."

Korda said Drennan's workouts have been good over the past week and he expects Drennan in the 24-second range.

"She is definitely a little excited," Korda said. "You talk about state, and she gets a huge smile on her face, but there is a little nervousness in those eyes. She's ready to go."

Drennan said she is well aware of the competition she will face. But, with just focusing on one event, she knows she has little to no pressure.

"Yes, it's my first year, and I only have one event, so why not just go for it," Drennan said.

Len Hayward can be reached at lhayward@mrt.com.

Tennis Classic to help players earn better seeds later

By Len Hayward
Sports Editor

Midland High's mixed doubles team of Catherine Hanson and Wesley Sparks left Corpus Christi last weekend with a solid fifth-place showing.

But even with that success behind, them they both say this weekend's Tall City Tennis Classic in their own backyard could be big for them down the road.

"It's extremely important playing the tournament here in Midland," Sparks said before a workout on Tuesday. "All the teams from Lubbock and that district come, and it's a lot more challenging than a lot of other tournaments."

Sparks

Mangum

Lee's Stephen Mangum, who was fifth in Odessa last week, said he knows a good performance this weekend will be a big help if he can make it to the regional tournament.

"This (tournament) brings competition from all over the state, and you've got top 5A and 4A schools from everywhere coming," Mangum said. "It's going to give me a good idea about how I'm going to do in getting past district and regionals, and going to state."

This weekend's annual high school tennis tournament at venues across Midland won't have the same ramifications as the District 3-5A tournament in early April in Odessa. But, what this tournament will do is help players earn better seeds at district and regional tournaments.

A solid finish in Midland can go a long way in helping a player get a better

Please see TENNIS/2C

Analysts: Cowboys should study DBs during Indy scouting trip

By Tom Orsborn
San Antonio Express-News

INDIANAPOLIS — Begin at the back end.

That's the advice NFL.com draft analyst Mike Mayock would give the Dallas Cowboys as they prepare to survey the 320-plus players at the NFL Scouting Combine this week at Lucas Oil Stadium.

"I've been a big believer that the secondary is what's kept them out of any potential Super Bowls the last eight or 10 years," Mayock said of the Cowboys. "Whether it was safety or corner, they need to upgrade back there."

Coming off a disappointing 8-8 season, Dallas also needs interior offensive linemen and pass rushers. But, the Cowboys' draft discussion should begin with the secondary, Mayock said.

"If you look at their front seven, it's a Super Bowl defense," he said. "That's the

Please see COWBOYS/2C

NASCAR PAGE 8C

COWBOYS

From 1C

way to put it. Their front seven, to me, can win a Super Bowl. Their back end can't hold up.

"So, you've got to have help on the back end."

Dallas finished 23rd in the NFL in pass defense in 2011 primarily because of its stumbling defensive backs, particularly the corners.

Terence Newman looked solid after he notched four interceptions in his first seven games. But, he slumped badly as the Cowboys lost four of their last five games, a humbling slide underscored by the New York Giants wide receivers burning him repeatedly in the playoffs-or-bust season finale.

Newman, 33, likely has played his last game for Dallas. Cutting him could create as much as $6 million of salary cap space.

Mike Jenkins earned respect by fighting through injuries, but he had only one interception for second straight season.

Jerry Jones gave slot corner Orlando Scandrick a five-year, $27 million contract extension in August, but he made the owner look foolish with an uneven season.

Safeties Gerald Sensabaugh and Abram Elam underwhelmed. Elam and ineffective swingman Alan Ball are unrestricted free agents.

Add it up and you have this: A secondary badly in need of an overhaul, which Jones acknowledged at the Senior Bowl last month.

"We very likely will have new faces over there," he told reporters.

One problem, though: The cornerback and safety crops are thin, analysts say.

Mayock labels LSU's Morris Claiborne, Alabama's Dre Kirkpatrick and North Alabama's Janoris Jenkins as first-round corners.

"After that, it's kind of pick your flavor," he said.

Kirkpatrick and Jenkins could be around when the Cowboys are on the clock with the 14th overall pick.

But, Kirkpatrick and Jenkins have character concerns that could cause them to slide. Kirkpatrick was arrested for marijuana possession last month, a charge that has been dismissed. Multiple arrests got Jenkins kicked out of the University of Florida.

"Whatever happened in (Kirkpatrick's arrest), the bottom line is teams have some concerns now," ESPN's Todd McShay said. "There are already some worries about his consistency and some different things, so the interview process is going to be important."

The same is true of Jenkins.

"He must explain himself and show teams that some of those problems are behind him and that he's genuinely trying to mature," McShay said.

In a recent ESPN.com article, McShay had the Cowboys selecting Alabama safety Mark Barron.

"Barron can be physical in run support, make plays in coverage and be the kind of high-character leader the Cowboys need," McShay wrote. "And, safety is become a more important position all the time, given the increased role of tight ends in the passing game."

Rams, CVC reach agreement on London game

ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Rams will play that "home" game in London later this year after settling a lease dispute with the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The deal announced late Tuesday allows the Rams to play the New England Patriots at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 28. The lease had required the team to play all home games at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

In exchange, the Rams agreed to increase the number of football season weekends that the dome can be booked for other uses. The team will also pay temporary employees the wages they would have earned by working the game in St. Louis.

The Rams also want to play games in London in 2013 and 2014. No deal has been worked out on those games.

Sports lawyer Cornwell hired by NFL Coaches Assn.

The NFL Coaches Association has hired sports lawyer David Cornwell as its executive director.

Cornwell has represented both the NFL and the union as well as several prominent NFL players, including Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. He also was a candidate to become executive director of the NFL Players Association in 2009, a job that went to DeMaurice Smith.

Jimmy Raye, president of the association, says Cornwell's hiring Tuesday comes at a time when the NFL is beginning a period of "unprecedented opportunities" and his "experience and relationships will enable the coaches' boat to rise with the tide."

Associated Press

SOFTBALL

From 1C

coming in and they've never been here before. Odessa High is coming back this season. We're starting to get more local teams like Lamesa, which hasn't been here before, either."

Regardless of the absence of some strong West Texas programs, Overton is still satisfied with the quality of competition that will be featured at the West Texas Classic.

"I think the quality is still very competitive," Overton said. "Plainview and Canyon are still coming down. El Paso Hanks always has a strong program. There's still going to be some competitive play happening here this weekend."

Of course, Midland High and Lee's presence in the tournament should make its own significant impact on the quality of competition.

"We want to play well at home, at our own tournament," Overton said. "It always seems like if I go to a tournament somewhere and the host team isn't very strong, then the tournament isn't strong.

"When I started doing this, I wanted to have two pools so that Midland High and us didn't play each other. Us and Midland High have each won our pools before. I would like to think we both still represent this as a strong tournament."

That feeling goes for the other teams in Midland County as well.

"Just because we're on the outskirts, we still consider ourselves a Midland team," Curry said. "We want to represent this group as much as Lee and Midland High do."

Jonathan Hull can be reached at jhull@mrt.com.

TOURNEYSCHEDULE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

West Texas Classic
MUGS Softball Complex
Thursday-Saturday
Pool Play
Division I

Maroon Pool: **Lee, Big Spring, Midland** Christian, Abilene High, Greenwood, Amarillo Palo Duro, El Paso El Dorado, Kermit, Amarillo High, Alpine

Purple Pool: **Midland High**, Canyon, Coahoma, Plainview, Andrews, El Paso Hanks, Odessa High, Lamesa, Ozona

Division II: **Lee JV, Midland High** JV, Lubbock Coronado JV, Odessa High JV, Coahoma JV, Monahans JV, Andrews JV, Greenwood JV, Big Spring JV

Point System: A maximum of 10 points can be scored in each game. Six points are awarded for each win. Each run scored up to three runs is worth a single point. A single point is awarded for a shutout.

Thursday's Games

5 p.m. — MHS JV vs. Monahans JV, Field 1; Lee JV vs. Coahoma JV, Field 2; Midland High vs. Lamesa, Field 3; Abilene High vs. Midland Christian, Field 4; Big Spring vs. Palo Duro, Field 5; Greenwood vs. Amarillo High, Field 6; Lee vs. Kermit, Field 7; Canyon, vs. Odessa High, Field 8; Coahoma vs. Plainview, Field 9

7 p.m. — Big Spring JV vs. Coahoma JV, Field 3; Odessa High JV vs. Greenwood JV, Field 4; Andrews JV vs. Monahans JV, Field 5; Palo Duro vs. El Dorado, Field 6; Amarillo High vs. Kermit, Field 7; Hanks vs. Odessa High, Field 8; Andrews vs. Coahoma, Field 9

9 p.m. — MHS JV vs. Big Spring JV, Field 1; Lee JV vs. Greenwood JV, Field 2; Midland High vs. Hanks, Field 3; Abilene High vs. Big Spring, Field 4; Odessa High JV vs. Andrews JV, Field 5; Greenwood vs. El Dorado, Field 6; Lee vs. Midland Christian, Field 7; Canyon vs. Lamesa, Field 8; Plainview vs. Andrews, Field 9

Friday's Games

11 a.m. — Lee JV vs. Lubbock Coronado JV, Field 2; Ozona vs. Coahoma, Field 3; Abilene High vs. Greenwood, Field 4; Midland Christina vs. Amarillo High, Field 5; Alpine vs. El Dorado, Field 6; Midland High, vs. Plainview, Field 7; Canyon vs. Andrews, Field 8

1 p.m. — MHS JV vs. Coahoma JV, Field 3; Big Spring JV vs. Andrews JV, Field 4; Coahoma vs. Odessa High, Field 5; Lamesa vs. Hanks, Field 6; Lee vs. Big Spring, Field 7

3 p.m. — Monahans JV vs. Lubbock Coronado JV, Field 3; Greenwood vs. Palo Duro, Field 4; Ozona vs. Andrews, Field 5; El Dorado vs. Kermit, Field 7

5 p.m. — MHS JV vs. Greenwood JV, Field 1; Odessa High JV vs. Lubbock Coronado JV, Field 2; Midland Christian vs. Palo Duro, Field 3; Greenwood vs. Alpine, Field 4; Plainview vs. Lamesa, Field 5; Abilene High vs. Amarillo High, Field 6; Midland High vs. Canyon, Field 7

7 p.m. — Odessa High JV vs. Big Spring JV, Field 2; Andrews vs. Odessa High, Field 3; Lee JV vs. Andrews JV, Field 4; Big Spring vs. Kermit, Field 5; Ozona vs. Hanks, Field 6; Lee vs. Alpine, Field 7; Monahans JV, vs. Coahoma JV, Field 8

Saturday's Games

11 a.m. — Lubbock Coronado JV vs. MHS JV, Field 1; Lee JV vs. Monahans JV, Field 2; Ozona vs. Odessa High, Field 3; Greenwood vs. Big Spring, Field 4; Amarillo High vs. Alpine, Field 5; Hanks vs. Canyon, Field 6; Lee vs. El Dorado, Field 7; Greenwood JV vs. Coahoma JV, Field 8

1 p.m. — Lubbock Coronado JV vs. Big Spring JV, Field 1; Odessa High JV vs. Monahans JV, Field 2; Ozona vs. Lamesa, Field 3; Abilene High vs. El Dorado, Field 4; Palo Duro vs. Alpine, Field 5; Midland Christian vs. Kermit, Field 6; Midland High vs. Andrews, Field 7; Canyon vs. Coahoma, Field 8; Greenwood JV vs. Andrews JV, Field 9

3 p.m. — Odessa High JV vs. Coahoma JV, Field 3; Hanks vs. Plainview, Field 4; Kermit vs. Palo Duro, Field 5; Lee vs. Amarillo High, Field 7

5 p.m. — MHS JV vs. Andrews JV, Field 1; Lee JV vs. Big Spring JV, Field 2; Big Spring vs. Midland Christian, Field 3; Abilene High vs. Alpine, Field 4; Lubbock Coronado JV vs. Greenwood JV, Field 5; Ozona vs. Plainview, Field 6; Midland High vs. Coahoma, Field 7; Odessa High vs. Lamesa, Field 8

WARD

From 1C

him earn one of the spots in the top half of the 16-diving field in Austin.

"We have more degree of difficulty than we had last year, and he's got a full year of competition under his belt," Mangum said. "Last summer, he went to the junior nationals and won two events, and I think his confidence level has improved tremendously from where he was last year."

The seniors Ward competed against last year have graduated, but he said he enters this meet with tempered expectations.

He would like to finish in the top 10, and Mangum said he has the ability to do that, but Ward said what he learned last year has helped him realize that he has to dive his best no matter the competition.

"When you get more practice, it should be better," said Ward, who finished 14th in last year's state meet. "Basically, the people that are there are really, really good, and I shouldn't set my expectations too high. Just do my best."

Len Hayward can be reached at lhayward@mrt.com.

HSBASKETBALLSCHEDULE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Girls
Class 5A
Region I
Bi-District
Regional Quarterfinals

Lubbock Coronado (W2, 27-6) 55, Lubbock Monterey 43

Irving MacArthur (W6, 34-2) 67, Plano West 60
Amarillo High (R2, 28-6) 50, Arlington Lamar 53
Duncanville (W5, 36-1) 60, Southlake Carroll 46

Region 1-5A Tournament
Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center, Fort Worth
Friday's Semifinals

Lubbock Coronado (W2, 27-6) vs. Irving MacArthur (W6, 34-2), 6 p.m.
Amarillo High (R2, 28-6) vs. Duncanville (W5, 36-1), 8 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.

Class 4A
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals

Clint Horizon (W2, 31-2) 46, Amarillo Palo Duro 45
Granbury (W8, 27-8) 57, Stephenville 38
Canyon (W3, 29-3) 44, El Paso Chapin 42
Mansfield Summit (W7, 33-3) 42, Arlington Seguin 37

Region I-4A Tournament
Scurry County Coliseum, Snyder
Friday's Semifinals

Clint Horizon (W2, 31-2) vs. Granbury (W8, 27-8), 4 p.m.
Canyon (W3, 29-3) vs. Mansfield Summit (W7, 33-3), 6 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 2 p.m.

Class 3A
Region I
Bi-District
Regional Quarterfinals

Lubbock Cooper (W2, 21-10) 68, Dalhart 50
Kennedale (W8, 28-6) 80, Bowie 47
Shallowater (W3, 28-5) 53, Perryton 35
Abilene Wylie (W5, 31-4) 71, Decatur 38
Region I-3A Tournament
United Spirit Arena, Lubbock

Friday's Semifinals

Lubbock Cooper (W2, 21-10) vs. Kennedale (W8, 28-6), 7 p.m.
Shallowater (W3, 2[illegible]-5) vs. Abilene Wylie (W5, 31-4), 8:30 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 8 p.m.

Class 2A
Regional Quarterfinals

Tulia (W2, 28-7) 62, Idalou 36
Jim Ned (R5, 28-8) 57, Brady 42
Spearman (W1, 23-6) 50, Lubbock Roosevelt 31
Wall (W7, 25-7) 34, Merkel 30

Region I-2A Tournament
Chaparral Center
Friday's Semifinals

Tulia (W2, 28-7) vs. Jim Ned (R5, 28-8), 6 p.m.
Spearman (W1, 23-6) vs. Wall (W7, 25-8), 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.

Class A, Division I
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals

Panhandle (W2, 28-7) 46, Canandian 44
Sundown (T6, 23-11) 44, Smyer 32
Clarendon (W3, 23-4) 40, Gruver 36
Sudan (W5, 30-3) 57, Plains 34

Region I-A, Division I Tournament
Texan Dome, Levelland
Friday's Semifinals

Panhandle (W2, 28-7) vs. Sundown (T6, 23-11), 6:30 p.m.
Clarendon (W3, 23-4) vs. Sudan (W5, 30-3), 8 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 3:30 p.m.

Class A, Division II
Region I
Regional Quarterfinals

McLean (W4, 17-13) def. Follett
Turkey Valley (W6, 31-0) 51, Anton 47
Nazareth (R2, 25-9) 51, Hartley 48, 2OT
Whitharral (W5, 28-5) 63, Lorenzo 38

Region I-A, Division II Tournament
Texan Dome, Levelland
Friday's Semifinals

McLean (W4, 17-13) vs. Turkey Valley (W6, 31-0), 1 p.m.
Nazareth (R2, 25-9) vs. Whitharral (W5, 26-5), 2:30 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 2 p.m.

Region II
Regional Quarterfinals

Wink (W10 21-7) 37, Garden City 36
Lipan (W16, 30-2) 49, Throckmorton 43
Bronte (R12, 22-12) 46, Roby 35
Strawn (R16, 27-5) 59, Baird 37

Region II-A, Division II Tournament
Moody Coliseum, Abilene
Friday's Semifinals

Wink (W10, 21-7) vs. Lipan (W16, 30-2), 5 p.m.
Bronte (R12, 22-12) vs. Strawn (R16, 27-5), 7 p.m.

Saturday's Final
Semifinal winners, 2 p.m.

Boys
Class 5A
Region I
Bi-District

North Crowley (W4, 29-4) 64, Midland High 36
El Paso Coronado (R1, 21-8) 54, Lubbock Monterey 40
Amarillo High (W2, 25-3) 48, El Paso Americas 30
Arlington Bowie (T4, 15-16) 38, Odessa Permian 35
Flower Mound Marcus (W8, 33-2) 51, Justin Northwest 39
Duncanville (R5, 19-14) 52, Irving Nimitz 51
Mansfield Timbmerview (F5, 19-14) 60, Richland 44
Coppell (R7, 25-8) 43, Allen 41 OT
San Angelo Central (W3, 30-5) 85, Arlington Lamar 65
Lubbock Coronado (R2, 17-11) 35, El Paso Montwood 33
El Paso Hanks (W1, 23-8) 70, Amarillo Tascosa 58
Arlington Martin (R4, 25-7) 57, Lee 46
Hebron (F8, 22-10) 58, Keller Central 43
Cedar Hill (T5, 23-11) 48, Colleyville Heritage 30
South Grand Prairie (W5, 32-2) 93, Irving MacArthur 49
Plano West (R8, 26-8) 74, Keller 49

Area

North Crowley (W4, 29-4) vs. El Paso Coronado (R1, 21-8), 6 p.m. Friday, Andrews HS
Amarillo High (W2, 25-3) vs. Arlington Bowie (T4, 16-18), 7 p.m. Friday, Vernon HS
Flower Mound Marcus (W8, 33-2) vs. Duncanville (R5, 19-14), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Arlington Lamar HS
Mansfield Timbercview (F5, 19-14) vs. Coppell (R7, 25-8), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Grand Prairie HS
San Angelo Central (W3, 30-5) vs. Lubbock Coronado (R2, 17-11) 6 p.m. Friday, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, Big Spring
El Paso Hanks (W1, 23-8) vs. Arlington Martin (R4, 25-7), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Odessa HS Fieldhouse
Lewisville Hebron (F8, 22-10) vs. Cedar Hill (T5, 23-11), 7:15 p.m. Friday, Southlake Carroll HS
South Grand Prairie (W5, 32-2) vs. Plano West (R8, 26-8), 7 p.m. Saturday, American Airlines Center, Dallas

Class 4A
Region I
Bi-District

Little Elm (W4, 27-6) 70, Amarillo Palo Duro 56
El Paso Andress (R1, 19-11) 52, San Elizario 20
El Paso Riverside (W2, 22-8) 72, El Paso Austin 54
Denton Ryan (T4, 19-11) 61, Canyon Randall 48
Waco University (W8, 29-6) 63, Everman 57
Fort Worth O.D. Wyatt (T6, 17-9) def. Birdville
Fort Worth Trimble Tech (W6, 27-4) 61, Aledo 39
Mansfield Summit (R7, 21-6) 59, Killeen 58
Wolfforth Frenship (W3, 29-3) 89, Wichita Falls 75
El Paso Bowie (T1, 20-11) 65, El Paso Parkland 51
El Paso Burges (W1, 18-8) 76, El Paso Del Valle 66
The Colony (R4, 30-5) 64, Plainview 34
Arlington Seguin (W7, 29-5) 85, Waco High 54
Fort Worth Arlington Heights (R6, 21-9) 69, Keller Timber Creek 44
Fort Worth Southwest (F8) 72, Trophy Club Nelson 70
Crowley (T7, 18-10) 63, Waco Midway 51

Area

Little Elm (W4, 27-6) vs. El Paso Andress (R1, 19-11), 4:30 p.m. Friday, Odessa College Sports Center
El Paso Riverside (W2, 22-8) vs. Denton Ryan (R4, 19-11), 6 p.m. Friday, Big Spring HS
Waco University (W8, 29-6) vs. Fort Worth O.D. Wyatt (T6, 17-9), 8 p.m. Friday, Corsicana HS
Fort Worth Trimble Tech (W6, 27-4) vs. Mansfield Summit (R7, 21-6), 7:30 p.m. Friday, North Crowley HS
Frenship (W3, 29-3) vs. El Paso Bowie (T1, 20-11), 6 p.m. Friday, Odessa College Sports Center
El Paso Burges (W1, 19-8) vs. The Colony (R4, 20-5), 3 p.m. Friday, Odessa College Sports Center
Arlington Seguin (W7, 29-5) vs. Fort Worth Arlington Heights (R6, 21-9), 5 p.m. Saturday, American Airlines Center, Dallas
Fort Worth Southwest (F6, 20-11) vs. Crowley (T7, 18-10), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Arlington Martin HS

Class 3A
Region I
Bi-District

Seminole (W4, 20-7), bye
Lamesa (T2, 19-12) 57, Pampa 55
Lubbock Estacado (W2, 24-7), bye
Clint (R3, 16-13) 42, Fort Stockton 38
Alvarado (W8, 18-11), bye
Brownwood (R5, 12-19) 55, Graham 52
Wichita Falls Hirsch (W6, 20-6), bye
Decatur (R7) 65, Glen Rose 39
Fabens (W3, 16-11), bye
Lubbock Cooper (R2, 23-9) 69, Perryton 59
Dalhart (W1), bye
Greenwood (R4, 24-10) 73, Clint Mountain View 27
Mineral Wells (W7, 18-17), bye
Burkburnett (R6, 26-5) 65, Big Spring 42
Abilene Wylie (W5, 22-7), bye
Burleson Centennial (T7) 64, Kennedale 59

Area

Seminole (W4, 20-7) vs. Lamesa (T2, 19-12), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Odessa College Sports Center
Estacado (W2, 25-7) vs. Clint (R3, 16-13), 6 p.m. Friday, Odessa HS Fieldhouse
Alvarado (W8, 18-11) vs. Brownwood (R5, 12-19), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Weatherford HS
Wichita Falls Hirsch (W6, 21-6) vs. Decatur (R7), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bridgeport HS
Fabens (W3, 16-11) vs Cooper (R2, 23-9), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jerry Larned Sports Complex, Monahans
Dalhart (W1, 21-6) vs. Midland Greenwood (R4, 24-9), 7 p.m. Friday, Littlefield HS
Mineral Wells (W7, 18-16) vs. Burkburnett (R6, 27-5), time TBA Friday, Jacksboro HS
Abilene Wylie (W5, 19-6) vs. Burleseon Centennial (T7, 16-15), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Stephenville

Class 2A
Region I
Bi-District

Kermit (W4), bye
Bushland (R1, 19-10) 54, Littlefield 47
Idalou (W2, 26-4), bye
Denver City (R3, 23-7) 75, Alpine 35
Ingram Tom Moore (W8, 20-9), bye
Breckenridge (R5, 21-9) 67, Comanche 47
Dublin (W6, 26-4), bye
Ballinger (R7, 16-15) 48, Harper 46
Colorado City (W3, 23-8), bye
Frona (R2, 23-8) 74, Amarillo Highland Park 36
Childress (W1, 29-3), bye
Stanton (T3, 19-11) 41, Tornillo 39
Wall (W7, 21-6), bye
Eastland (R[illegible], 20-4) 47, **Bangs 43**
Tuscola Jim Ned (W5, 28-6), bye
Blanco (T7, 14-11) 44, Grape Creek 41

Area

Kermit (W4, 25-9) vs. Bushland (R1, 19-10), 5 p.m. Friday, Rip Griffin Center, Lubbock
Idalou (W2, 26-5) vs. Denver City (R3, 23-7), 6 p.m. Friday, Seminole HS
Ingram Moore (W8, 20-9) vs. Breckenridge (R5, 21-9), 6 p.m. Friday, San Saba HS
Dublin (W6, 26-4) vs. Ballinger (R7, 16-15), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Clyde HS
Colorado (W3, 24-7) vs. Frona (R2, 23-8), 8 p.m. Friday, Rip Griffin Center
Childress (W1, 29-3) vs. Stanton (T3, 20-11), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Abernathy HS
Wall (W7, 21-6) vs. Eastland (T5, 20-4), 7 p.m. today, Coleman HS
Jim Ned (W5, 28-6) vs. Blanco (R8, 14-11), 7 p.m. Friday, Brady HS

Class A, Division I
Region I
Bi-District

Hale Center (W4, 22-3), bye
Gruver (R1, 16-15) 46, Boys Ranch 37
Vega (W2, 23-4), bye
Memphis (R3, 16-12) 64, New Deal 42
Van Horn (W8, 17-9), bye
Smyer (T6, 17-13) 55, **Farwell 43**
Seagraves (W5, 17-10) bye
Iraan (R7, 11-10) 78, Fort Hancock 45
Clarendon (W3, 16-10) bye
Panhandle (R2, 19-9) 63, Stratford 53
Canadian (W1, 19-8), bye
Wellington (T3, 11-8) 61, Crosbyton 55
Reagan County (W7, 22-9), bye
Morton (R6, 19-7) 54, Sudan 43
Olton (W5, 22-7), bye
Marfa (R8, 23-4) 51, Irion County 38

Area

Hale Center (W4, 22-3) vs. Gruver (R1, 16-15), 7 p.m. today, Canyon HS
Vega (W2, 23-4) vs. Memphis (R3, 16-12), 6 p.m. Friday, Tascosa Activity Center
Van Horn (W8, 17-9) vs. Smyer (T6, 18-13), 7 p.m. today, Odessa HS Fieldhouse
Seagraves (W5, 17-10) vs. Iraan (R7, 11-1), 6 p.m. Friday, Jerry Larned Sports Complex, Monahans
Clarendon (W3, 16-10) vs Panhandle (R2, 19-9), 3:30 p.m. Friday, Abernathy HS
Canadian (W1, 19-8) vs. Wellington (T3, 11-8), 7 p.m. Friday, Pampa HS
Reagan County (W7, 21-9) vs. Morton (R6, 19-7), 7 p.m. Friday, Lamesa Middle School
Olton (W5, 22-7) vs. **Marfa (R8, 23-4)**, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Kermit HS

Class A, Division II
Region I
Bi-District

Shamrock (W4, 17-9), bye
Hartley (R1, 12-8) 64, Kress 49
Nazareth (W2, 20-10), bye
McLean (T4, 19-17) 44, Miami 38
Grady (W8, 24-3), bye
Petersburg (R5, 12-15) 45, Spur 39
Valley (W6), bye
New Home (R7, 19-6) 63, O'Donnell 41
Darmouzett (W3, 11-12), bye
Happy (R2, 15-8) 54, Channing 32
Texline (W1, 20-6), bye
Groom (R4, 10-11) 61, Fort Elliot 46
Meadow (W7, 18-5), bye
Paducah (R6) 80, Anton 54
Whitharral (W5, 22-6), bye
Sands (R8, 24-6) 56, Ropes 52

Area

Shamrock (W4, 17-9) vs. Hartley (R1, 12-18), 7:30 p.m. Friday, Tascosa Activity Center, Amarillo
Nazareth (W2, 20-10) vs. McLean (T4, 9-17), 7 p.m. today, Caprock Activity Center, Amarillo
Grady (W8, 24-3) vs. Petersburg (R5, 12-15), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Post HS
Valley (W6) vs. New Home (R7, 19-6), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Rip Griffin Center
Darmouzett (W3, 11-12) vs. Happy (R2, 15-5), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Stinnett West Texas HS
Texline (W1, 20-6) vs. Groom (R4, 10-11), 6 p.m. Friday, Palo Duro Activity Center
Meadow (W7, 18-5) vs. Paducah (R6), TBA
Whitharral (W5, 22-6) vs. Sands (R8, 24-6), TBA

Region II
Bi-District

Water Valley (W12), bye
Valentine (R9) 56, Buena Vista 49, OT
Rankin (W10), bye
Bronte (T12) 47, Roby 19
Lipan (W16), bye
Woodson (T14, 19-9) 52, Knox City 31
Throckmorton (W14, 16-3), bye
Gorman (R15, 19-8) 57, Newcastle 54
Ira (W11, 21-5), bye
Wink (R10, 16-12) 74, Sierra Blanca 49
Fort Davis (W9), bye
Garden City (R12, 21-11) 71, Trent 47
May (W15, 21-5), bye
Aspermont (R14, 21-7) 56, Vernon Northside 42
Crowell (W13, 20-2), bye
Grafford (R16, 23-8) 78, Rising Star 22

Area

Water Valley (W12) vs. Valentine (R9), 6:30 p.m. Friday, Buena Vista HS, Imperial
Rankin (W10) vs. Roby (R11, 10-19), 8 p.m. Friday, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, Big Spring
Lipan (W16) vs. Woodson (T14, 19-9), 8 p.m. Friday, Cisco HS
Throckmorton (W14, 16-3) vs. Gorman (R15, 19-8), 6:30 p.m. today, Breckenridge HS
Ira (W11, 21-5) vs. Wink (R10, 16-12), 7 p.m. Friday, Midland Classical Academy
Fort Davis (W9) vs. Garden City (R12, 21-11), 6:30 p.m. today, Buena Vista HS, Imperial
May (W15, 21-5) vs. Aspermont (R14, 21-7), 6 p.m. Friday, Clyde HS
Crowell (W13, 20-2) vs. Grafford (R16, 23-8), 7 p.m. Friday, Wichita Falls City View HS

TENNIS

From 1C

road through a district or regional draw.

And that's the reason schools such as San Antonio Churchill and Allen make the trek, along with West Texas tennis powers such as El Paso Coronado, El Paso Franklin, Abilene High and Lubbock Coronado.

"This tournament is referred to consistently at regional levels all over the state," Lee tennis coach Jayson Everett said. "I had to send brackets out for this tournament to 10-15 coaches around the state last year when it came regional time."

Everett said there is a waiting list for teams, and there have been so many schools show interest the small school division was created for Thursday.

For the players, it's a chance to play in a regional tournament quality field early in the season to find out just how good they really are or can be.

"It's who we are going to be playing in district and possibly the region," Hanson said. "We want to make a good impression on them, and we want them to know that we are ready to play."

Len Hayward can be reached at lhayward@mrt.com.

Tall City Tennis Classic
Thursday-Saturday
Thursday
Small School Division

Boys Singles: Lee High School
Girls Singles: Midland Country Club
Girls Doubles: Midland College Tennis Center
Boys Doubles: Midland High School
Mixed Doubles: Midland College Tennis Center

Friday
Large School Division

Boys Singles: Lee High School
Girls Singles: Midland High Tennis Center
Boys Doubles: Green Tree Country Club/Trinity Tennis Center
Girls Doubles: Midland Country Club
Mixed Doubles: Midland College Tennis Center

Saturday

Places 1st-8th: Lee High School
Places 9th-16th: Midland College Tennis Center
Places 17th-32nd: Midland High Tennis Center

Teams competing

Large School Division: Abilene High, Allen, Amarillo High, Amarillo Tascosa, El Paso Coronado, El Paso Franklin, El Paso High, Lubbock High, Lubbock Coronado, Lubbock Monterey, Midland High, Lee, Odessa High, Odessa Permian, San Angelo Central, San Antonio Churchill, Granbury (partial team); Big Spring (partial team)

Small School Division: Abilene High, Big Spring, Coahoma, Crane, Greenwood, Hobbs, N.M., Lee JV, Levelland, Lubbock Cooper, Lubbock Trinity, Midland High JV, Midland Classical Academy, Monahans, Odessa High JV, Odessa Permian JV, Sanjonado Lake View, McCamey, Kermit

Seeded Players in Large School Division

Boys Singles: 1. Tito Moreiras, San Antonio Churchill; 2. Nick Meklit, San Angelo Central; 3. Ricardo James, El Paso Franklin; Max Levine, Lubbock High

Girls Singles: 1. Erin Walker, Abilene High; 2. Lauren Pineda, Allen; 3. Kristen James, Lubbock High; 4. Sarah Savedra, El Paso High

Boys-Doubles: 1. Gomez-Rey, El Paso Coronado; 2. Schmidt-Moss, Lubbock Coronado; 3. Ahmad-Dillon, Allen, 4. Vechione-Dominguez, El Paso Franklin

Girls Doubles: 1. Denton-Collins, San Angelo Central; 2. Bilsbarrow-Camara, El Paso Coronado; 3. Bryant-Nelson, San Antonio Churchill; 4. Garland-Alderson, Lubbock Coronado

Mixed Doubles: 1. Tomlin-Ibarra, El Paso Coronado; 2. Strahl-Galon, San Antonio Churchill; 3. Cutbirth-Reed, Abilene High; 4. Miller-Zioto, Allen

2011 Champions

Boys Singles: Large School, Connor Curry, Wichita Falls Rider; Small School, Cole Van Cleave, Midland High

Girls Singles: Large School, Diana Roy, Allen; Small School, Marisol Ramirez, Hobbs, N.M.

Boys Doubles: Large School, Mayer-Moreiras, San Antonio Churchill; Small School, Gilland-McDonnold, Midland High

Girls Doubles: Collins-Denton, San Angelo Central; Small School, Romaine-Solis, Wink

Mixed Doubles: Williams-Johnson, San Angelo Central; Small School, Simmons-Gerstner, Lee

Lin makes 2nd straight SI cover

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Covering Jeremy Lin has been easy for Sports Illustrated.

The Knicks newcomer is on the cover of SI for the second week in a row. He's the first New York-based team athlete to be to do so since the magazine started in 1954.

Lin became a global star after getting a chance to start for the Knicks. The unheralded point guard from Harvard is playing with a flair that has revitalized the team and the fans.

Lin is the 12th athlete to appear on the SI cover at least two weeks in a row since 1990.

Dirk Nowitzki did it during last season's NBA finals. Michael Jordan holds the SI cover record with three in row.

