ROUND 1: IOWA | GOP presidential hopefuls look to win caucuses today

ELECTION 2012

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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New year brings implementation of new laws

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

The new year for many will mean new laws to adhere to after legislators around the country spent part of 2011 approving new regulations.

In Texas, the new laws that went into effect on Sunday include regulating "cash-for-gold" businesses, providing more protection to homeowners and banning certain kinds of light pollution near McDonald Observatory.

Texas also is one of four states working to require voters to show ID when casting a ballot. The Texas law was set to go into place Sunday but is being reviewed by federal officials after the U.S. Justice Department last week blocked a similar law that had passed in South Carolina.

Here's a look at some of the laws that were added to the books on Jan. 1:

■ **Metals protection (HB 2490):** Entities may no longer purchase or sell precious crafted metals unless they first are licensed by the Finance Commission of Texas. The law's intention is to provide some oversight to "cash-for-gold" businesses that previously have been able to purchase, melt and sell metals while keeping few records. With the new requirements, it is supposed to be easier for law enforcement to track and investigate stolen metals.

■ **Voter ID (SB 14):** The law requires voters to show a state or federal government issued photo ID before casting a ballot. Driver's licenses, passports, military IDs and concealed-handgun licenses all will be accepted. People with disabilities who do not have a photo ID can apply for a permanent exemption. The law is under review by the federal government and might not be enforced during the upcoming spring primary.

■ **Clear skies for star parties (HB 2857):** The new law allows for communities within a 57-mile radius of McDonald Observatory to regulate the use of outdoor lighting to ensure it doesn't interfere with activities at the observatory. The author of the bill, Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, argued that an increasing population around the observatory has resulted in light pollution, which is a "danger" to the astronomical activities at the observatory.

■ **Homeowner's association protection (HB 1228):** This is one of several measures passed in 2012 that aims to provide more protection to homeowners living in a neighborhood where a

Please see **LAWS/2A**

JUDGE HYDE PASSES AWAY



MRT file photo

Midland County Judge John Hyde, right, poses with his wife, Sharon, and his granddaughter, Katie Lovell. Hyde passed away Monday after a battle with cancer. He was 69.

Loss 'a very sad day' for Midland County

By Ed Todd
MRT Correspondent

Judge John Hyde, a most personable and gentle yet spiritually stalwart West Texan who through his honor and duty to justice and history won the hearts and minds of the community, died Monday at Midland Memorial Hospital following a battle with cancer. He was 69.

As lawyer, judge and historian, Hyde was meticulous, exacting and conscientious and readily entertained a brave and decent sense of humor. He was scholarly, kind and forthright.

Hyde's resolve was stellar in bringing justice, fairness and integrity to the judiciary and in eloquently imparting his passion for Midland's history and paying homage to the community's forebears.

"This is a very sad day for the judiciary and for Midland County and for the state of Texas," said Dean Rucker, who is presiding judge of the 318th Texas District Court.

Hyde, an Abilene native and Vietnam War veteran, had been presiding judge of the 238th Texas District Court since 1990.

"John won Midland County's respect for his greatness and won its love for his generosity and selfless service," Rucker said.

Hyde not only expressed deep respect for the court system, but by his actions he demonstrated a joyful work ethic that famously carried into his ardor for Midland's history.

Please see **HYDE/2A**

Man charged in airport incident to appear before judge

■ Active military man charged with bringing explosives on a plane.

From staff reports

A 30-year-old man accused of trying to bring explosives through a security checkpoint at Midland International Airport will appear before a federal judge today.

Trey Scott Atwater will make his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge David Counts at 4 p.m. today, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Klassen said Monday.



Atwater

Atwater was being held Monday at the Midland County Detention Center on a hold for the U.S. Marshals Service. Bond has not been set.

He was detained 9:26 a.m. Saturday after Transportation Security Administration officials found explosives in military-grade wrapping in Atwater's carry-on bag during an X-ray screening, according to officials.

FBI special agent and spokesman Michael Martinez said Atwater was charged with trying to bring explosives onto a plane.

Atwater is an active duty member of the U.S. Army, and Martinez said it's possible he could face additional charges from the military.

He and his family were visiting relatives in Midland and were on their way to their home near Fort Bragg in North Carolina when the incident occurred, officials said. Atwater is a 1999 Lee High School graduate.

According to an announcement sent by the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee in 2010, Atwater has two sons and

Please see **ATWATER/2A**

Midland-Odessa economy nears end of 2011 at record levels

By Mella McEwen
Oil Editor

Perhaps sensing that the 2011 finish line was at hand, the combined Midland-Odessa economy increased the pace of its growth in November, showing stronger-than-expected month-to-month gains from October to November.

Having shown signs of flattening, the Midland-Odessa Regional Economic Index actually surpassed its previous high reached in December 2008 and is 13.6 percent stronger than November 2010. The Texas Permian Basin Petroleum Index also surpassed its previous high reached in September 2008 and is up 13.9 percent from November 2010.

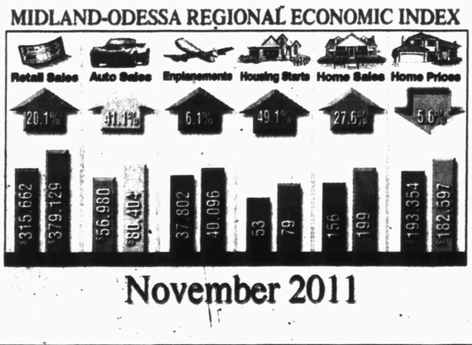
"Both took larger-than-normal monthly leaps from October to November that propelled them past their prior peaks," said Karr Ingham, the Amarillo economist who prepares both indexes for the Midland Development Corp. and Security Bank. The indexes represent the general Midland-Odessa economy and the region's oil and gas economy, and the fact that both are back in record territory is a game-changer, he said.

"It made perfect sense for the indexes to slow down," he said.

But crude oil prices began an increase of $10 to $12 a barrel, and that gave a boost to the area's oil and gas economy, which found its way to the general economy. Ingham put the value of the crude produced in West Texas at $23.47 billion, up 27 percent from $18.4 billion a year ago. That is cash flow spent by oil and gas operators on everything from payrolls to office rent, automobiles to catering, he said.

The business community — including builders, support companies and retail — is strong, said Bobby Burns, president and chief

Please see **ECONOMY/2A**



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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Thing to do

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

Meetings schedule

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

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

Community calendar

■ Midland Book Review Unit is to meet 11:30 a.m. today at Ranchland Hills Golf Club.

Maridell Fryar will review "Traitor to His Class," a biography of President Franklin Roosevelt written by H.W. Brands.

To make luncheon reservations, call 683-2138.

■ Midland Association of Retired School Personnel will meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Fellowship Hall in First Baptist Church.

Burr Williams, executive director of Sibley Nature Center, will discuss West Texas water issues.

To make luncheon reservations, email Anita at apatton123@sbcglobal.net.

City's watering schedule

According to the city's Drought Contingency plan, the watering schedule is:

■ Odd addresses: beginning 6 p.m. Sundays through 10 a.m. Mondays and beginning 6 p.m. Wednesdays through 10 a.m. Thursdays.

■ Even addresses: beginning 6 p.m. Saturdays through 10 a.m. Sundays and beginning 6 p.m. Tuesdays through 10 a.m. Wednesdays.

EZ Express

Leaves Downtown Midland: 6:15 a.m., 7:15 a.m, 8:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

Stops: Midland College, Citibank Ballpark (6:40 a.m.), UTPB/EZ Rider, UTPB Founders Building, Downtown Odessa)

Leaves Downtown Odessa: 6:15 a.m., 7:15 a.m, 8:15 a.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m.

Stops: UTPB Founders Building, UTPB/EZ Rider, Citibank Ballpark (5:55 p.m.) Midland College, Downtown Midland)

Fare: $2

For a full schedule for the service, visit: www.youareheremedia.com/ezexpress/schedule.html.

Talk show schedules

NEWS TALK

KCRS (AM 550)
6-9 a.m. The Morning Drive with Robert Hallmark and Kurt Verlei
9-11 a.m. Lynn Woolley
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh
2-5 p.m. Dave Ramsey
5-6 p.m. Local news reports
6-9 p.m. Roger Hedgecock
9-midnight Hugh Hewitt
Midnight-6 a.m. Coast to Coast with George Noory
web: http://www.newstalkkcrs.com/

KWEL (AM 1070)
6-10 a.m. The Morning Show with Craig Anderson
10 a.m.-noon Laura Ingraham
Noon-2 p.m. Glenn Beck
2-5 p.m. Sean Hannity
5-6 p.m. Jason Moore
6-9 p.m. Michael Savage
Web: http://www.kwel.com

SPORT TALK

KMND (AM 1510)
6-9 a.m. Mike and Mike in the Morning
9 a.m.-noon The Herd with Colin Cowherd
Noon-3 p.m. The Dan Patrick Show
3-6 p.m. The Doug Gottlieb Show

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 689-8698 or e-mail Vickie Gomez (zemogv@cableone.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into our airport so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet them.

Lottery

Pick 3 day: 7-0-9
Pick 3 night: 6-7-3
Daily 4 day: 7-9-0-6
Daily 4 night: 1-1-2-3
Cash Five: 14-18-21-24-30
Texas Two Step: 4-8-16-27 BB: 9

Today in history

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2012. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:

On Jan. 3, 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

On this date:

In 1938, the March of Dimes campaign to fight polio was organized.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican's diplomatic mission.

In 1993, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty in Moscow.

One year ago: Prosecutors in Dallas declared Cornelius Dupree Jr. innocent of a rape and robbery that had put him in prison for 30 years, longer than any other DNA exoneree in Texas.

Today's birthdays: Actor Dabney Coleman is 80. Actress Victoria Principal is 62. Actor-director Mel Gibson is 56. NFL quarterback Eli Manning is 31.

HYDE

From 1A

He extolled the pioneers and their perseverance and resourcefulness in the late 1800s and ensuing years. He masterfully told tales of subsequent generations on the ranches, farms, oil fields and in the courthouse, in building downtown Midland, and settling in the Midland prairie by horseback, railroad, jalopy and by airplane. Hyde's scholarly and quite readable and mesmerizing tales appeared in the Reporter-Telegram. He was thrilled to speak of his research and discoveries, which he painted colorfully.

"John's significant contribution toward maintaining a presence of Midland's history in our everyday life is a gift to the entire community," said Pat McDaniel, interim president of the Midland County Historical Society, chairman of the Midland County Historical Commission and director of the Haley Memorial Library and History Center.

"His historical writings for the newspaper, his many talks to community groups and his everyday efforts at keeping Midland history alive will be missed," McDaniel said. "He would expect all of us to hold close to our hearts and minds the efforts of those who have gone before us."

Hyde's impassioned curiosity and unwavering devotion to Midland history found much inspiration in the late Nancy Rankin McKinley who, until her death last year at age 94, celebrated Midland history.

Hyde subscribed to and adopted her philosophy: "It is important to know and to appreciate your heritage. If you don't remember the past and the tender moments of our heritage, there will be nothing left of ourselves to be remembered proudly."

Hyde, a "beloved member of the Midland community," has "passed into God"s glory," said Rhonda Lacy, president of the Midland County Republican Women. "Judge John Hyde will be missed by so many. He leaves an incredible legacy of grace and wisdom, strength and fairness, as he served and loved our West Texas community."

Lacy beseeched the community to "pray for his wife, Sharon, daughters Whitney and Hillary and her family."

To Jason Nicks, a former Midland prosecutor now living in Beaumont, "Judge Hyde was a dear friend and mentor. I will forever cherish the time I spent as an assistant district attorney assigned to his court. I would always look forward to the conclusion of my trials in his court because he and I would visit in his office about strategies and things he liked or didn't like during the trial."

Nicks said Hyde "made me a better lawyer and person. I loved listening to him talk about the art of trying a case. He loved the law and Midland County. I really miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Mark Dettman, a theologian, lawyer and former Midland County attorney, recalled Hyde as a dear friend, "mentor to me and lots of people" and a "gentleman's gentleman" to whom "your word and your handshake were your bond. If John Hyde told you something, that was it. You could count on it."

Midland County Judge Michael Bradford said "first and foremost" that Hyde was a "great friend" and brought an honored rarity to the American system, for he respected the law and individual rights and nurtured "an immeasurable sense of fairness."

To Sheriff Gary Painter, "Hyde was one of the greatest and finest men I have ever known. He was a fair and honest judge."

Judge Barbara Culver Clack, a former Midland County judge, Texas district court judge and Texas Supreme Court justice, observed Hyde in the judgeship as he grew in stature and wisdom and become respected throughout the community.

"He was an ideal mentor for young lawyers," Clack said. "He represented everything you would want in a lawyer: sincerity, humility and diligence. He never came into the courtroom unprepared. He was always perfectly organized and prepared."

Clack, a member of the Greatest Generation that lived through the Great Depression and World War II, said that she was "ecstatic" when Hyde became a Texas district court judge in 1990. "It was wonderful."

Hyde "loved history, especially Midland history. He was quite a scholar in that field."

In an earlier bout with lung cancer, Hyde was faring well, prevailing in the fight and was enriching his mind and heart with faith and hope.

"If something happens to John Hyde," Clack recalled back then, "we ought to just turn the lights out in Midland and close it down. Midland will never be the same. What a loss."

Staff writer Audrie Palmer contributed to this story.

Reactions to Judge Hyde's death

"This is a very sad day for the judiciary and for Midland County and for the state of Texas."

— Dean Rucker
318th Texas District Court judge

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Interim president of the Midland County Historical Society

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Midland County Republican Women president

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Former Midland prosecutor

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— Mark Dettman
Former Midland County attorney

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"He was an ideal mentor for young lawyers. He represented everything you would want in a lawyer: sincerity, humility and diligence. He never came into the courtroom unprepared. He was always perfectly organized and prepared."

— Barbara Culver Clack
Former Midland County judge

Expert: Wastewater well triggered Ohio earthquakes

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — A northeast Ohio well used to dispose of wastewater from oil and gas drilling almost certainly caused a series of 11 minor quakes in the Youngstown area since last spring, a seismologist investigating the quakes said Monday.

Research is continuing on the now-shuttered injection well at Youngstown and seismic activity, but it might take a year for the wastewater-related rumblings in the earth to dissipate, said John Armbruster of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, N.Y.

Brine wastewater dumped in wells comes from drilling operations, including the so-called fracking process to extract gas from underground shale that has been a source of concern among environmental groups and some property owners. Injection wells have also been suspected in quakes in Ashtabula in far northeast Ohio, and in Arkansas, Colorado, and Oklahoma, Armbruster said.

Thousands of gallons of brine were injected daily into the Youngstown well that opened in 2010 until its owner, Northstar Disposal Services LLC, agreed Friday to stop injecting the waste into the earth as a precaution while authorities assessed any potential links to the quakes.

After the latest and largest quake Saturday at 4.0 magnitude, state officials announced their beliefs that injecting wastewater near a fault line had created enough pressure to cause seismic activity. They said four inactive wells within a five-mile radius of the Youngstown well would remain closed. But they also stressed that injection wells are different from drilling wells that employ fracking.

Armbruster said Monday he expects more quakes will occur despite the shutdown of the Youngstown well.

"The earthquakes will trickle on as a kind of a cascading process once you've caused them to occur," he said. "This one year of pumping is a pulse that has been pushed into the ground, and it's going to be spreading out for at least a year."

The quakes began last March with the most recent on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve each occurring within 100 yards of the injection well. The Saturday quake in McDonald, outside of Youngstown, caused no serious injuries or property damage.

Youngstown Democrat Rep. Robert Hagan on Monday renewed his call for a moratorium on fracking and well injection disposal to allow a review of safety issues.

"If it's safe, I want to do it," he said in a telephone interview. "If it's not, I don't want to be part and parcel to destruction of the environment and the fake promise of jobs."

He said a moratorium "really is what we should be doing, mostly toward the injection wells, but we should be asking questions on drilling itself."

A spokesman for Gov. John Kasich, an outspoken supporter of the growing oil and natural gas industry in Ohio, said the shale industry shouldn't be punished for a fracking byproduct.

"That would be the equivalent of shutting down the auto industry because a scrap tire dump caught fire somewhere," said Kasich spokesman Rob Nichols.

He said 177 deep injection wells have operated without incident in Ohio for decades and the Youngstown well was closed within 24 hours of a study detailing how close a Christmas Eve quake was to the well.

The industry-supported Ohio Oil and Gas Association said the rash of quakes was "a rare and isolated event that should not cast doubt about the effectiveness" of injection wells.

Such wells "have been used safely and reliably as a disposal method for wastewater from oil and gas operations in the U.S. since the 1930s," the association's executive vice president, Thomas E. Stewart, said in a statement Monday.

LAWS

From 1A

homeowner's association exists. This law requires an association to obtain a court order before foreclosing and also to set up payment plans with homeowners to prevent foreclosure when the homeowner is behind on payment of association dues. Additional notices also now are required to be sent before an association turns its collection process over to an attorney.