Midland Downtown Lions Club
55TH ANNUAL
Pancake Jamboree
(sausage, drink, plus all the pancakes you can eat)
Saturday, February 25th • 7am to 7pm
200 Plaza (behind Walgreens & Gold's Gym off Illinois)
Tickets are $6 on & can be purchased from any Club Member or at the door.

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NJCAA

WJCAC BASKETBALL STANDINGS

WOMEN

Conference			Overall	
	W	L	W	L
x-New Mexico JC	20	14	28	5
x-Midland College	8	2	22	6
Odessa College	7	3	18	8
South Plains	5	5	8	18
Western Texas	3	6	14	12
Howard College	2	7	16	11
Frank Phillips	2	9	9	18

x-clinched NJCAA Region V Tournament berth

Monday's Scores

Midland College 75, Western Texas College 50; Odessa College 75, Howard College 44; New Mexico JC 63, South Plains College 44; Frank Phillips College 84, Clarendon College 64 (non conference)

Today's Games

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

MEN

Conference			Overall	
	W-	L	W-	L
x-South Plains	11	1	26	0
Howard College	9	2	20	5
New Mexico JC	7	4	18	8
Odessa College	6	5	21	6
Midland College	4	7	16	9
New Mexico Military	3	8	10	15
Frank Phillips	2	9	10	17
Western Texas	1	10	4	22

x-clinched NJCAA Region V Tournament berth

Monday's Scores

Western Texas College def. Midland College (forfeit); NMMI 99, Frank Phillips College 88; Howard College 69, Odessa College 59; South Plains College 85, New Mexico JC 60

Today's Games

Midland College forfeits to NMMI; Odessa College at Western Texas College; Frank Phillips College at New Mexico JC; South Plains College at Howard College

NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll

First place votes in parenthesis

Rank College	Record	Pts.
1. South Plains College(24-4		320 (16)
2. NW Fla St College	25-1	304 2
3. Vincennes University	27-2	284 3
4. Coffeyville CC	24-2	269 5
5. Monroe College	26-2	238 8
6. Eastern Okla St Coll	25-2	222 7
7. Coll of Southern Idaho	24-3	219 4
8. Indian Hills CC	25-3	196 6
9. Shelton State CC	24-8	195 10
10. E Miss CC	19-2	174 14
11. ND St College	24-5	122 9
12. Santa Fe College	24-4	112 20
13. Seward County CC	21-5	82 13
14. Otero Central Coll	22-4	65 18
15. Kankakee CC	24-5	59 11
16. Palm Beach St Coll	24-4	55 RV
17. Miss Gulf Coast CC	24-5	51 16
18. Otero JC	24-3	44 RV
19. Cochise College	23-5	41 15
20. Odessa College	24-4	39 12

Other receiving votes: Hutchinson CC (21-5) 33; Arizona Western College (23-5) 30; Hagerstown JC (26-4) 30; Pensacola State College (22-6) 20; **McLennan CC (23-6) 17;** Harcum College (23-4) 16; Western Nebraska CC (21-5) 16; Midland College (21-4) 15; Georgia Perimeter College (23-7) 14; **Paris Junior College (20-5) 14; Howard College (20-5) 12;** Moberly Area CC (17-7) 10; Spokane CC (22-5) 9; Snow College (24-4) 7; **San Jacinto College (20-5) 5;** Chipola College (21-6) 4; Connors State College (20-6) 4; Lake Sumter Community College (19-6) 4; Highland Community College-Illinois (22-6) 2; College of Central Florida (21-7) 1; North Idaho College (21-6) 1; Spartanburg Methodist College (22-5) 1; Missouri State University-West Plains (20-8) 1

NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Poll

First place votes in parenthesis

Rank College	Record	Pts.	Prv.
1. Trinity Valley CC	25-0 160 (8)		1
2. Hutchinson CC	25-0	152	2
3. Central Ariz. Coll	27-1	134	3
4. Casper College	24-2	132	6
5. Gulf Coast St Coll	21-4	125	9
6. Shelton State CC	25-2	118	8
7. North Idaho Coll	21-4	101	10
8. NW Fla St Coll	22-5	97	16
9. Northern Okla Coll	23-3	91	4
10. Arizona Western Coll	24-3	87	13
11. Walters State CC	23-2	85	12
12. Pensacola St Coll	21-4	84	5
13. Otero JC	26-1	60	14
14. Jefferson College	22-4	57	15
15. Independence CC	21-4	57	17
16. Tyler JC	21-5	35	18
17. Chipola College	18-9	28	6
18. Midland College	21-4	18	RV
19. Weatherford Coll.	20-6	16	NR
20. Vincennes University	24-4	12	RV

Other receive votes: Palm Beach State College (24-1) 8; South Georgia Technical College (22-8) 7; Seward County CC (20-5) 6; Itawamba CC (19-2) 6; Southwestern Illinois College (21-4) 5; Seminole State College (16-7) 3; **New Mexico Junior College (23-3)** 2; Monroe Community College (21-4) 1

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y Rangers	58	35	15	8	78	161	132
New Jersey	59	35	20	4	74	168	162
Philadelphia	59	33	19	7	73	196	181
Pittsburgh	60	34	21	5	73	186	160
N.Y Islanders	60	25	27	8	58	140	176

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	58	36	20	2	74	194	134
Ottawa	62	32	22	8	72	190	185
Toronto	60	29	24	7	65	181	184
Buffalo	60	26	27	7	59	150	176
Montreal	61	24	27	10	58	160	167

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	58	27	20	11	65	144	162
Winnipeg	62	29	26	7	65	177	185
Washington	60	29	26	5	63	161	173
Tampa Bay	59	27	26	6	60	166	192
Carolina	60	23	26	11	57	158	181

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	61	41	18	2	84	191	141
St. Louis	60	36	17	7	79	152	121
Nashville	60	35	19	6	76	168	155
Chicago	61	33	21	7	73	197	170
Columbus	60	18	35	7	43	142	198

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	60	36	16	8	82	195	147
Calgary	60	28	23	9	65	143	161
Colorado	61	30	27	4	64	158	169
Minnesota	59	26	24	9	61	131	154
Edmonton	59	23	30	5	52	159	178

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	58	31	20	7	69	170	148
Phoenix	60	30	21	9	69	167	170
Los Angeles	61	27	22	12	66	129	135
Dallas	60	30	26	4	64	155	167
Anaheim	60	25	25	10	60	154	171

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

Wednesday's Scores

Ottawa 5, Washington 2
Boston 4, St. Louis 2
Colorado at Los Angeles 1

Today's Games

San Jose at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Anaheim at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Minnesota at Florida, 6:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Detroit, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S SUMMARIES

AVALANCHE 4, KINGS 1

Los Angeles	0	0	1	**– 1**
Colorado	3	0	1	**– 4**

First Period—1, Colorado, Oliver 2 (DJones, Winnik), 7:04. 2, Colorado, Stastny 15, 13:04 (PP). 3, Colorado, McClement 8 (O'Reilly, Kobasew), 17:22.

Second Period—4, Colorado, Stastny 16 (Landeskog, Tanev), 12:45.

Third Period—5, Los Angeles, Brown 15 (Doughty, Richards), 4:35.

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 10-14-9—33. Colorado 11-11-5—27.

Goalies—Los Angeles, Quick. Bernier. Colorado, Varlamov. A—15,907 (18,007). T—2:13.

BRUINS 4, BLUES 2

Boston	3	0	1	**– 4**
St. Louis	2	0	0	**– 2**

First Period—1, Boston, Marchand 20, 2:29. 2, Boston, Lucic 29 (Corvo, Kelly), 6:19. 3, St. Louis, Stewart 12 (Porter, Arnott), 7:17. 4, St. Louis, Reaves 2 (Crombeen, Shattenkirk), 12:15. 5, Boston, Kelly 15 (Lucic, Boychuk), 19:20.

Second Period—None.

Third Period—6, Boston, Marchand 21 (Seguin, Bergeron), 9:14.

Shots on Goal—Boston 6-4-9—19. St. Louis 10-14-8—32.

Goalies—Boston, Thomas. St. Louis, Elliott. A—18,460 (19,150). T—2:22

SENATORS 5, CAPITALS 2

Washington	0	0	2	**– 2**
Ottawa	2	1	2	**– 5**

First Period—1, Ottawa, Karlsson 13 (Spezza, Michael), 9:36. 2, Ottawa, Michalek 26 (Karlsson), 14:13.

Second Period—3, Ottawa, Michalek 27 (Karlsson, Alfredsson), 3:37 (pp). 4, Ottawa, Phillips 4 (Foligno, Neil), 12:08 (pp).

Third Period—5, Washington, Carlson 8 (Semin), 2:19 (pp). 6, Washington, Perreault 10 (Chimera, Semin), 9:57. 7, Ottawa, Foligno 13 (Neil, Gonchar), 18:47 (en).

Shots on Goal—Washington 11-11-13—35. Ottawa 7-9-19—26.

Goalies—Washington, Vokoun. Neuvirth. Ottawa, Anderson. A—18,357 (19,153). T—2:30.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	14	.588	5½
New York	17	17	.500	3
Boston	15	17	.469	4
Toronto	10	23	.303	9 1/2
New Jersey	10	25	.286	10 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	26	7	.788	—
Orlando	22	12	.647	4 1/2
Atlanta	19	14	.576	7
Washington	7	26	.212	19
Charlotte	4	28	.125	21 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	27	8	.771	—
Indiana	21	12	.636	5
Cleveland	13	18	.419	11
Milwaukee	13	20	.394	13
Detroit	11	24	.314	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	23	10	.697	—
Dallas	21	13	.618	2 1/2
Houston	20	14	.588	3 1/2
Memphis	19	15	.559	4 1/2
New Orleans	9	25	.242	15

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	26	7	.788	—
Denver	18	15	.545	8
Portland	18	16	.529	8 1/2
Minnesota	17	17	.500	9 1/2
Utah	15	19	.441	10 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	19	11	.633	—
L.A. Lakers	20	13	.606	1/2
Golden State	13	17	.433	6
Phoenix	14	20	.412	7
Sacramento	11	22	.333	9 1/2

Wednesday's Scores

Oklahoma City 119, Boston 104
Indiana 102, Charlotte 88
New Orleans 89, Cleveland 84
Toronto 103, Detroit 93
Sacramento 115, Washington 107
Orlando 108, New Jersey 91
New York 99, Atlanta 77
Chicago 110, Milwaukee 91
Houston 93, Philadelphia 87
Minnesota 100, Utah 98
Golden State 106, Phoenix 104
L.A. Lakers 96, Dallas 91
Denver at L.A. Clippers, late

Today's Games

New York at Miami, 6 p.m.
Orlando at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S BOXES

ROCKETS 93, 76ERS 87

PHILADELPHIA (87): Iguodala 4-12 3-5 11, Allen 2-5 0-4, Battie 0-1 0-0, Holiday 3-9 0-0 6, Meeks 5-11 4-4 14, Williams 4-13 9-11 17, Vucevic 8-12 2-2 18, Young 6-13 3-5 15, Turner 1-6 0-0 2. Totals 33-82 21-27 87.

HOUSTON (93): Parsons 2-8 0-0 4, Scola 8-16 3-4 19, Dalembert 2-6 1-2 5, Lowry 5-11 3-4 13, Martin 5-12 4-4 16, Dragic 5-9 0-0 11, Lee 1-5 3-4 5, Patterson 2-2 0-0 4, Budinger 2-2 0-0 5. Totals 36-78 16-20 93.

Philadelphia	16	25	24	22 – 87
Houston	19	26	16	32 – 93

3-Point Goals—Philadelphia 0-9 (Iguodala 0-1, Williams 0-1, Holiday 0-3, Meeks 0-4), Houston 5-18 (Parsons 2-4, Martin 2-6, Dragic 1-3, Lee 0-2, Lowry 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 52 (Vucevic 8), Houston 49 (Scola 10). Assists—Philadelphia 19 (Iguodala 4), Houston 19 (Lowry 5). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 18, Houston 21. A—12,820 (18,043).

LAKERS 96, MAVERICKS 91

L.A. LAKERS (96): World Peace 1-4 1-2 4, Gasol 11-16 4-5 26, Bynum 6-10 7-8 19, Fisher 6-8 1-2 15, Bryant 4-15 5-9 15, Blake 0-4 0-0 0, Murphy 2-5 0-0 4, Barnes 3-7 2-4 9. MAVERICKS 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-76 19-30 96.

DALLAS (91): Marion 3-11 2-2 8, Nowitzki 9-22 6-8 25, Haywood 2-6 2-2 6, Kidd 2-6 0-0 5, Carter 7-17 3-4 20, Yi 2-3 0-0 4, Jones 1-

2 0-0 2, Terry 7-16 0-0 16, Wright 2-2 0-0 4, Cardinal 1-4 0-0 3, Mahimni 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-90 11-16 91.

L.A. Lakers	25	23	24	24 – 96
Dallas	21	27	24	19 – 91

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 8-20 (Fisher 2-3, Guddeck 2-4, Bryant 2-6, World Peace 1-1, Barnes 1-3, Blake 0-2, Murphy 0-2), Dallas 8-32 (Carter 3-7, Terry 2-7, Cardinal 1-4, Kidd 1-5, Nowitzki 1-6, Marion 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 59 (Bynum 14), Dallas 54 (Nowitzki 12). Assists—L.A. Lakers 25 (Gasol 5), Dallas 22 (Terry, Marion 5). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 17, Dallas 20. A—20,577 (19,200).

TIMBERWOLVES 100, JAZZ 98

UTAH (98): Howard 8-15 2-3 19, Millsap 10-17 5-5 25, Jefferson 8-20 2-2 18, Harris 3-9 1-4 10, Hayward 3-7 1-2 7, Favors 1-2 3-4 5, Watson 1-4 0-0 2, Miles 2-6 2-2 6, Kanter 0-2 0-0 0, Burks 3-5 0-2 6. Totals 39-85 19-24 98.

MINNESOTA (100): Johnson 4-7 0-0 9, Pekovic 9-13 4-4 22, Beasley 5-11 2-2 13, Rubio 2-7 1-6 7, Ridnour 5-10 6-6 17, Webster 2-5 0-0 5, Beasley 1-3 0-0 2, Barea 7-12 3-3 22, Williams 4-8 4-5 13, Milicic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-77 27-38 100.

Utah	27	22	26	21 – 98
Minnesota	25	27	36	12 – 100

3-Point Goals—Utah 1-7 (Howard 1-1, Hayward 0-1, Watson 0-1, Harris 0-1, Miles 0-3), Minnesota 11-22 (Barea 5-6, Rubio 2-3, Williams 1-2, Webster 1-3, Ridnour 1-3, Johnson 1-3, Love 0-1). Fouled Out—Harris, Hayward, Favors, Kanter 46 (Jefferson 5, Pekovic 5, Webster 5, Milicic 5). Assists—Utah 25 (Harris 8), Minnesota 20 (Ridnour, Rubio 6). Total Fouls—Utah 29, Minnesota 19. A—18,776 (19,356).

BULLS 110, BUCKS 91

MILWAUKEE (91): Delfino 3-12 0-0 7, Ilyasova 6-11 2-2 15, Leuer 7-11 0-0 14, Jennings 8-20 4-6 20, Livingston 4-9 4-4 12, Sanders 2-8 0-0 4, Udrih 3-5 2-3 8, Mbah a Moute 3-5 3-4 9, Dunleavy 1-7 0-0 2, Brockman 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-88 15-19 91.

CHICAGO (110): Deng 6-12 1-2 16, Boozer 9-12 2-2 20, Noah 3-6 7-7 13, Rose 6-13 3-4 16, Brewer 7-10 0-2 15, James 0-3 0-0 0, Lucas 1-4 0-0 2, Gibson 3-5 3-4 9, Asik 3-3 2-3 8, Korver 5-8 0-0 11, Butler 0-1 0-0 0, Scalabrine 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-79 18-24 110.

Milwaukee	23	22	16	30 – 91
Chicago	30	34	29	17 – 110

3-Point Goals—Milwaukee 2-13 (Ilyasova 1-3, Delfino 1-4, Dunleavy 0-2, Jennings 0-4), Chicago 6-13 (Deng 3-4, Rose 2-3, Brewer 1-2, Korver 1-3, James 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 36 (Delfino 5), Chicago 61 (Noah 13). Assists—Milwaukee 20 (Jennings 9), Chicago 32 (Noah 10). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 20, Chicago 13. A—21,507 (20,917).

KNICKS 99, HAWKS 82

ATLANTA (82): Williams 0-6 0-0 0, Jo.Smith 5-13 3-3 14, Horford 5-12 0-0 2, Teague 7-12 2-4 18, Green 7-16 1-1 16, Dampier 0-0 0-0 0, Hinrich 1-2 2-3 5, Mc.Williams 2-5 0-0 4, Johnson 1-5 0-0 2, Brewer 1-2 0-0 2, Korver 1-3 0-0 3, Stockhouse 2-5 1-3 7. Totals 32-81 10-18 82.

NEW YORK (99): Anthony 7-16 0-0 15, Stoudemire 3-8 1-1 7, Chandler 3-4 1-4 7, Lin 6-11 4-4 17, Fields 7-12 2-3 16, Jeffries 2-6 3-4 7, Jeffries 2-3 2-4 6, Novak 1-2 0-0 2, Brewer 1-2 0-0 2, Davis 0-3 1-2 1. Jordan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-80 15-24 99.

Atlanta	16	19	21	26 – 82
New York	30	30	18	21 – 99

3-Point Goals—Atlanta 8-29 (Stackhouse 2-4, Johnson 2-5, Teague 2-5, Radmanovic 1-3, Green 1-5, Parp 1-6, Williams 0-1, Johnson 0-1, Jo.Smith 0-2), New York 8-22 (Novak 5-10, Anthony 1-3, Fields 1-2, Lin 1-4, Jeffries 0-1, Jeffries 0-1, Davis 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 51 (Johnson 8), New York 57 (Stoudemire 9). Assists—Atlanta 14 (Teague 5), New York 23 (Lin 9). Total Fouls—Atlanta 23, New York 16. Technicals—New York defensive three second 2 A—19,763 (19,763).

THUNDER 119, CELTICS 104

BOSTON (104): Pierce 5-11 4-4 16, Pierce 5-15 12-16 23, Garnett 8-11 7-8 23, Bradley 5-9 2-2 12, Allen 7-14 4-4 21, Johnson 3-5 1-3 7, Terry 1-5 0-0 2, Wallace 1-2 0-0 2, Sullinger 0-0 0-0 0, Moore 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 34-70 29-34 104.

OKLAHOMA CITY (119): Durant 9-22 8-9 28, Ibaka 1-5 2-2 4, Perkins 4-5 0-2 8, Westbrook 11-24 8-9 31, Cook 5-11 4-5 17, Harden 6-10 4-6 17, Mohammed 3-3 0-0 6, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Fisher 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 39-82 26-35 119.

Boston	25	24	31	24 – 104
Oklahoma City	29	32	28	30 – 119

3-Point Goals—Boston 7-18 (Allen 3-5, Pierce 2-5, Dooling 1-3, Pierce 1-4, Moore 0-1), Oklahoma City 9-19 (Cook 3-6, Ivey 2-3, Durant 2-5, Westbrook 2-5). Fouled Out—None. Fouled Out—Bradley, Perkins. Rebounds—Boston 39 (Garnett 13), Oklahoma City 53 (Perkins 14). Assists—Boston 24 (Pierce 7), Oklahoma City 22 (Harden 7). Total Fouls—Boston 24, Oklahoma City 21. Technicals—Durant, Ibaka, Perkins, Oklahoma City defensive three second. A—18,203 (18,203).

MAGIC 108, NETS 91

ORLANDO (108): Turkoglu 4-10 0-0 10, Anderson 5-15 2-2 14, Howard 9-13 2-10 20, Nelson 4-7 4-4 12, Redick 5-12 2-2 14, Duhon 0-2 0-0 0, Davis 8-11 0-1 16, Duhon 4-5 0-0 11, Water 4-6 0-0 8, Clark 1-3 0-0 2, Luggins 2-2 1-2 5. Totals 50-100 11-21 108. Smith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 45-84 5-15 108.

NEW JERSEY (91): Stevenson 0-3 0-0 0, Shelden Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Lopez 7-16 1-2 15, D.Williams 8-18 3-3 23, Brooks 10-15 0-0 24, Morrow 2-7 0-4, Petro 3-7 0-0 6, J.Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Garnett 2-4 0-0 5, Emmett 2-3 2-4 6. Totals 36-81 6-9 91.

Orlando	34	24	29	21 – 108
New Jersey	17	24	21	29 – 91

3-Point Goals—Orlando 13-29 (Redick 4-7, Duhon 3-4, Nelson 2-4, Anderson 2-6, Turkoglu 2-6, Water 0-1, Q.Richardson 0-1), New Jersey 7-24 (Brooks 4-7, D.Williams 4-8, Gaines 1-2, Stevenson 0-3, Morrow 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 53 (Howard 11), New Jersey 47 (Petro, D.Williams 6). Assists—Orlando 32 (Nelson 7), New Jersey 16 (D.Williams 5). Total Fouls—Orlando 10, New Jersey 15. A—15,364 (18,711).

HORNETS 89, CAVALIERS 84

NEW ORLEANS (89): Ariza 6-8 1-2 1, Ayon 4-7 1-4 9, Kaman 10-25 1-21, Vasquez 5-11 2-2 13, Belinelli 8-13 2-2 19, Jack 5-11 6-7 16. Totals 37-77 13-38 89.

CLEVELAND (84): Cassipi 2-5 1-2 6, Jamison 8-22 4-7 22, Erden 2-4 0-0 4, Irving 2-13 2-2 6, Gibson 1-9 4-5 7, Sessions 3-5 4-4 11, Hollins 1-3 0-0 3, Gee 4-13 1-2 9. Thompson 2-6 4-8 8. Harangody 0-5 0-0 0. Totals 27-85 24-37 84.

New Orleans	29	21	19	20 – 89
Cleveland	20	23	16	25 – 84

3-Point Goals—New Orleans 2-10 (Vasquez 1-3, Belinelli 1-4, Ariza 0-1, Jack 0-2). Cleveland 6-27 (Jamison 2-8, Sessions 1-2, Gee 1-3, Cassipi 1-3, Gibson 1-7, Irving 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New Orleans 56 (Kaman 16), Cleveland 61 (Jamison 12). Assists—New Orleans 22 (Vasquez 5), Cleveland 20 (Irving 11). Total Fouls—New Orleans 26, Cleveland 20. Technicals—Cleveland Coach Scott A—13,529 (20,562).

RAPTORS 103, PISTONS 93

DETROIT (93): Prince 6-16 2-2 14, Maxiell 5-11 2-2 12, Monroe 9-21 12-16 30, Knight 6-14 2-2 14, Villanueva 2-6 0-0 5, Bynum 0-1 0-0 0, Wilkins 1-1 1-2 3, Jerebko 3-8 2-2 8, Russell Jr. 2-5 0-7 4. Wallace 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-87 17-23 93.

TORONTO (103): J.Johnson 6-12 3-6 15, A.Johnson 5-7 1-1 11, Gray 5-9 2-6 12, Calderon 4-10 3-3 6, DeRozan 9-15 5-6 23, Magloire 1-2 0-0 2, Barbosa 7-14 2-2 17, Davis 4-7 2-2 10. Bayless 2-6 2-2 7. Totals 45-76 20-28 103.

Detroit	24	21	15	33 – 93
Toronto	28	25	21	29 – 103

3-Point Goals—Detroit 2-12 (Knight 2-8, Prince 0-1, Villanueva 0-1, Bynum 0-1, Jerebko 0-1), Toronto 3-7 (Barbosa 1-2, Calderon 1-2, Bayless 1-2, DeRozan 0-1). Fouled Out—Jerebko. Rebounds—Detroit 56 (Monroe 14), Toronto 56 (Gray 12). Assists—Detroit 16 (Russell Jr. 4), Toronto 30 (Calderon 15). Total Fouls—Detroit 21, Toronto 18. A—19,800 (19,800). Fouls—Bayless. A—17,125 (19,800).

PACERS 102, BOBCATS 88

INDIANA (102): Granger 2-11 7-8 12, West 2-8 2-2 6, Hibbert 4-5 1-2 9, Collison 2-7 5-6 10, George 6-16 3-3 16, Stephenson 0-1 0-0 0, Hansbrough 8-18 6-6 22, Armundson 3-

10 2-4 8, Price 4-7 2-2 11, Hill 2-7 0-0 4, Jones 3-4 2-2 10, Pendergraph 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 34-85 27-32 102.

CHARLOTTE (88): Maggette 6-15 7-8 20, Diaw 1-6 2-2 4, Byumbo 4-8 1-3 9, Augustin 1-12 4-4 15, Williams 2-7 0-0 6, Diap 1-1 0-0 2, Walker 4-11 4-5 14, Carroll 1-2 0-0 2, White 1-5 0-0 2, Thomas 2-8 0-1 4, Brown 3-9 0-0 6, Higgins 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 31-86 18-23 88.

Indiana	23	27	28	24 – 102
Charlotte	20	14	26	28 – 88

3-Point Goals—Indiana 7-16 (Jones 2-2, George 2-2, Collison 1-2, Price 1-3, George 1-5, West 0-1, Hill 0-1), Charlotte 8-19 (Augustin 3-6, Williams 2-4, Walker 2-5, Maggette 1-2, Higgins 0-1, Diaw 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 64 (Amundson 12), Charlotte 54 (Diaw 11). Assists—Indiana 20 (Price 6), Charlotte 23 (Diaw 8). Total Fouls—Indiana 21, Charlotte 24. A—13,458 (19,077).

KINGS 115, WIZARDS 107

SACRAMENTO (115): Thornton 8-18 4-4 22, Thompson 2-6 5-5 9, Cousins 6-20 4-4 16, Thomas 9-19 0-0 18, Tolliver 5-10 6-7 22, Hayes 2-2 2-2 6, Fredette 2-5 3-3 8, Hickson 1-3 0-2, Garcia 5-11 1-2 12. Totals 43-96 25-27 115.

WASHINGTON (107): Singleton 0-1 0-0 0, Booker 1-3 1-2 3, McGee 4-4 1-3 9, Wall 8-15 5-7 21, Young 6-23 1-1 17, Lewis 2-7 3-4 7, Jordan 0-2 0-0 0, Seraphin 3-4 2-2 8, Crawford 12-19 5-6 32, Mack 2-3 0-4 4, Vesely 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 41-84 16-27 107.

Sacramento	29	31	28	27 – 115
Washington	34	34	21	18 – 107

3-Point Goals—Sacramento 4-17 (Thornton 2-6, Fredette 1-2, Garcia 1-5, Thomas 0-4), Washington 9-23 (Young 4-10, Crawford 3-6, Mason 2-4, Singleton 0-1, Lewis 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 52 (Cousins 16), Washington 57 (McGee 10). Assists—Sacramento 18 (Thomas 6), Washington 22 (Wall 11). Total Fouls—Sacramento 20, Washington 20. Technicals—Cousins, Thomas, Wall. A—17,085 (20,278).

WARRIORS 106, SUNS 104

GOLDEN STATE (106): D.Wright 7-11 6-7 23, Lee 9-18 4-5 22, Biedrins 1-1 0-0 2, Curry 7-17 2-2 9, Ellis 10-23 4-4 26, Udoh 0-1 0-0 0. Robinson 4-13 3-4 14. Rush 1-2 0-0 2, Thompson 2-5 0-0 4, McGuire 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 39-84 19-22 106.

PHOENIX (104): Hill 6-16 4-6 16, Frye 10-23 0-0 22, Gortat 9-13 3-3 21, Nash 2-4 2-3 7, Dudley 3-8 0-0 7, Morris 7-14 0-0 17, Redd 0-2 0-0 0, Telfair 2-3 0-0 5, Lopez 3-3 0-0 6. S.Brown 3-7 2-3 8. Totals 43-90 14-20 104.

Golden State	39	20	24	23 – 106
Phoenix	22	23	34	25 – 104

3-Point Goals—Golden State 9-20 (D.Wright 3-5, Robinson 3-6, Ellis 1-2, Curry 1-3, Rush 0-1), Phoenix 4-19 (Frye 2-8, Telfair 1-1, Nash 1-2, Hill 0-1, S.Brown 0-1, Morris 0-2, Dudley 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 42 (McGuire 9), Phoenix 59 (Gortat 15). Assists—Golden State 19 (Ellis 6), Phoenix 23 (Nash 9). Total Fouls—Golden State 18, Phoenix 17. Technicals—Lee. A—14,558 (18,422).

TUESDAY'S LATE TEXAS BOX

TRAIL BLAZERS 137, SPURS 97

SAN ANTONIO (97): Leonard 9-14 4-6 24, Jefferson 1-5 1-2 3, Duncan 7-12 2-2 16, Splitter 4-13 3-3 13, Green 4-12 7-9 16, Neal 3-7 3-3 10, Bonner 0-2 0-0 0. Anderson 2-12 6-8 11, Jones 2-5 0-0 4. Blair 3-6 0-0 6. Totals 36-84 25-32 97.

PORTLAND (137): Wallace 6-10 6-6 19, Aldridge 8-12 5-5 21, Camby 0-0 0-0 0, Crawford 6-8 3-3 20, Batum 7-12 2-2 19, Matthews 5-10 0-0 11, Fields 6-11 0-0 13, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 7-10 3-6 17, Babbitt 1-2 0-0 3. N.Smith 2-3 1-2 5. C.Smith 1-3 0-0 2. C.Johnson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 51-88 25-32 137.

San Antonio	23	20	22	32 – 97
Portland	41	25	37	34 – 137

3-Point Goals—San Antonio 2-20 (Leonard 2-3, Leonard 2-4, Neal 1-2, Jefferson 1-2, Green 1-2, Anderson 1-5, Bonner 0-2), Portland 15-28 (Crawford 5-7, Felton 4-6, Batum 3-5, Babbitt 1-1, Wallace 1-2, Matthews 1-4, Williams 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 42 (Leonard 10), Portland 49 (Wallace 10). Assists—San Antonio 23 (Jefferson, Neal, Joseph 3), Portland 31 (Crawford 8). Total Fouls—San Antonio 14, Portland 21. Technicals—Portland defensive three second. A—20,567 (19,980).

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Courtesy photo

Team members are (from left to right): Susie Girard, Steve Ashley, Barbara Starnes (captain), Larry McElmurry, Kim Daugherty and Roger Epps. All players are from Midland, Odessa or Gardendale.

Local tennis players head to national tournament

From staff reports

CORPUS CHRISTI — The Midland 9.0 Senior Mixed Doubles team won the USTA Texas Sectional tournament last weekend advance to the Senior Mixed National Tennis Tournament in late March.

Susie Girard, Steve Ashley, Barbara Starnes, Larry McElmurry, Kim Daugherty and Roger Epps combined to win all four of their matches at the sectional tournament.

The squad beat the Houston team, 3-0 and 2-1 and then beat a team from Dallas 2-1 and 3-0. The tournament was contested at the H-E-B Tennis Center.

The Midland squad won one of 17 sections in the USTA, and a player must be 50 years old or older in 2011 to participate.

The national tournament is scheduled for March 30-April 1 at the McFarland Tennis Center in San Antonio.

BCS leaders far from agreement on changes

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

GRAPEVINE — Before there will be significant changes to college football's postseason and how to determine a champion, there are plenty of options to be considered.

Conference commissioners who run the Bowl Championship Series are just getting started on that process.

"We're just trying to understand conceptually what the pieces are. ... It's at the very beginning," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said. "While I think people have a reasonable idea on the range of what's under consideration, the study and the inspection and understanding of that range I think is going to be months in the making."

The 11 conference commissioners and Notre Dame's athletic director spent two days meeting with BCS Executive Director Bill Hancock at a hotel at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport. They are scheduled to meet there again March 26.

Hancock characterized the meetings, which encompassed more than eight hours over two days, as "very, very, very productive" with great dialogue and sharing of ideas. He wouldn't get into specifics about what discussed.

"They are determined to do what's best for the game," Hancock said. "Everything is still on the table and there will be a time when they obviously have to start taking things off the table. But, that point hasn't come yet."

In a joint statement posted on Facebook even before they had emerged from their meeting room, the group said it had a self-imposed deadline of "sometime this summer" to decide what changes to propose.

The process could take much longer to get finished.

"No one really knows what the actual drop-dead date is," said long-time WAC Commissioner Karl Benson, who takes over as the Sun Belt's commissioner in April.

As Delany described it, "Nothing has been ruled out, nothing has been ruled in. ... This is going to be an extra-inning game."

While there seems to be growing support for creating a four-team playoff to determine a champion, how exactly that would work remains to be seen.

But, there also appears to be some confusion over what a plus-one model would mean. Some attending the meeting, again without being specific about what they had discussed, indicated that a plus-one model could be a singular championship game played after all the bowls when the top two teams would then be determined.

But, there are also plenty of other things to be figured out before how to determine a champion. Among them are revenue issues and access issues for teams now in conferences without automatic BCS possibilities.

Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson likened the process to what's going on with his conference in forming a new league with Conference USA. Plans are to begin in 2013 and have as many as 24 teams in five time zones.

"You've got a big circle, and you're trying to tighten the circle and get it down to some manageable, workable deals," Thompson said. "Everybody's come in good faith and consciously trying to do what's right for college football. ... There is no clubhouse leader from what I'm listening to."

SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, whose league has won the last six BCS national championships, said there are plenty of issues that have to be reviewed.

"Every aspect of this is going to be looked at," Slive said. "By making this a marathon and not a sprint, we're going to have the luxury of looking at every element of every possibility and view it against the regular season. I think that's the sum and substance of where we are."

Part of the meeting Tuesday was spent reviewing final exam schedules for all 120 schools. Hancock said the commissioners would like to avoid playing games from early December to about Dec. 21, when most schools have finals.