■ **Short-term loan regulations (HB 2592):** This law requires additional disclosure be provided by credit service organizations, which include businesses such as pay day and car title loan operators. The law requires such organizations to post inside of their business a schedule of all fees that will be assessed and provide customers a copy of the interest rates they'll be charged. The entities also now are supposed to disclose the full amount a customer could would pay if they have to renew their short-term loan. Car title loan entities also must provide a warning to consumers that if they default on their loan, the credit service organization can take their vehicle.

■ **Homestead exemption for veterans' spouses (SB 516):** This law amends the current statute to allow the surviving spouse of a 100 percent disabled veteran to also become eligible for an exemption from valorem taxation on all or part of the appraised value of their residence homestead. Previously, the exemption went away when the veteran died. Lawmakers argued this was unfair because the spouse of a disabled veteran often has to give up career opportunities or additional hours at work to care for the veteran.

■ **Homestead exemption regulations (HB 252):** This law changes the wording of the homestead exemption allowance to make it easier for appraisal districts to ensure a homeowner isn't claiming the homestead tax exemption for anything but the one residence he or she occupies.

■ **Autopsy consent (HB 1009):** Through the amendment passed in this bill, officials now must more clearly obtain consent before performing an autopsy on a deceased person. The law states that the deceased's relatives must be given a way to consent to the autopsy through forms that use "plain language" and also that they be given the chance to restrict the autopsy and the disposition of any organs.

Information was retrieved from Texas Legislature Online.

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

ECONOMY

From 1A

executive officer of the Midland Chamber of Commerce. He attributes that to the area's positive business climate.

"In the rest of the nation, we're an aberration and proud of it," he said.

"We all know oil and gas is the heart and soul of the economy and that's unlikely to change," he said.

Burns sees development throughout the city, including residential subdivisions, new office buildings, retail around Loop 250, restaurants and the new Cinergy Cinemas theater and entertainment complex. There are even plans for downtown, he said.

Consumer spending is driving the growth in the Midland-Odessa index, Ingham said. Spending is at record levels with November figures 20 percent above last November and year-to-date numbers 25 percent above the same period of 2010. Spending for 2011 is up about 12 percent compared to the previous peak spending in 2008, he said. The other component of consumer spending — automotive spending — remains slightly below the 2008 peak. Ingham said November spending was up 41 percent over November 2010, which was up 58 percent over November 2009 spending.

Construction activity also is strong, he said. Building permit valuations are up 28 percent with housing construction at record levels. There were 807 permits issued so far in 2011, which was the highest number recorded since at least 1995, when data for the index began to be collected.

Like most other metropolitan areas, Midland and Odessa are seeing existing home sales lag behind previous peak levels reached in 2006-07, Ingham said. The cities are bucking state and national trends because housing prices continue to increase, he said. November prices dipped 5 percent compared to last November, but prices year-to-date are up 7.2 percent. "No one in Texas is losing value," Ingham said. "Prices are either flat or there's a modest increase, nothing like the prices and dollar volumes in Midland-Odessa."

Put all those sectors into the mix, he said, and "the aggregate economies of the combined Midland-Odessa metro area is in new record territory and arriving with considerable momentum upward to end 2011 strong and carry that strength into 2012."

Though the national economy appears to have pulled back from the brink of a second recession, Ingham said there still are question marks — including the economic health of European countries. A strengthening national economy is good for Texas and Midland-Odessa, and the impact of a strengthening economy on energy demand is particularly good for Midland-Odessa, he said.

Burns said he and the rest of the chamber staff anticipate a strong 2012 and, like Ingham, see the economy entering the new year with upward momentum.

"We have a great run ahead of us if we make wise decisions," he said.

Mella McEwen can be reached at mmcewen@mrt.com.

ATWATER

From 1A

his mother lives in Midland. When he was welcomed home in 2010, the committee wrote that he was preparing to leave for his third tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Midland police said Saturday they won't know what grade the explosives were until they are sent out for further testing.

When the items were discovered Saturday, law enforcement evacuated the terminal and closed the checkpoint at Midland International Airport for one hour while the area was investigated.

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Volunteer recognized for logging 6,000 hours

By Kathleen Thurber
Staff Writer

For Mildred Stone, giving back has become second nature.

When she recently was asked to attend a luncheon where she'd be honored for her service, Stone replied that she appreciated the offer but that she would have to decline. She said she volunteers because she enjoys the work, not because she wants anyone to know of her contributions.

"I just like to do it and kind of stay in the background," she said.

Saul Herrera, director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, though, said the agency wasn't taking no for an answer. Stone not only was one of 10 RSVP members who would be honored with a Presidential Service Award, she was also the only volunteer being recognized for logging more than 5,000 hours. In total, she's recorded 5,591 service hours during her time with RSVP.

"She's one of those special volunteers who is involved in a lot of things and real modest about what she does," Herrera said.

Stone conceded and agreed to attend. Though it's not an experience she's ready to relive, she said she was thrilled to be among those recognized.

"It was pretty exciting to get the award," she said. "When you're doing something that you enjoy, you don't really total up your hours."

Stone said she first became involved with Meals-on-Wheels after retiring because she wanted to make use of her free time.

"I just had time on my hands, and it was something I felt like I wanted to do," she said.

Nine years later, Stone now serves on two different routes, often helping deliver meals four days each week to elderly and disabled people.

"They're like an extended family," Stone said, of her clients. "To me, I feel like that standing there visiting with them is just as important as taking them the meal because a lot of them, that's the only contact with they have with somebody."

At home, she also spends much of her time giving back.

Stone long has had a love of sewing. She said she wanted to use her hobby to bless others.

Her church, Crestview Baptist Church, went on a mission trip to Mexico several years ago, and Stone offered to hand-craft stuffed bears church members could take to the children with whom they would visit.

After those bears were finished, she looked for another avenue where bears could be distributed locally and was connected with Dale Little, emergency management coordinator for Midland County, who said he could give them out.

"He distributes them when they have a child in the ambulances or fire trucks," she said. "It kind of consoles them."

In addition to her bears, Stone also makes blankets for Meals-on-Wheels clients in need. Some of her blankets are given to clients she's come to know well. Others are given to clients Stone might never get to meet. However, knowing they have her blankets brings her joy, she said.

"It was just something that I felt there was a need for," she said.

Herrera said there are several other activities where Stone also gives her time. She's one of 705 RSVP volunteers who together in 2011 gave more than 106,800 hours, he said.

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

Other Presidential Service Award winners

■ Maria Craig — 4,856 hours through the Citizens of Petrol as well as her church and several boards and committees.

■ Midge Erskine — 4,113 hours of service through the Annual Texas-Size Garage as well as through other community service efforts.

■ Leah Gerhard — 4,448 hours through the Children's Rehabilitation Center, as a Meals-on-Wheels driver, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, on the RSVP Advisory Council and as a member of the "Special Projects" group that prepares mailings for various agencies.

■ Joe Hathaway — 4,169 hours through the Citizens on Patrol at the Midland Police Department and at Midland Community Theater where he volunteers with his wife.

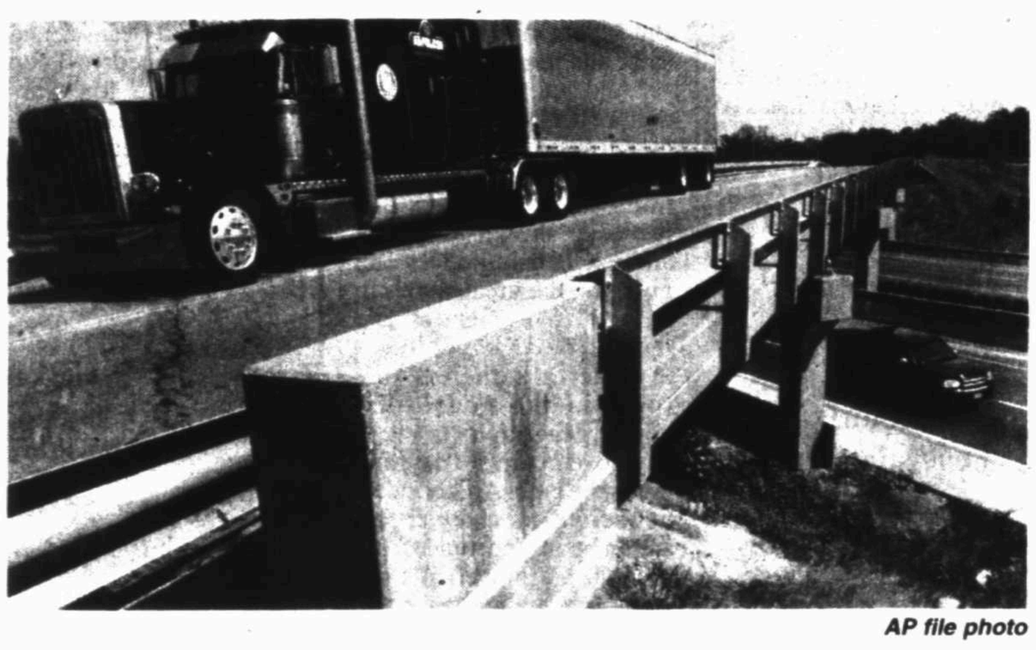
■ Faye Hodges — 4,011 hours through St. Vincent de Paul and STOP DWI.

■ Harry Hugly — 4,033 hours by working with the MMH Auxiliary, his church, the Visitors Center, the Petroleum Museum and the Midland Lion's Club.

■ Betty Reimers — 4,526 hours through the Annual Texas-Size Garage Sale, as a Meals-on-Wheels driver, at Hospice Midland, Manor Park and her church.

■ Ernie Showalter — 4,027 hours through the Community Children's Clinic, Handyman Program of Community & Senior Services and through the Midland Lion's Club.

■ Anne Schwiening — 4,087 hours primarily with "Rides of Hope," which provides rides to people dealing with cancer.



AP file photo

A truck drives on the Highway 40 bridge over I-70 near Midway, Mo., in 2007 Unless Missouri acts soon, it could lose millions of federal highway dollars as a penalty for not adopting new safety requirements for commercial truckers. Approximately one-third of the states, including Missouri, have indicated they may not meet a Jan. 30 deadline for their drivers' license offices to require interstate truck drivers to provide proof from a medical professional that they are healthy enough to drive.

Funds at risk over safety rule

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Stuck in a financial pothole, Missouri's highway department has been selling equipment and eliminating employees to scrounge up enough money to repair its roads. Unless it also changes state law, it could lose tens of millions of federal highway dollars as a penalty for not adopting new safety requirements for commercial truck drivers.

Though Missouri's financial predicament may be extreme, it is far from unique. Approximately one-third of states have indicated they may not meet a Jan. 30 deadline for their drivers' license offices to require interstate truck drivers to provide proof from a medical professional that they are healthy enough to drive, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

States that fail to comply with the federal mandate could lose 5 percent of their highway funds — about $30 million in Missouri's case. If they remain out of compliance for a second year, that penalty doubles. But noncompliant states could receive a grace period; as long as they submit a plan to obey the mandate, federal officials have indicated they may not start deducting money until 2014.

The federal agency declined to provide a list of the states in jeopardy of missing the deadline. But Missouri's plight was confirmed by state officials and documents obtained by the Associated Press through an open-records request. Officials in several other states, including Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma, also confirmed to the AP that they will not be able to fully implement the federal requirement by the deadline.

"It's hard enough to keep our roads in good condition, and this is going to make it more difficult," said Missouri state Rep. Eric Burlison, a Republican who unsuccessfully sought to bring Missouri in line with the federal requirements.

The federal government already requires interstate truck drivers to get a medical OK from a doctor. Drivers currently carry around their medical certification cards in case stopped by a police officer or inspector. Under the federal requirement that kicks in Jan. 30, truck drivers are to begin submitting their medical approval forms to state licensing offices, which are to enter the information in a nationwide database that also tracks things such as invalid licenses and driving violations.

"Its whole purpose is just to make sure that the drivers on the road are safe," said Claire O'Brien, a spokeswoman for the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

Adding truckers' medical status to the database was supposed to relieve them of the duty to carry medical cards. But because some states have been slow to implement the requirement, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration plans to continue the card-carrying requirement until Jan. 30, 2014.

Fire attacks at NYC homes, Islamic center probed

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A police security tower rose into the sky Monday, keeping watch over a globally prominent Islamic cultural center that was firebombed amid a handful of attacks being investigated as possibly linked bias crimes.

Police, who had made no arrests, released a sketch of a suspect and a videotape from a surveillance camera at a private house that is used as a Hindu house of worship and was one of the targets. The video shows a car pulling up Sunday night. Someone suddenly appears, lifts his right arm high and hurls a lit object that strikes the house and explodes into flames.

Earlier Sunday evening, the entrance to the Imam Al-Khoei Foundation also was struck by two Molotov cocktails, the types of bombs usually made of glass bottles filled with flammable liquid and corked with rags.

"But we are not afraid," said the center's assistant imam, Maan Al-Sahlani.

Besides the private house and the Islamic center, the other targets in the suspected arson attacks Sunday night were a corner store and another house. No one was injured in any of the attacks.

With New York Police Department cruisers parked outside the Islamic center and yellow police tape fluttering, Al-Sahlani met on Monday afternoon with a dozen other clerics from the city's Muslim community. A news conference was planned for Tuesday, the imam said.

Near a blackened, charred spot on the concrete overhang of the center's main entrance, the front gates remained wide open to the street on Monday, and anyone could walk in to worship.

"This is America, and we must continue to love one another," Al-Sahlani, standing in flowing ritual robes in the main prayer hall, said with a smile.

On Sunday, about 80 faithful had gathered inside for dinner when a firebomb struck at 8:44 p.m. A second one followed, striking a banner for the center's school over the door. There was no visible damage there.

Structural damage to the Queens Islamic center building was minimal, but the community was emotionally shaken, the Muslim cleric said.

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Las Vegas, Disneyworld and New York City are billed as three of the top New Year's Eve destinations.

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Read Shanna Sissom Today in the Reporter-Telegram

ACROSSTHENATION

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

Police: Body found at park is that of gunman

An armed Iraq War veteran suspected of killing a Mount Rainier National Park ranger managed to evade snowshoe-wearing SWAT teams and dogs on his trail for nearly a day. He couldn't, however, escape the cold.

A plane searching the remote wilderness for Benjamin Colton Barnes, 24, on Monday discovered his body lying partially submerged in an icy, snowy mountain creek with snow banks standing several feet high on either side.

"He was wearing T-shirt, a pair of jeans and one tennis shoe. That was it," Pierce County Sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said.

Barnes did not have any external wounds and appears to have died due to the elements, he said. A medical examiner was at the scene to determine the cause of death. Troyer said two weapons were recovered, but he declined to say where they were located.

LOS ANGELES

24-year-old arrested in arson spree

Authorities arrested a German man Monday in connection with dozens of suspected arson attacks that destroyed parked cars, scorched buildings and rattled much of the nation's second-largest city over the New Year's weekend.

Harry Burkhart, 24, was booked for investigation of arson of an inhabited dwelling and was being held without bail, authorities said. He is a German national, but authorities said they didn't know how long he's been in the United States. Police said he told arresting officers he's from Frankfurt.

Burkhart was arrested earlier in the day because he resembled a "person of interest" captured on surveillance video. He was stopped by a reserve sheriff's deputy in a van being sought by arson investigators, who did not rule out the possibility that others may be involved.

More than 50 blazes have flared since Friday in Hollywood, neighboring West Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley, causing about $3 million in damage. Firefighters have not responded to any other suspicious fires since Burkhart was detained.

KENTUCKY

8 injured in 41-vehicle pileup on I-75

DRY RIDGE — Police say eight people have been injured in a 41-vehicle pileup that shut southbound Interstate 75 for hours on a day when scattered snow showers pelted northern Kentucky.

Kentucky's Kenton County police department issued a statement saying six of the injured were taken to hospitals, but none of the injuries was life-threatening. It said cars and other vehicles collided on southbound lanes at 12:22 p.m. Monday just north of Crittenden and south of Cincinnati.

Police said 23 vehicles had to be towed before southbound lanes reopened at 2:45 p.m. A news photo showed cars sprawled across several lanes and beside a shoulder with accumulated snow. Authorities said the cause is under investigation.

Meteorologist John Denman with the National Weather Service in Louisville said snow showers fell around the state Monday.

SALT LAKE CITY

Feds seek suspects in Utah deaths, Nevada shooting

Federal authorities joined a manhunt Monday for two fugitives described as "very dangerous" who are suspected of killing an elderly couple in their Utah home and shooting a woman in the head outside a Nevada casino.

"We have an extremely dangerous situation going on," Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Jim Phelps told the Associated Press.

Few details were released by a federal fugitive task force working with authorities in the two states.

The crime spree involved a shooting Saturday in the parking lot of a West Wendover, Nev., casino, when a man and woman tried to carjack another woman. The victim fought back but was shot in the head while escaping. She was hospitalized and is expected to survive.

"Had she not resisted in the manner that she did, she probably would have been a third victim," Phelps said.

The suspects later stole a car as it idled outside a hotel in Wells, Nev., about 50 miles west of the casino. A 50-mile chase by authorities along Interstate 80 reached speeds of nearly 100 mph before the suspects turned onto a dirt road and disappeared about 35 miles from the Utah border., Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Jim Stewart said.