THURSDAY PRIME TIME — FEBRUARY 23, 2012

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

						6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Wipeout (N)		Grey's A. "If Only You Were Lonely" (N)		Private Practice "Andromeda" (N)		KMID News	(:35) News Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live
KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Rob (N)	Person of Interest "Risk" (N)		The Mentalist (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Letterman Nelly Furtado, K'Naan (N)	(:35) Late((N)
KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Vampire Diaries "Our Town"		The Secret Circle "Fire/ Ice"		Cops	'Til Death	King of Queens	South Park	South Park	Roseanne
KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Final Judgment, Part 2" (N)		The Finder "Little Green Men" (N)		The Simpsons	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Loves Ray "The Will"	Law & Order: C.I. "Wrongful Life"
KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Marvin Wilson	Jean-Claude	Update News	Mark Biltz	Light of the Southwest				Dr. Diana Dye	Jack Van Impe	Thurman Scrivner	Y.Sala-manca
KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Be Millionaire	30 Rock	Parks and Rec (N)	The Office (N)	Up All Night (N)	Grimm		News-West 9	(:35) J. Vieira,	Leno Meredith Jackson Murphy	(:35) LateN (N)
KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Growing Hope Against Hunger		Feeding Minds		Not Hungry	Games of the North	Charlie Rose		BBC News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Una familia con suerte				El Talisman		La Que No Podia Amar		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Hasta que el dinero nos separe	
KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Office	30 Rock	Trace "Midnight Sun"		Trace "Maple Street"		My News	Earl	30 Rock	Sunny	Scrubs	Access H.
FLIX		340	65			165	(4:30) ★ K-19: The ...		★★ His Good Deed						(:40) ★ ★★ Dirty Deeds Ryan Brown.		★★ Essex Boys	
HBO		300	68	14		14	(:15) ★ Rio ('11, Ani) Jesse Eisenberg.				F. Roach	Life Short	Game of Thrones		Real Sex		(:55) Real Sports	
HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	(:15) Too Big to Fail				★ Your Highness James Franco.		1stLook		Down	Luck		Movie
HBO5		304	70	16		102	(5:30) ★ Phone Booth		Luck		Bill Maher				★★ Something Borrowed			★ Red Riding Hood
MAX		380	71	17	120	24	Movie	(:45)	★★★ X2: X-Men United Patrick Stewart.				★ House of the Rising Sun			Sin City Diaries "Neon Nights"		
MAX2		382	72	18		122	(:15) ★ ★★ Basic ('03, Act) John Travolta.				★ Win Win Paul Giamatti.			(:50) ★ Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines			Movie	
PLEX				96			(:15) ★ ★★ Breaking Away Dennis Quaid.				★ ★★ A Home'of Our Own			(:40) ★ ★★ Alaska ('96, Adv) Thora Birch.			Movie	
SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:15) ★ ★★★ The Hurt Locker				★ Phunny Business: A Black ...		Shameless		Comedy	Beach H.	Lies	Califor.
TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:35) ★ Paranoid Pa...				★ Faster Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.				★ Legacy ('10, Thril) Mia Elba.		(:25) ★ ★★★ Two Lovers	
A&E		27	32	28	35	47	The First 48 "Left to Burn/ Trigger Happy"		The First 48			The First 48 "Blood Alley/ Bad Deal"		The First 48 "The Hill/ Dangerous Game"	America's Most Wanted		The First 48	
AMC		40	21	23	42	51	CSI "Bolt Action"				★ ★★★ E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial Henry Thomas.				★ ★★ Sleepless in Seattle ('93, Rom) Tom Hanks.			
BET		58	26		40		(5:00) 106 & Park				★ ★★★★ Boyz 'N the Hood			BET Honors			Wendy Williams	
BRAVO		65	63		41		H.Wives	The Real Housewives		Real Housewives		H.Wives	Housewives Atl. (N)		Watch (N)	Real Housewives		Tabatha
CNBC		46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		Marijuana Inc		Filthy Rich		Filthy Rich		Mad Money		Filthy Rich	
CNN		43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan		A. Cooper 360		OutFront		Piers Morgan	
DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Killing Bin Laden		The 9/11 Tapes		U.S. Drug Wars "Hide and Seek"				U.S. Drug Wars		To Be Announced	
DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Shake Up	GoodLuck	Phineas		★ ★★★ Holes ('03, Adv) Sigourney Weaver.			(:40) Shake	(:05) Goodl.	GoodLuck	Wizards	Wizards
ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball BYU vs. Gonzaga (L)			
FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	★ ★★ Legally Blonde Reese Witherspoon.						★ Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde		The 700 Club		Fresh P.	Fresh P.
FNC		45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity	
FOOD		64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped		Fat Chef (N)		Cupcake Wars		Chopped	
FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	The Game 3...	SportsDay OnAir	Stars Pre-game (L)		NHL Hockey Dallas Stars vs. Chicago Blackhawks Site: United Center -- Chicago, Ill. (L)				Stars Live (L)	NCAA Basket. Pac-12 Wild Card Stnf./Col. (L)	SportsD-ay OnAir	
FX		31	31	59	64	69	Mother	M-Mother	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	2½Men	Archer (N)	Unsuper.	Archer	Unsuper.	Unsuper.	Archer
HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	Little House Prairie		Little House Prairie		Little House Prairie		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	My Place	My Place	Selling LA	Sell NY	HouseH	House (N)	HouseH	House	Selling LA	Sell NY
HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	Swamp People		Swamp People		Swamp People (N)		Mudcats (N)		Cajun	Cajun	Swamp People	
LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	Project Runway "Fashion Face Off"		Project Runway "Puttin' on the Glitz"		Project Runway "O! Say, Can You Sew?"		TBA	24 Hour Catwalk "Travel"		TBA	Project Runway "Puttin' on the Glitz"	
MSNBC		47	51		49	73	Hardball		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow	
NICK		55	34	39	34	37	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	'70s	'70s	G. Lopez	G. Lopez	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE		30	22	55	53	58	Jail	Jail	Jail	Jail	Impact Wrestling (N)				MMA Un.	Jail	Jail	Jail
SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	★ ★★ Planet Terror Rose McGowan.								★ ★★★ Dawn of the Dead ('04, Hor) Sarah Polley.		★ ★★ Drag Me to Hell	
TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Sein. "The Nose Job"	Seinf. "The Jimmy"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan Guests: Dhani Harrison (N)		The Office	The Office
TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(4:45) ★ Mister Rob...		★ ★★★ The Bridge on the River Kwai ('57, War) William Holden.						★ ★★★ The Letter ('40, Dra) Bette Davis.			
TELE		20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Maid en Manhattan		Flor salvaje		Relaciones Peligrosa		Noticiero	Titulares	Sin senos	Decision
TLC		51	33	32	38	52	David Blaine: Vertigo		Magic Man Magician David Blaine.		NY Ink "Now or Never"		Cellblock 6: Female "I Told the Truth!"		NY Ink "Now or Never"		Cellblock 6: Female "I Told the Truth!"	
TNT		24	23	40	26	50	NBA Basketball New York Knicks vs. Miami Heat Site: American Airlines Arena -- Miami, Fla. (L)						NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers vs. Oklahoma City Thunder Site: Chesapeake Energy Arena (L)				Inside the NBA (L)	
TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Home I.	Home I.	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA		26	30	42	27	49	NCIS "Ex-File"		NCIS "Designated Target"		NCIS "Lost and Found"		NCIS "Corporal Punishment"		Burn Notice "Bloodlines"		CSI: Crime Scene "Fracked"	
VERSUS		38	39				T. Barta	Hunt/ Fish	Fishing	Fishing	Offense		★ ★★★ Wildcats ('86, Com) Goldie Hawn.		NBC Sports Talk		Movie	
WGN		19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	WGN News at Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Always Sunny

NASCAR makes smooth transition to fuel injection

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jack Roush once was the most hands-on team owner in the NASCAR garage.

It wouldn't be odd to walk into the garage on a race weekend and see Roush under the hood, fiddling with a carburetor.

But with the advent of electronic fuel injection in the Sprint Cup Series this season, Roush jokes that the level of technology finally has exceeded his ability to tinker.

After winning pole position for the Daytona 500 on Sunday, Roush Fenway Racing driver Carl Edwards joked that one of the keys to the team's great start to the season is that "Jack hasn't been doing much carburetor tuning."

Roush, sitting next to Edwards in the interview session, had to acknowledge it was true.

"They're working me closer to the door," Roush said. "The more this technology expands, the less there is for a dinosaur like me to do. I'm just a comedian right now."

After clinging to carburetors for decades after they were regularly found in passenger cars, NASCAR finally is making the switch to fuel injection.

It was a major change for teams and their engine builders, making right now an exciting time for guys like engine builders. Doug Yates, the CEO of Roush Yates Engines, said he has more data than ever to analyze and can make far more adjustments to affect the engines' performance.

"It's very exciting from an engine builder and an engineer's perspective, having new technology in NASCAR," Yates said. "And, it's our job to hopefully make it seamless."

The transition mostly has flown under the radar during Daytona Speedweeks so far — a good sign that there aren't any major issues.

"It's out there, and it's quiet," said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR's vice president of competition. "Knock on wood, but it just goes to show you how hard everybody's working."

Pemberton said the move to fuel injection helps make NASCAR more relevant, especially to automakers backing the sport. It also gives teams a little more leeway to tune their engines — to a point.

"There are tools in the toolbox that we are not using with this system, for obvious reasons," Pemberton said. "And that is to keep the drivers driving and the crew chiefs working on their setups."

Pemberton expects teams to try to get away with something at some point. There has been speculation that allowing electronic fuel injection could open the door for a team to come up with a hidden traction control system, giving them an illegal advantage.

"That's what everybody says," Pemberton said. "But the truth be known, that's probably not your biggest problem. The biggest problem is the one you don't know about, right?"

NASCAR officials now have electronic devices that plug into teams' computer systems to make they aren't altering their software. And if a team gets caught messing with its fuel injection system, Pemberton says the penalty will be harsh.

"It'll be a top of the line penalty," Pemberton said.

Driver Jeff Burton said fans probably won't notice the change.

LOCAL SPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

HUDSON EARNS OVC HONOR

Tennessee State freshman and Midland High grad Chelsea Hudson was named the Ohio Valley Conference adidas Freshman of the Week last week.

Hudson recorded a double-double with 17 points and 18 rebounds in a victory against Jacksonville State last week. Hudson was 5 of 7 from the field and had an assist.

It was the second time this season that the former Lady Bulldog received the award.

Read Ed Todd
Midland Reporter-Telegram

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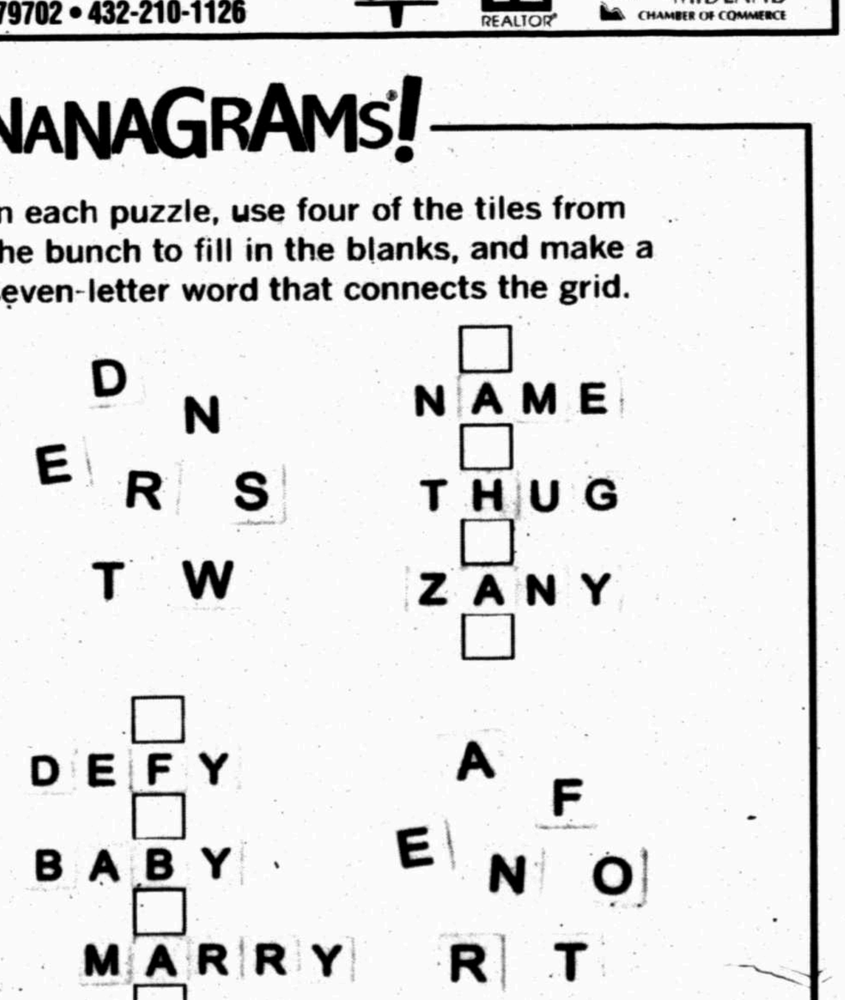

Yesterday's Answer: BARIUM, SODIUM, CESIUM

2.23

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Drought threatens closure of Texas fish hatchery

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — One of Texas' five fish hatcheries likely will suspend operations because of low water levels in lakes that feed it, state officials said Wednesday.

Todd Engeling, the hatcheries program director for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said a closure would mean fewer fish available to sportsmen this year. A decision on whether to temporarily close Dundee Fish Hatchery west of Wichita Falls will come in the next two weeks.

"It will last until there is enough water for us to operate with," Engeling said.

Texas is coming off its driest year on record in 2011, and levels in a lake that feeds the one used by the hatchery are low. The drought, which began in fall of 2010, caused wildfires statewide, cost agriculture an estimated $5.2 billion in livestock and crop losses, and left lawns, trees and pastures parched.

Parts of the state have seen rains that have alleviated some drought conditions in recent weeks.

Dundee gets its water from Lake Diversion under a contract with the Wichita County Water Improvement District No. 2. Lake Diversion is fed by Lake Kemp.

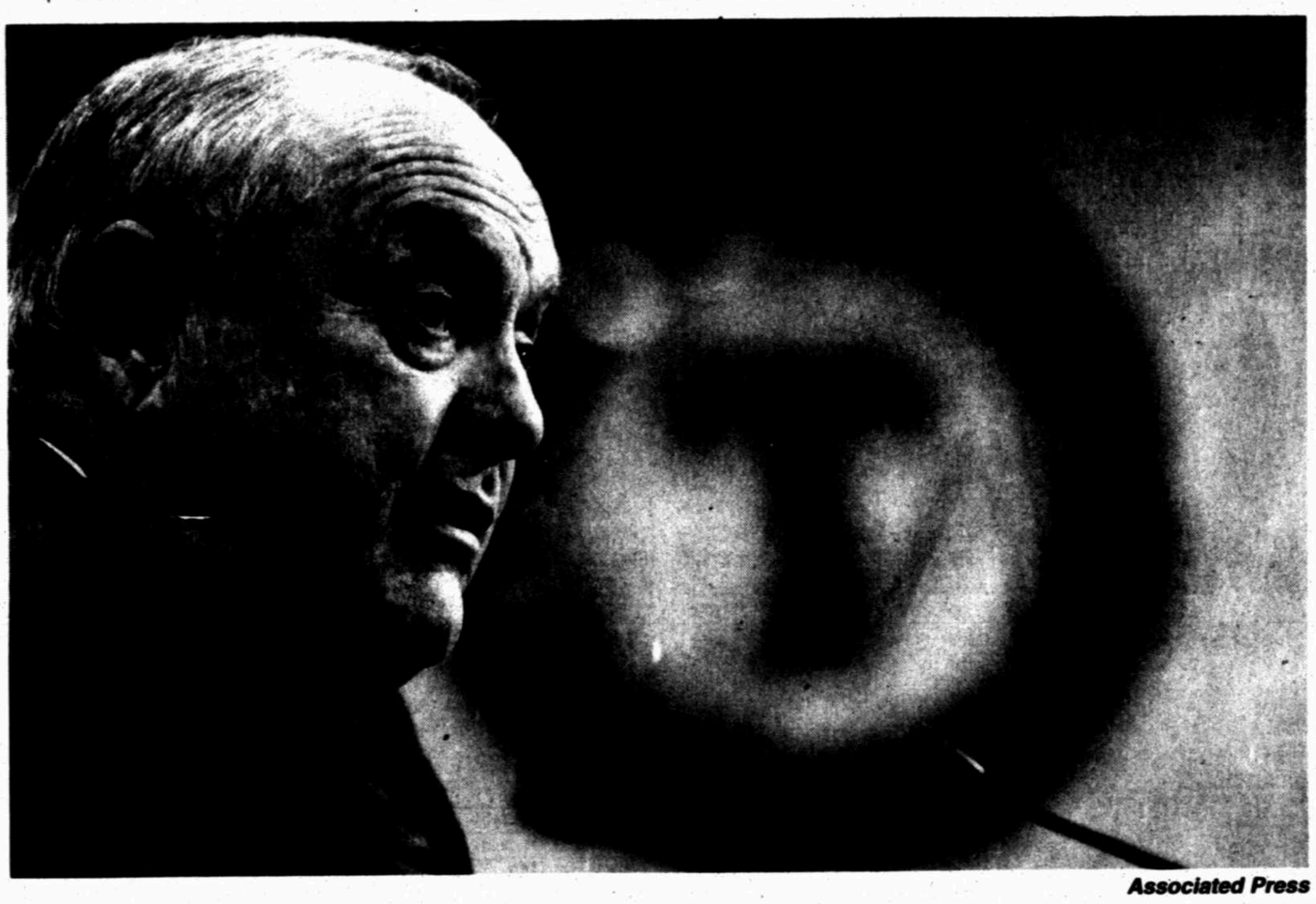
Severe drought has water levels in Lake Kemp low, Engeling said in a news release. The water district's drought plan says the hatchery is not allowed to divert water when elevations in Lake Kemp reach 1,125 feet above mean sea level. Currently, the water elevation in Kemp is 1,126 feet and is expected to drop to 1,125 early this spring when irrigation increases.

Dundee's 97 ponds and 84 acres of water represent 34 percent of Texas' available capacity for freshwater fish production. The facility is where striped bass and hybrid striped bass are primarily produced.

Engeling said there will be no short-time impact on the number of those species if operations at Dundee are suspended because production will shift to other hatcheries.

Production of largemouth bass, the most targeted fish for sportsmen, would be impacted by the shift, Engeling said.

"There's a limited amount of ponds we have for production across the state," he said. "Something has to give, so the squeeze right now is in the largemouth bass."



Associated Press

Texas Rangers CEO and President Nolan Ryan speaks to reporters during a news conference in Arlington on Saturday. Ryan said Wednesday the team assembling for this spring training "is as strong a club as we've ever been."

OPTIMISM RUNNING HIGH

Ryan says these Rangers are his best team

Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Texas Rangers president and CEO Nolan Ryan says the team assembling for this spring training "is as strong a club as we've ever been."

At a packed news conference Wednesday, the Hall of Fame pitcher spoke of how impressed he is with the team's expensive addition from Japan, right-hander Yu Darvish, then talked of the addiction struggles of outfielder Josh Hamilton and his high expectations for this club.

Ryan based his optimism on the Rangers' talented young starting rotation and the nucleus of good players still in their prime.

The two-time defending AL champions signed Darvish to a six-year, $56 million contract after paying his Japanese club $51.7 million just to have the chance to acquire him.

"It's exciting that he has the following that he does and so many people are excited about it," Ryan said. "I walked through the airport and not many Americans know his name yet but they say, 'Boy, how about that Japanese pitcher y'all have?'"

One of the Japanese reporters asked Ryan to compare himself to Darvish at the same age.

"There's a substantial difference," he said. "I still had a control problem. I was very durable but I didn't have the feel for the baseball or my delivery as he does with his."

"That's one of the unique things about him is at 25 he's still a very young pitcher and he has a great delivery and control of his delivery and he has a good feel for his baseball. When I say that, I mean he can throw different pitches, he can locate his pitches and so I think for a 25-year-old that's quite an accomplishment," he said.

Still, Ryan said, Darvish will have to learn the hitters, adjust to a different ball, acclimate himself to a five-day rotation instead of the six days he had in Japan, and deal with life in a different culture.

"What you hope is he doesn't come into camp and feel like he has to try to do more than he can and more than what he is," Ryan said. "I think that's a tendency when contracts and situations come up. I'm sure Prince Fielder will be feeling that to some degree this year going into Detroit's camp. What your hope is he can relax and just focus on what he needs to do to get ready and not try to go out and prove his worth here in spring training."

Hamilton, the Rangers' standout who has dealt with addiction all his adult life, relapsed in early February, drinking into the night at a Texas bar.

Ryan said he has talked to Hamilton and says the former AL MVP is in great shape and anxious to get started in spring training. He is expected to arrive on Thursday.

"Obviously, us who don't have an addiction don't truly understand the challenges that Josh has," Ryan said, "so we're concerned for him obviously and as organization we try to do anything we can to help in any way we can. But yes, it is a concern of ours as it is for everybody around Josh and associated with Josh, from his teammates to his family members, to people that just care about him.

"I think that probably is one of the things that Josh realizes after this last time is the support that he does have out here, and I think that's, probably very comforting to him."

Astros get Castro back from injury

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — As bad as last season was for the Houston Astros, it was worse for Jason Castro.

The season never really happened for the team's standout young catcher, who tore his right ACL during the second exhibition game a year ago. He had reconstructive surgery March 4 and spent the entire season rehabbing the knee.

"You can't take anything for granted. That's definitely something you learn from something like this, and how quickly it can be taken away from you," Castro said. "Realizing that all it takes is one play is something that makes you appreciate it more."

The 24-year-old Castro had surgery on his left foot in December, but he has been moving well in the early days of spring training. There is no visible evidence of an injury.

Six weeks before opening day, the Astros are playing his return cautiously.

"Nothing is hindering him as far as pain or stiffness or soreness or anything else, but because he missed a whole year, we're going to monitor him and make sure he's not trying to overdo it," said manager Brad Mills. "He's doing all the drills, but maybe not to the extent or as long as the other catchers."

A first-round draft choice in 2008, Castro earned the Astros' regular catching job as a 22-year-old rookie in 2010. He was part of a young group of players who gave the Astros some hope in the second half of the season that year.

There was no such hope last year with Castro in a cast.

He was injured during the second game of spring training while trying to avoid a tag by Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera. The original diagnosis was a sprain, but an MRI revealed a meniscus tear in his right knee. A torn ACL was discovered later and operated on immediately.

As he rehabbed, the Astros went on to lose 106 games.

"We all saw how this ballclub played when he took over in 2010 as a rookie, how this guy took charge of our pitching staff. It was such a crushing blow last year to not get a game out of him," Mills said.

New general manager Jeff Luhnow said Castro is "critical" to the team's future.

"He's somebody who can be a leader and who can produce offensively and defensively and set the right tone for the entire team," he said.

By the end of 2011, the young catcher had gained confidence that his knee had recovered completely.

"I think a big part of that was playing in Arizona (in the fall league) and testing it out there," he said. "I was able to get past all the questions I had about how it would respond and how it would hold up. The strength is there and the comfortability is definitely coming back."

As for the recovery of the Astros, that will take more time.

"I was around the field a lot last year. Even though I wasn't catching guys, I was watching them pitch," Castro said. "I was talking to guys after their starts and things like that. As far as talking to pitchers and building that rapport, that never stopped. So, hopefully we can just jump back into things and keep progressing on into the season."

Associated Press

Houston Astros catcher Jason Castro works out during spring training Wednesday in Kissimmee, Fla. Castro returns after suffering a torn ACL during an exhibition game in 2011 and a recent foot surgery.

NCAA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

TEXAS MEN NO. 4 KANSAS 66, TEXAS A&M 58

COLLEGE STATION — Elijah Johnson scored 21 points and Tyshawn Taylor made key plays down the stretch to help No. 4 Kansas fight off a late run by Texas A&M for a 66-58 victory Wednesday night.

Kansas (23-5, 13-2 Big 12) led by as many as 21 points in the second half before a big run by the Aggies got them within striking distance.

A 3-pointer by Dash Harris cut the Kansas lead to four points, but Taylor made the first of two free throws to leave Kansas up 61-56 with about a minute remaining.

Johnson added a free throw before Thomas Robinson fouled out on a technical he received during a scuffle between players when they were trying to secure a loose ball.

UTSA 86, TEXAS A&M-CC 82, OT

CORPUS CHRISTI — Kanon Burrage scored 21 points, including a game-tying layup with 1.6 seconds left in regulation, as UTSA defeated Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 86-82 in overtime Wednesday night.

Melvin Johnson and Igor Nujic added 20 points each for the Roadrunners (16-12, 8-5 Southland), who rallied from a six-point deficit in the final two minutes of regulation.

Terence Jones led Corpus Christi (5-22, 3-10) with 26 points, including seven 3-pointers.

In the overtime period, Burrage made two free throws and a layup, and Jeromie Hill had a three-point play that helped stake UTSA to an 84-79 lead with 38 seconds left.

IOWA STATE 72, TEXAS TECH 54

AMES, Iowa — Scott Christopherson and Melvin Ejim each scored 17 points and Iowa State pulled away for a 72-54 victory over Texas Tech on Wednesday night, reaching 20 wins for the first time in eight years.

Royce White had 13 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Cyclones (20-8, 10-5 Big 12), who also earned 10 wins in the Big 12 for the first time since 2001.

Iowa State struggled at times against the Big 12's worst team, though. The Cyclones trailed by four at halftime, let the Red Raiders shoot nearly 46 percent and didn't push their lead into double digits until just over 6 minutes were left.

SMU 64, TULANE 50

DALLAS — London Giles scored 17 points Wednesday night to help SMU break a three-game losing streak with a 64-50 victory over Tulane.

Giles scored at least 10 for the 18th straight game for the Mustangs (12-16, 3-10 Conference USA). Leslee Smith grabbed 11 rebounds, and Jeremiah Samarrippas had seven assists.

Robert Nyakundi, leading the conference with 41.7 percent 3-point-shooting accuracy, improved on that by going 3 of 6 from long range for nine points.

Five-time Conference USA Freshman of the Week Ricky Tarrant's 21 points paced the Green Wave (15-12, 3-10), who dropped their fourth consecutive game. Josh Davis had 11 rebounds.

MARSHALL 66, HOUSTON 58

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Damier Pitts scored 15 points and dished six assists to help Marshall beat Houston 66-58 Wednesday night.

DeAndre Kane and Dago Pena added 14 apiece for the Thundering Herd (17-10, 8-5 Conference USA) who shot 44.6 percent (29 of 65) from the field.

Houston led throughout the first half and took a 31-23 lead into intermission. However, Marshall opened the second half on a 16-1 run to take a 39-32 lead with 13:26 left to play.

TCU 65, AIR FORCE 62

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Amric Fields hit a long 3-pointer with 18 seconds remaining to propel TCU to a 65-62 come-from-behind win over Air Force Wednesday night.

Taylor Broekhuis' game-tying 3-point attempt missed high on the glass as time expired. Fields' basket came after Connell Crossland grabbed the Horned Frogs' 22nd offensive rebound of the night.

SAM HOUSTON STATE 50, NORTHWESTERN STATE 37

NATCHITOCHES, La. (AP) — Demarcus Gatlin scored 17 points and Konner Tucker added 14 as Sam Houston State beat Northwestern State 50-37 on Wednesday night.

Antuan Bootle pulled down a career-high 20 rebounds and Marcus James grabbed 11 for the Bearkats who outrebounded Northwestern State 55-46.

Sam Houston State (12-16, 6-7 Southland Conference) took its first lead of the game, 7-6, behind a 3-pointer from Gatlin and wouldn't look back, pushing that lead to six, 20-14, at halftime and 10, 30-20, midway through the second half.

UTEP 76, SOUTHERN MISS. 68, 2 OT

EL PASO — C.J. Cooper scored six of his 16 points in the second overtime to lead UTEP to a 76-68 victory against Southern Mississippi on Wednesday night.

Cooper's jumper with 45 seconds remaining gave the Miners (14-13, 7-6 Conference USA) a 71-68 lead, and after Darnell Dodson missed two free throws at the other end, Southern Miss (22-6, 9-4) was forced to foul. UTEP made five free throws in the last 34 seconds.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 62, LAMAR 52

BEAUMONT — Antonio Bostic scored 20 points as Stephen F. Austin won a key game for seeding in the Southland Conference, beating Lamar 62-52 Wednesday night.

The win puts the Lumberjacks (16-11, 9-4) at the No. 3 seed in the conference with three games remaining, and knocked Lamar (17-11, 8-5) down to No. 4.

SFA did not make a 3-point bucket for the second time this season, going 0 for 4 beyond the arc, but outscored Lamar 34-24 in the paint and held the Cardinals to 29 percent shooting from the floor.

NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

ROCKETS 93, 76ERS 87

HOUSTON — Luis Scola had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Kyle Lowry added 13 points and two crucial three-point plays down the stretch, and the Houston Rockets beat the Philadelphia 76ers 93-87 on Wednesday.

Kevin Martin scored 16 points and Patrick Patterson added 12 off the bench for the Rockets, who've won three in a row and snapped a four-game home-court losing streak to Philadelphia.

Nikola Vucevic scored a career-high 18 points and Thaddeus Young had 15 for the 76ers, who will head into the All-Star break on a five-game losing streak. The 76ers lost for only the second time in their past nine meetings with Houston.

Philly was held without a 3-pointer for the first time this season, missing all nine attempts.

LAKERS 96, MAVERICKS 91

DALLAS — Andrew Bynum had 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers hit the halfway point of their season with a 96-91 victory over the defending NBA champion Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

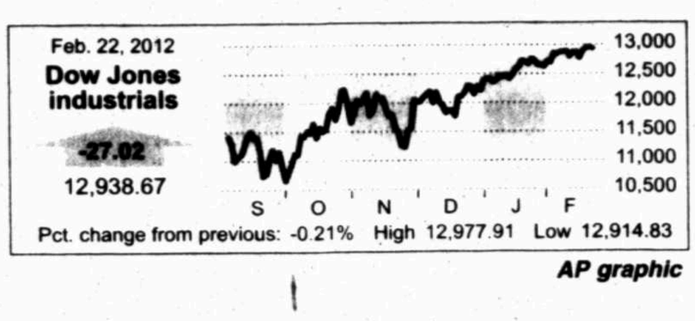
Bynum had a huge smile on his face when he grabbed a rebound of his own miss and was fouled trying to go back up with 5 minutes, 29 seconds left. He made both free throws to break an 82-all tie and finally put the Lakers (20-13) ahead to stay after 13 ties and 10 lead changes.

Pau Gasol had 24 points for the Lakers, while Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher each had 15.

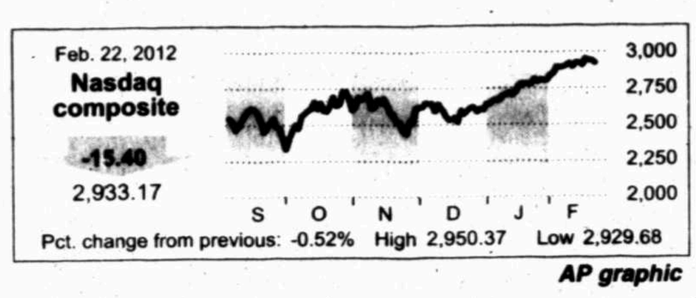
Dirk Nowitzki had 25 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Mavericks (21-13), who played their final game before the All-Star break.

Business & Oil

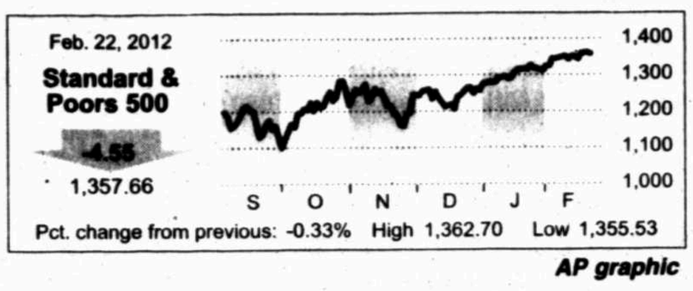
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



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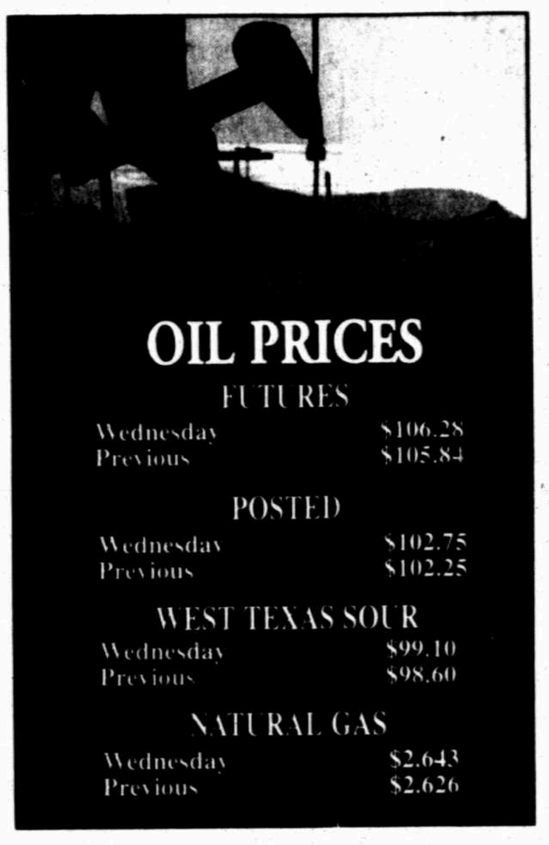

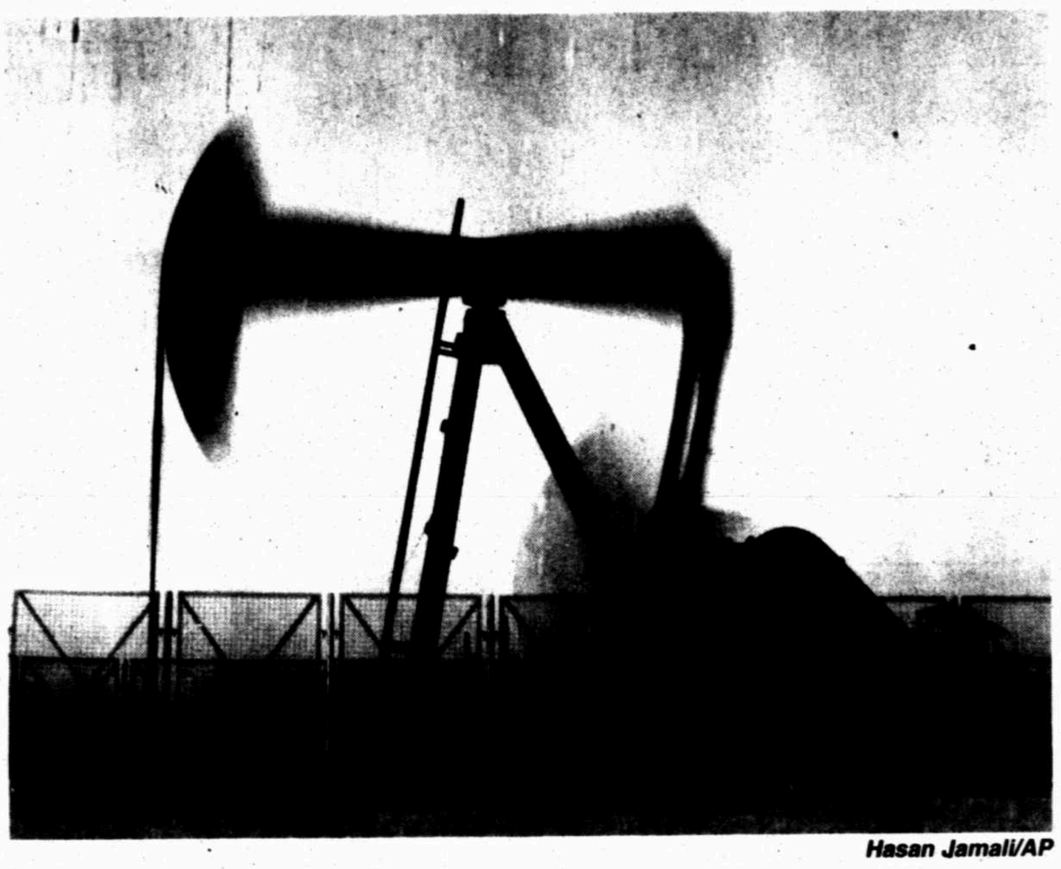

Hasan Jamali/AP

An oil pump works at sunset Tuesday in the desert oil fields of Sakhir, Bahrain. Oil prices are now at the highest level for many months on concerns that Iran will cut off oil supply that would have been destined for parts of Europe.