"We haven't seen them since," he said.

FLORIDA

William Carey, donated millions to education, dies

WEST PALM BEACH — William Polk Carey, an entrepreneur who founded a New York-based investment management firm bearing his name and donated millions of dollars to help found business schools at universities in Maryland and Arizona, has died at 81, his firm said Monday.

The board of that firm, W.P. Carey & Co., issued a statement that the Baltimore native and corporate finance pioneer died Monday at a West Palm Beach, Florida, hospital, surrounded by family and friends.

Carey gave $30 million in April to the University of Maryland law school, reports noted. He also made a $50 million bequest in 2006 to Johns Hopkins University to found the Carey School of Business at that Maryland university. And in 2003, the business leader and philanthropist also gave $50 million to Arizona State University in 2003 to found its W.P. Carey School of Business.

At the time of his death, Carey was chairman of W.P. Carey & Co., which manages a global investment portfolio totaling about $11.8 billion, according to the company statement. It added that associates mourned the death of "the cultural leader of our company."

Carey was a leader in the field of corporate finance for nearly 60 years, the statement said, providing capital to hundreds of companies through the firm he founded.

UTAH

Father thankful for passers-by who saved children

LOGAN — Roger Andersen thought it was over.

The 46-year-old lost control of his car this weekend on a winding Utah canyon road and slid into an icy river, trapping his 9-year-old daughter Mia and 4-year-old son Baylor, along with their friend, 9-year-old Kenya Wildman. The car flipped upside-down and quickly became submerged.

"The first thought was, 'So this is it how it ends,'" Andersen said while choking back tears Monday. "This could very easily have been a funeral for four of us."

But it wasn't, thanks to a handful of passers-by who stopped and within seconds, jumped into the frigid river to help.

"I was amazed at the people and the readiness of people to jump in and help," Anderson said at a news conference in Logan, about 80 miles north of Salt Lake City. "Without hesitation, they just did what they had to do ... And that ... for our family, made all the difference."

FLORIDA

Federal officials join abortion clinic fire probe

PENSACOLA — Federal investigators plan to join the investigation of a suspicious fire at a Florida Panhandle abortion clinic that has been the site of deadly violence in the past, officials said Monday.

The early Sunday fire at American Family Planning in Pensacola largely destroyed the two-story building, said Lt. Kevin Fiedor of the state fire marshal's office. No one was injured.

The fire began in dry vegetation around the outside of the building, which is surrounded by oak trees. The blaze burned underneath the building, up its sides and into its attic, collapsing the second floor ceiling, Fiedor said.

What sparked the blaze remains unknown. The clinic's alarm company alerted authorities to the fire, which had been concealed from view by heavy fog.

"It burned for a prolonged period of time," Fiedor said. "It was a very foggy night and the smoke blended in well with the fog."

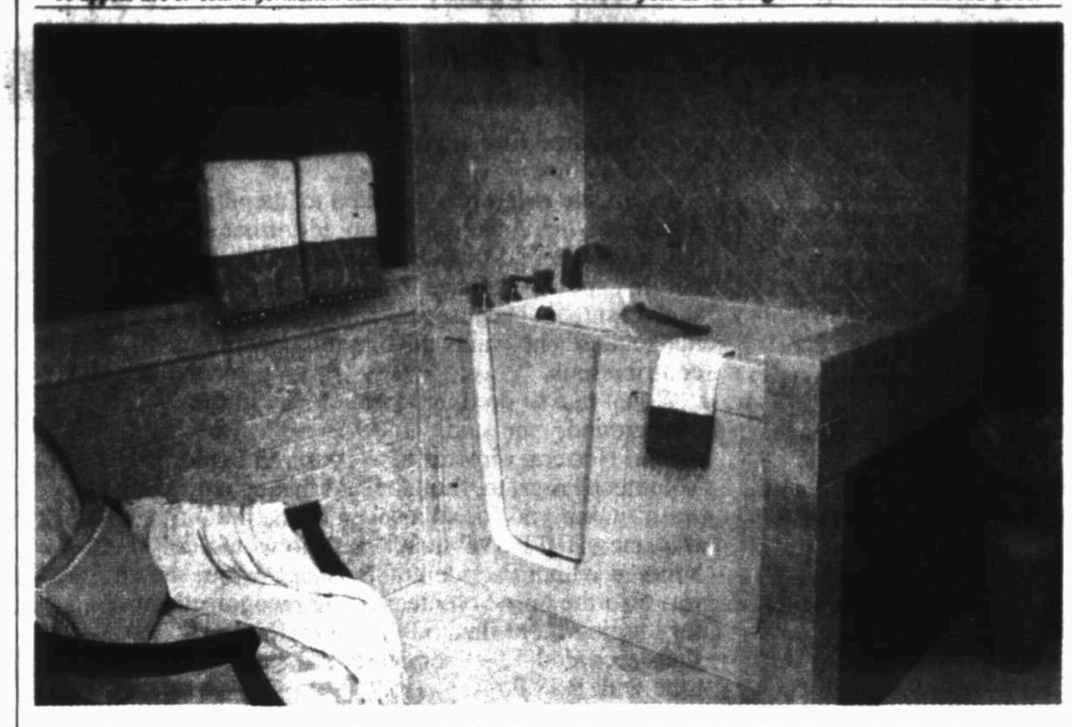
Pensacola Fire Department Battalion Chief Steve Peake told the Pensacola News Journal that the clinic was engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived just after 1 a.m. Sunday.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives planned to join state and local investigators today, Fiedor said.

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In the kitchen, however, there's a different kind of comfort that is best felt with ceramic tile. You see, in the kitchen the comfort is in knowing that when this morning's grape juice glass is knocked over the edge of the breakfast bar, making a purple Niagara Falls right there, that you can clean that up painlessly and stainlessly. A quick swish with a towel and maybe some warm soapy water and it's like it never happened!

This same principle holds true in the bath, entryway, laundry room and other high traffic areas. And because ceramic tile comes in all types of colors and styles, including those that look a lot like natural stone, you can get a "comfortable" look to match any room in the house.

In the dining area, den or game room, you're looking for yet a different type of comfort. The smooth, wood tones of laminates give your most lived-in areas an informal, natural look that is also easily cleaned. When the coffee or chips spill during the big game, again, cleanup is fast and simple while the action on the screen is fast and furious. Weekly cleanings are a breeze also, with just a dust mop sufficient most times.

The experienced staff at Southwest Floors can help you understand the pros and cons of every kind of flooring they carry. It's exciting to know that carpet is more durable and stain resistant than ever before, and tile, laminates and even hardwoods come in more varieties than ever. Matching your décor and matching your use has never been easier.

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Southwest Floors was opened by Robert Burton in 1990. They carry a wide selection of carpet, tile, wood and vinyl tile flooring. The address is 1113 Andrews Highway, next to McDonald's. The phone number is 689-9312. Store hours are 9-5:30 Monday through Friday and 10-1 Saturday. They accept Visa, Master Card, American Express and Discover.



Tebo Vaughn (left) and Travis Kendrick at Southwest Floors will help you get the flooring you're comfortable with. Southwest Floors is at 1113 Andrews Highway.

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Opinion

Pandering politicians dodge the deficit problem

■ Forty dollar giveaway or not, our leaders in Washington have no intention in fixing the real problem



JONATHAN GURWITZ
San Antonio Express-News

Now everyone agrees that reducing taxes across the board is good for the economy. How else to explain the fact that Democrats were outmaneuvering their Republican rivals to claim credit for a two-month extension of the 2 percent reduction in the payroll tax?

"The payroll tax cut ... would put $1,500 in the pockets of 160 million Americans," said one supply-side politician. A treatise on how the voodoo works explained that in a broader context, tax cuts "provide immediate incentives for firms to hire and invest" — tax cuts "for all businesses, regardless of size."

The former was House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. The latter was from a White House "fact sheet" supporting an extension of the payroll tax holiday.

Liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans are in harmony. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb. Let the real, permanent tax cutting commence. Hallelujah!

If you believe that will happen, you probably believed that President Obama's "stimulus" would prevent the unemployment rate from rising above 8 percent, or that President George W. Bush would have at least once during the six years he worked with a Republican-controlled Congress been able to balance the budget.

No, what transpired in Washington before members of Congress mercifully went home wasn't a consensus on tax cuts as an economic stimulus or a bipartisan validation of supply-side economics. It was, instead, more of the cheap political theater and bread-and-circuses economics that threaten to bring this country to ruin.

No household is going to change its spending patterns and no business is going to increase employment or investment because of temporary tax tinkering — in this case, a two-month extension. The payroll tax holiday is a giveaway going into an election year.

There have been plenty of giveaways over the last decade, from Republicans and Democrats, in the convoluted and inefficient tax code and — much more significantly — in the ways government has spent what it has taxed away and borrowed. All the subsidies and corporate welfare. All the wasteful earmarks that serve no federal purpose. TARP. Stimulus. The bailouts.

When George W. Bush entered the White House in 2001, the national debt stood at $5.7 trillion. When Obama was inaugurated in 2008, the debt was $10.7 trillion. Now it exceeds $15 trillion. Last week, Obama announced his intention to ask Congress to increase the debt ceiling to $16.4 trillion.

Bush nearly doubled the national debt in eight years. Obama is on track to challenge that feat in only four. Even with the payroll tax shenanigans, the primary driver of the debt is federal spending, which has grown with bipartisan patronage in Congress and the White House from $1.8 trillion in 2000 to $3.7 trillion today, with 36 cents borrowed for every dollar spent.

Medicare and Social Security are on unsustainable paths, with combined unfunded liabilities of $33.7 trillion according to the latest Treasury report. So our leaders agreed to give us back $40 a paycheck to goose the economy and in so doing reduced by $105 billion the payroll tax that is dedicated to the Social Security trust fund — which Congress already has raided in a forlorn effort to cover its deficit spending.

Unlike real tax reform and permanent changes in the tax code, a temporary tax tweak that increases the unfunded liability for Social Security isn't a solution. It's part of the problem of politicians pandering to the public while failing to address the real source of the debt crisis — out-of-control entitlement programs and runaway federal spending.

OUR VIEW

Today marks beginning of journey to elect president

Today, America embarks once again on a trek to choose the next president of the United States. It's a remarkable march forward in a process that is known as democracy, the very foundation of individual rights we enjoy as Americans.

Iowa is the first of our 50 states where the public will make known its choice for both the Democratic and Republican parties. In the overall scheme, the Iowa caucuses are a mere baby step in the long and arduous process we have in this presidential election year. In fact, it will take us 10 months to actually name the next president.

Iowa may be a small step, but it is significant because it is our first step, and incredible momentum can be gained by winning here. Of course, Iowa is most important for Republicans this year because it will be key in immediately whittling down the field of contenders who seek to oppose President Barack Obama in November.

We think many Republicans in Iowa and across the nation largely are undecided and unexcited about the current field. It is our hope that once our selection process begins in earnest, a strong candidate will emerge.

We have no way of knowing how today's results in Iowa will impact the voting of Texans in March, but we do know that the Republican race will have a very different look by the time it reaches Texas. Who you back today, may not be the person you vote for in March.

Midlanders should be grateful for airport security

There is an active investigation after Trey Scott Atwater was taken into custody Saturday morning when security officers at Midland International Airport found explosives in his carry-on bag while going through the second-floor security checkpoint.

At this point, we don't have any idea of Atwater's intentions. However, anytime explosives are involved in an airport, it is a serious matter and has to be fully investigated.

There still are myriad questions to be answered, but at the present we are left with a thankful note. We are grateful that the airport security system worked so well. The explosives were found by a TSA X-ray machine.

This is the same machine that has caused a lot of controversy across the country because of privacy issues. Now that this event has taken place in our own airport, maybe fewer Midlanders will object to the new screening process at Midland International.

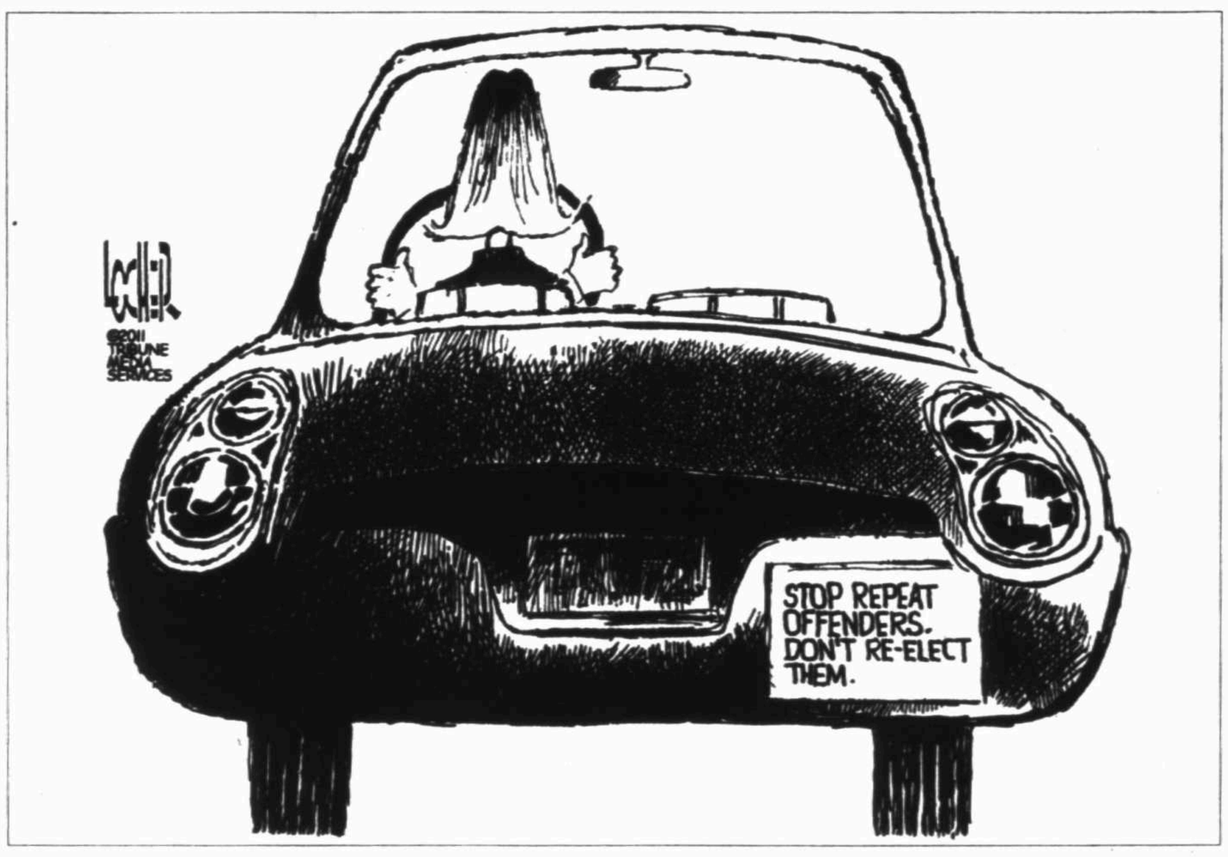
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Time to tout nuclear power, right?

■ If nuclear plants are unsafe, close them down. If not, salute their virtues.



LLEWELLYN KING
Hearst Newspapers

The great event of the nuclear calendar for 2011 was the earthquake and tsunami that hammered three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan.

If you are a nuclear power believer, these sturdy old machines proved their mettle. They withstood all that nature could throw at them, although terrible damage resulted from the loss of external power and the swamping of the emergency diesel generators. The result was core melting and trouble in the used fuel storage pools.

If you are doubtful about nuclear power, or you are simply a political opportunist, this event was the final nail in the coffin, the proof that the end had arrived. For you, it provided more evidence that nuclear power is inherently unsafe and that its use, as American scientist Alvin Weinberg once said, is a Faustian bargain. (It was a remark that Weinberg wished he had not made and which his staff and supporters tried to justify by explaining that in the German legend, Faust finally gets his soul back, having foolishly pledged it to the devil.)

Such nonsense aside, the extraordinary thing about Fukushima is that although almost 25,000 Japanese died as the result of the earthquake and tsunami, no one died directly from the nuclear accident or from the release of radioactivity. The buildings and containment structures survived as they were designed to 40 years ago. This, despite a wall of water 45 feet high with incalculable force.

Each year, thousands of people are killed in coal mine accidents around the world. In 2010, 2,433 people were killed in China's mines, the world's deadliest.

Yet it was nuclear that had the world holding its breath. As with all accidents or even incidents, nuclear is held to a standard of safety that is orders of magnitude stricter than is applied to any other industrial activity, including other big energy undertakings, like oil refining, chemical production and transportation, and aviation.

The suspicion that falls upon nuclear technology is not only unfair — it is uneven.

The peace has been kept for five decades by the U.S. nuclear navy. In home waters and ports, nuclear ships and submarines sail without criticism. Even the two organizations that appear to make their livings from relentless attacks on nuclear, the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, have not dared to attack the nuclear navy. They do not protest, say, the USS Enterprise, when the great aircraft carrier sails blithely into domestic ports with eight reactors at work.