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkofAm	2223228	7.95	-.16
S&P500ETF	1146946	136.03	-.44
SPDR Fncl	675541	14.59	-.19
FordM	425630	12.28	-.25
GenElec	397076	19.39	-.02

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NoahHldgs	7.96	+1.82	+29.6
Chicos	14.94	+2.13	+16.6
CmtyHlt	23.85	+3.19	+15.4
ChiMYWnd	2.73	+.23	+9.2
Chiquita	9.99	+.76	+8.2

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Flagstone	7.99	-1.21	-13.2
NewfldExp	36.88	-5.37	-12.7
NBGrce rs	3.13	-.43	-12.1
ForestOil s	12.78	-1.66	-11.5
BiPNG	4.97	-.63	-11.3

DIARY

Advanced	1,189
Declined	1,856
Unchanged	102
Total issues	3,147
New Highs	103
New Lows	4
Volume	3,535,461,599

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
SamsO&G	50519	3.00	+.30
CherwreEn	47182	13.78	-.38
NovaGld g	45282	8.82	+.07
DenisnM g	33718	1.96	+.09
NwGold g	22005	11.90	+.16

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
SamsO&G	3.00	+.30	+11.1
Bacterin	2.89	+.28	+10.7
Banro g	5.46	+.44	+8.8
HMG	4.08	+.28	+7.3
Nevsun g	4.24	+.26	+5.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
TelInstEl	6.82	-1.10	-13.9
SynthBiol	2.36	-.19	-7.5
InvCapHld	3.64	-.25	-6.4
Versar	2.70	-.18	-6.3
WellsGard	2.15	-.14	-6.1

DIARY

Advanced	222
Declined	236
Unchanged	34
Total issues	492
New Highs	8
New Lows	
Volume	93,715,819

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
SiriusXM	538735	2.09	-.03
Intel	514470	26.73	-.43
Dell Inc	487882	17.15	-1.06
Microsoft	480444	31.27	-.17
PwShs QQQ	408362	63.32	-.29

GAINERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
PlumasBc	2.87	+.70	+32.3
Forward	2.94	+.69	+30.7
HlthStrm	22.55	+5.21	+30.0
Sourcefire	45.18	+9.36	+26.1
HackettGp	4.74	+.87	+22.5

LOSERS ($2 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
ZaZaEngy	4.20	-.98	-18.9
CEurMed	6.95	-1.55	-18.2
Atnon	209.75	-38.73	-15.6
Mattson	2.75	-.44	-13.8
RecvE rsh	4.00	-.61	-13.2

DIARY

Advanced	827
Declined	1,692
Unchanged	114
Total issues	2,633
New Highs	59
New Lows	19
Volume	1,670,768,069

Obama's tax plan aims at oil and gas industry

By Puneet Kollipara
Hearst Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The corporate tax plan President Obama outlined on Wednesday would roll back oil-and-gas industry tax breaks while promoting more development of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

Obama's proposal seeks to lower the corporate tax rate to 28 percent while closing loopholes and deductions that he claims make the current rate of 35 percent much lower in practice. His plan would roll back $40 billion worth of oil-and-gas tax breaks over 10 years, along with other business tax provisions in seeking to broaden the tax base while not raising the debt.

"There is a fair amount of consensus that simplifying the corporate tax code is a good idea, that broadening the base and lowering the rate is a good idea," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

The oil-and-gas rollbacks — which face difficult odds in Congress — largely mirror what Obama previously proposed in his fiscal 2013 budget and State of the Union address. Among those breaks are the "tertiary injection" deduction, a manufacturing deduction that multiple industries benefit from, and the "intangible drilling costs" deduction for well-development expenses that don't go toward elements of the final well.

The American Petroleum Institute, the oil-and-gas industry's main lobbying group, has slammed the proposed rollbacks. The group has contended they would hurt an industry that has boosted the economic recovery. The proposed rollbacks would reduce oil-and-gas production and raise energy costs.

Stephen Comstock, manager for tax policy at API, called proposed corporate-rate decrease "enticing" but raised concern about rolling back oil-and-gas tax breaks to make the plan revenue-neutral.

"Right now, we as an industry anticipate we will pay a heavy share of that," he told reporters by phone.

In a policy paper, the group argues the provisions Obama is targeting "are in no way 'taxpayer subsidies' and are not unique to our industry."

"They constitute standard business deductions (some available to all other industries) and mechanisms of cost recovery — a fundamental and necessary component to a national income tax system," the group said.

API today suggested the president's budget actually would rake in $85 billion from the oil-and-gas industry in 10 years, identifying other proposals that would extract further revenues. One would raise about $10 billion, according to API, by reinstating petroleum-industry taxes for the Superfund program, which finances the cleanup of hazardous-waste sites.

At the same time, Obama's plan would boost renewable-energy sources.

The plan would permanently extend a research-and-experimentation tax credit that expired Jan. 1, and seek to streamline what he called a complicated formula that companies use for calculating it.

It also would permanently extend clean-energy tax credits "in order to provide a strong, consistent incentive to encourage investments in renewable energy technologies like wind and solar."

Obama has noted those tax credits are temporary, a characteristic that he contends can hamper their effectiveness. For example in the past the production tax credit for wind has temporarily expired, causing new wind-farm installations to drop 75 percent or more, according to the American Wind Energy Association, the industry's lobbying group.

Oil prices rise

Oil prices rose Wednesday on the expectation that world supplies could be squeezed further because of ongoing tensions with Iran.

Iran, the world's third-biggest oil exporter, has been in a standoff with the West over its nuclear program. After blocking United Nations inspectors late Tuesday, Iran repeated warnings that it would act against countries that pose a threat.

Iran has cut off oil shipments to Britain and France, although those countries used very little Iranian oil. But, it also may halt supplies to other European nations that rely more heavily on its crude. European countries buy about 18 percent of Iran's oil exports.

Brent crude, a benchmark for foreign oil imported by U.S. refineries to make gasoline, added $1.24 to end the day at $122.90 per barrel in London. The U.S. benchmark, West Texas Intermediate crude, which has ample supplies in the Midwest, rose slightly, adding just 3 cents to finish at $106.28 per barrel in New York.

Oil prices have soared this year as tensions grew between Iran and the West. Brent crude has jumped 14 percent since the start of 2012 and WTI has increased 7 percent.

Dollar rises

The dollar rose to a seven-month high against the Japanese yen, a week after the Bank of Japan announced a surprise increase of its economic stimulus program.

The dollar rose to 80.24 Japanese yen late Wednesday from 79.71 yen late Tuesday. The dollar rose as high as 80.40 yen, its highest point against the yen since July 11.

In other trading, the British pound fell to $1.5671 from $1.5786. The dollar fell to 0.9109 Swiss franc from 0.9120 Swiss franc. The dollar rose to 99.95 Canadian cents from 99.65 Canadian cents.

Gold for April delivery rose $12.80 to end at $1,771.30 an ounce.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Basic Energy Services (BAS)
Closing Price $20.05 Up 0.18

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $85.68 Down 1.71

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $116.00 Up 0.16

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $38.29 Unchanged

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $29.45 Down 0.20

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $10.04 Up Down 0.24

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $13.66 Up 0.15

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.76f	46	30.28	-.06	+.1
Abraxas	...	**15**	**4.06**	**-.06**	**+23.0**
AdamsEx	**.65e**	**...**	**10.68**	**-.05**	**+10.8**
AMD	...	5	7.14	-.14	+32.2
AlcatelLuc	...	...	2.44	-.13	+56.4
Alcoa	.12	15	10.38	-.03	+20.0
AlonUSA	.16	26	11.01	-.14	+26.4
Amgen	**1.44f**	**17**	**66.79**	**+.10**	**+4.0**
Anadarko	**.36**	**...**	**87.32**	**+1.58**	**+14.4**
Apache	**.68f**	**10**	**110.13**	**+.17**	**+21.6**
Apple Inc	...	15	513.04	-1.81	+26.7
ApldMatl	**.32**	**11**	**12.90**	**+.19**	**+20.4**
ATMOS	**1.38**	**14**	**31.99**	**-.10**	**-4.1**
AutoData	1.58	20	53.81	-.05	-.4
BP PLC	**1.92f**	**6**	**46.87**	**-.29**	**+9.7**
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	17.39	-.19	-3.3
BakrHu	.60	14	52.36	+1.12	+7.6
BkofAm	.04	...	7.95	-.16	+43.0
Bar iPVix	...	...	25.81	-.75	-27.4
BasicEnSv	...	37	20.05	+.18	+1.8
BerkHa A	**...**	**17118170.00**		**-1205.00**	**+3.0**
BerryPet	**.32**	**19**	**51.90**	**-1.49**	**+23.5**
BlkHillsCp	**1.48f**	**32**	**34.05**	**-.04**	**+1.4**
BrMlySq	**1.36f**	**15**	**32.23**	**-.09**	**-8.5**
BrcdeCm	...	33	5.65	+.14	+8.8
BrownFA	**1.40**	**20**	**78.40**	**-.10**	**-1.1**
BrownFB	**1.40**	**20**	**80.80**	**-.16**	**+.4**
CVS Care	.65f	17	43.69	-.32	+7.1
Cameron	...	26	56.90	+.42	+15.7
Caterpillar	1.84	16	115.81	+.81	+27.8
Celestic g	...	8	9.41	+.15	+28.4
Cemex	...	...	8.08	-.19	+49.9
CgryLink	2.90	24	39.29	-.14	+5.6
ChesEng	.35	7	24.03	-.59	+7.8
Chevron	**3.24**	**8**	**107.50**	**-.91**	**+1.0**
Chicos	.20	19	14.94	+2.13	+34.1
Cimarex	.40	14	83.73	+.13	+35.3
Cisco	.32f	16	20.12	-.24	+11.7
Citigrp rs	.04	9	32.36	-1.00	+23.0
ClayEng	**...**	**10**	**85.68**	**-1.71**	**+12.9**
CocaCola	**2.04f**	**19**	**69.25**	**+.43**	**-1.0**
ColgPal	**2.32**	**19**	**93.14**	**-.23**	**+.8**
Comcast	.65f	19	29.28	+.21	+23.5
ConAgra	**.96**	**15**	**26.11**	**-.28**	**-1.1**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConchoRes	...	...	**116.00**	**+.16**	**+23.7**
ConocPhil	**2.64**	**9**	**74.13**	**+.30**	**+1.7**
CrackerB	1.00	.16	56.22	-1.64	+11.5
CSVS2xVxS	...	...	16.90	-.11	-47.1
CrpsTim	**2.94e**	**16**	**48.30**	**+.37**	**-1.2**
DCP Mid	2.60f	37	47.61	-.68	+.3
DTE	2.35	13	54.38	+.04	-.1
Dataram h	...	...	.80	+.01	-1.7
Dawson	...	...	**38.29**	...	**-3.1**
Dell Inc	...	9	17.15	-1.06	+17.2
DevonE	**.80f**	**7**	**74.76**	**-.47**	**+20.6**
DrSCBr rs	...	...	19.13	+.41	-27.7
DirFnBr rs	...	...	26.32	+.80	-29.5
Disney	**.60f**	**16**	**41.27**	**-.30**	**+10.1**
DowChm	**1.00**	**16**	**33.67**	**-.98**	**+17.1**
EMC Cp	...	27	27.07	-.18	+25.7
EOG Res	**.68f**	**27**	**115.66**	**+.01**	**+17.4**
EmpDist	**1.00**	**16**	**20.65**	**+.05**	**-2.1**
Energen	.56f	14	54.23	+.04	+8.5
EngyTsfr	3.58	44	47.78	+.11	+4.2
EnPro	...	**17**	**38.14**	**-.17**	**+15.6**
EntPrPt	2.48f	22	51.80	-.12	+11.7
EricsnTel	.37e	...	9.68	-.29	-4.5
ExterranH	...	...	**12.11**	**+.02**	**+33.1**
ExxonMbl	**1.88**	**10**	**86.92**	**+.35**	**+2.5**
FordM	.20	7	12.28	-.25	+14.1
ForestOil s	...	16	12.78	-1.66	-5.7
FMCG	1.25f	9	44.12	+.15	+19.9
FrontierCm	.40m	27	4.59	-.04	-10.9
FrozenFd	...	...	**1.23**	**-.03**	**-4.7**
GATX	**1.20f**	**20**	**43.11**	**-.29**	**-1.3**
GabMultT	**1.08f**	...	**7.10**	**-.03**	**+14.0**
GAInv	**.50e**	...	**28.18**	**-.09**	**+13.1**
GenElec	**.68**	**16**	**19.39**	**-.02**	**+8.3**
GenOn En	...	...	2.44	+.10	-8.5
GileadSci	...	13	44.53	-.16	+8.8
Golfsmith	...	...	4.05	-.05	+26.6
Goodrich	**1.16**	**20**	**125.90**	**+.05**	**+1.8**
GtPlainEn	**.85**	**16**	**20.81**	**-.10**	**-4.5**
HalconR rs	...	46	10.93	-.63	+16.4
Hallibrtn	.36	12	38.24	+1.21	+10.8
HartfdFn	.40	11	20.11	-.85	+23.8
HlthCrREIT	2.96f	59	53.49	-.70	-1.9
Heinz	**1.92**	**17**	**53.63**	**+.01**	**-.8**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
HewlettP	.48	9	28.94	-.41	+12.3
Hitachi	...	...	**57.31**	**-.19**	**+8.9**
HuntBnk	.16	12	5.95	-.07	+8.3
iShJapn	.20e	...	9.99	+.03	+9.6
iShSilver	...	...	33.44	+.06	+24.1
iShEMkts	.81e	...	43.83	+.08	+15.5
iS Eafe	1.71e	...	54.37	-.17	+9.8
iSh2R2K	1.02e	...	81.58	-.65	+10.6
IntegrysE	2.72	16	54.10	+.06	-.1
Intel	**.84**	**11**	**26.73**	**-.43**	**+10.2**
InterDig	.40	17	38.62	-.73	-11.4
JPMorgCh	1.00	9	38.07	-.39	+14.5
JohnJn	**2.28**	**19**	**65.00**	**-.04**	**-.9**
KimbClk	**2.80**	**18**	**71.23**	**-.17**	**-3.2**
KindME	4.64	...	90.10	-.36	+6.1
KindMM	4.64t	...	80.54	+.08	+2.6
LegacyRes	2.20f	17	29.45	-.20	+4.3
Lowes	.56	19	26.95	-.81	+6.2
Lubys	...	**26**	**5.13**	**-.06**	**+13.7**
MGM Rsts	...	...	13.77	-.42	+32.0
MarvellT	...	13	16.00	...	+15.5
McDnlds	2.80	19	100.66	+.17	+.3
Merck	1.68f	19	38.22	+.09	+1.4
MeritMed s	...	**22**	**13.36**	**-.29**	**-.1**
MexcoEn	...	72	10.10	-.18	+44.3
MicronT	...	...	8.04	-.17	+27.8
Microsoft	.80	11	31.27	-.17	+20.5
MorgStan	.20	17	18.73	-.53	+23.8
Nabors	...	16	21.78	+1.42	+25.6
NatGrid	**3.00e**	...	**50.76**	**-.09**	**+4.7**
NOilVarco	.48f	19	87.18	+2.60	+28.2
NokiaCp	1.26e	...	5.56	-.02	+15.4
NvMAd	**.99e**	...	**14.91**	**-.17**	**+1.6**
NvPMI	**.94**	...	**15.08**	**+.04**	**+1.8**
NuvPI	**.92**	...	**14.43**	**-.06**	**-.3**
NSTFI3	**.66a**	...	**14.66**	**-.03**	**+2.4**
NTXQI	**.86**	...	**16.29**	**-.18**	**-.3**
OcciPet	**2.16f**	**12**	**103.26**	**-1.15**	**+10.2**
Oracle	.24	16	28.55	-.19	+11.3
ParTech	...	**17**	**4.95**	**-.13**	**+25.6**
ParkDri	...	**32**	**7.13**	**+.16**	**-.6**
PattUTI	**.20**	**10**	**19.97**	**+.38**	**-.1**
PenRE	**.80**	...	**13.09**	**-.36**	**+25.4**
Prmian	1.44e	17	22.34	+.20	+9.7
Pfizer	**.88f**	**17**	**21.36**	**+.14**	**-1.3**

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PioNtrl	.08	16	113.70	-.06	+27.1
PlainsAA	**4.10f**	**17**	**81.51**	**+.40**	**+11.0**
PwShs QQQ	.46e	...	63.32	-.29	+13.4
Praxair	**2.20f**	**20**	**109.67**	**-.33**	**+2.6**
PrmEgy	...	...	**21.03**	**-2.37**	**-6.9**
PrUShS&P	...	...	16.39	+.12	-15.0
ProctGam	**2.10**	**16**	**64.44**	**+.02**	**-3.4**
PulteGrp	...	...	8.33	-.26	+32.0
RangeRs	.16	...	66.10	+1.83	+6.7
RegionsFn	.04	34	5.80	-.18	+34.9
RschMotn	...	3	14.66	-.22	+1.1
Rowan	...	**31**	**38.37**	**+.67**	**+26.5**
RoyDShllA	3.36	14	72.81	-.09	-.4
SpdrDJIA	3.48e	...	129.14	-.21	+6.0
SpdrGold	...	...	172.94	+1.92	+13.8
S&P500ETF	2.58e	...	136.03	-.44	+8.4
SabnR	4.04e	17	66.37	-.01	+5.3
SanderFm	**.68**	...	**48.73**	**+.37**	**-2.8**
SandRdge	...	**12**	**8.02**	**-.16**	**-1.7**
Sapient	**.35e**	**24**	**12.71**	**+.02**	**+.9**
Schlmbrg	1.10f	22	80.00	+1.42	+17.1
SigmaAld	**.80f**	**19**	**71.93**	**+.37**	**+15.2**
SiriusXM	...	16	2.09	-.03	+14.8
Smucker	1.92	18	72.67	+.24	-7.0
SprintNex	...	...	2.23	-.04	-4.7
SPDR Fncl	.22e	...	14.59	-.19	+12.2

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
SunocoL s	1.68f	14	40.24	-.42	+2.1
TeleflEsp	**2.14e**	...	**17.25**	**-.12**	**+.3**
TenetHlth	...	13	5.55	-.05	+8.2
Tesoro	...	7	28.59	+.20	+22.4
3M Co	2.36f	15	87.76	+.16	+7.4
ThrshdPhm	...	...	6.03	+1.02	+394.3
Trchmrk s	**.48**	**10**	**48.72**	**-.37**	**+12.3**
TriContl	**.39e**	...	**15.76**	**-.01**	**+10.8**
TwoHrbInv	1.60e	6	9.96	-.27	+7.8
TylerTech	...	**47**	**36.58**	**+.01**	**+21.5**
UBWV	**1.24f**	**18**	**28.18**	**-.84**	**-.3**
US NGs rs	...	...	22.16	+.08	-14.2
ValeroE	.60	7	25.51	-.02	+21.2
VangEmg	.91e	...	44.25	+.14	+15.8
VulcanM	**.04**	...	**46.13**	**-.68**	**+17.2**
WalMart	1.46	13	58.60	-1.47	-1.9
Walgrn	**.90**	**12**	**34.29**	**+.11**	**+3.7**
WeatherIntl	...	63	16.39	+1.03	+12.0
WellsFargo	.48	11	30.59	-.37	+11.0
WstnRefin	.04e	11	19.10	+.34	+43.7
WhitingPt s	...	13	56.56	-.17	+21.1
WmsCos	1.04f	19	29.30	-.16	+8.7
XcelEngy	**1.04**	**15**	**26.48**	**+.05**	**-4.2**
Xerox	**.17**	**9**	**8.15**	**-.02**	**+2.4**
Yahoo	...	18	14.50	-.25	-10.1

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INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
13,005.04	10,404.49	Dow Jones Industrials	12,938.67	-27.02	-.21	+5.90	+6.88
5,627.85	3,950.66	Dow Jones Transportation	5,125.17	-38.01	-.74	+2.10	+2.79
467.64	381.99	Dow Jones Utilities	452.34	+.06	+.01	-2.66	+10.50
8,718.25	6,414.89	NYSE Composite	8,094.38	-21.04	-.26	+8.26	-2.39
2,490.51	1,941.99	Amex Index	2,450.30	+6.55	+.27	+7.55	+4.81
2,965.05	2,298.89	Nasdaq Composite	2,933.17	-15.40	-.52	+12.59	+7.72
1,370.58	1,074.77	S&P 500	1,357.66	-4.55	-.33	+7.96	+3.84
14,562.01	11,208.42	Wilshire 5000	14,331.99	-56.29	-.39	+8.68	+3.57
868.57	601.71	Russell 2000	816.50	-6.72	-.82	+10.20	+2.11

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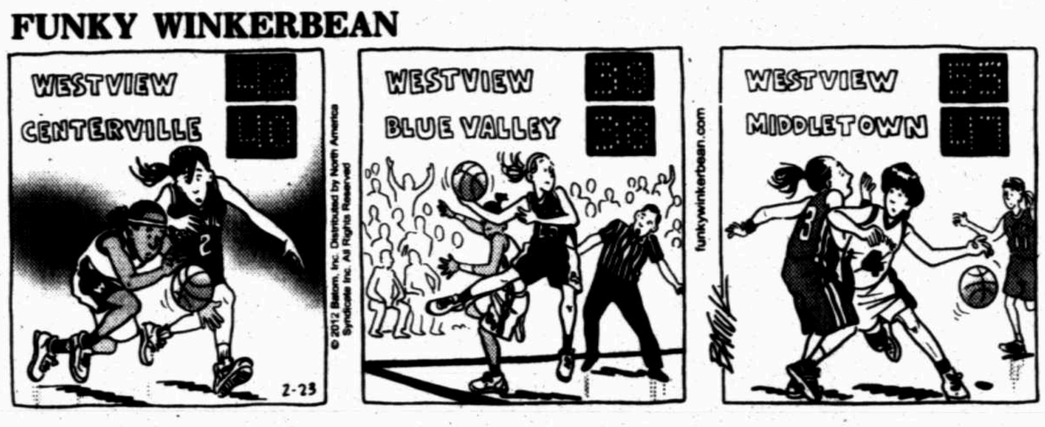

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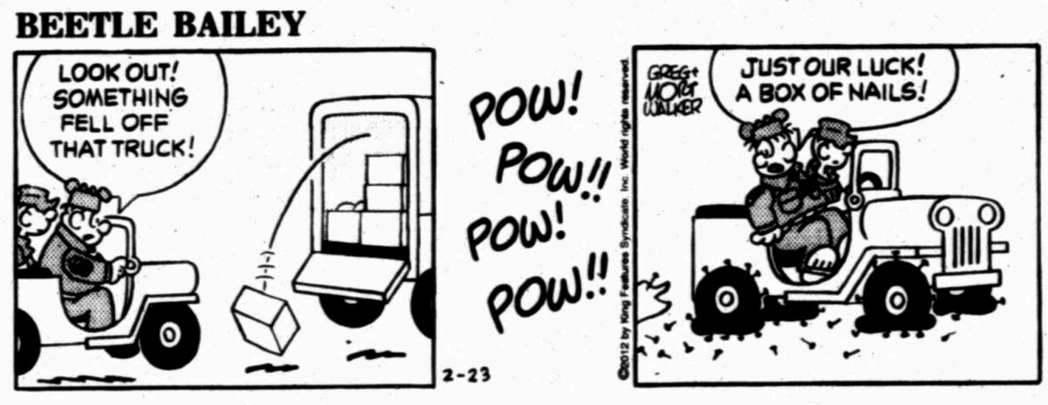
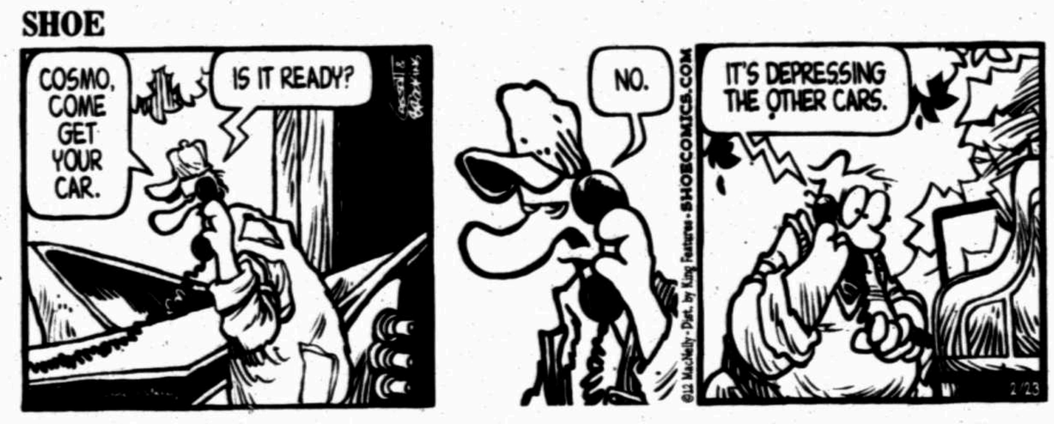
BEETLE BAILEY

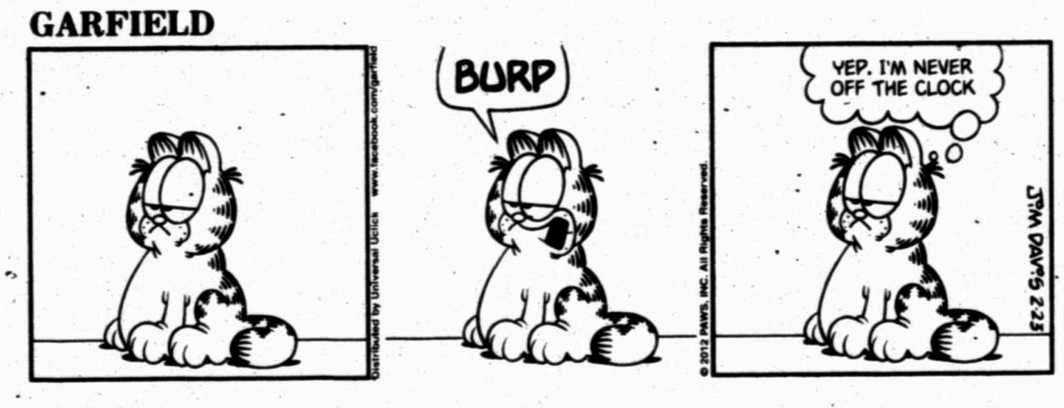


CLASSIC PEANUTS

SHOE



GARFIELD



DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID

DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

"What do you expect from an HMO that was started by some of the guys in your bowling league?!"

DENNIS THE MENACE

"IF YOU TOOK MY TEMPERATURE, WHEN WILL I GET IT BACK?"

LOCKHORNS

"STOP TAKING EVERYTHING WITH A GRAIN OF SALT."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"Uh-oh! I don't think my boots are as deep as the snow."

NASCAR THIS WEEK

If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to mdutton@gastongazette.com. You can also send your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at Facebook.com/monte-dutton and at Twitter.com/MonteDutton. Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page.

ON THE TUBE

Sprint Cup
Daytona 500
Sunday, noon
FOX SPORTS

Nationwide Series
Drive4COPD 300,
Saturday, noon
ESPN 2

Truck Series
NextEra Energy Resources 250,
Friday, 7 p.m.
SPEED

BURNING ISSUES

▶ That "wascally wabbit" Chad Knaus tried to slip a wavy C-post onto the body of Jimmie Johnson's Chevy, and NASCAR was waiting to pounce.

▶ Knaus has made a living out of winning championships and stretching rules. NASCAR isn't going to take action until after the Daytona 500, but most expect a harsh sentence.

▶ It sort of seemed like old times with Knaus and Michael Waltrip Racing being caught fudging with rules, though the height violation (left front) on Clint Bowyer's Toyota is unlikely to draw much in the way of punishment.

▶ Replays of Kyle Busch's remarkable save during the Budweiser Shootout should be replayed over and over. It was extraordinary. Of course, one of the reasons he's so adept at "saving the car" is that he gets so much practice. If this racing thing goes south, he can always start his own thrill show.

▶ Carl Edwards will start out the season first, having won the Daytona 500 pole. That's got to be comforting to the driver who finished second in the closest title race in NASCAR history. It's certainly a good way to start.

▶ If you're wondering what happened to tag-team racing, give it time. It's still going to decide the outcome of the Daytona 500.

▶ On Saturday, during the Drive4COPD 300, all eyes will be on Danica Patrick, which is hardly unusual. But for how long? It will be interesting to see how she does as a full-time Nationwide Series driver.

▶ A Busch brother won the Budweiser Shootout for the second year in a row, and both Kyle and Kurt are likely to make some noise in the 500.

▶ For most of the past three decades, Chevys have dominated at Daytona, but Fords won both races last year, and qualifying speeds suggest they're going to be hard to beat again.

▶ So far, so good with fuel injection. One observation, though, is that fires seem more prevalent with the new power plants.

2011 FINAL STANDINGS

Sprint Cup Series		Pts.
1.	Tony Stewart*	2,403
2.	Carl Edwards	2,403
3.	Kevin Harvick	- 58
4.	Matt Kenseth	- 73
5.	Brad Keselowski	- 84
6.	Jimmie Johnson	- 99
7.	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	- 113
8.	Jeff Gordon	- 116
9.	Denny Hamlin	- 119
	Ryan Newman	- 119
11.	Kurt Busch	- 141
12.	Kyle Busch	- 157

*takes tiebreaker based on wins.

Nationwide Series		
1.	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	1,222
2.	Elliott Sadler	- 45
3.	Justin Allgaier	- 117
4.	Aric Almirola	- 127
5.	Reed Sorenson	- 160
6.	Jason Leffler	- 194
7.	Kenny Wallace	- 259
8.	Brian Scott	- 275
9.	Michael Annett	- 278
10.	Steve Wallace	- 301

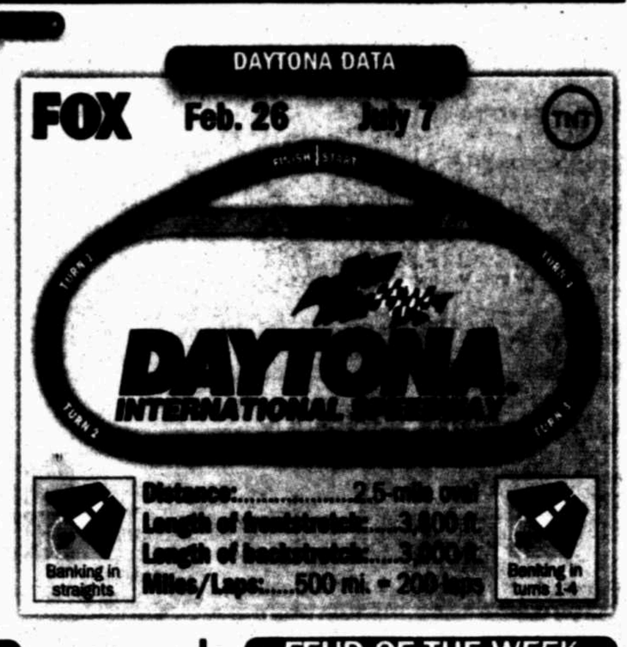
Camping World Truck Series		
1.	Austin Dillon	888
2.	Johnny Sauter	- 6
3.	James Buescher	- 29
4.	Ron Hornaday Jr.	- 50
5.	Timothy Peters	- 56
6.	Todd Bodine	- 85
7.	Joey Coulter	- 92
8.	Matt Crafton	- 103
9.	Cole Whitt	- 124
10.	Nelson Piquet Jr.	- 136

WHAT'S UP NEXT

SPRINT CUP
Race: Daytona 500
Where: Daytona (Beach, Fla.) International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 200 laps/500 miles.
When: Sunday, Feb. 26.
Last year's winner: Trevor Bayne, Ford.
Qualifying record: Bill Elliott, Ford, 210.364 mph, Feb. 9, 1987.
Race record: Buddy Baker, Olds, 177.602 mph, Feb. 17, 1980.
Last week: Kyle Busch won his first Budweiser Shootout, crossing the finish line in a Toyota a few feet ahead of Tony Stewart's Chevy. The highlight, though, was an incredible save by Busch after his Camry turned almost completely sideways in the second turn.

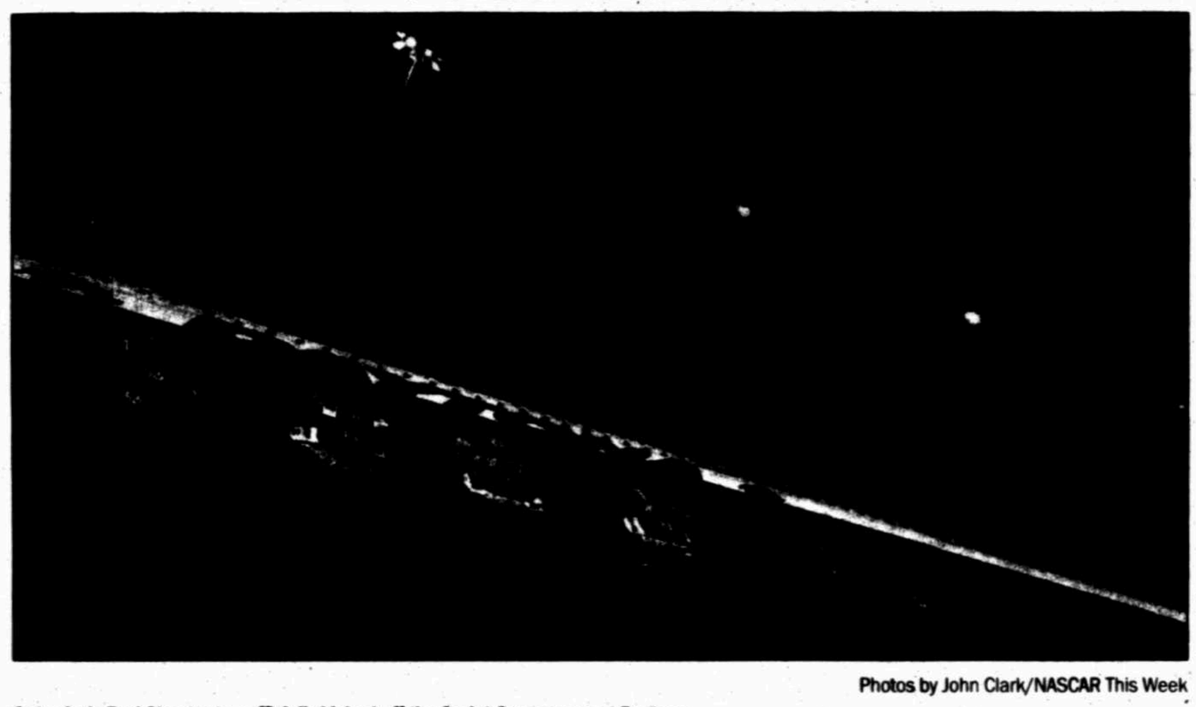
NATIONWIDE
Race: Drive4COPD 300
Where: Daytona (Beach, Fla.) International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 120 laps/300 miles.
When: Saturday, Feb. 25.
Last year's winner: Tony Stewart, Chevy.
Qualifying record: Tommy Houston, Buick, 194.389 mph, Feb. 10, 1987.
Race record: Geoff Bodine, Pontiac, 157.137 mph, Feb. 16, 1985.
History: Tony Stewart has won the past four series openers at Daytona and six of the past seven. The six victories represent 60 percent of Stewart's career total in the Nationwide Series. Six times Stewart has won on the day before the Daytona 500, which he has never won.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK
Race: NextEra Energy Resources 250
Where: Daytona (Beach, Fla.) International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles.
When: Friday, Feb. 24.
Last year's winner: Michael Waltrip, Toyota.
Qualifying record: Joe Ruttman, Dodge, 187.563 mph, Feb. 16, 2000.
Race record: Mark Martin, Ford, 146.622 mph, Feb. 17, 2006.
Last race: In marked contrast to the Nationwide Series race at Daytona, only one driver, Todd Bodine (2008-09), has won the Truck race more than once. Other past winners are Carl Edwards, Bobby Hamilton, Mark Martin, Timothy Peters and Michael Waltrip.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE



Photos by John Clark/NASCAR This Week

Saturday's Bud Shootout unofficially kicked off the Sprint Cup season at Daytona.

Martin Truex Jr. leads the drivers out during introductions for the Budweiser Shootout on Saturday. The Daytona 500 has had its fair share of Cup champs and come-out-of-nowhere winners. While Jeff Gordon is a three-time winner, reigning Cup champ Tony Stewart has winning the premier race "at the top" of his bucket list. Trevor Bayne shocked everyone last season.

The Best For First

Importance, big payout surround Daytona 500

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The Daytona 500 is NASCAR's greatest race. Of that there is little doubt, though some drivers cite the Brickyard 400 as comparable.

Why is it NASCAR's greatest race?

For instance, unlike the greatest events of other sports, the Daytona 500 opens the season rather than concludes it. The Super Bowl, World Series, et al. determine championships. The Daytona 500 isn't even in the Chase. Winning it isn't even a significant factor in determining the Sprint Cup champion. More than any other major sporting event, it stands alone, comparable more to the premier events of golf and tennis than team sports such as football, baseball, basketball, hockey and soccer.

The 500 pays far more than any other race on the schedule, however, and to understand its importance, one must also understand unique aspects of automobile racing in general and NASCAR in particular.

"From a talent standpoint … it's harder to win at Martinsville, it's harder to win at Bristol, it's harder to win at Kansas and most other tracks," Jeff Gordon said. "But I think there isn't anybody who doesn't want to win the Daytona 500. That's the difference. It doesn't matter whether it's a restrictor-plate race or not or how much skill or luck goes into it. You want to win it.

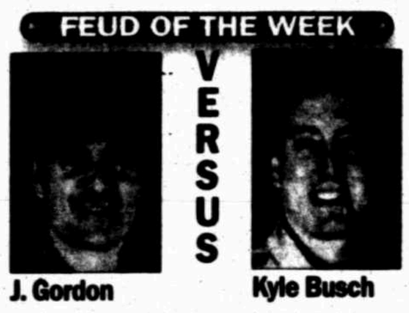
"The longer you go without winning it, the more challenging it becomes and the harder you think it is, and when you do accomplish it, I think there is that much more meaning behind it, not to mention just the fact that this race means the world to a race-car driver."

Gordon has won "The Great American Race" three times: 1997, 1999 and 2004. But many of the sport's greats, most notably Dale Earnhardt and Darrell Waltrip, waited many years before finally claiming the Harley J. Earl Trophy. Rusty Wallace never won it. Tony Stewart hasn't won it yet. Stewart, the reigning champion, said it was at the top of his "bucket list."

The race does not always go to the sport's superstars. In 2011, both Sprint Cup winners at Daytona claimed their first career victories. Trevor Bayne won the 500, and David Ragan won the Coke Zero 400.

This Daytona 500 could well be another major surprise. It will almost surely be dramatic.

FEUD OF THE WEEK



J. Gordon — Kyle Busch

JEFF GORDON VS. KYLE BUSCH

Gordon's spectacular crash appeared to occur in part as a result of some anger with Busch, who went on to win the Budweiser Shootout. "I would like to talk to him about it because we came off (turn) two and he had me sideways, and then all the way down the backstretch, I was still sideways. … I don't know if he was just watching his mirror, and he was getting pushed and couldn't control it, or what."

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "Gordon was a bit on the aggressive side, and considering that he walked away from a spectacular crash, he's paying for it."

Know Your NASCAR

1. Who ranks first all-time in official Cup victories at Daytona?
2. Who ranks first all-time in Cup poles at Daytona?
3. What team has won the most official Cup races at Daytona?
4. Who won the first qualifying race run at Daytona in 1959?
5. When Lee Petty won the first Daytona 500 in 1959, what make of car was he driving?
6. Who was the first Ford driver to win the Daytona 500?
7. Who was the first Dodge driver to win the Daytona 500?
8. How many official Cup races did Dale Earnhardt win at Daytona?
9. Who won the first Budweiser Shootout (then Busch Clash)?
10. How many Budweiser Shootouts (and Busch Clashes) did Dale Earnhardt win?
11. Who were the front-row starters in the first Daytona 500?
12. Who were the front-row starters in the 2011 Daytona 500?

1. Richard Petty (10).
2. Cale Yarborough (12).
3. Wood Brothers (15).
4. Bob Welborn.
5. Oldsmobile.
6. Tiny Lund (1963).
7. Richard Petty (1973).
8. Three.
9. Buddy Baker (1979).
10. Six.
11. Bob Welborn and Shorty Rollins (1959).
12. Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Tony's Best Bud record

Tony Stewart's record in the Budweiser Shootout is remarkable. He's won it three times, finished second twice, third twice and fourth twice. In 12 appearances in the first of two annual all-star races, Stewart has finished in the top 10 in all but two and never failed to finish.

FAN TIPS

Love America AND Racing?

Race Fans for Freedom (www.racefans4freedom.com), a project of Public Notice Research and Education Fund, is a "fan-centric" website for those who love America and racing. Strategy and outreach manager Elizabeth Dyar said: "We don't pledge allegiance to any one driver, and we don't pledge allegiance to any one party. We pledge our allegiance to the fans. It takes a team to get a car on the race track, and we believe that, together, race fans can help our economy get back on track. When the economy is strong, NASCAR is strong."

Stewart's Last Lap Dash

All in all, Tony Stewart would rather be second with one lap to go at Daytona. See why with Monte Dutton's video blog at GastonGazette.com.

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MOTOR POLICY BOARD

Announcement of Meeting:

Date: February 27, 2012
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Located at: Wright Office Complex, Suite 1
9601 Wright Drive
Midland, Texas 79706

Conduct Executive Session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Chapter 551 of the Texas Administrative Code, including but not-limited to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with the board's attorney; Texas Government Code Section 551.072 to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0274511
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Feb 1, 2012 — Status/Permit No. 731842
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Mar 14, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 24, Blk. 39 T4S, T&P RR CO / WOULLARD, F M Survey, A-1109, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 25.8 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Mar 14, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	COWDEN 'E'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	2	
Lease/Unit Acres :	80.6	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	467.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1532.0	
Lease Lines :	467.0 F South L,	660.0 F East L
Survey Lines :	2188.0 F South L,	660.0 F East L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 2 additional fields: (1) AZALEA (BEND), (2) AZALEA (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for these fields.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

AZALEA (BEND) : Oil Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

AZALEA (STRAWN) : GAS Special Rules 660/2640, 320.0 acres.
Oil Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11780 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, MECHELLE TESTA, at (972) 969-4088.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 37 Case No. 0273050
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Feb 22, 2012 — Status/Permit No. 726154
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Apr 4, 2012
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the LEASE LINE requirement for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 33, Blk. 35 T4S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-352, FRYSAK FARMS (DEVONIAN) and WILKERSON RANCH (FUSSELMAN) Fields, GLASSCOCK County, being 10.2 miles SW direction from GARDEN CITY, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.** If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 **(512) 463-6751.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Apr 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: FRYSAK FARMS (DEVONIAN)

Lease/Unit Name :	MCDANIEL '33'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	5	
Lease/Unit Acres :	529.6	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	198.0	
Lease Lines :	198.0 F NORTHEAST L,	1200.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	2480.0 F SOUTH L,	1200.0 F WEST L

FIELD: WILKERSON RANCH (FUSSELMAN)

Lease/Unit Name :	MCDANIEL '33'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	5	
Lease/Unit Acres :	529.6	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	198.0	
Lease Lines :	198.0 F NORTHEAST L,	1200.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	2480.0 F SOUTH L,	1200.0 F WEST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

FRYSAK PRAMS (DEVONIAN) : GAS Special Rules 467/660, 320.0 acres.
GAS Optional Rules 467/660, 160.0acres.
OIL Special Rules 467/660, 40.0 acres.

WILKERSON RANCH (FUSSELMAN) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11400 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, TAMMY SMITH, at (972) 444-9001.

DON'T MISS OUT!
The deadline for a Saturday Garage Sale ad is Friday at 12 noon
Please be sure to call 682-6222, by 11:30 am. to ensure your ad will be in Saturday's paper.
Fax #... 682-6909

Lost & Found

FOUND 2/18 near Garfield/Wadley: Female dog with pink collar. 352-8456.

Lost & Found

FEMALE CHIHUAHUA mix. Young mother. Light tan in color. Found in the vicinity of Fannin and Midkiff on Saturday, February 18, 2012. Please call 432/599-8004.

FOUND BLACK chihuahua mix, w/ tan markings, black collar, no tags or microchip. Near Briarwood and Loop 250 off Midland Dr. 405-361-1624.

FOUND SMALL Dog. Call to identify 432-638-4985

FOUND MEN'S lg wedding band, found xmas Academy. 432-631-4995.

LOST at Christmas small adult female Husky mix (white & gray) Old Lamesa Rd & ECR 125. 432-557-8365 or 432-638-4206

LOST YELLOW female Lab, in Greentree. Call 432-296-0808.

LOST FEMALE Chihuahua white w/black spots & male Poodle white w/black tip ears near Midkiff/Mariana. Gone since Friday. REWARD! 238-0620.

Reward for lost clipboard and note book lost near Albertsons on Andrews Hwy. Call 432-967-0497

REWARD! LOST USB FLASH DRIVE (small, red, plastic stick) 432-312-2437 LV message

Legal & Public Notices

Callon Petroleum Operating Company is hereby providing Notice of Intent to Move in Equipment and Spud the Annie #8 well located 671' FNL and 1197' FEL of Section 48, Block 41, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas, within the City Limits of Midland. This notice is a requirement of the City of Midland Under Title VI, Chapter 1, Section 23 labeled "Ordinance No. 8769 more particularly found under Section L (7) effective January 1, 2010.

Legal & Public Notices

Callon Petroleum Operating Company is hereby providing Notice of Intent to Move in Equipment and Spud the Annie #3 well located 849' FNL and 2087' FEL of Section 48, Block 41, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey, Midland County, Texas, within the City Limits of Midland. This notice is a requirement of the City of Midland Under Title VI, Chapter 1, Section 23 labeled "Ordinance No. 8769 more particularly found under Section L (7) effective January 1, 2010.

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The School Land Board, the Board for Lease of the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, and the General Land Office (GLO) will hold a sealed bid Oil, Gas, and Other Minerals Lease Sale at the General Land Office in Austin, Texas on April 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. For a list of lands call (512) 475-1512, write to Mineral Leasing, Rm. 840, 1700 N. Congress, Austin, Texas 78701, or visit www.glo.texas.gov.

Legal & Public Notices

F.C.C. APPROVAL NOTICE

The Federal Communication Commission on February 22, 2012 has granted an application to InSite Towers, LLC, 301 N. Fairfax Street, Suite # 101, Alexandria, VA 22314, under FCC File No A0747978 to construct a Communication tower at Avenue A and Schärbauer Drive, in Midland, Texas. Notice of the Application and accompanying reports were put on Public Notice on January 18, 2012. There being no comments or petitions to deny the Application pursuant to Sections 1.939 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R., Section 1.939. There were no findings of significant impact to the environment during the review of the application and reports filed with the F.C.C. and the Application has been granted.

Legal & Public Notices

DESERT GARDENS Nursing & Rehabilitation Center 3203 Sage St. Midland, Texas 79705

It is the policy the facility to admit and treat all residents without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religious preference, age marital status or handicap. The same requirements for admission are applied to all and residents are assigned within the home without regard to race, color, national origin, religious preference. There is no distinction in eligibility for or in the manner of providing any resident service provided by or through the nursing home. All facilities of the nursing home are available without distinction to all residents and visitors regardless of race, color, national origin, religious preference or marital status. All persons and organizations having occasion either to refer residents for admission or to recommend the facility are advised to so with out regard to the residents race, color, national origin, religious preference or marital status..

Lost & Found

FOUND AN ITEM?

If you are trying to return an item to its rightful owner, let us help you. Call 432-682-6222 For Your Complimentary Ad!

In A Hurry? E-Mail Your Ad Today! It's Quick & Easy mrtclassified@mrt.com

Lost & Found

LOST YORKIE, brown, with a brown nose. He needs medicine and special care daily. LARGE REWARD OFFERED! Please call 432-889-4402

Meetings

Acacia Masonic Lodge #1414
1600 W. Wall
Stated Communication, 2nd & 4th Tues. @ 7:30pm.
432-557-6041
Mike Patton, W.M.
Ed Wilson Sec
Did you know John Hancock was a Master Mason?

Personals

ADULT CAREGIVER needed for weekends. 10am-2pm & 5pm-9pm. Peri-care & hoyer lift involved. Will train. 432-770-0826

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

ACURA 2005 RSX w/ 35k, warranty, and loaded Kelly blue book value $13,352, asking $11,000. Call 432-559-7695.

Passenger Cars

BMW 2003 745Li Blue, 64k miles, fully loaded, $20,000. Call 432-553-5632.

FORD 1969 Mustang-Project car, runs & drives, 302 V8, C-4 auto trans, has A/C, power steering. $14,500 OBO For more info please call 325-656-4714

FORD 2002 Taurus. V-6, Automatic, $1950 cash. B&B Auto. 683-6222.

FORD 2008 Focus SE, 4dr, 4 cylinder. We finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222

FORD 2009 Mustang V6 Coupe. 2D, 17,890 miles, red ext, black cloth int. $18,000 OBO. 432-368-3005

FORD 2010 black Mustang GT convertible, V8, leather, 1 owner, 23K miles, garaged, 23 MPG, excellent condition. Sirius XM- life. $27,500. 432-697-6911 or 432-664-1379.

MERCEDES 2006 230C. 50,400 mi. White/Black leather. Non-smoker. $14,200. 432-528-0226

NISSAN 2006 Altima, 4 dr, with warranty, we finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222.

TOYOTA 2005 Corolla price at $6,000. Call 432-664-7628.

TOYOTA 2010 Camry, silver, 29k miles, $15,000. Call 432-230-9739

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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

	6		5		1	7		
	4		6				8	
2			9		8			
	2						9	3
		4				1		
9	5						7	
			2		7			6
	1				6		3	
		8	1		5			

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 WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

8	4	2	7	9	5	1	3	6
7	5	1	2	3	6	9	8	4
3	6	9	4	8	1	2	5	7
1	9	7	5	4	3	6	2	8
4	8	6	1	2	9	3	7	5
2	3	5	8	6	7	4	1	9
6	1	8	9	5	2	7	4	3
5	7	3	6	1	4	8	9	2
9	2	4	3	7	8	5	6	1

2/23/12

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2011 328i Jet Blk/Blk, Prem pkg., Heated seats, Ipod/USB adap 12k miles
2010 Lincoln Navigator Gray/Gray Nav., DVD, Heated/Cooled Seats, Rear Bucket Seats, 48k Miles
2006 Cadillac XLR Conv. Silver / Blk Sat. nav., Head up , Bose sound , heat -cool seats 9k miles
2008 Audi Q7 Blk/Tan leather, 3rd row, rear entertainment, Heated seats pwr liftgate, 54k miles

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ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Accountant
Confidential FT
NEED ACCOUNTANT FOR INDEPENDENT OIL & GAS COMPANY IN BIG SPRING. PREFER EXPERIENCE AND DEGREE. COMPETITIVE PAY & BENEFITS. PLEASE SEND RESUME TO P.O. BOX 1888 BIG SPRING, TX 79721

Staff Accountant & A/P Clerks
Select Energy Services FT
Looking for a career and not just a job? We are a fast-growing company with excellent benefits. We are seeking a staff accountant and 2 A/P clerks for our regional office. The staff accountant will apply principles of accounting to analyze financial data and prepare reports. The A/P clerks will provide financial and administrative duties for the accounting department. Experience is a must and a degree preferred. Please submit resumes to: permianjobs@selectenergyservices.com.

Staff Accountant
Oil and Gas Co. P/T
Seeks individual for P/T (30+ hrs) accounting position. Variety of duties include financial entries, account analysis, accounts payable, joint interest billing, assisting w/ monthly closing process and production/regulatory reporting. College degree in accounting required with minimum of 1 yr exp in oil/gas industry and RRC reports. Email resume to tmccomic@sbcglobal.net

AUTOMOTIVE

Alderson European Motors

Alderson Mercedes-Benz & Volvo is looking for an experienced lube/tire tech immediately.

- Top pay
- Benefits

Apply at 5801 Andrews Hwy email resume to bpond@alderson.com

Auto Mechanic
FT
Auto Mechanic wanted for indepedent auto dealership, must own tools. Call 559-4977 for more information.

KG KELLY GRIMSLEY AUTO GROUP

SEEKING INDIVIDUAL WITH AUTOMOTIVE BACKGROUND AND WHO IS COMPUTER ADEPT FOR FULL TIME POSITION IN

PARTS DEPARTMENT

- Insurance and Vacation

Apply in person to showroom receptionist at:
Kelly Grimsley Auto Group
2603 E. 6th St., Odessa, TX
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CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Clerical
MUST have strong computer skills. Company offers paid vacation, 401K, medical and dental insurance. Apply at: 3315 East Hwy 158, Midland and ask for Mary.

First United Methodist Church
Administrative Assistant position open. If you are a self-starter, motivated to work in a church atmosphere, possess proficient computer skill and like working with people, our job could be for you. Please email resume and inquiries to hrdirector@firstmethodistmidland.com

Medical Receptionist
Ingram Eye Center
Looking for energetic, full-time person to fill Receptionist position for busy medical practice. Duties include: checking patients in and out, scheduling appointments, answering phones, filing and other miscellaneous duties as needed. Please bring resume to: 2706 West Cuthbert. Bldg A

Office Manager
Natural Foods Market FT
Natural Foods Market has an opening for an office manager. In addition to management experience, knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required. Apply in person Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm at 2311 W. Wadley. Ask for Laurie.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Laborers and Carpenters
Campbell Construction Co. FT
Campbell Construction Company seeking Laborers and Carpenters.Pre-employment drug test required. Good Benefits Salary DOE. Apply at 241-A Spring Park Drive, Midland or send resume to PO Box 11293, Midland, TX 79702 or fax to (432) 683-5943

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Preschool Teacher
TheVillage School FT
Experienced Preschool Teacher needed. Must have knowledge of planning and implementing curriculum. Must be over 18 years of age and be able to pass background check. Apply in person: Monday- Friday 8am-4pm at: 2600 West Illinois, Midland, TX 79701.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Field Tech & Shop Tech
Surface Stac, Inc. FT
Field Technician with CDL, oil field experience required. Shop Tech, experience preferred but training is offered. Must pass drug test. Good pay and medical benefits. Apply at 2008 Westar Rd. Midland Tx, 432-694-2900

SAFETY SOLUTIONS, LLC

Safety Solutions, LLC is the leading provider of safety services to the petrochemical, wind energy, construction and industrial market sectors.

We have immediate openings for:

- **Field Technicians**- rigging up and down h2s safety equipment and delivering non- CDL emergency shower trailers
- **Certified Fire Extinguisher Technician**

Safety Solutions offers competitive wages and meaningful benefits to its full time employees and their families.

- 100% paid health insurance to employees
- Life Insurance
- 401K with company match
- Vacation and Sick leave
- Voluntary dental and vision

Fax or email resume to 432-563-0406, craig@safetysolutionstx.com or apply in person at 7907 W Industrial Ave. Midland EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Water Transfer
Kuykendall Services, LLC FT
Kuykendall Services now hiring for Water Transfer. Must be able to pass drug test. Come by: 4917 S. CR 1305 Odessa, TX. or call 432-563-5231.

District Engineer

Energen Resources Corp.

Energen Resources Corporation, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation has an immediate opening for a District Engineer in its Midland, Texas office.

Responsibilities include:

- Conducting production reviews on assigned properties
- Stimulation and completion design for development activities
- Providing technical assistance to operations staff to increase recovery of hydrocarbons and project economics
- Identifying opportunities to exploit existing production base

The qualified candidate will possess a degree in Petroleum Engineering or related field with a minimum of 5 years production experience in the Permian Basin. Strong written and verbal communication skills a must; operating experience in primary and secondary recovery operations and a working knowledge of Aries a plus.

This position is very visible within the organization and reports directly to the Engineering Manager – Permian Basin. We offer a highly competitive compensation program, which includes an incentive bonus plan and a complete benefits package.

For immediate consideration go to:

www.energen.com and select Job Opportunities under careers to complete an online application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

HEALTHCARE

Caregivers
Legacy Ranch FT
Cargivers all shifts, LVN's 2pm-10pm shift, and weekend Cook needed. Come by 4800 Briarwood to fill out application.

Clinic Nurse LVN- Addiction Treatment Center
Midland/Odessa
Monday-Friday 5:15am-12:15pm weekdays & 6am to 9:30am on Saturdays. Travel required between Midland & Odessa clinics. Assessments, TBs, dispense meds. Paid holidays, CEU days & personal days. Fax: 800-671-8364.

Full Time Registered Dental Assistant
Midland Dental Center FT
Fast paced dental practice seeks a caring, enthusiastic RDA to join our dental team. Strong communication skills are required. One-year dental experience preferred but not required for the right person. Radiology and N202 required. Great working environment and competitive salary. Please mail or fax resume to: Midland Dental Center 4610 N. Garfield #B-12, Midland, Texas 79705, Fax # 432-570-8052.

Laser Technician/Nurse
Confidential F/T
For Medical/Esthetics office. Fax resume and work experience to 432-684-7049

LCDC- Full time
Confidential FT
Positions available in Midland and Odessa Addiction treatment Centers Mon - Fri 5:30am to 12:30pm & Sat - 6:00am to 11:00am. Treatment Planning, Case Managem ent, Therapy Paid. Vacation., No health Benefits available Fax Resume — 800-671-8364.

Optician
Phillips Eye Clinic FT
4311 W. Wadley Ave. Midland, TX 79707
Experienced preferred but not required. Please apply in person.

Phlebotomist
Precision Lab Services FT
Immediate opening for 1 FT and 1 PT mobile phlebotomist in the Midland / Odessa area. Experience Required. Early morning hours, some call duties. Must be skilled, reliable and conscientious. Must have valid DL and auto insurance. Great company!
Send resume to cbaxter@precisionlabservices.com.

Phlebotomy Certification Class (blood drawing)
Odessa, March 17th and 18th, $300. Call 505-410-7889 or 505-410-9559. www.swphlebotomy.com

Providers
Interim Healthcare PT
Interim Healthcare is searching for providers in the Midland area to provide care for the elderly and disabled. Please call 432-617-0252 and talk with Amber or Claudia. EOE

Social Worker/Chaplain/Community Liaison
Interim Homecare & Hospice
Midland, TX 79701
Full-time positions available for fast growing Hospice Agency. Social Worker, Chaplain, Community Liaison. Experience preferred. 1031 Andrews Hwy, Ste 200, Midland, Tx 79701 or fax resume to 432-618-0307.
No phone calls please. EOE.

Volunteer Recruiter Coordinator
Interim Homecare and Hospice
Midland, TX 79701
Full-time position available for fast growing Hospice Agency. Volunteer Recruiter Coordinator. Professional person to recruit volunteers to make a difference in people's life. Must be willing to speak to small groups and promote the benefits of hospice and volunteering. 1031 Andrews Hwy, Ste 200, Midland, Tx 79701 or fax resume to 432-618-0307. No phone calls please. EOE.

MARKETING

Director of Marketing & Resource Development
Boys & Girls Club of Midland is seeking a Director of Marketing and Resource Development. 39-60k. No Calls. Send resume to: executive@bgcpermianbasin.org.

OTHER JOBS

SPRING 2012 CAREER FAIR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
MIDLAND COUNTY HORSESHOE
(MAIN ARENA)

mywesttexasjobs Midland Reporter-Telegram monster

To reserve booth space, call your Midland Reporter-Telegram Advertising Representative or Adrianne Ramirez 432-687-8811 Direct • email: aramirez@mrt.com

CHILD CARE WORKERS
Mrs. Irene's Child Care FT/PT
Child care workers needed FT and PT! Paying above average wages and will train. Call 432-620-9888

CINDY CLEAN NOW HIRING FOR PART TIME
Must be over 18, non-smoker, available 8am to 5pm, have transportation, cell phone, and neat. Call (800) 914-4670 ext. 5, leave message and mention Midland or online at www.cindyclean.net

OTHER JOBS

Daycare Personnel
Little Dreamers is now hiring. Must have high school diploma and pass criminal background check, willing to train. Apply in person at: 600 North Carrizo, 79701. Monday-Friday 7am-6pm.

Driver
B & B Wrecker Service
CDL and non-CDL Drivers NEEDED. Must be 21 years or older, Good driving record. Paid every Friday. Please come by 2823 S. Rankin HWY.

Embroidery
Perfect Stitch Embroidery FT
Embroidery position open. No experience needed will train the right person. Serious inquiries only. Call 432-686-1948.

Energize Your Future with Willbros T&D Services
We are looking for: Pole Set Crew Foreman, Overhead Crew Foreman, Overhead/Underground Lineman, Backhoe Operators, Apprentice and Laborers. Must have or be able to obtain class A CDL. We offer competitive wages, 401k, health, vacation, apprenticeship program. For an application please call 432-230-1097.

Field Coordinator
Confidential FT
Field Coordinator needed, starts at $800 a week,14 days on and 7 days off, 12 hour days. Must have own vehicle. Please apply at: 7606 W Hwy 80, Midland, TX.

Immediate Openings
Hilton Midland Plaza has immediate openings for the following positions:
• Restaurant Servers • PM Concierge
• Dishwasher • Room Attendants
Apply to Human Resources, 117 W. Wall

Installer
Confidential FT
Immediate openings for 2 people to install garage doors and openers. Call 432-528-8600.

Janitor
Seeking dependable part and full time emplyees for evening janitorial postions and some day positions. Call 570-9903 or apply at 805 S. Midkiff.

Kelly Services- Immediate Opening
• Admin/ Receiving Clerk - must have basic computer skills, prefer certified forklift driver, Work location is 20 miles outside of Midland, Salary DOE. Call Kelly Services 432-689-9801 or apply in person at 6 Desta Drive Ste. 1260 Midland, Texas. Never an applicant fee. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Landman
Hilliard Energy F/T
Hilliard Energy has an opening for an oil and gas landman. Candidate must have a minimum of 5 years title and negotiations experience (running mineral, lease hold and surface title: acquiring leases and surface agreements), willingness to travel, and a clean driving record. To apply, send resume to careers@mmbo.com or for more info call 432-683-9100

Need extra dollars?
Or know someone who does?

Part time delivery drivers needed for the Midland Reporter-Telegram. Early morning hours. Must have car and phone.

Contact:
Tony:687-9002

NEED A NEW CAREER?
Midland Reporter-Telegram
Spring 2012 CAREER FAIR
Tuesday, February 28
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM • Midland County Horseshoe (Main Arena)

Oilfield Services
VCI FT
Dependable, intellegent, willing to learn. Will train. Crane experience and valve experience a plus. Bilingual a plus. Full benefits. Salary open. Call 432-563-2233, ask for Cathy or Dub.

Operations Manager
Needed for environmental service company. 3-5 years experience in environmental and/ or management required. Salary based upon experience. Send resume to Sales@AIEmergency.com or call 817-595-0100

Porter
Clusters Apartment FT
Porter needed. This is a full time position with benefits. Apply within at 4415 Northcrest Dr. Midland TX 79707.

Sam's Club Is Now Hiring For Following Positions:
• Cashier - PT • Overnight - FT • Meat Cutters - FT
• Carts - PT
Flexible schedules required. Apply at the store kiosk in person at 1500 N. Tradewinds, Midland, TX 79706 or online at samsclub.com

Sam's

SOLUTIONS LASER WASH NOW HIRING!
We need a couple of clean cut, positive, hard working, motivated individuals. Apply at 908 Andrews Hwy in Midland (across from Rosa's).

Technicians/Drivers/Operator
Needed for environmental service company. Salary based upon experience. Call M-F 8:00am-5:00pm @ 1-800-980-7911

Warehouse/Delivery Driver
Sims Plastics FT
Warehouse/ Delivery Driver, good driving record and driver's license required. Apply in person at: 2700 W. Front, Midland, TX 79701

Warehouse Driver
Warehouse Driver wanted must be a t least 21 years. Call 432-685-3541

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

westtexasjobs

http://www.mywesttexasjobs.com

Midland Reporter-Telegram

monster

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram has immediate openings in it's Distribution Department (Mailroom)

Part-Time Shift Work Available

Schedule consists of a combination of day and night shifts. Night Shifts - 12 (midnight) until 3-5 a.m.
Starting pay is $9.50 hourly.

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least 8 hours. 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 and a social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: etitsworth@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

The Midland Reporter Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the position of

Pressman Pressman Trainee

for our Harris N-1650 Printing presses. This 5- 6 day per week, fast paced, deadline oriented position, requires night shift weekend work, with a strong emphasis on safety. The Midland Reporter Telegram offers a full package of company benefits including 401K program. Salary DOE.

Send resume and salary requirements to:
John Maddox, Production Director
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram
201 E. Illinois St., Midland, TX 79701
E-mail: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
or
come by 201 E. Illinois Street to fill out an application.

HEARST corporation

Midland Reporter-Telegram is a part of Hearst Corp.

NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Direct Care Staff Member

High Sky Children's Ranch Emergency Shelter is seeking energetic, youth oriented persons for part time employment. This person should at least **25 years** of age, have a good driving record, valid driver's license, clear criminal history, drug screen, HS diploma or GED, ability to attend all trainings as assigned and the work consecutive days (including nights). The current positions open are for a direct care staff member working 2-3 evenings during the week 3p-11p and rotating weekends. (Weekends include a full day on Saturday and Sunday). Call for an application at 433-694-7728 or download at www.highsky.org. You can drop or mail completed application to: High Sky Children's Ranch, 8701 WCR 60, Midland, TX 79707. Attn: Karen Baker. For inquiries or a full job description you can contact Karen Baker at karenb@highsky.org. No phone calls please. Position closes 2/29/12.