No one raises issues of waste, terrorist attacks or the consequences of military action. Those who make a living out of opposing nuclear power do not have the temerity to go after nuclear propulsion in warships. The public would not tolerate the disarmament that this would entail.

So the opponents go after nuclear's soft underbelly: civilian power. It is hard to imagine that it is more dangerous to operate a nuclear facility built to be safe on land than one built for war-fighting on the high seas and in ports and harbors.

There are times in history when triumph is recorded as failure. The British and the Prussians finished off Napoleon in the Belgian town of Waterloo. But in the English Language, "Waterloo" — a British victory — is a synonym for catastrophic defeat. Americans believe the Tet Offensive was the turning point in the Vietnam War, even though the combined forces of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army were roundly defeated by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces.

Fukushima, a once-in-history accident, was a victory of design and construction for its time. Even the radiation releases are now found to be lower than expected, even those in the exclusion zone are surprisingly low. Despite eager attempts to find a surge in new cancers around the plant, none has shown up.

The lessons are to incorporate more passive features, better power supply and to protect the emergency generators. Newer designs already incorporate some of these features — and all will going forward. The industry has reacted with unusual alacrity in the past to new lessons, something uncommon across the broad range of industrial endeavor from aircraft to automobiles. As with aviation, nuclear safety is always a work in progress, a striving.

To my mind, after 40 years of chronicling nuclear power, the industry makes a mistake in rushing to advertise the safety of nuclear power plants. That way the seeds of doubt are sown.

Aircraft makers learned that lesson back in the 1930s. They learned that the trick was to shut up and do better.

If nuclear plants are unsafe, they should be closed down. Now. Today.

If not, their virtues should be trumpeted. Now. Today. Where are the trumpets?

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



ROUND 1: IOWA CAUCUSES TODAY

GOP campaigns by the numbers

10 — Republican candidates who in 2011 entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination (Mitt Romney, Tim Pawlenty, Michele Bachmann, Rick Santorum, Rick Perry, Ron Paul, Jon Huntsman, Newt Gingrich, Herman Cain and Gary Johnson)

7 — Republican presidential candidates at beginning of 2012 (minus Pawlenty, Cain, Johnson)

1 — Republican candidate who switched to Libertarian Party (Johnson)

99 — Iowa counties visited by Santorum and Bachmann

99 — Number of counties in Iowa

13 — Nationally televised Republican candidates' debates

5 — Candidates who met in New York City with Donald Trump (Romney, Perry, Bachmann, Cain, Gingrich)

0 — Candidate endorsed by Trump

9-9-9 — Herman Cain's plan for a flat 9 percent income tax, 9 percent corporate tax and 9 percent sales tax

6-6-6 — Bachmann's take on Cain's 9-9-9 after inverting the numbers. "The Devil's in the details," she said in debate.

59 — Points in Mitt Romney's economic plan

1 — Woman competing for the GOP nomination

3 — Homes Romney owns

3 — Federal Cabinet departments Perry says he'd eliminate if elected (Commerce, Education, Energy)

2 — Cabinet departments Perry named when asked to list the three (Commerce, Education)

10,000 — Dollar amount Romney offered to wager with Perry during a recent debate

1.6 — Millions of dollars Newt Gingrich's consulting firm collected for his work advising Freddie Mac

12.5 — Millions of dollars spent on TV advertising in Iowa, most of it negative, to date.

1 — Amount, in trillions, that Paul says he would cut from the first budget he would submit to Congress as president

5 — Women accusing Cain of sexually inappropriate behavior

13 — Years an Atlanta businessman claims she had an extramarital affair with Cain

5 — Bachmann children

23 — Bachmann foster children

5 — Romney children, all sons

16 — Romney grandchildren

7 — Santorum children

7 — Huntsman children, including adopted daughters from China and India

2 — Candidates named "Rick"

2 — Candidates from Texas

2 — Former governors still in the running (Romney and Huntsman)

3 — Gingrich wives

2 — Gingrich divorces

190 — Romney's personal wealth in millions, at least

10 — Date of this month's New Hampshire primary

21 — Date of this month's South Carolina primary

31 — Date of this month's Florida primary

1 — Candidate not competing in Iowa (Huntsman)

1 — Candidate staking it all on New Hampshire (Huntsman)

25 — Number of delegates to be awarded in Iowa caucuses

1,144 — Number of delegates it takes to win GOP presidential nomination

6 — Date of November's presidential election

Associated Press

State caucuses and primaries

Caucuses and primaries are held to decide which presidential candidates state delegates will support at the national party conventions. The candidate with a majority of the delegates wins his/her party's nomination.

Caucuses

A multilevel system of meetings that begins at the neighborhood level; can take several weeks

- Who participates: Mainly party activists, but any registered voter can attend; voter turnout is lower than in primaries
- Delegates: Selection rules vary from state to state

Primary

Registered voters cast ballots at polls for candidates

- Who participates: Voters can cross party lines in an open primary; in a closed primary, voters chose only candidates in their party
- Delegates: Candidate gets a proportion based on his/her share of the vote, or, in some states, winner takes all

Caucus states

■ Both parties ■ Dems only

Primary states

■ Both parties ■ GOP only

■ D.C.

Primary and caucus calendar

January
3 Iowa
10 N.H.
21 Nev. (D), S.C. (R)
29 S.C. (D)
31 Fla.

February
4 Maine (R), Nev. (R)
7 Minn., Colo. (R), Mo.
28 Ariz., Mich.

March
3 Wash. (R)
6 Alaska (R), Colo. (D), Ga., Idaho (R), Mass., N.D. (R), Ohio, Okla., Tenn., Vt., Va.
7 Hawaii (D)
10 Kan. (R)
11 Maine (D)
13 Ala., Hawaii (R), Miss., Utah
20 Ill.
24 La.

April
3 D.C., Md., Texas, Wis., Idaho (D), Kan. (D)
14 Idaho (D), Kan. (D), Wyo. (D)
15 Alaska (D), Wash. (D)
24 Conn., Del., N.Y., Pa., R.I.

May
8 Ind., N.C., W.Va.
15 Neb., Ore.
22 Ark., Ky.

June
5 Calif., Mont., N.J., N.M., N.D. (D), S.D.
26 Utah (R)

Source: Federal Election Commission, Election A to Z, The Green Papers
Graphic: Judy Treible, Tim Dotson
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Undecided Iowans weigh who to back

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — For Republicans here, the ideal presidential candidate would blend Ron Paul's ideological passion with Mitt Romney's electability. Newt Gingrich's intelligence with Rick Perry's evangelical appeal. Add a dash of social conservatism from Michele Bachmann and Rick Santorum — and stir.

Yet, as Lila Reynolds, one of many undecided Iowa Republicans, lamented: "There is no Prince Charming."

"What am I looking for?" Reynolds, 44, said, as she crammed into LJs Neighborhood Bar and Grill in Waterloo to see Gingrich ahead of today's caucuses. "It's hard to describe, but you know it when you see it."

The "it" factor was large in people's minds as they sifted through their choices in the final hours before Iowa becomes the first state in the nation to have a formal say in picking a Republican challenger to face President Barack Obama.

Interviews with more than three dozen Iowa voters in recent days found a restless GOP electorate here, with many voters still up for grabs. A bunch seemed to be struggling with exactly what they wanted, not just from a particular candidate but from the heart and soul of a Republican Party fractured between tea party activists, evangelical Christians and mainline fiscal conservatives.

No single candidate has brought those threads together in voters' minds.

Mary Ann Anderson, of Atlantic, had positive reviews of all the candidates but hadn't settled on someone yet, saying she has "to pray on it." And Bill Brauer, of Polk City, said the decision was so difficult that he was waiting until the last minute, insisting: "I'm going to make up my mind tonight." And Janeane Wilson, who lives in Waukee, was just as stumped, adding: "I'm one of those people who will probably make up my mind as I'm walking up to the caucuses."

For many voters, no one seems quite right. For a bunch, the process boils down to a hard choice between the safe, pragmatic candidate who stands the best chance of defeating Obama or the fervent, ideological purist who sets the heart racing but is a riskier bet in a general election.

They're mulling these questions: Do they value electability more than anything else and buy Romney's argument that he alone stands the best chance of defeating Obama? Or do they vote with their emotions and side with a candidate like Santorum, considered a Republican who more closely advocates on their behalf on social issues? There's a third option: Stay home, frustrated at the prospect of nominating someone who doesn't entirely fit the bill.

Grant Allen was struggling as he left a rally for Gingrich in Atlantic. He clutched a "Newt 2012" yard sign and mused: "Maybe I'll actually put this one up."