Gazelle Transportation Inc

NOW HIRING!
$$ SIGN-ON BONUS for a limited time $$
(3 yrs Tanker exp. Req.)
CLASS A PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS & LEAD DRIVERS
LOCAL SHIFT WORK

Gazelle Transportation, Inc is expanding into West TX, and the surrounding areas in the permian basin. Driver applicants must have Hazmat, Tanker, Doubles and Triples endorsements along with a good MVR record and a minimum of 3 years Class A driving experience.
Tanker experience is preferred but not necessary.

Gazelle Transportation, Inc offers an industry leading compensation package which includes. Exceptional pay. Health, Life. Vision. Dental, ST Disability, 125 Plan and 401k Plan. Drivers participate in two separate bonus programs: Quarterly Safety Performance and Annual Longevity Bonuses.

APPLY NOW! Positions are limited! Prompt response is encouraged to ensure your consideration.
Request an employment application by calling 1-855-H-A-U-L-O-I-L or by visiting our website: www.gazelletrans.com

Gazelle Transportation Inc is truly committed to the Safety and Success of our drivers!

REAL ESTATE

Property Manager and Leasing Agent

Confidential FT

Company seeking mature professional individuals for positions of Property Manager and Leasing Agent. Experience in management not necessary, but the ability to communicate effectively, organize efficiently and administer customer service skills are essential. Disconnment skills are a must. Please forward resume and salary requirements to crownproperties@grandecom.net

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All Positions

Buffalo Wild Wings FT/PT

Now Hiring All Positions. Buffalo Wild Wings, 4241 Grandview Ave Odessa, TX. Apply in Person

Dishwasher

The Garlic Press FT
Midland, TX 79705

The Garlic Press is now hiring dishwasher. Apply in person Oakridge Square, Wadley and Garfield, between 11am and 1pm or 5:30 and 7pm.

Food Service Staff needed at the Warfield Truck Plaza

Warfield Truck Plaza FT/PT

Subway is hiring Sandwich Artists & the Restaurant needs Cooks, Servers & Prep Cooks. 10400 I-20 @ FM 1788, Midland

Hibachi Chef

Osaka Japanese Steakhouse FT

Would you like to make $15 to $20 an hour? Will train hibachi chef, servers, bartender, bus help, kitchen help, dishwasher and hostess. Apply in person Monday- Friday, 11:00am-3:00pm at:1207 Tradewinds Blvd. 79707.

Kitchen Help

Clear Springs Restaurant FT
5707 Andrews Hwy
Midland, TX 79703

Full-time kitchen help, night and weekend Busers. Apply between 2pm-4pm, Monday-Friday, 5707 Andrews Hwy. No phone calls.

Night Dishwasher

Wall Street Bar & Grill FT
Midland, TX 79701

Full-time Night Dishwasher position available. Apply at:115 East Wall Street, Midland, Tx 79701.

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Now Hiring Restaurant Associates (Midland Airport)

Creative Food Group FT/PT

Creative Food Group is opening food/beverage restaurants at Midland International Airport and looking for motivated, energetic and experienced restaurant managers, cashiers, cooks and bartenders with experience in bar, dining and quick serve.
Please reply to this posting at mafjobs@creativefoodgroup.com with your resume and availability to meet for an interview. We are a fast growing company with competitive wages - we look forward to meeting you!

Now Hiring Warriors

Genghis Grill FT

Server, Host, Busser, Dishwasher, Grill Cook and Prep.
Apply online at:snagajobs.com EOE

Positions Available

Now hiring full & part time help. Cashier, counter help, dishwasher. Apply in person at Michael's Charcoal Grill. 723 W. Wadley, Midland, Texas

Way Out West Steak House is Now Hiring!

We are looking to hire **Grill Cooks, Hot Bar Cooks, Wait Staff, Line Servers,** and **Dishwashers**. Apply in person at **515 Andrews Hwy, Midland, TX 79701.** Interview guaranteed!

RETAIL JOBS

Full Time Cashier

Natural Foods Market FT

Health Food Store is taking applications for an energetic and friendly full-time cashier. Shifts will include evenings, and most Saturdays.
Apply in person Monday through Friday only 9am to 5pm at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Wadley. Serious inquiries only.

SALES JOBS

Clerical Help Wanted

Applicant must have great customer skills and phone skills. Good computer skills will be required and must have the ability and attitude to keep up in a fast paced environment. Please send resume to P-129 c/o Midland Reporter Telegram, 201 E. Illinois, Midland, Texas 79701

Inside/Outside Sales

A-1 Sign Engravers FT

Inside/Outside Sales Position, must be a multi-tasker, people skills a must. If you are high energy and people oriented then this may be your opportunity to shine. Competitive pay scale and great work environment. Call Jay Nichols at A-1 Sign Engravers @ 682-4503 for appointment.

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Sales Associates

Woods Boots FT

Retail Sales Associates needed. Great commissions and customers. Best hours in retail. Paid medical and vacation, matching 401K. Come join a great team at Woods Boot's. 4 locations in Midland/Odessa.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Geoscientist

Immediate opening for a qualified applicant with 3 to 5 years experience and degree (bachelor/masters) in environmental science, chemistry, biology, geology, or related discipline. Strong communication, computer and writing skills required, benefits including health insurance, 401K, competitive salary, EOE. Please send resume to: P.O. Box 50685, Midland, TX 79710-0685. ATTN: Human Resources Manager:
patty@laenvironmental.com

Larson & Associates, Inc.

SKILLED LABOR

All Positions

CDL Drivers needed for vacuum trucks and dump trucks. Also needed Backhoe, Maintainer and a Bulldozer Operators. Call George 556-6534 or apply at: 2908 County Rd 1150, Midland, Tx

CDL Driver and Working Foreman

Confidential F/T

CDL and Working Foreman roustabout experience preferred 50-55 hours per week and weekends off. Insurance is available and uniforms are supplies. Drug test is required. Call 432-684-9490, application will be accepted Monday through 2/20/12 through 3/5/12.

Commercial Construction Carpenters

Commercial Construction Carpenters needed. Apply at: 2401 West Louisiana at Project Job Trailer at First Baptist Church, Midland.

Diesel Mechanic

Limon's Road Service FT

Diesel Mechanics wanted. Experience, tools, and good driving record a must. Benefits include paid vacation, holiday, medical paid by employer, and 401K available. TOP PAIY OFFERED. Please send resumes to: limons3@earthlink.net. Please contact Junior Limon at 512-848-5668 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Electrical Job Superintendent

R & L Electric, Inc. FT

Seeking qualified Electrical Job Superintendent for large commercial work in the Midland & Odessa area. Great pay, Insurance, Quality work place. Call (817)613-0819 or email resume to kyle@rlelectricinc.com

General Labor/Truck Driver

Viking Pool FT

Vacation, dental and health insurance. Must pass drug screen. Apply in person, 8am-5pm, 10600 W. I-20 East, Odessa, TX 79765.

Licensed Electrical Journeyman

Brown's Permian Electric Company FT

Licensed Electrical Journeymen needed for local projects. Must furnish own transportation to job site and be able to pass drug test.-Apply at Brown's Permian Electric Co., 803 S. Marienfeld St., Midland, Monday through Friday, 7-3.

Licensed Plumber & Helper

TMI Mechanical FT

Licensed commercial Plumbers, Sheet Metal Mechanics and experienced Helpers wanted on local jobs. Top pay depending on experience. Call 432-686-0002 for interview.

Mack Truck Diesel Mechanic

Permian Petroleum Services, Inc. FT

Need experienced Mack Truck Diesel Mechanic. Must have own tools. Sign-on bonus, competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision coverage available. Apply to 4601 Rankin Highway, Midland, Texas, mail resume to P. O. Box 3863, Midland, TX 79702, fax to 432-683-7407, or call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434.

Mechanics, Tire Installers & General Shop Help needed!

Western Auto FT
4000 S FM 1788, Midland

SKILLED LABOR

Mechanics

Western Auto FT

Mechanics needed at Western Auto! 4000 S FM 1788, Midland.

NEED A NEW CAREER?

Midland Reporter-Telegram
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NOW HIRING!!!

Established Water Transfer Company with 8+ years in West Texas looking for **experienced** employees. Good driving record a must! Company offers: **Insurance**, 401K, Profit Sharing and Monthly/Job Bonuses. Please come by the office at **3700 E. Hwy 158, Midland, TX** to apply.

Now Hiring

Mattlock Drilling FT

Are you needing a change? Want to work close to home?
Have at least 6 months experience working as a actual hand on a drilling rig and have never worked for us. Then Mattlock Drilling is the place for you. We offer insurance after 90 days and vacation after a year.The schedule is 6 days on and 2 off. NO CAMP JOBS.
Hiring for
- Drillers
- Derrickhands
- Motorhands
- Leadtonghands

Top **Wages**. If interested come in and apply at 12505 WCR 54, Odessa Texas, 79765. Off of business 20 and the coors road. NO PHONE CALLS. Drug and Alcohol Testing. EOE

Plumber

Rainbow Plumbing FT

Rainbow plumbing now taking applications for licensed Service Plumbers. Make up to $24/hour, health insurance, 401K. Great benefits with great company. Apply at 5014 Andrews Hwy, in Odessa.

Service Technicians Needed

Weidner Apartment Homes FT

Weidner Apartment Homes is seeking Service Technicians to care for a few of our apartment communities. Responsibilities: Assist in the preparation of apartments for occupancy, respond to service requests, performs maintenance and repairs on electrical, plumbing, HVAC systems, as well as small and large appliances. Qualifications: Experience in apartment maintenance or related field preferred, strong verbal communication skills, have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Please apply online at: www.weidnercareers.com or fax resume to 1-877-399-9012.

Welders/Fabricators/Mechanics

Energy Fabrication FT

Now accepting applications for Welders, Fabricators, Mechanics, experienced Parts guy. Top pay, 401K and paid vacation. Please send resume to: 3750 Kermit Highway, Odessa, TX 79764, or apply in person.

Welders

M & D Welding FT

Single hand contract needed. Oil field experience a plus. Salary DOE. Please call for application at 432-520-3853, 638-8266.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Bus Drivers

The Boys & Girls Club of Midland. Monday-Friday, 2:45pm - 4:45pm. $25 per hour. For more information please call Michael, 432-683-0050.

Class A CDL Driver

Service Seal, LLC FT

Stable Company looking for Class A CDL Driver with Hazmat endorsement for local and regional deliveries. Minimum 3 to 5 years professional driving experience. Must be dependable, trustworthy and have clean driving record and background and willing to work in the warehouse when not driving. If you meet these qualifications, please call Melissa at 432-570-9414.

Class A CDL Truck Drivers

Silverline Transportation 432-563-1894

Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver $2,000 sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com**
Also hiring for Field Coordinators.

Silverline

DOT SAFETY DIRECTOR

Experienced Professional needed to manage DOT and all safety requirements for local transportation company. Must be up to date with all aspects of DOT regulations and FMCSA rules & regulation and also CSA. Prior experience will be necessary for this position. Please call **432-563-1894** to schedule interview.

Driver/Laborer - Midland, TX

Austin Powder Company FT

Operates company vehicles in the early morning to deliver products to and from specified jobsites. Responsible for loading/unloading product for delivery to jobsites, which results in frequent lifting of 40-60 pound product bags or boxes. This position is responsible for operating company equipment at the job-site under the direction of the Blaster in charge, performing duties of load/plant crew or shot service crew and/or assisting the location manager. Must possess a current Class A or B CDL. Hazmat and Tanker endorsements are preferred but not required. Must possess a high school diploma or GED and 2+ years driving experience. Full benefits package is available.
Contact: Please forward your response information to
Austin Powder Company,
Fax: 216-591-1568, Call: 432-684-5123 or
Email: humanresources@austinpowder.com
EOE

Tanker Truck Drivers

Mangum Oil & Gas FT

Running OK, TX, KS. Must have CDL with Haz/Mat Endorsement. Pre-Employment drug test & physical. Min 3 years OTR exp. Call 1-800-324-6624 as for Elaine or Jimmy M-F 8-5 PM.

Treater Truck Driver

X-Chem FT

X-Chem is seeking a Treater Truck Driver for our Midland location. The Treater Truck Driver is responsible for delivering chemical to customer locations, treating wells, monitoring raw material inventory supply, and other duties, as needed.

The ideal candidate will have 1-3 years experience in a similar role, a high school diploma (or equivalent), and a current Class A CDL with Tanker and Hazmat endorsements.

We offer competitive salary and outstanding benefits including 401(K) with matching funds, major medical, dental, vision, life, long and short term disability. Additionally, we offer an employee credit union, tuition reimbursement, paid vacation and holiday policy, and much more!

Qualified candidates, please contact Jenny Johnson in Human Resources at 972-721-6712 or jenny.johnson@nch.com

Vacuum & Tank Truck Drivers

Permian Pertroleum Services, Inc. FT

Need Class A CDL vacuum and tank truck drivers with tank endorsement and clean driving records. Must be experienced. Offering sign-on bonus, competitive wages, paid health insurance, uniforms and vacations. Retirement, family medical, dental and vision insurance available. Apply to 4601 Rankin Highway, Midland, Texas, mail resume to P. O. Box 3863, Midland, TX 79702, fax to 432-683-7407, or call 24-hour phone 432-682-0434.

LEGAL

Paralegal/Legal Assistant

Brockett & McNeel, LLP FT

Wanted: Fast-paced, growing law firm needs a paralegal/legal assistant with minimum of 5 years of litigation experience, insurance defense preferred but not required. Needs to be organized, a self-starter and able to type at least 75 wpm. Salary commensurate with experience. Health insurance and 401(k) benefits. Please submit resume to lforth@brockettmcneel.net.

DON'T MISS OUT!
The deadline for a Saturday Garage Sale ad is Friday at 12 noon

Please be sure to call 682-6222, by 11:30 am. to ensure your ad will be in Saturday's paper.

Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Antiques

CONTINENTAL ANTIQUE SALE!
Ector Co. Coliseum
Feb. 24th-26th.
Call 281-332-6073
Tables for rent.

Appliances

1 Hour Free AAA Appliances pickup. Call 238-9735 / 528-3046.

1 HOUR FREE appliance pickup 978-5211

Dryer, $100. Refrigerator, $200. electric stove/ microwave on top $150. Call 432-352-7988.

Free Stuff

30 MOVING BOXES 11X16 inches, $1.00 each, 432-664-8476.

50 OFFICE chairs, various repairs needed, must take most or all. Other equipment as well. 684-0983.

FREE TO good home, male Chihuahua, 3 years old, all shots. Call 432-270-2686.

FREE 5 yr, male terrier mix, 10mo., female german shepherd mix, 8mo. male golden retriever mix. 288-5888

FREE TO good home, 1 year old Boxer female. 260-8809.

FREE TO good home, 1 year old chocolate Lab, male, 260-8809.

FREE TO good home, Lab/Boxer mix puppies, 260-8809.

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Furniture

BEAUTIFUL RED tapestry couch & loveseat with wood trim. Purchased at Carters, good condition, $875 OBO. 978-5574.

GENUINE LEATHER sofa & loveseat, excellent condition, purchased from Carter's. $1500, 432-557-5708.

If You Have Items You Are Giving Away For FREE, Your Ad Is On Us! CALL 432-682-6222 TODAY!

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

5 Days, 5 Lines $5
Marty's Marketplace ONLY
Call 682-6222
(Private Parties Only)
Sale valid 2/1-2/29

NEW TODAY!

BRAND NEW Californiа King Tempurpedic cloud mattress. AMAZING just cant afford payments. Used maybe a month at the most. Has a life time warranty and two extra mattress covers. Paid over $7,500 at Ashleys Furniture but will take $4,500 OBO. Comes with the mattress and side rails plus the two remotes that can raise the head or foot or bead or activate the massage feature. You can also have this at the same time. Would love to keep but I started staying home with my 3 kids and can't afford it anymore. If you would like pictures or to come check out this awesome bed contact me @ 432-664-8504

FOR SALE Doctor's choice plush king bedding. $500. 432-352-8206

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Thomasville King bedroom set, headboard, 2 night stands, triple dresser and armoire. $600. DIning table with 6 chairs $400. Call 432-520-5010.

Miscellaneous For Sale

12X20 MORGAN building, wired, insulated, sheetrock. $3,800 OBO. 432-978-0532.

18" SHARP TV, LCD w/dvd player, $75. Sleeper sofa, $125. Oil heater, $10. Call 432-699-1336.

BUSHNEL BINOCULARS $15 each. 432-262-1985

CALIFORNIA KING Stearns & Foster Mattress set NEW Will sell for $950. Call 686-0217.

For sale chain link gates. 8' 9 gauge wire used. Steel post, beams & other materials, all types of used pipes. 432-682-5157.

Hummingbird Mobiles, furniture, collectables, lots of miscellaneous. Call 694-9491

OAK 2 leaf table, oak china hutch. Norman D Clarinet and Yamaha saxophone, both in excellent condition Call 432-209-7757.

SADDLE BARN bull riding gear for sale. Contact Ray for details, 432-254-4005.

SEARS CRAFTSMAN lawnmower, runs well $50. Please call 432-262-1985

SLEEPER SOFA $125. Club chairs, $25 each. TV cabinet, black, $50. Computer desk, $35. 432-699-1336.

SUPER NINTENDO game system w/ 25 games $50. Please call 432-262-1985

TWIN SIZE bed $125. 2 tires P235-70R16 $50, 50 gallon metal barrels $10ea. Call 432-352-8419

Musical Instruments

PEAVEY 8 CHANNEL PA amp, set of Peavey SR speakers & Rogue Speakers & mics, $500, 488-7478.

Classified CAN 682-6222

Industrial Products & Supplies

Heavy Equipment

MUDLOGGING UNIT for sale or lease 1981 Allical Newly Equiped in 2005 by Permian Basin Instruments. Fully equipped, good working condition. Make Offer.432-288-3328.

Animals & Pets

Pets

AKC FOX Lab puppy. Very sweet, potty trained. Comes with Kennel, $150. 432-254-0392.

ALASKAN MALAMUTE pups, 12 wks old, 1st puppy shots. $500 w/ out AKC papers or $900 w/ AKC papers. Call 432-364-2488, pls leave message.

CATAHOULA - leopard dog for free. He is adorable, smart. and loving. 61 pds, gray and black, 1yr old, neutered, has rabies tag, shots current, micro-chipped. Please call Kelly at 432-260-8249.

GERMAN SHEPHERD, pure breed puppies for sale! AKC registered, 1st shots, dewormed. 8 wks old, 3 females available. Please call 432-270-5355, 432-270-4973.

LAB PUPPIES AKC & started dogs. Hips/ eyes guaranteed. Training available. Pooles Labs. www.pooleslabs.com. Call (806) 633-4364.

NEW YEARS Eve Teacup Chihuahua. 432-684-1168.

PETS AT Peace now providing cremations and burials. Pre-need, 12 months, 0% Interest. 620-8677.

Passenger Cars

VOLKSWAGON 2005 New Beetle GLS Convertible. Black, 42k miles, KBB $10,232. Call 432-528-9808.

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars & pick-ups. 432-685-4078

Hybrid

FORD 2008 ESCAPE HYBRID, 30MPG city, We finance W.A.C. B&B Auto 683-6222.

Exotic Cars

2007 CORVETTE C6. Automatic, silver, gray leather, 30k miles. $28,000 Call 432-699-0743.

ASHTON MARTIN 2012 Vantage S white, list for $170,000, asking for $135,000. 1,500 miles. Call 817-995-8580.

Antique & Vintage

BUICK 1969 Riviera, 70K miles, garage kept since new, Mobile 1 fluids through out since 70's, 430 Wildcat engine, 400 turbo trani, working radio, cold ac, papers, all original. Purrs like a hungry lion. $11,500. Call 432-559-7674.

Pickup Trucks

2011 DODGE Quad cab. 8 k miles. Only payoff $21,000. 432-528-1609

CHEVROLET 1995 Stepside Super Cab, 3/4 ton, 350 cubic inch motor, rebuilt transmission & motor $2,200. 432-352-1269

CHEVROLET 2001 Silverado 1500, extended cab Z71, red, with gray cloth, 5.3 vortec, 100k miles, grill guard, headache rack and tool box. $10,250 Call 432-697-0010.

CHEVROLET 2004 Silverado 1500 ext. cab Z-71LT, 4WD, V8, 5.3 liter, New oversized off-road AT tires, 57k miles, 1 owner $16,500.432-638-3790

CHEVY 2004 Colorado, ext cab, auto. We finance, your job is your credit 683-6222.

CHEVY 2008 COLORADO Crew Cab, Call details $15000 432-556-6947.

CHEVY 2008 Diesel Silverado LTZ 2500 HD Crew cab. Loaded Silver w/black leather, heated seats, power rear window, roof rack bed liner, grill guard, step up bars, tool box $32,926. 682-5133

CHEVY 2011 Silverado 4x4, V8, crew cab, 2.5" leveling kit, 33" Nitto tires, 20" rims, flowmasters, rhino liner, billet grill, nerf bars, tool box, red w/ black interior, 99.9% perfect, no scratches, dings, or dents, $30k OBO 432-260-2262

DODGE 1999 2500 Cummins 4x4, Club Cab, auto transmission, 148K miles, $8,500 OBO. 432-697-5138.

DODGE 2006 2500, 5.9 Cummings diesel, 86k miles, asking $22,900. 664-0760.

DODGE 2008 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT, 53K miles, $18K obo. Call 432-528-8559.

DODGE 2008 Ram Quad Cab. 75k, many factory, $22,000 obo. Call 432-296-1976.

FORD 2001 F150 single cab. Good work truck, $3,500. 432-222-8162.

Pickup Trucks

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FORD 2004 F-150 Supercrew 4X4 Black, 137,200 miles, black 20 inch wheels, leveling kit, grey interior, $10,500 432-634-2397

FORD 2004 F-150 XLT. Super Cab, 5.4 liter Triton, 45K miles, very good condition. $11,500. 689-0827.

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GMC 2005 Yukon SLT, 5.3 V8, 83k miles, sandstone with tan leather, DVD system, sunroof, excellent condition, $15,500. Call 432-697-0010

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LUBBOCK TECH Terrace Home. 2bd/2bth, close to Texas Tech University & Tech Trolley $147,000 Owner is LREB. Call 325-347-4702

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Homes for Sale

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Service provided by The Cats Meow, Visa, MC, AMEX, accepted.

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Tables for rent.

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2507 STANOLIND
FRI. 9AM-3PM,SAT. 9AM-12PM (20% off) **12PM-3PM** (50% off)
Furniture: Kenmore refrigerator, Sears freezer, Maytag dryer, Kenmore washer, Sharp microwave, sofa, two wing recliners, three ladderback chairs, breakfast table w/ 4 chairs, king size bed complete, full size bed complete, chest of drawers, dresser, sewing machine cabinet, TV's, marble top coffee table, lawyer bookcase, table lamp
China and Glassware: Noritake Ivory china "Viceroy" & crystal pieces
Antiques: Kellogg wall telephone
Office: Large desk, bookcases, filing cabinets, 2-shelf bookcase, typewriter, computer, printer, computer desk, metal bookcase and many office accessories
Storage shed and sun porch full of tools, yard tools, trunks, lawn chairs, fishing equipment, camping equipment, ladders, and lots more
Miscellaneous: Kitchen equipment, radios, telephones, linens, lamps, rugs, fireplace screen and accessories, pictures, many varieties of books, records, tapes, cd's, dvd, hat rack, tennis rackets & golf clubs.
Car: 1999 Mercedes-Benz E320, 4 door, 77k miles.
By: Linda L. Biden

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By
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Thursday and Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
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This is a great home and shop full!
Including.. kitchen items, prints, costume jewelry, Christmas items, glassware, vintage cabinet radio, entertainment center, dining room table/chairs, buffet/hutch, glass top iron table, lamps, lamp tables, desk, leaf chairs, bbq grill, hot tub, patio furniture, iron bed, dressers, lingerie chest, sofa, bakers rack, butcher block, washer/dryer, fridge, oxygen tank/breathing equipment, and the usual household misc. Lincoln arc welder, welding bottles, grinders, Delta air compressor, Lincoln elect. Welder, 2 chest tool boxes, air tools, hand tools, nail guns, auto body work tools, car parts (Cadillac, Corvair), shop vacs, car manuals, camping equip, cut off saw, welding table, table saws, belt sanders, electric tools, clamps, drill press, vises, tubing/pipe benders, floor jacks, jack stands, engine lifter, 1972 Cadillac, 1946 Cadillac (with parts car), golf cart, truck bed trailer. too much to list.
For pictures please go to...
http://www.estatesales.net/estate-sales/258339.aspx

Yard & Garage Sales

79705

1907 N. Tyler Thursday-Saturday 7am-? 4 Family Garage Sale! Cheap prices! Everything must go! Furniture, kids, teens, & adult clothes and shoes, crockpots, set of rims for a Ford, antique sewing maching & lots more!

2505 KESWICK, Friday & Saturday 9am-3pm. Multi-family sale, 20 years accumulation. Household furnishings, tools, toys, adult and children books, upright freezer, yard tools, drum set, carpet shampooer and much more. Too much to list. Please do not park in alley.

79707

4926 Keenland Dr, Fri 2/24 and Sat 2/25/11 8a-Noon. Multi-family garage sale! Air hockey table, furniture, sattles, kitchen cabinet doors and drawers, golf clubs, lots of household and garden items.

Yard & Garage Sales

79701

606 KENT. Friday and Saturday from 11am-4pm. Furniture, refrigerator, paintings and sculptures.

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Kid Scoop .com

Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: www.kidscoop.com

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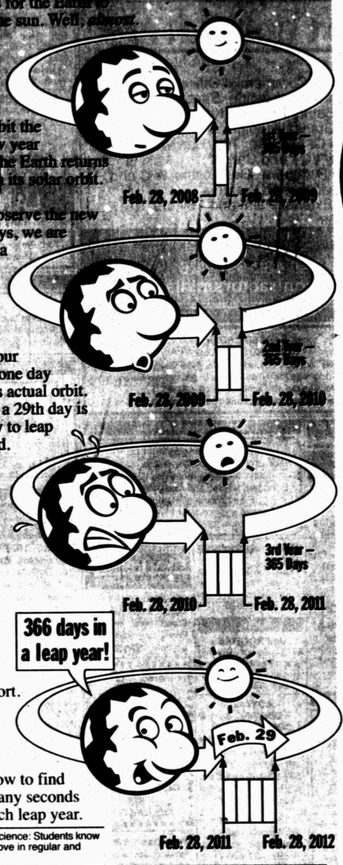
LEAP YEAR!

It takes 365 days for the Earth to travel around the sun. Well, *almost*.

Actually, it takes 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes and over 12 seconds for the Earth to orbit the sun. An actual new year occurs each time the Earth returns to the same spot in its solar orbit.

But because we observe the new year every 365 days, we are really celebrating a little sooner than when the Earth returns to that spot in its orbit.

After four years, our calendar is about one day behind the Earth's actual orbit. To make up time, a 29th day is added to February to leap the calendar ahead. On February 29, the Earth is back to the same position where it was four years earlier. ***Almost.***



Code Clue

Each leap year, we fall about ♡♡ minutes and ★🌎 seconds short. Eventually, this will add up to 24 hours.

Use the code below to find out about how many seconds we are behind each leap year.

Standards Link: Earth Science: Students know that objects in the sky move in regular and predictable patterns.

Color the Leap Year illustration above.

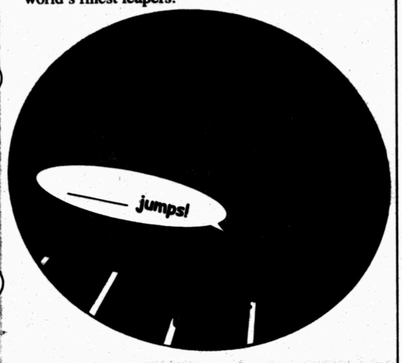
CODE
1 = ★ 4 = ⚡
2 = 🌎 6 = ☼
3 = ♡

The Sun — yellow
The Earth — blue
1st year — orange
2nd year — purple
3rd year — red
Leap year — green
Feb. 29 — green

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

Leapin' Lizards!

And frogs, kangaroos and fleas! Lots of animals in the world can leap. Even people. Meet some of the world's finest leapers:



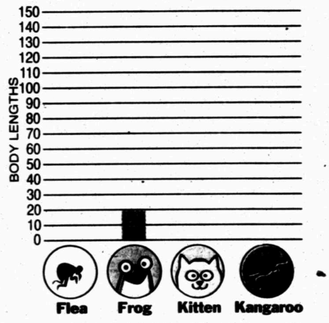
Fantastic Fleas!

Of the 1,830 varieties of fleas, the champion jumper is the cat flea. It has been known to leap to a height of 34 inches. That would be like a person leaping over 1,000 feet!

Graph It!

Read the following facts. Then complete the chart.

A frog can jump 20 times its body length. A kangaroo can jump 4.5 times its body length. A kitten can jump 3 times its body length. A flea can jump 150 times its body length!



Standards Link: Data Analysis: Interpret information on a graph.

Extra!

Jumping Through the News

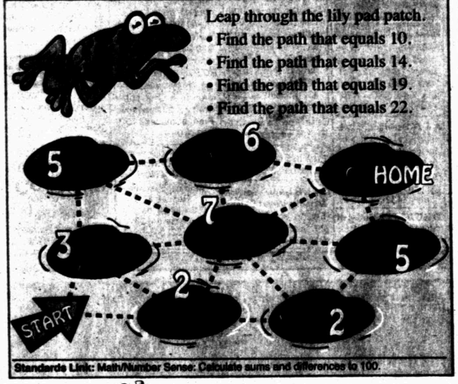
In a newspaper, a "jump" is a story that jumps from one page, usually the front page, to another. How many jumps can you find in today's newspaper?

Standards Link: Research: Understand that newspapers have a specific type of layout.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Leap through the lily pad patch.

- Find the path that equals 10.
- Find the path that equals 14.
- Find the path that equals 19.
- Find the path that equals 22.



Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Calculate sums and differences to 100.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

EVENTUALLY
FANTASTIC
FEBRUARY
LIZARDS
SECONDS
TRAVEL
FINEST
JUMPS
EARTH
ORBIT
SOLAR
FLEAS
LEAP
SPOT
SUN

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Weekly Writing Corner

"Would you like February 29th to be your birthday? Why or why not?"

I would like to have a birthday on February 29th because I would get four times more presents. My parents would have to make up for the last four years, and I'd get more birthday candles.

Houston Richman, Midland Christian

I would love to be born on Leap Year because I would get to pick when my birthday is. One year I could have a swimming party and the next year an ice skating party. Plus, it would be unique. On my real birthday I would get an extra special party. I think it would be great to have a birthday on Leap Year.

Logan Schoening, Midland Christian

Well... yes! I would love to have a February 29th birthday, because it's Leap Year. When you are 16 people could ask you how old you are and you could say that you're four! How fun would that be! Anyway, I love my birthday just the day it is!

Caroline Harper, 6th grade, Hillander

I would not like to have a February 29th birthday because you would be like my friend who's only 2 years old when she is supposed to be 11. That is why I would not like a Leap Year birthday.

Landree Dietrich, 6th grade, Hillander

One birthday every four years? No thank you. I would not like to have a Leap Year birthday. That would mean that I would only be three years old this year! I do have a classmate whose name is Lauren, and her birthday is on February 29th. She is lucky because when we are 16 and driving, she will be four and driving. So what I am trying to say there are good and bad sides to having a Leap Year birthday, but I am perfectly happy with my December birthday.

Carter Nix, 6th grade, Hillander

No, I would not like to have a February 29th birthday. The reason is because I would only have a birthday every four years. Now if I didn't age as fast I would totally take the offer, but sadly that doesn't happen. So, I would not want my birthday on February 29th.

Wyatt Matott, 6th grade, Hillander

That's hard to respond to when my birthday really IS on February 29th. I am glad it's my birthday, because it's so rare. You see, Leap Year only comes every four years because we need an extra day by then. Also, I like my birthday because when I'm 80, I'll still be 20! I'll never age!

Lauren Ready, 6th grade, Hillander

I would not like a February 29th birthday because I would not have a birthday every year. I wouldn't get any presents most of my life. That's why I would not like to have a Leap Year birthday.

Neil Patel, 6th grade, Hillander

Write On!

Stamp Design

Imagine you were asked to design a stamp to show that the post office is going "green." Describe what you would put on your stamp.

Deadline: March 18
Published: Week of April 15
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ebowington@mrt.com
Please include your school and grade.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Odd and Even

Find 10 odd numbers and 10 even numbers. Add the list of numbers. Challenge a friend to find odd and even numbers that add up to a higher number than yours!

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Calculate from 100 to 100,000.

What's black and white and black and white and black and white?

ANSWER: A penguin rolling down a hill.

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TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28TH
10AM-3PM
AT THE
HORSESHOE
ARENA

find out what's going on...

On stage 4, 5
Trinity School presents "Once Upon a Mattress" at the Yucca Theatre, and Midland Community Theatre returns to Tuna, Texas.

Events 6, 7
Sports editor Len Hayward outlines upcoming events. Permian Basin Home and Garden Show this weekend. All you can eat at Shrimpfest on Monday.

Restaurant review 13
Joan Huff enjoys a slice of a small town at Stanton Drug and Old Fashioned Soda Fountain.

Live and in concert 16
Starship's Mickey Thomas talks abou his life and career.

Also
This week 3
On screen/DVDiva 14-15
Dining Guide 10-12

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Welcome to Pulse, a guide to things to do and places to go in our area. To have your event listed here, email gtemple@mrt.com or sdoreen@mrt.com. To be listed in Live Wire, email nadamson@mrt.com. Please do so as soon as your organization, club or venue has a firm date.

Trinity School Presents

Once Upon a Mattress

A musical comedy adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea"

MUSIC by Mary Rodgers
LYRICS by Marshall Barer
BOOK by Jay Thompson, Marshall Barer and Dean Fuller
Presented by permission from TAMS-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Feb. 23-24-25, 2012 at the Yucca Theatre

Tickets: $15 – Sponsor Tables: $300

Call 681-3334 NOW

Tickets on sale in the Trinity Commons
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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Washington's Birthday is the official name given to what many of us know as Presidents' Day. He was born on Feb. 22nd. Much of the debate over the name of the holiday comes from the fact that states can follow their own holidays how they see fit and many of them choose to also honor Lincoln, born on Feb. 12th, calling the holiday Presidents' Day.
Check out the many books about Presidents and Presidential trivia in our Gift Shop.

th

BEST BE

JERRY JEF
"OK, Buckar
Walker perform
the CAF Muse
the Junior Lea
Stilettos, a mu
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ends Sunday.
or call 682-473
can pop standa
for such hits as
and "L.A. Free

EXHIBITION
REGIONALIST
When: toda
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Opening re
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p.m. March 1.
Info: Held in
Fine Art, Hous

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Where: Mar
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Info: Preser
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When: Frid
Where: Ect

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When: Fri
Where: Da
Wadley Ave.
Tickets: Ca
box office, 57
Info: MCT's
Co-Produced

KALEIDOS
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When: 8 p.
p.m. Sunday
Where: Pe
Odessa
Tickets: $1
and $7 for th
432-362-232
Info: No sh

EXHIBITIO
AND LINDA
TEMPORAR
When: thr

opyright

thisweek

BEST BET

JERRY JEFF WALKER FRIDAY AT THE CAF

"OK, Buckaroos, here we go again.' Jerry Jeff Walker performs Friday for the Buckshot Bash at the CAF Museum. The performances is part of the Junior League of Midland, Inc.'s "Shotguns & Stilettos, a multi-day celebration of shopping, shooting and socializing that starts today and ends Sunday. For tickets, visit www.jlmidland.org or call 682-4732. Walker, who penned the American pop standard "Mr. Bojangles," is also known for such hits as "Sangria Wine," "Redneck Mother" and "L.A. Freeway."

Today

EXHIBITION: CONTEMPORARY TEXAS REGIONALISTS
When: today-March 2
Where: Haley Memorial Library, 1805 W. Indiana Ave.
Opening reception: 6-9 p.m. today
Also planned: Afternoon with the Artists: 1-4 p.m. March 1.
Info: Held in conjunction with William Reaves Fine Art, Houston.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION: PHOTOS BY GUY MCCRARY
Where: Martin County Library, 110 West School S. at St. Mary St., Stanton
Info: Presented by the Haggard Gallery In conjunction with the Friends of The Martin County Library. Show remains through April 30.

Friday

CONTINENTAL ANTIQUES SHOW
When: Friday-Sunday
Where: Ector County Coliseum

THE MUSICAL "GUYS AND DOLLS"
When: Friday through March 4
Where: Davis Theatre I, Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.
Tickets: Call Midland Community Theatre's box office, 570-4111
Info: MCT's opening musical of the season. Co-Produced by Wagner & Brown, Ltd.

KALEIDOSCOPE COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF DISNEY'S "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR."
When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday
Where: Permian Playhouse, 310 W. 42nd St., Odessa
Tickets: $14 adults, $12 students and seniors and $7 for those 12 years old and younger. Call: 432-362-2329
Info: No show March 2. Show closes March 4.

EXHIBITION: SELECTIONS FROM THE MIKE AND LINDA TILTON COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY ART
When: through April 8
Where: Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University, Odessa.

COMEDY NIGHT AT THE VELVET ROOM
When: Every Friday night
Where: Midtown Hotel, 3100 W. Wall St.
Tickets: $10

Saturday

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENTS: LONESTAR POKER TOUR
When: Saturday-Thursday
Where: The Hog Pit, Woofers and Tweeters and The Velvet Room
Admission: Free to join, free to play.
Info: Seven games a week with cash prizes. Players accumulate points throughout the year to qualify for quarterly tournaments and onto a year end tournament that offers a grand prize of $10,000 to play in the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. Day and evening games, smoking and non-smoking games. Every skill level. Go to www.lonestarpokertour.net for more information or call 349-8147.

STARSHIP
When: 8 p.m.
Where: Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
Tickets: $30-$75. Go to wagnernoel.com

Sunday

BROADWAY IN THE BASIN: "STOMP"
Where: Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. Sold out.

Monday

CHESS CLUB
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

MIDLAND COMMUNITY SYMPHONIC BAND
When: 7-9 p.m.
Where: Midland College Fine Arts Building Band Hall
Info: Weekly meeting. New members welcome. Call Chuck: 694-7153.

Tuesday

PERMIAN BASIN DANCE CLUB
When: 7:30-10 p.m.
Where: St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Cost: $5 members, $6 non-members.
Call: 520-4343 or 218-8215.
Info: Live country and Western music each week

CLASSIC MOVIE CLUB
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Cigar Frog's
Film: "The King's Speech"

PAINT TIME
When: 9 a.m.-noon
Where: Midland Palette Club, 907 West Wadley Ave.
Info: Call 352-8297.

Wednesday

CIRCUS GATTI
When: Wednesday through March 3
Where: Ector County Coliseum

Kids Zone

BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSELLERS
Where: 2617 West Loop 250 N.
Call: 682-8880
Saturday: "I Believe in You" 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Storytime for Preschool 10:30 a.m.

FREDDA TURNER DURHAM CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
Where: Museum of the Southwest complex, 1705 W. Missouri Ave.
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday.
Info: "Putt Putt around the World" through April 29.
Call: 683-2882 for more information.

Road Trip

LUBBOCK

SCIENCE SPECTRUM MUSEUM: NOW THROUGH APRIL 15TH," DA VINCI THE GENIUS."
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday.
General admission: $12 adults, $9.50 children (ages 3-12) and seniors (60+)
Group rate (groups of 10 or more): $10 adults, $8 children (ages 3-12) and seniors (60+). Available at the box office.
Info: Largest and most comprehensive touring exhibition compiled on Leonardo da Vinci.

KERRVILLE

ROBERT EARL KEEN IN CONCERT
When: 8 p.m. today
Where: Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater
Benefiting the Hill Country Youth Orchestras Endowment and Scholarship Funds.
Concert ticket prices: $100, $75, $50, $25. $100 tickets include a meet and greet reception with Robert Earl Keen at 6 p.m. at the Cailloux Theater, 910 Main St. Oriline ticket sales: www.caillouxtheater.com or call the Cailloux Theater box office 830-896-9393.

ABILENE

VEGGIETALES LIVE! GOD MADE YOU SPECIAL TOUR
When: 5 p.m. Sunday
Where: Abilene Civic Center, 1100 N. 6th St.
Info: 800-965-9324 or 325-437-5840 or www.itickets.com
Tickets: $15 advance, $20 day of show, $25 Gold Circle, $10 Groups of 10 or more. $8 Balcony.

LIVE WIRE

MIDLAND/ODESSA

Thursday, Feb. 23
Fred Andrews and Honeybrowne @ Rockin' Rodeo
Friday, Feb. 24
Jerry Jeff Walker @ CAF
Robert Claiborne @ Cigar Frog's
Run Home Jack @ The Detour
Technical Jazz, Ashley Smith, Dene Redmon @ Music City Mall
Friday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, Feb. 25
Mystery Stain @ The Bar
Kevin Ochs @ Riley's
Loudfinger @ Hot Shots
3 Lit Pigz @ Your Place
Saturday, Feb. 25
A Formal Affair @ The Ground Floor
Allstars, Jeff Williams, Ann Russell, Lois Stone, Ernesto Calderon, Jessie Thomas @ Music City Mall
Boys No Good, Day Trader, Latin for Truth, ThirtySeven, Archimedes, Watch Out!, Run for Cover @ Pine Box
Bred For War, Sindrone, Eternal Mosh, I Am Divine @ Fast Freddy's
Brian Keane @ Lone Star Bar
Cory Yeager @ Zucchi's
Jason Tarleton & Unsweet T's @ Cigar Frog's
Stampede @ Gritos
Starship featuring Mickey Thomas @ Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center
Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26
Creed Fisher @ Flash's Cantina
Sunday, Feb. 26
Goodtimers, Samuel Zachary, Tucker Binkley, Luis Ramirez, Ty Miller, Mary Mitchell @ Music City Mall
Man Overboard, Handguns, Seahaven, Candy Hearts, Ivy League, Moving Forward @ Pine Box
Permian Basin String Quartet @ Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center (2 p.m.)
Stomp @ Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center (7 p.m.)
Monday, Feb. 27
Broken Jaw Philosophy, Dead City Whores, Voodoo Glow Skulls @ New Blue Max
Tuesday, Feb. 28
Elitist, Bermuda, We Still Dream, Erra @ Pine Box
Wednesday, Feb. 29
Creed Fisher @ Rockin Rodeo

DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Friday, Feb. 24
Musiq Soulchild @ Verizon Theatre At Grand Prairie
Saturday, Feb. 25
BB King @ Billy Bob's Texas
Monday, Feb. 27
Dropkick Murphys, Frank Turner @ House of Blues

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Two actors attempt multiple roles in 'Red, White and Tuna'

By Georgia Temple
Entertainment Editor

The Fourth of July celebration and a 10-year reunion are topics of discussion for disc jockeys Arles Struvie and Thurston Wheelis at radio station OKKK in Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas, in Midland Community Theatre's production of "Red, White and Tuna," opening Friday at Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.

Created by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard, the Tuna stories take place in the fictional town of Tuna. The first play "Greater Tuna," debuted in 1981 in Austin. "Red, White and Tuna" debuted in 1998. Williams and Sears regularly tour the country to perform all four "Tuna" shows. Howard directs their shows.

"We've never done this one before," said Tim Jebsen, executive director of Midland Community Theatre and director for the comedy. "It's the third in the series, and it's been three years since we did 'Christmas.' And we've been sort of waiting for the right time to do the next one. We are real excited to have the same team together to do 'Red, White and Tuna' that did 'Tuna Christmas.'"

Those familiar with the "Tuna" series know two actors perform up to 10 characters of both sexes and varying ages during the show. For "Red, White and Tuna" those characters include:

Amber Windchime, a flower child and former Tuna resident;

Petey Fish, employee of the Greater Tuna Humane Society;

Charlene Bumiller, daughter of Bertha Bumiller and brother to Stanley, now a military bride;

Stanley Bumiller, taxidermist, residing in Albuquerque, N.M.;

Vera Carp, town snob and leader of the Prayer Posse;

Did Snavely, owneer of Didi's Used Weapons;

Helen Bedd, co-owner of Helen & Inita's Hot-to-Trot catering;

Garland Poteet, soda dispenser and one of helen's many boyfriends;

Star Birdfeather, flower child and former Tuna resident;

Elmer Watkins, spokesperson for free White Texas;

Bertha Bumiller, housewife and mother to Jody, Stanley and Charlene, now in a relationship with Struvie;

Pearl Burras, aunt to Bertha, whose potato-salad recipe is prize-winning;

Joe Bob Lipsey, the not-the-marrying-kind director of the Tuna Little Theater;

R.R. Snavely, UFOlogist and husband to Didi, now returned to Tuna;

Inita Goodwin, co-owner of Helen & Inita's Hot-to-Trot catering;

Leonard Childers, entrepreneur and radio personality on OKKK;

and the Rev. Spikes, now out of prison.

Rising to the challenge are Mike Harrell and David Odom.

The characters are "fun," said Harrell, who was in the two previous MCT "Tuna" shows. "There isn't a character that's foreign to me. I've played them all. There is one new character – Star Birdfeather. She's like cosmically totally cool."

"I think I play out of the whole thing three male characters," said Odom, adding that the first "Tuna" show MCT presented featured Harrell and Drew Anderson. "This is my second 'Tuna,' my second helping if you will."

He plays seven women and three men, said Odom, adding, "So it's challenging. I do like tuna a lot. It's the chicken of the sea, you know.

ALL THE DETAILS:

"RED, WHITE, AND TUNA"

When: Friday through March 17. Evening performances at 8 p.m. Matinees at 2 p.m.

Where: Mabee Theatre II, Cole Theatre, 2000 W. Wadley Ave.

Tickets: $18 for adults, $15 for seniors, $12 for children. Additional ticket processing fees applied for all non-member ticket purchases. Reach Out/Pay What You Can performance: 2 p.m. Feb. 26.

Call: 570-4111.

Info: Recommended for those age 12 and older due to adult language and situations.

Cast: Mike Harrell and David Odom. Each plays around 10 characters.

Production crew: Director: Timothy Jebsen; Stage Manager: Doug Hart; Scenic Designer: Lou Gerstle; Resident Scenic Designer: Brian J. Baillif; Costume Designer: Micheal H. Waid; Sound Designer: Carrie Scott; and Lighting Designer: Edward W. Taylor.

Info: Both actors portrayed the same characters in MCT's 2009 production of "A Tuna Christmas" The play is a comedy by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard. Co-produced by Concho Resources.

Midland Downtown Lions Club
55th ANNUAL
Pancake Jamboree
(Sausage, Drink, Plus All The Pancakes You Can Eat)
Saturday, February 25th
7am to 7pm
200 Plaza
(behind Walgreens & Gold's Gym off Illinois)
Tickets are $6 ea & can be purchased from any Club Member or at the door.
Bring your used eyeglasses and hearing aids to be recycled
Proceeds to benefit:
• The Texas Lions Camp for Handicapped & Diabetic Children
• The Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (located in Midland)
• College Scholarships
• Lions Dist. 2A-1 Eye Bank & Dist. 2A-1 Acuña, Mex. Eye Clinic
• And Many More!
A Big Thank You To Our Sponsors:
• A-1 Signs • Bill Williams Tire • Corey Sly Electric
• Midland Reporter-Telegram • Midland Small Engine Service
Action Discount Carpet, Bosworth, Builders & Homeowners Supply, Celtic Heritage, Chaparral Bolt & Supply, Community National Bank, Custom Benefit Services, Ellis Funeral Home, Energi Personnel, Fast Sign, Fender Truck Accessories, Homeport Storage Warehouse, KWEL 1070, Liberty Tax Service, Lonnie John Plumbing, Midland Muffler, Midland Tire & Brake, Overhead Door, Printer Solutions, Quality Body Works, Swenson's.
BLOOD MOBILE WILL BE PRESENT TO TAKE DONATIONS.

Trinity presents 'Once Upon a Mattress'

By Georgia Temple
Entertainment Editor

'What was the middle name of the daughter-in-law of the best friend of the blacksmith who forged the sword that killed the Beast?" Uhh?

Princess No. 12 fails this the final question in the quiz she's taken to be worthy of marrying Prince Dauntless the Drab.

The queen, his mother, is delighted in the musical comedy "Once Upon a Mattress," an adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea, opening today at the Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado Ave.

The reaction of the populace in the castle is dismay, and many complain about an unjust law levied by Queen Aggravain: "Throughout the land no one may wed 'til Dauntless (Sam Hart) shares his wedding bed."

"I think it's really an interesting take on how to get the prince and princess together and be married so that the whole town can be happy," said Isabel Nosek, who plays Lady Larken.

Lady Larken is among those eager to wed.

"She is trying her hardest to get married as soon as she possibly can to Sir Harry," Nosek said. "She's basically telling him what she wants, and she's very flirty. She's really trying to get Winny to get married so that she can get married, too."

Winny, or Winnifred (Carly Baker) is the 13th princess to try her luck at passing the queen's unfair tests. King Sextimus the Silent is, well, silent.

"The king's voice is mute," said Skyler Rittenberry, who plays King Sextimus. "It's very fun, and it can be very difficult because you have to pantomime everything you do instead of talking. It's a very interesting story, and it's funny."

The queen has a co-conspirator – the Wizard, played by Austin Green.

"I love the story," said Austin. "It's really a funny plot line. The wizard kind of conspires with the queen to make sure her son Dauntless cannot marry. He's really wise, but the queen doesn't notice because she's trying to figure out things on her own."

Sir Harry isn't keen on getting married.

"My character is more of a boisterous, not-committed, self-absorbed, successful ego maniac," said Paul Dingus, who plays Sir Harry. "He's interested in looking like he has a good-looking girlfriend."

This is, after all, a fairy tale and as such has a message.

"First of all, you should get married because of love," Dingus said. "And second of all, you shouldn't live life without having any fun."

ALL THE DETAILS:

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"

When: 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday

Where: Yucca Theatre, 208 N. Colorado Ave.

Tickets: $15. On sale in the Trinity Commons 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

Sponsor tables: $300.

Call: 681-3334

Cast: Minstrel: Stone Fuglaar; Wizard: Austin Green; Princess Number Twelve: Holland Hardie; Lady Rowena: Chloe Kennedy; Lady Merrill: Morgan Lane; Lady Lucille: Emily Christensen; Prince Dauntless: Sam Hart; Queen Aggravain: Audrey Grimes; Lady Larken: Isabel Nosek; Sir Studley: Jason Hilgemeier; King Sextimus the Silent: Skyler Rittenberry; Jester: Corey Allcorn; Sir Harry: Paul Dingus; Princess Winnifred: Carly Baker; Kitchen Wench: Ba'Leigh Burns; and The Nightingale of Samarkand: Olivia Lerwick.

Chorus members include Ba'Leigh Burns, Chris Cooper, Priyanka Gurru, Holland Hardie, Emily Lee, Olivia Lerwick, Raquelle Reeves, Zureyma Thompson and Lauren Wagner.

Production crew members include: Stage Manager: Hutton Person; Musical Director/Show Coordinator: Vivian Moss; Acting Director: Bill Williams; Choreographer: Chuck Novotka; Light/Sound/Scenic Designer: Edward Taylor; and Parent Volunteer Liaisons: Mary Anne and Bill Dingus.

All you can eat and more at annual fundraiser

ODESSA — Mounds of cajun-flavored jumbo shrimp with all the fixings, a silent auction and music from the Main Stream Jazz Quartet signal the Ellen Noel Art Museum's annual fundraiser, set for Monday at the Ector County Coliseum, Building G, Odessa.

"Everybody that comes always has a really good time and wants to come back," said Jessica Smith, administrative assistant for the museum. "I've never heard any negative comments."

The success of the annual event is important to the museum.

"It's very important to upkeeping the museum through programming and exhibitions," Smith said. "It's our biggest fundraiser of the year. It supports us in all ways."

Attendance for last year's event was more than 1,000, said Smith, who guessed the number the staff fed was closer to 1,500.

"Sometimes there are people who buy general admission tickets who don't really know what they are supporting," Smith said. "We hope they have a good enough time to want to come back the next year."

ALL THE DETAILS:

SHRIMPFEST
When: 7 p.m. Monday
Where: Ector County Coliseum Building G
Tickets: General admission $35. On sale at Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University, or online at www.noelartmuseum.org. On sale at the museum 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today, Friday and Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Call 550-9696.
Sponsor-only cocktail reception: 5:30 p.m. Monday. Sponsor tables available. Call 550-9696, Ext. 10. Sponsor tables are available for $1,200, $3,000 or $5,000. These tables include admission to the sponsor-only cocktail reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with appetizers, appointed tables and private waiters.
Information: 26th Shrimpfest. Major fundraiser for the Ellen Noel Art Museum. The galleries will be closed on Monday, but the business office will be open for the public to purchase tickets.

The museum staff also hopes those new people will come by the museum and see what the facility has to offer to area residents.

Home and Garden Show comes to Horseshoe

This year marks the Permian Basin Home Builders Association's 14th Annual Home and Garden Show.

"Our theme this year is 'Jazz Up!'" according to the PBHBA's website. "We know this is going to be the best show ever."

The Home and Garden Show is being held at the Horseshoe this weekend.

The Permian Basin Home Builders Association (PBHBA) is a non-profit trade association established in 1997 to represent a membership of professional builders and associated businesses and to enhance the future of the building industry throughout the Permian Basin.

Through its monthly meetings, educational programs and seminars, the association provides its membership the competitive edge of having the latest information on building regulations, new and pending local, state and national legislation, building trends, products, networking opportunities and more.

The annual event allows exhibitors to show their products and services for home, garden and leisure to thousands of homeowners, builders and remodelers throughout the Permian Basin.

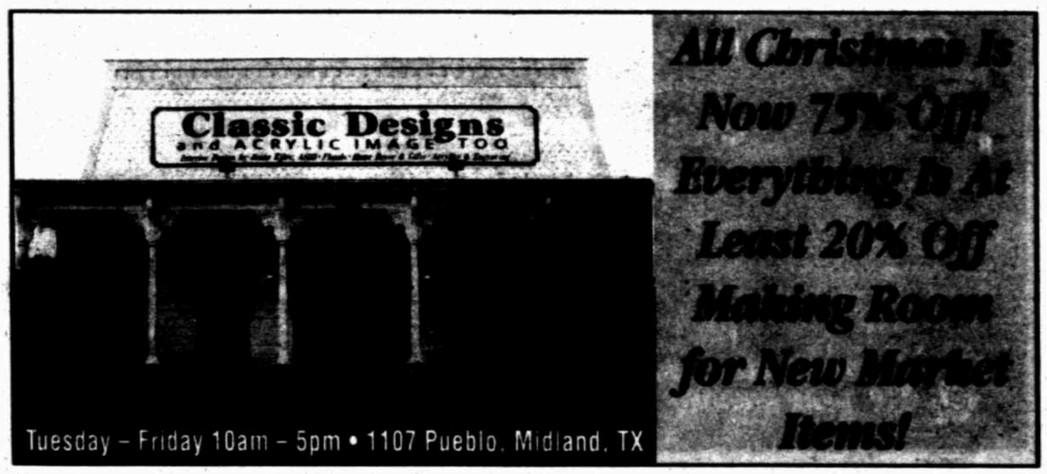
"It is also a great event for our community as it brings many exhibitors and show guests from other cities," said the website.

Every year, charitable organizations are invited to be a part of the show. In past years, nonprofit groups in the show have included Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Lions Club, Midland College, Odessa College, Teen Challenge, Habitat for Humanity and Odessa Creative Housing.

Every year, there is a booth contest where booths are judged for three awards (most innovative booth, most creative booth, and best of show) in two catagories (Large booths more than 300 square feet and small booths less than 300 square feet). The winners of these categories each receive a plaque that they may place in their booth to be seen throughout the show.

ALL THE DETAILS:

PERMIAN BASIN HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION 14TH ANNUAL HOME & GARDEN SHOW
When: 5-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday
Where: Horseshoe
Info: 520-7917
Source: Permian Basin Home Builders Association



MIDLAND COMMUNITY THEATRE
MCT
"We know how to play..."
Presents *LIVE* on stage:
THE HIT COMEDY!
RED, WHITE & TUNA
February 24th - March 17th, 2012
Mabee Theatre II
2000 W. Wadley Midland, TX 79705
Co-Produced by: Concho Resources, Inc.
Non-Member Ticket Prices: $18 Adult, $15 Senior, $12 Children
*Additional ticket processing fees applied for all non-member ticket purchases.
Box Office: 432-570-4111 or www.mctmidland.org

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weekend of SPORTS

Get ready because if you're a sports fan, especially of high school sports, you should have no problem finding something to watch over the next two weekends.

Midland will have participants in various college and high school sports in town over the next weekends, ranging from basketball to soccer as these two weeks are the busiest weekends of the year in the Tall City.

Today

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS: The first day of the Tall City Classic will feature an event for some of the area's small schools and large school junior varsity divisions. The one-day event will have players from Big Spring, Crane, Greenwood, Hobbs, N.M., Levelland, Lubbock Cooper, Lubbock Trinity, Midland Classical Academy, Monahans, San Angelo Lake View, McCamey and Kermit.

Today-Saturday

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL: The annual high school tournament at the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex begins today and will run through Saturday. The three-day tournament will have a decidedly West Texas feel to it this year as teams from Midland, Lubbock and El Paso will be playing, along with a number of squads from around the area.

Friday-Saturday

REGION I-2A GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: Four teams from the Panhandle to Central Texas will converge on Midland for the final tournament before the state tournament. Friday will feature the two semifinals at 6 and 7:30 p.m., while Saturday's final will begin at 1 p.m.

Today-Saturday

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF: The annual Jack Ratcliff Tall City Invitational will feature two divisions of boys high school golfers playing at three different courses over the weekend. Not only will the tournament feature all the schools, both public and private, in Midland County, but teams from El Paso, Andrews, Big Spring and Lubbock also will participate this weekend.

Saturday

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Lee and Midland High will continue their quests for playoff spots and district titles on this day. The Lee boys and girls squads will travel to Odessa to take on Odessa High, while the Midland High teams will face Permian at Grande Communications Stadium. Boys games begin at noon and girls games at 2 p.m.

UPCOMING

March 1

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASKETBALL: Kicking off the weekend will be the battle between junior college rivals Odessa College and Midland College at Chaparral Center. Both men's teams and women's teams are in tight battles in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference standings, and tonight's games will be tightly contested.

March 1-3

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: The annual baseball tournament put on by the booster clubs at Lee and Midland High will again feature some of West Texas' best baseball teams, along with some teams from around the state sprinkled in. The tournament will be played at both Midland High and Lee High Schools, along with Citibank Ballpark and Christensen Stadium. If you're a baseball junkie, there are games going all day for three days during this tournament.

March 2-3

REGION I-2A BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: Like the girls, this tournament is the final step to Austin for these teams, and there will be teams from the Panhandle to Central Texas converging on Midland for two days.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GOLF: The annual Midland Invitational will kickoff on Friday at courses across Midland and feature a unique format for the second day. After the first day, the field will be split into two divisions with champions crowned in each.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK: This meet has grown in stature the last few years and will feature three different divisions this season at Memorial Stadium's track. It will be a nice preview for the District 3-5A meet scheduled at the track later this spring.

JUNIOR COLLEGE BASEBALL: Midland College will begin its conference season on March 2 with a doubleheader against Western Texas College in Snyder. On March 3 MC takes on the Texans in the final two games of their four-game set at Christensen Stadium.

March 3

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Rivals Lee and Midland High will meet on the pitch at Grande Communications Stadium, and the boys and girls teams could be vying for playoff positioning in this game.

SPRING 2012 CAREER FAIR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH — 10AM-3PM — MIDLAND COUNTY HOR

(NORTH OF I-20 — MAIN ARENA)

Midland Reporter-

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Ben E. Keith Foods

Benchmark

Best Buy

Big D Equipment

Blue Knight Energy Partners L.C.

Frac Tech

Geo Logging

Genghis Grill

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Kaplan College Midland

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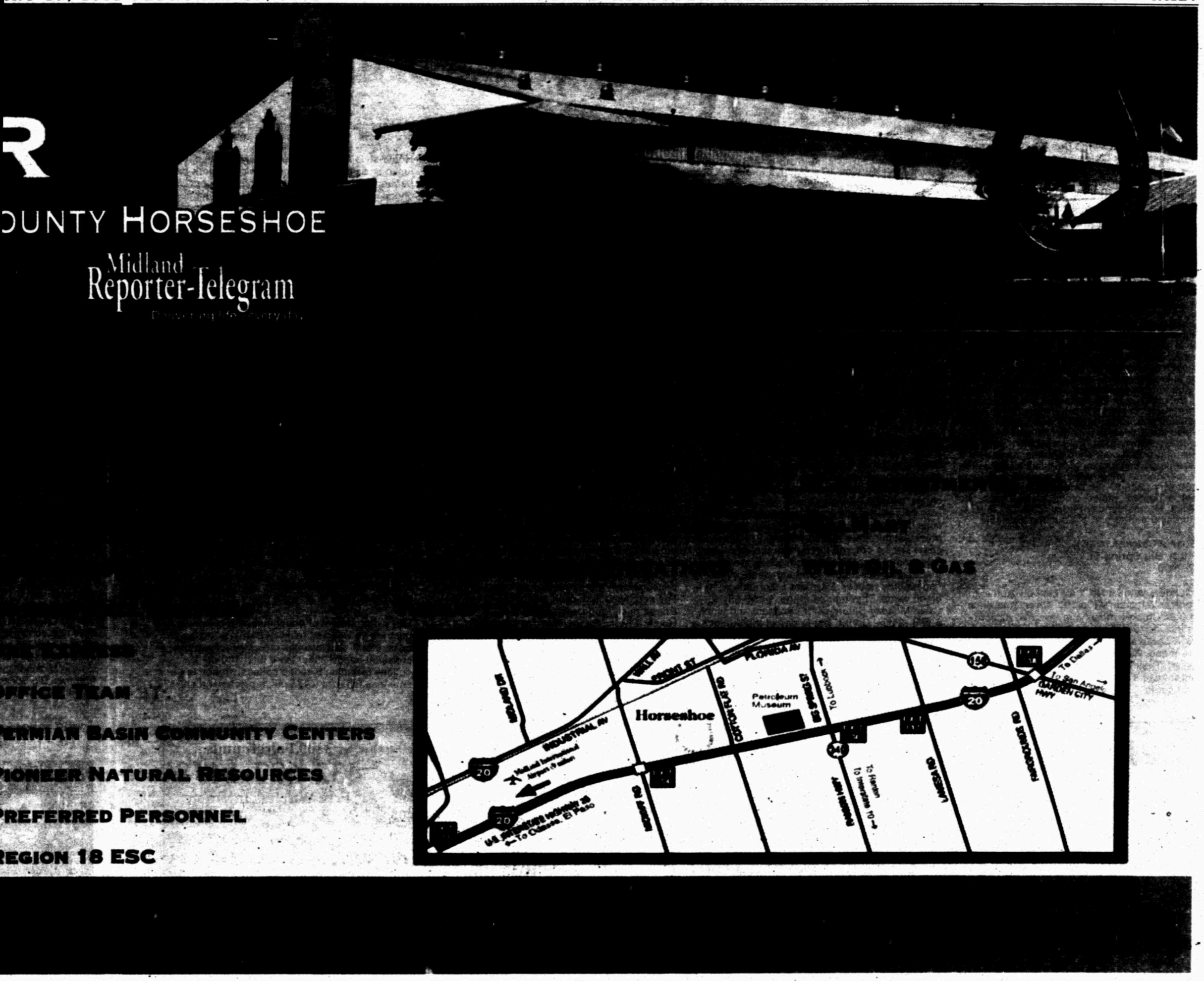

FFICE TEAM

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REFERRED PERSONNEL

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diningguide

Restaurant Guide: Pulse publishes a portion of the Restaurant Guide each week. Restaurants are listed in broad categories according to the type of food they serve. Additionally, they are classified as order at counter (OAC) then sit down, or sit down (SD) and be waited on. Several are listed as cafeteria or buffet style, a few are carry out.

American/Grill

Addie's Diner
304 E. Florida Ave.
686-2044

Bobbie socks not required, but you may want to bring some quarters with you to pop into the jukebox in the corner of Addie's Diner. Waitresses wearing poodle skirts will take your order. Records dangle from the ceiling, black and white countertops at the bar seating area, red tables, chairs and booths for more seating in addition to the painting and pictures on the walls give this place a true "diner" vibe. Breakfast menu, appetizers, sandwiches and delicious burgers and salads. Chicken fried steak or steak fingers, chicken fried chicken or chicken fingers, fried catfish, hamburger steak and grilled pork chop entrees come with a house salad and choice of two sides and a dinner roll. Entrée price range: breakfast daily until 10:30 a.m., 325-$7.99; Lunch $3.99-$9.99. Payment accepted: major credit cards, cash, no checks. Hours: Monday-Friday 5:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Kid's menu available.

Bush's Chicken (OAC)
2210 N. Big Spring St.
687-7090

Midlanders voted it No. 1 for best chicken in the Reporter-Telegram's Top 100. Three-lane drive through. Chicken meals and combos. All combos include fries, gravy, roll and a large drink. Snack packs and family size meals available. Kid's menu. Red cinnamon apple pie for dessert. Their ice tea is sold by the gallon if you want to take it home. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards.
Entrée price range: $2.89-$7.69 Family Packs available.
Hours: Daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m. drive through, Lobby hours 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Café at The Gardens (SD)
3300 Fairgrounds Road
687-1478

Located in the back of Alldredge Gardens, this unique restaurant offers one of the most relaxed atmospheres around town. Sit in the garden center and enjoy the beautiful fish in the pond as you eat your lunch. Sandwiches, soups, quiche, burgers and wonderful desserts will have you staying longer than you planned. Kid's menu. Catering available as well as party area.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Claudia's Kitchen
3601 W. Wall
(Inside the Bradford Inn and Suites)
Phone: 432-694-8821, ext.165

Friendly service and diner atmosphere. Try the Texas toothpicks and jalapeno bottle caps. Breakfast dishes including eggs, bacon, sausage, pan fried potatoes with toast or biscuits as well as heartier meals including pork chops, chicken fried steak with eggs and potatoes or a ribeye with eggs, potatoes, toast, biscuits or pancakes. Omelettes, French toast and breakfast burritos are also offered. Breakfast items can be ordered throughout the day. Large selection of burgers and sandwiches are also featured as well as chicken fried steak, steak fingers, and ribeyes. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards. Entrée price range: $4.50-$9.00. Open Monday-Saturday for breakfast and lunch 6 a.m.-2 p.m. On the last Friday of the month, Claudia's Place is also open for dinner from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. and features Christian karaoke.

Graham Pharmacy (SD)
1601 W. Wall St.
684-5756

Graham Pharmacy moved from its location in the "Old Town" shopping center on Dodson Street to a larger building on Wall Street. Its "old-fashioned" soda fountain remains the same. with homemade fudge and desserts, simple lunch favorites and shakes and ice cream dishes. Lunch entrees include sandwiches such as BLT, tuna, pimento cheese and ham and cheese as well as club sandwiches with turkey and/or ham and cheese. Hot dogs, corn dogs, salads and Frito pie also are available. The soda fountain serves a different soup each day of the week along with tomato, chicken noodle and vegetable beef daily. Prices are more than reasonable with sandwiches ranging from $2-$3.
Entrée price range: $1.75-$4.25
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Down Home Kitchen (SD)
102 N. Lee St.
682-3696

A small, unassuming building in south Midland, Down Home Kitchen serves homestyle entrees for lunch and dinner. Diners may choose from a few freshly-made entrees — meatloaf, pork chops, chicken fried steak and more — and sides such as corn, macaroni and cheese, green beans and boiled cabbage. Each plate is around $8 and includes an entree, two sides and bread. Dessert options include peach cobbler and a variety of cakes. The menu and the prices remain the same for lunch and dinner. Payment accepted: cash, major credit cards
Entree price range: about $8
Hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Cracker Barrel (SD)
3108 N. Loop 250 West
689-3137

Home-style meals. Serving breakfast (all day), lunch and dinner. Soups, sandwiches, pork barbeque, fried chicken tenderloin, grilled pork chops, sugar cured ham, smoked ham, hamburger steak and meatloaf are all on the menu. Friday fish fry, Saturday offers made from scratch chicken n' rice with vegetables and Sunday features homestyle chicken. Lots of side dishes and desserts on the menu. Kid's menu available. Old country store in front of restaurant. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash and checks.
Entrée price range: breakfast-$2.99-$8.69, lunch/dinner-$6.39-$12.99.
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday-Saturday 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

The Bar (SD)
606 W. Missouri Ave.
685-1757

The Bar opened in 1979 and serves lunch, dinner and Saturday brunch. Menu items at the downtown bar and grill include sandwiches, burgers, chili, soups, steaks and more. Smoking is permitted in part of the restaurant. A full menu is available on the website, www.the-barmidland.com.
Entrée price range: $5.99-$20.99
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. lunch; 5 -10 p.m. dinner. Saturday brunch: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Midland Donuts (OAC)
2100 W. Wall St.
and 307 N. Midland Drive
686-7766

Large assortment of doughnuts and breakfast pastries as well as breakfast burritos and biscuits. Menu also includes croissant rolls and croissant sandwiches. More than 100 drink options including blended coffees, smoothies, chai teas, shaken iced teas, tapiocas and sno-

diningguide *cont.*

cones. Open daily 3 a.m.-9 p.m. Dining room and drive-through window service available. Payments accepted: cash, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express.

The Ranch House (OAC)
5103 W. Wadley Ave.
699-0695

Stop by for a quick sandwich. They offer more than just ham. Choices include: chicken or tuna salad, turkey breast, peppered beef or ham, honey glazed ham, smoked brisket and their only warm sandwich which is barbecue. Sandwiches are $4.50 and come with potato chips. You also may order a combination meal for $6.50 which includes a side of homemade beans. Homemade bread. Catering available. Payment accepted: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, Cash, and Checks.
Entrée price range: $4.50, $6.50 (combo meals).
Hours: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily

Clear Springs Cafe (SD)
5707 Andrews Highway
522-1188

Large menu with something for everyone. Burgers, Po'boy, catfish, shrimp, crawfish, oysters, chicken strips, steaks, chicken fried steak and chicken. Specials offered daily. Claim to have the "best onion rings and catfish in Texas, the World and the known Universe." Kid's menu. Walls are covered in antiques and memorabilia to look at after you order your meal. Catering available. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, cash, no checks.
Entrée price range: $6.25-$16.95.
Hours: Sunday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday-11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Four G's Café (SD)
2907 North Big Spring St.
686-8013

Owned by the Sanchez family of Midland. Cheery atmosphere and very friendly service. Serving a wide variety of breakfast menu items including Huevos Rancheros, omelettes, pancakes, French toast, eggs, bacon and sausage, even chicken fried steak cooked to your specifications. Play a game of checkers as you wait on your meal.
Entrée price range: $4-$6.
Hours: Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Friday 7-11 a.m.; Saturday 7-noon; Sunday 8-noon.

Green's Restaurant (SD)
20 Village Circle Drive
682-2132

Open for breakfast and lunch, Green's Restaurant offers simple, American diner-style food in a very casual atmosphere. Smoking is permitted inside the restaurant. Breakfast items - served all day - include hotcakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, ham and omelets. The lunch menu consists of daily specials and everyday specials such as chicken fried steak, baked chicken, lemon pepper chicken and fish. Sandwiches such as a patty melt, BLT, club or grilled chicken are available as well as burgers and salads.
Entree price range: $1.75 - $5.50
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hilton's Le Bistro (SD)
117 W. Wall St.
683-6131

Full breakfast and lunch buffet with daily specials. Also offers full menu of items from specialty appetizers (mini hamburgers and hotdogs) hot wings, fish assortment and stuffed potato skins. Steaks, seafood, sandwiches and salads are available with various side dishes. Quiet, relaxing atmosphere with attentive service and delicious food. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, checks, cash.
Buffet $10.95.
Hours: Daily 6:30-10 a.m. for breakfast (breakfast buffet too); 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. lunch buffet; regular menu all day until 10 p.m.

JoJo's Eatery
214 W. Texas Ave. (Petroleum Building)
682-3134

Home cooking at its best! Start your day off with breakfast and come back for lunch. Offering a large selection of sandwiches, salads and burgers. Super friendly service and atmosphere. Absolutely do not leave before trying the pie (any kind). Buy it by the slice or whole pies and cakes made to order. Daily specials, catering and call in orders welcome. Entrée price range $3.25-$6.00. Hours: Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Payment types accepted: cash, checks.

Nueva Vista Grill (OAC)
6101 West Wadley Ave.
(Neuva Vista Golf Course)
522-7455

An "oasis" found in Midland offering a very relaxing and casual lunch or dinner atmosphere. As the menu says, they "Serve golfers before, during and after their game. Serving friends and neighbors anytime." They also will accept call in orders for take-out. Salads include grilled chicken, crispy chicken or chef salad, delicious grilled sandwiches, barbecue and a wide variety of burgers. Daily lunch specials at great prices. They also serve a variety of fountain drinks, sports drinks, bottled soft drinks and can and tap beer. Price range: $3-$8.95. Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (during cold weather); 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. (Summer hours). In summer, offer breakfast items. Payment types accepted: credit cards and cash.

Lori's Café (SD)
2201 W. Wall St.
570-1701

Homestyle cooking at this restaurant offering breakfast, lunch and dinner menu items. Breakfast includes pancakes, omelettes, waffles, breakfast enchiladas and burritos, as well as traditional eggs, toast, bacon and grits. Lunch offers sandwiches (French dip, Philly Cheesesteak, Reuben and chicken Parmesan. Burgers, a large selection of salads, chicken fried steak and many appetizers are on this extensive menu. Fast, friendly service at great prices. Payment accepted: cash, check and credit cards.
Entrée price range: $2.75-7.95.
Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 6 a.m.-2 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Strawberry Fields Cafe (SD)
2311 W. Wadley Ave.
684-5869

Fresh foods made from the finest organic and natural ingredients. Natural meats and poultry are free-range, raised on a natural diet, and are free of chemicals used on conventional factory farms. All foods are made fresh daily and are free of refined sugars, hydrogenated oils, artificial colors, flavors and preservatives. Bright green salads can be purchased by the pound. Sandwiches, wraps, no-bull burger (veggie burger) and soups. This is the place to go for a guilt free delicious meal with Beatles memorabilia on every wall. Kid's menu. Payment types accepted: checks, all major credit cards, cash.
Entrée price range: $6-$8.
Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tater World (SD)
802 S. Garfield St.
682-9111

Taters are front and center on the menu including tater twisters (homemade tater chips), cheddar fries, tater skins, and baked potatoes, which weigh one pound or more. Brisket, steak stuffed taters or regular stuffed potatoes. Offering other dishes besides taters such as some of the best

TONYS Old Fashioned Bakery
1108 N. Big Spring
Midland, TX. 79701
432-570-4166
Hours:
Monday-Wednesday 7am - 3pm
Thursday-Friday 7am - 6pm
Saturday 7am - 3pm

JOHNNY'S BAR-B-QUE
316 N. BIG SPRING (Corner of Big Spring & Ohio) • 683-4581
Mon. - Thu. 11am - 7pm Fri. & Sat. 11am - 7:30pm
Value Pack #2
$29.99 Feeds 4-5 people
INCLUDES:
1 1/2 lbs. Beef
1 lb. Link Sausage
1 pt. Potato Salad
1 pt. Ranch Beans
1 pt. Cole Slaw
Present This Coupon For A FREE Gallon Of Tea With Value Paks *2,3, or 4 — Exp. 3-30-12

diningguide *cont.*

catfish in town, a variety of salads, sandwiches, burgers, chicken fried steak and "hot doggs." Breakfast burritos too. Catering available. Payment accepted: all major credit cards, checks, cash.
Entrée price range: $3.95-$7.95.
Hours: Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. Friday 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

◗ Eddie's Catfish Company (OAC)
301 N. Lee St.
684-4422

The owners of Eddie's Catfish Company used to serve catfish only on Fridays at Greater Ideal Family Life Center. When they moved into the building on Lee Street, they began serving catfish Monday through Saturday. The menu features one- or two-piece catfish meals, fried shrimp or a combination. Meals include hushpuppies, coleslaw and French fries or onion rings. Eddie's also offers family packs with a combination of shrimp, catfish, hushpuppies and French fries.
Entree price range: $3-$9.50
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

◗ Central Cafe (OAC)
600 N. Marienfeld, Ste. 199, inside the Security Bank Building
684-7017

Hidden inside the Security Bank Building, Central Cafe serves breakfast and lunch. The breakfast menu includes burritos with a variety of fillings, egg sandwich, bagel with cream cheese or fresh fruit. The lunch menu includes sandwiches, burgers, quesadillas, burritos, chicken strips and salads. Cookies and muffins are available for snacks or desserts. Diners may eat in or take their meal to go.
Entree price range: breakfast: $0.89 - $3.25, lunch: $1.25- $5.95
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

◗ Café Unique (OAC)
San Miguel Shopping Center
3303 N. Midkiff Rd.
262-5993
Website: www.MidlandsUniqueCatering.com

Dinners to go, catering and a café all under one roof. For a small café, they have an impressive variety of food items. Salads such as a Palm Desert Salad consisting of mixed greens, chili peanuts, apples, Blue cheese crumbles, avocado and barbecue Ranch dressing with grilled chicken. Sandwiches include chicken salad on a toasted croissant with chips; turkey, bacon and tomato melt on sourdough with chips; or pulled pork sandwiches with saucy pinto beans. A variety of quiches also are offered and are served with fresh fruit. Soup can be purchased by the cup or bowl. Add a side of fresh fruit, beans or a house salad for a small extra charge. Top off your lunch with a desserts such as pie, cake or ice cream. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards.
Café hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-3: p.m. Drop in for dinners to go Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

◗ Triple Threat Sports Bar & Grill (SD)
Address: 12 Meta Drive
(Village Shopping Center, behind Walgreen's)
683-5300

Watch the next big game on one of their 13 big-screen televisions. Happy hour Monday-Thursday from 3-7 p.m. with drink specials and free chips and salsa. Sports bar atmosphere with pool tables and several video games. Large menu features a wide selection of appetizers including popcorn shrimp, Buffalo wings, chicken tenders, chips and salsa or queso, fried mushrooms, mozzarella sticks and a sampler platter. Philly cheese steaks are served with fries. Choose a sandwich or one of their burgers sized to your appetite.Lighter menu items also available. Payment accepted: cash, credit cards, no checks. Price range: $4.99-$10.
Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-12 a.m.

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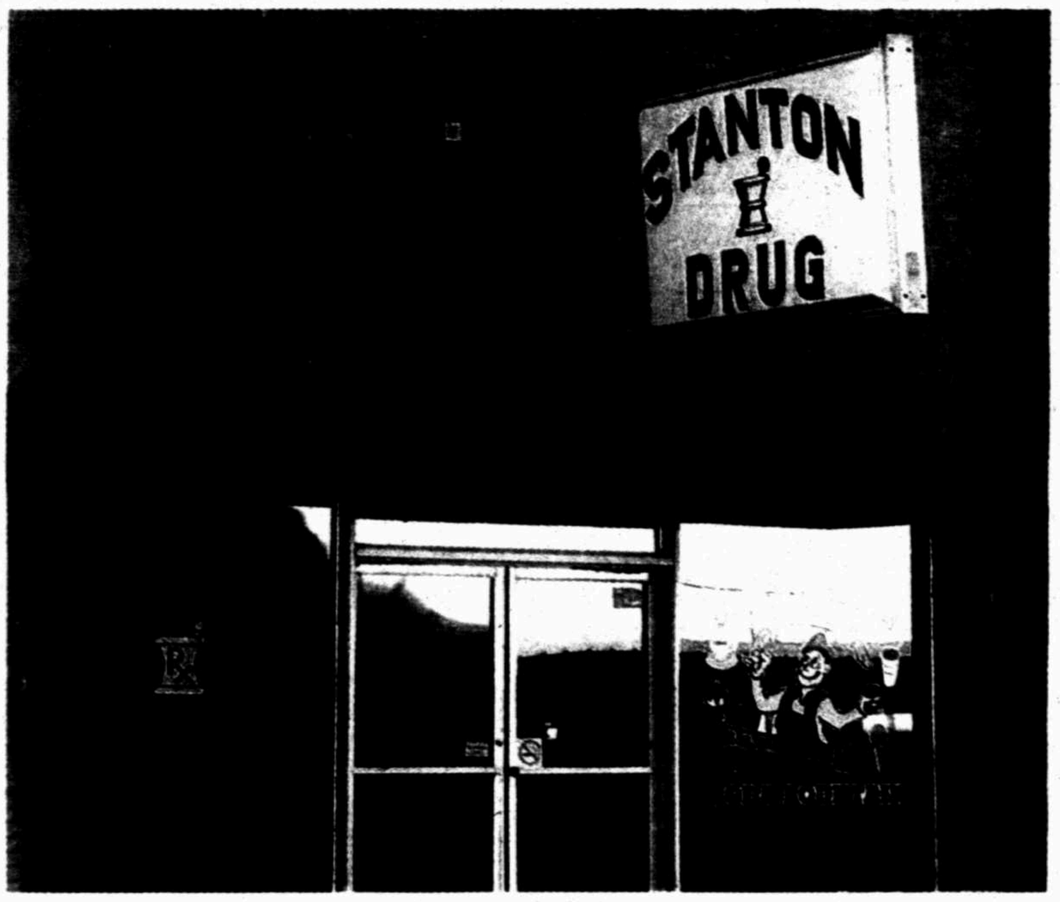
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Enjoy slice of a small town at Stanton Drug and Old Fashioned Soda Fountain

By Joan Huff



If you have been to Stanton for the Sorehead Trade Days, you may have enjoyed the atmosphere of small town living. You might want to go back to visit during the week to more closely examine several of the gift shops. Without the food vendors lining the streets, where do you eat? Stanton Drug and Old Fashioned Soda Fountain is one of a few restaurants available.

Located on one of the main streets, the store is exactly as an old fashioned drug store should be. The door opens and people look to see if they know you. The soda fountain is on the left with bar seating available. Booths are beyond that area, and the right side of the room is reserved for the sale of typical drug store stock. Antique medicine bottles line the tops of the shelves, and in the back is the druggist where customers can pick up prescriptions.

We arrived about 1:30 p.m. on a weekday to a crowded room of diners. Because the servers were very busy it took a little time to get a menu and have our drink orders taken. While we waited, we enjoyed looking around and listening to everyone talking as they all seemed to know one another.

Choices at lunch include a variety of hamburgers, from double-meat to double-cheese and additions such as bacon and jalapenos. Sandwiches including ham, ham and egg, sausage and cheese, bacon and cheese, chicken salad, tuna and grilled cheese are a few of the many offered. Stanton Drug also serves salads and chili.

My friend ordered the burger, and I chose chicken salad. Then, we split them so we could taste both selections. I think there is something about the vibe of a true old-fashioned drug store with a grill that adds to the flavor of your meal. The place may not be new, bright and shiny, but the grill continues to turn out delicious toasted bread and burgers. The bread on the sandwich was buttery and crispy and the chicken salad by itself was great. The burger was just as delicious. We were told the grill closes if the cooks run out of meat, so hamburgers must be a very popular item on the menu.

You also can start your morning here with a breakfast of eggs, bacon, honey buns and toast and jelly served until about 10:45. If you are heading out of town toward the east, you might make Stanton your first stop for a quick breakfast. Stanton Drug also offers ice cream sundaes, milkshakes, malts and coke floats.

It was fun sitting and watching people come and go for prescriptions or other items or just dropping in to say hi to their friends. If you want to enjoy a slice of a small town, the Stanton Drug and Old Fashioned Soda Fountain is the place to be.

STANTON DRUG AND OLD FASHIONED SODA FOUNTAIN

201 N. St. Peter St.

432-756-3731

Payment accepted: cash, credit cards and checks
Entree Price Range: $5
Hours: 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday
Meals Served: breakfast, lunch
Parking: on the street
Outdoor seating: No
Private dining room for parties: No
Take out: Yes

DVDIVA'S
pick of the week
presented by Hastings

Jet Li's heartwarming story of fatherhood tops week's releases

By Nancy Adamson
DVDiva columnist

"Ocean Heaven"

Pick of the week –

OCEAN HEAVEN (unrated) Did you see the headline and wonder if I had lost my mind? Jet Li in a heartwarming tale? It's true. In a total break from the martial arts films that are his trademark, Li plays a terminally ill single father desperate to find a caregiver for his 21-year-old autistic son. You will need to break out the tissues but there's plently of levity to keep things from totally breaking your heart. While there's not a dubbed version, please don't let the subtitles scare you off. This is one of the best films of last year and deserves to be seen. A

ALL THINGS FALL APART (R) Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson cowrote and stars in this film about a star college football player whose life is turned upside down when he is diagnosed with cancer. A noble effort is mostly sullied by a 37-year-old Jackson playing a character about half his age. He does show some depth and admirable qualities as an actor, and losing weight to portray the sickly character was certainly admirable, but "Brian's Song" this ain't. C

ANNIE HALL (PG) For its 35th anniversary, this timeless Woody Allen classic has finally gotten the Blu-ray treatment. A tremendous visual and audio upgrade from the DVD version available for years, it is somewhat disappointing to see this multiple Oscar winner — including best picture, best actress for Diane Keaton and best screenplay for Allen — has no bonus features save for the original theatrical trailer. For those who count "Seinfeld" among the must see TV shows of all time, watch for a number of similarities. Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David "borrowed" from "Annie Hall." Also, look for a scene-stealing moment from a young Christopher Walken (spelled Wlaken in the credits) as Annie's suicidal brother. The film widely regarded as Allen's best adult comedy — I personally prefer his silly days and "Love and Death" but also love this film — is a must own in this format and a must rent for those who liked last year's "Midnight in Paris" but might not be familiar with Allen's earlier stuff. A

BUZZKILL (R) A thoroughly dissatisfying film from the legendary Second City improvisation troupe that helped launch the careers of many of the nation's most beloved comedy performers, including John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Mike Myers, Steve Carell and Tina Fey. None of that legacy of talent is evident in this film about a serial killer who steals a screenplay that makes its author an unwitting celebrity. Darrell Hammond provides a moment or two of amusement but not enough to rescue this stinker. D+

CELEBRITY SEX TAPE (unrated) College nerds stumble upon a gold mine when one of them gets lucky at a party with a porn star and the filmed event goes viral on the Internet. Film trying to follow in the legendary footsteps of the "Porky's" and "American Pie" franchises doesn't come close. In fact, I can't imagine even the most immature boy this film is geared toward would crack so much as a smile. D

FAKE (R) A bitter artist who can't sell his own work hits paydirt forging paintings by some of the world's most renowned masters. Offers a decent lesson in art history and an alarming statement that as much as a third of all the art attributed to the greatest — Monet, Picasso, Degas, Rembrandt and dozens more — is forged. Also shows how it could be done. Theoretically, of course. This is a film that doesn't really succeed at being a mystery or drama but if you're interested in the subjective politics of art culture, "Fake" is right on the mark. B-

HUMAN CENTIPEDE 2: FULL SEQUENCE (unrated) Writer-director Tom Six is, if nothing else, a man of his word. He said his sequel to 2009's disturbing "The Human Centipede" would make that film look like "My Little Pony." Indeed, he has lowered the bar to a whole new level. This sequel — second in an intended trilogy — is centered around a mentally challenged man so obsessed with the movie he is determined to create his own human centipede with 12 people as opposed to the three in film No. 1. What tempers this film somewhat is its black and white format, which makes all the blood look like oil. Although gorehounds have made both films cult classics, if you've never seen them, I implore you to avoid them. If you have and can't resist the temptation, you're in for not only more prolonged detail and gore than the first film plus an unforgettable, despicable and shocking rape scene. C-

LAWRENCE WELK CLASSIC EPISODES, VOL. 1-4 (unrated) Hardly anyone of my generation grew up without seeing an episode or two of this on PBS on a Saturday evening when the only other alternatives were a sporting event or a B movie. It was not always watched willingly, as rock 'n' roll was the music of choice and even fans of big band music didn't always appreciate the watered down version the show offered. The show started in the Los Angeles area in 1951 then was picked up for national syndication in 1955, where it ran until 1982. It was more belittled than beloved for me but I'll be darned if I didn't wax nostalgic when watching the 12 episodes on this four-disc set. These are early episodes from the 1960s and it's disappointing to see they are black and white. But performances from the polished performers, including the Lennon Sisters, Jo Ann Castle, Myron Floren and Dick Dale may bring a memory or two for you, too. B

MANHATTAN (R) Woody Allen's comedic follow-up to "Annie Hall" — he split the two with his breathtaking drama "Interiors" — doesn't stand the test of time as well as "Annie Hall." Now available on Blu-ray, it also mirrors real life in a somewhat creepy manner as Allen's middle-aged character dates a teenager. Allen, of course, was in his 50s when he fell in love with the adopted teenage daughter of then-wife Mia Farrow. But I digress. "Manhattan" is a wonderful film nonetheless, Filled with the gorgeous music of George Gershwin — the soundtrack put Gershwin back on the charts — and Allen's touching tribute to his beloved New York. As with "Annie Hall," it is a letdown to see the only bonus feature is the trailer, but the Blu-ray transfer is beautiful. B

THE MIGHTY MACS (G) Inspirational true story of the rise of women's basketball team from a small, all-female Catholic college in the early 1970s. The story borrows a little too much from the "Hoosiers" playbook, including the sweeping score solely designed to manipulate the emotions. It also strays somewhat from the hairstyles and fashion of that era. But, the earnest performances by Carla Gugino, Ellen Burstyn and Marley Shelton will have you rooting for the little team that could. B

THE RUM DIARY (R) There's little doubt Hunter S. Thompson had a way with words. This adaptation of his story does its best to bury those words despite an inspired revelry led by Johnny Depp's command of Thompson's prose. It has its moments of fun but not enough to sustain this muddled comedy. C+

STORMHOUSE (R) A ghost whisperer is called into a military facility housing an invisible entity. Self-proclaimed horror is engrossing for about an hour then falls headfirst into an irreversible stupor. It is only when the film enters its third act that it lives up to its genre description. That's when you'll realize — with horror — that you've wasted an hour of time and five of your hard-earned dollars. D

TAKE SHELTER (R) Remember back when M. Night Shyamalan first burst upon the cinematic landscape and wowed the world with intense, suspense-filled films such as "The Sixth Sense" and "Signs"? Try to forget how much he's disappointed us since then with "The Happening" and "The Last Airbender." That early work is what I was reminded of with "Take Shelter." Michael Shannon — one of America's best and most underrated actors — dazzles as Curtis, a blue-collar family man who becomes obsessed with building an underground storm shelter in his backyard. Writer-director Jeff Nichols takes a little too long to build the suspense — film clocks in at two hours — but watching Shannon's character come to grips with his reality is never boring. DID YOU KNOW? Kathy Baker, who plays Curtis' mother, was born in Midland. A-

A WARRIOR'S HEART (PG) An enraged, selfish lacrosse player gets a lesson in humility after his father is killed in Iraq. Formulaic melodrama starring "Twilight" regular Kellan Lutz is aimed straight for the teenage girl demographic. I suspect even they will not be too sidetracked by Lutz's perfect abs and see through this fluff that plays like a third tier made-for-cable movie. C

Nancy Adamson can be reached at nadamson@mrt.com.

DVDs are provided courtesy of Hastings, located at 3111 W. Cuthbert Ave.

onscreen

"JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND" — There's little mystery to this island. This 3-D sort-of sequel wears its formula-for-dollars purpose with pride, delivering a dash of cinematic nonsense that represents Hollywood calculation at its shrewdest and most shameless. Again poking Jules Verne's remains with a sharp stick, the producers of the 2008 hit "Journey to the Center of the Earth" present their second modern take on the 19th-century fantasist's wild stories. And "Mysterious Island" is every bit the amusement park ride cloaked as a movie that the first "Journey" was, the new flick stranding a misfit band of adventurers on Verne's lost island of freakish creatures. Dwayne Johnson stars this time as stepdad to a youth (Josh Hutcherson, reprising his role from the first movie) whose family has discovered Verne's sci-fi stories were true. Joining them as they rush from giant lizards and electric eels are Michael Caine, Luis Guzman and Vanessa Hudgens. Director Brad Peyton oversees a collection of impressive but annoying visuals, serving up gimmicky 3-D that's continually trying to poke things in your eye. PG for some adventure action and brief mild language. 94 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

"THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY" — Considering the eccentric, almost psychedelic fantasy worlds created in Japanese animation master Hayao Miyazaki's tales, a story of tiny people living beneath the floorboards of a house seems almost normal. This latest from Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli also is a pleasant antidote to the siege mentality of so many Hollywood cartoons, whose makers aim to occupy every instant of the audience's attention with an assault of noise and images. Slow, stately, gentle and meditative, the film is a marvel of image and color, its old-fashioned pen-and-ink frames vividly bringing to life the world of children's author Mary Norton's "The Borrowers." Directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, with sound designer Gary Rydstrom directing a Hollywood voice cast for the English-language version, the film follows the adventures of tiny teen Arrietty (Bridgit Mendler) and her parents (Amy Poehler and Will Arnett), who live off things scavenged from the oversized human world above. Befriended by a sickly human youth (David Henrie) and menaced by a busybody housekeeper (Carol Burnett), Arrietty stands at the center of a sweet, chaste, sort-of first love story told with warm simplicity and grandly fluid visuals. G. 94 minutes. Three stars out of four.

"THIS MEANS WAR" — Having great-looking actors who actually can act makes this noisy romp more tolerable than it ought to be. It's essentially a love-triangle version of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" rendered even more bombastic in the hands of "Charlie's Angels" director McG. So you've got your sport utility vehicles tumbling in slow motion, your gravity-defying shootouts and your obligatory explosions galore. Naturally, the premise is the most high-concept contrived confection: Two CIA agents (Chris Pine and Tom Hardy) who happen to be best friends also happen to fall in love with the same woman (Reese Witherspoon). Screwball and high-tech, it aims to provide laughs and thrills at the same time, and only intermittently achieves its goals. Still, the sight of Pine and Hardy one-upping each other for this woman's affections through ridiculously elaborate dates and outright stalking (with the help of government resources) has its amusing moments. And McG unsurprisingly keeps the action humming at a nearly nonstop pace. All in all, it's not an entirely insufferable distraction. Chelsea Handler shows up as Witherspoon's wisecracking, married best friend living vicariously through her dating adventures, which is even more implausible than the film's outsized stunts. PG-13 for sexual content including references, some violence and action and for language. 97 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

"The Secret World of Arrietty"

Capsule reviews of other feature films

Distributed by MCT Information Services

RATINGS: 4 stars: Excellent; 3 stars: Good; 2 stars: Fair; 1 star: Poor

"CHRONICLE" — Smart, fun, and increasingly dark, this reality-grounded sci-fi tale finds three high school friends climbing into a hole _ and emerging with telekinetic powers. But instead of using their newfound abilities to fight crime, they just do what guys in high school would do if they could levitate stuff and crush stuff and hurl stuff through the air. 1 hr. 23 PG-13 (violence, adult themes) 3 stars

"THE GREY" — Liam Neeson is a soul-torn sharpshooter in the Alaskan outback, trying to lead a band of fellow plane crash survivors across snowbound, sub-zero terrain, when a pack of wolves descend. They're not wearing Team Jacob T-shirts, but they're snarling and mean. R (violence, profanity, adult themes). 2 stars.

"SAFE HOUSE" — Denzel Washington is a former top op gone rogue and Ryan Reynolds is the CIA newbie assigned to keep watch over him, when all heck breaks loose. A smart, propulsive espionage thriller, with jolting chase sequences (shot in Cape Town), even if it eventually falls back on spy movie conventions. 1 hr. 55 R (violence, profanity, adult themes). 3 stars.

"THE VOW" — Rachel McAdams is a perky, artsy spouse who flies through a car window and then awakens from her coma with no memory of the man she loves. That would by Channing Tatum, who cries man tears and does everything in his power to make his amnesiac wife remember who he is. 1 hr. 44 PG-13 (nudity, adult themes). 2 stars.

"THE WOMAN IN BLACK" — Daniel Radcliffe stars in this pallid Victorian ghost story. Slow-moving, old-fashioned and not terribly scary. 1 hr. 39 PG-13 (violence, disturbing images). 2 stars.

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Starship's Thomas living in the moment

By Georgia Temple
Entertainment Editor

For Mickey Thomas of Starship, performing the No. 1 hit "Nothing's Going to Stop Us Now" from the movie "Mannequin" at the Academy Awards in 1988 stands as one of the most memorable moments in his career.

"I love the movies," Thomas said in a telephone interview with the Reporter-Telegram. "I am a huge movie fan. I always watch the Academy Awards, since I was a little kid. Being able to perform at the Academy Awards was a dream come true for me. I got to meet Liza Minnelli and Dudley Moore. They were part of the music presentation that we did that night."

Thomas traces his interest in music to his teenage years and a British invasion — The Beatles.

"And that got me into my first band," said Thomas, who performs at the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center on Saturday. "A high school band when I was 15. Listening to The Beatles it was apparent that it was more than just music. Something really special was going on there that transcended music. It was going to change the world culturally and socially. And sure enough, The Beatles did that. Everything changed. Your whole value system.

"A kid my age, growing up in south Georgia, and you decided you wanted to grow your hair long, you had to make some pretty hard choices. But I did that. I had my high school band, and then I went away to college and started a band. I had that going for a while.

"In 1971, I was lucky enough to meet a gospel singer from California, a guy named Gideon Daniels," said Thomas.

Daniels invited Thomas to join his band.

"So I left for California, which was a whole new world for me," said Thomas. "I spent all of 1972 singing and touring with Gideon, and he was the biggest influence in my life and really taught me how to sing. He was my mentor. And because he was a gospel singer, he helped me form a bit of a different style than other rock 'n' roll singers my age. Coming straight out of the black church kind of sound — gospel music."

Daniels introduced Thomas to Elvin Bishop. In 1974, Thomas joined the Elvin Bishop Band and in 1976 the band scored a "huge hit" — "Fooled Around and Fell in Love."

"It was the first time I heard my voice on the radio," recalled Thomas. "It took some getting used to. I was self conscious. I was not really comfortable with hearing myself on the radio. I guess we are all our own worst critics. Fortunately, over the years I've gotten used to it." He laughed. "I love to hear it now."

"Fooled Around and Fell in Love"

"Changed my life," said Thomas. "It was a great band that Elvin had together during that time. When I met Gideon, he taught me how to sing. I kind of graduated from the university of singing, and I did my post graduate work with the Elvin Bishop Band."

In 1978, Thomas left the Elvin Bishop band to pursue a solo career. In the spring of 1979, following the departure of Marty Balin and Grace Slick, Thomas was asked to join Jefferson Starship.

"It was totally unexpected," Thomas said of the invitation. "I couldn't really understand how it was going to fit together. Based on my influences and my background. I couldn't say I was a real fan. I was not as familiar with their music. It was folk rock. I was wondering how is my style going to fit with this, my R&B and bluesy roots. We had some dialogue back and forth for a few weeks. I finally decided to go and meet them. We met and talked and I realized at that point in time they were ready to depart on a whole new sound.

"It was a whole new much harder-edged sound they were going for. And somehow when I applied what I had learned to the new direction, we came out with sort of a unique sound and the first of that was 'Jane,' our first single."

Thomas spent most of the early 1980s as the main vocalist of Jefferson Starship, performing several duets with Grace Slick, who rejoined the band in 1981. After Paul Kantner left in 1984, Thomas was leader of the band. After Slick left again in 1988, Thomas sang all the lead vocals. In 1992, Paul Kantner reformed Jefferson Starship without Thomas, and Thomas formed a new touring band called Starship with Mickey Thomas and has continued touring under this name.

"I've had this band together for a long, long time," said Thomas. "My drummer, Darrell Verdusco, and keyboard player, Bill Bennett, have been with me for 18 years. The guitarist, Mark Abrahamian, and bass player, Jeff Adams, for 12 years. Stephanie Calvert — she a great singer — for six years."

Thomas often hears the following questions: "'How do I make it? How do I get a record deal?'

"If I knew that, I'd have a record on the charts right now. The best advice I can give the people is to just be persistent. There's a lot of luck involved in this business. If you are fortunate enough to get a lucky break, you better be ready to take advantage of it at that moment. Always be ready. I've had to leap a couple of times in my career. It can be frightening to take that leap of faith."

Thomas, who is the only member of his family involved in the music business, has a brother, Chuck, and a sister, Shayne.

"My brother is very entertaining. He's in the insurance business and the real estate business and is probably the most loved guy in his whole town. My brother says, 'It's a small world, but I would hate to have to paint it.'" He laughed and added, "My sister is living the life of luxury on the Gulf Coast of Florida."

Acting plays a role in Thomas's view of his job.

"I like to look at myself as more of an actor," said Thomas. "I don't write a lot of songs. I like to take a song I love that maybe someone else has written and bring it to life as an actor/singer. Even though I haven't written a lot of my hits, I feel as though I have. I feel like I've given them life."

Touring today has taken on a new meaning for Thomas.

"It's great today," said Thomas. "I think that as far as touring, I enjoy it more today than at any point in my life for several reasons. The band has evolved to a point. I can go on the road when I want to, decide when and where I want to play. I have a little more control over the whole production.

"I think I've improved as a singer over the years. My voice is stronger now than it ever was. I have more stamina. I do enjoy the traveling, getting down the road, going back to cities I love and have been to many times in the past and get to go back to again.

"I've learned to enjoy the moment more and live in the moment. When you are younger, you are always projecting into the future, what's around the bend, rather than enjoying the moment you are in. So I'm living more in the moment now.

"We are so lucky this is our career. This is what we get to do."

ALL THE DETAILS:

STARSHIP WITH MICKEY THOMAS AND SPECIAL GUEST BOBBY KIMBALL

When: 8 p.m. Saturday

Where: Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center

Tickets: $35-$75. Available at the Wagner Noel box office or online at www.wagner-noel.com.

Info: Kimball is the former lead singer of the band Toto. Thomas made his mark in 1976 as lead vocalist on the mega-hit "Fooled Around and Fell in Love" with The Elvin Bishop Band. Thomas joined Jefferson Starship in the late '70s.