He said he was attracted to the former House speaker's intelligence and bold ideas but not enough to sign on with him yet, saying: "I worry about the baggage, but he gave me some confidence today. "I'm almost there with him but need to listen to one more."

Asked who, Allen grimaced: "Romney."

The reluctance to back the former Massachusetts governor is one of the defining themes of this Republican race. Romney, who lost the 2008 nomination to John McCain, doesn't stoke the passions of conservatives who are skeptical about his Mormon faith and reversals on some social issues.

Republicans here and nationally have rallied behind one alternative to him only to turn away and move to another. Their flirtations have been brief in a race has seen no less than a half-dozen candidates at the front of the pack.

Many tea party activists have tended to seek out tough-talking Republicans who will take it to Obama. A chunk of cultural and religious conservatives crave a candidate who adheres strongly to their top issues, like opposition to abortion and gay rights. Establishment Republicans have hungered for a fiscal conservative who will reverse the bloat of the George W. Bush years.

"As a conservative, I'm afraid," said Tom McCartney, of Dubuque. "We keep talking about the general election and who is best, and that seems to be Mitt Romney."

"But I'm worried we're going to pick a moderate like Romney and we're still going to lose. We held our nose with McCain and still lost. I don't want another McCain. I hope we don't do that again."

CAMPAIGNROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

IOWA

Perry pushes his status as a conservative outsider

SIOUX CITY — Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry campaigned in Iowa's heavily conservative northwest corner Monday. He urged conservatives to support one of their own who hasn't been part of the Washington and Wall Street establishments.

Perry singled out rival Rick Santorum for criticism. Pointing to Santorum's eight votes in Congress to increase the nation's borrowing power, Perry said Santorum has raised the debt limit more times than President Barack Obama.

He also criticized rival Ron Paul, saying Paul's foreign policy is tantamount to "appeasement."

The Texas governor continues to have trouble with the details.

In challenging Santorum's support for home-state projects funded with federal money, the Texas governor referred to "the Bridge to Nowhere in Arizona."

Actually, the project was planned for Alaska.

IOWA

Ron Paul returns to Iowa with son

CEDAR RAPIDS — Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul on Monday stoked big crowds packed with younger supporters on a five-city air tour of Iowa, re-emerging in the state he'd left for two days as a leader in state polls but with his support leveling.

Traveling with son Sen. Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican and tea party favorite, the libertarian-leaning Texas congressman railed equally against Democrat-backed programs and typically Republican priorities, such as the USA Patriot Act.

"I am so pleased that the people have responded of my concern about the federal government's intrusion into our private lives," Paul told more than 300 people in a Davenport hotel ballroom Monday.

IOWA

Santorum says nation wants commander in chief

POLK CITY — Presidential hopeful Rick Santorum is dismissed Mitt Romney's business experience Monday and said the nation is looking for inspirational leaders instead.

Santorum warned Iowa supporters against choosing a candidate only because they think that person can win.

He compared the presidential election to 1980 when Ronald Reagan inspired Republicans and led the party to victory.

IOWA

Romney says he expects to win caucuses

MARION — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Monday he's going to win the today's Iowa caucuses.

Romney told a raucous crowd in Marion that he expects to, in his words, "win this thing." He told supporters the Iowa caucuses will kick off a process that will make him the Republican nominee.

Romney is battling his closest rivals in polls, congressman Ron Paul and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, a day before Republican voters begin choosing their nominee.

Romney spent Monday campaigning across eastern Iowa in an effort to turn out supporters who backed him when he ran in 2008.

IOWA

Gingrich: 'I don't think I'm going to win' Iowa

INDEPENDENCE — Gingrich told reporters Monday that the "volume of negativity" by his rivals and their allies had done its damage. He then went on to say: "I don't think I'm going to win."

But Gingrich said he would do well enough to continue on to the coming contests in New Hampshire and South Carolina.

IOWA

Finally on TV, Bachmann reminds of Iowa roots

DES MOINES — Michele Bachmann is reminding Republican caucus voters of her Iowa roots and stiff stands in Washington in her first and only TV ad aired in the run-up to today's caucuses.

The commercial began airing Monday. The ad twice mentions Bachmann's Iowa heritage and calls her "one of our own."

Bachmann is fighting to avoid a last-place finish tonight.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

With focus on Iowa, Huntsman continues effort elsewhere

NASHUA — Republican presidential hopeful Jon Huntsman says New Hampshire is a state that likes underdogs and rewards grassroots politics. But even after months of campaigning there, some voters he met on Monday said they hadn't heard of him.

Polls show Huntsman trailing the other contenders for the GOP nomination. He's skipping today's Iowa caucuses and has pinned all of his hopes on a strong showing in New Hampshire, when voters there speak on Jan. 10.

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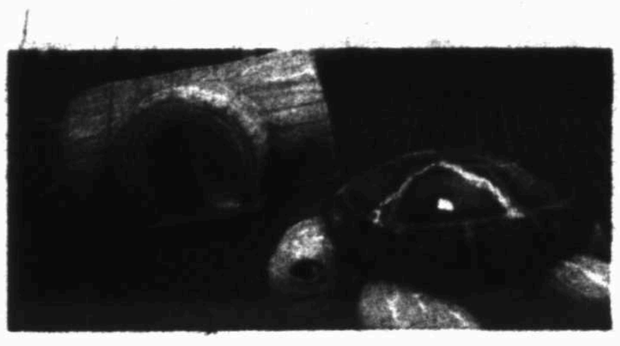


Meet Paloma!
She is a 6 month old Chocolate Lab that was dropped off at the Midland SPCA. Paloma has hip dysplasia. We are raising money to treat Paloma. Please consider making a donation to the Midland SPCA in Paloma's name.
Happy New Year from all of us at the Midland SPCA!
To Adopt A Pet From The Midland SPCA Call 432-684-7582

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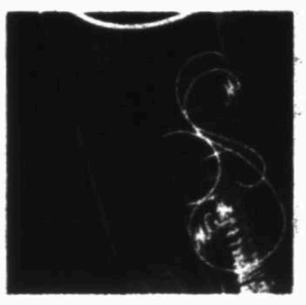












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Obama, Congress begin 2012 in oil pipeline dispute

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and Congress are starting the election year locked in a tussle over a proposed 1,700-mile oil pipeline from Canada to Texas that will force the White House to make a politically risky choice between two key Democratic constituencies.

Some unions say the Keystone XL pipeline would create thousands of jobs. Environmentalists fear it could lead to an oil spill disaster.

A law Obama signed just before Christmas that temporarily extended the payroll tax cut included a Republican-written provision compelling him to make a speedy decision on whether to build the pipeline. The administration is warning it would rather say no than rush a decision in an election year.

It's a dicey proposition for Obama, who enjoyed strong support from both organized labor and environmentalists in his winning 2008 campaign for the White House.

Environmental advocates, already disappointed with his failure to achieve climate change legislation and the administration's decision to delay new smog standards, have made it clear that approval of the pipeline would dampen their enthusiasm for Obama in the upcoming November election.

Some liberal donors even threatened to cut off funds to Obama's re-election campaign to protest the project, which opponents say would transport "dirty oil" that requires huge amounts of energy to extract.

If he rejects the pipeline, Obama risks losing support from organized labor, a key part of the Democratic base, for thwarting thousands of jobs.

Obama appeared to have skirted what some dubbed the "Keystone conundrum" in November when the State Department announced it was postponing a decision on the pipeline until after this year's election. Officials said they needed extra time to study routes that avoid an environmentally sensitive area of Nebraska that supplies water to eight states.

The affected area stretches just 65 miles through the Sandhills region of northern Nebraska, but the concerns were serious enough that the state's governor and senators opposed the project until the pipeline was moved.

Republican Gov. Dave Heineman, who opposed the initial route, says he supports efforts to accelerate the project, noting that provisions in the payroll tax bill allow the project developer to find a new route avoiding the Sandhills.

The new route would have to be approved by Nebraska

Please see **PIPELINE/2B**

MPD investigates car crash on Wall Street

From staff reports

Midland police were investigating Monday an afternoon accident they believe was caused by an intoxicated driver.

Midland police were first called to the intersection of Wall and Williams streets just after 12:30 p.m. Monday. The driver, a man in his 60s, had been traveling west on Wall Street at speeds of up to 80 mph, according to MPD, when he lost control, struck a pole and then wrapped his car around a second pole.

No one else was involved in the accident. The driver, who was in a black Cadillac DeVille, was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital with non-life threatening injuries, according to police.

Initially, officials said they thought the driver was trapped in his vehicle and had called for help. However, the driver was able to maneuver out of the car and walk away from the vehicle.

Police said they were investigating whether alcohol or other substances were involved in the incident.

Please see **CRASH/3B**

Scientists develop alfalfa that needs less water

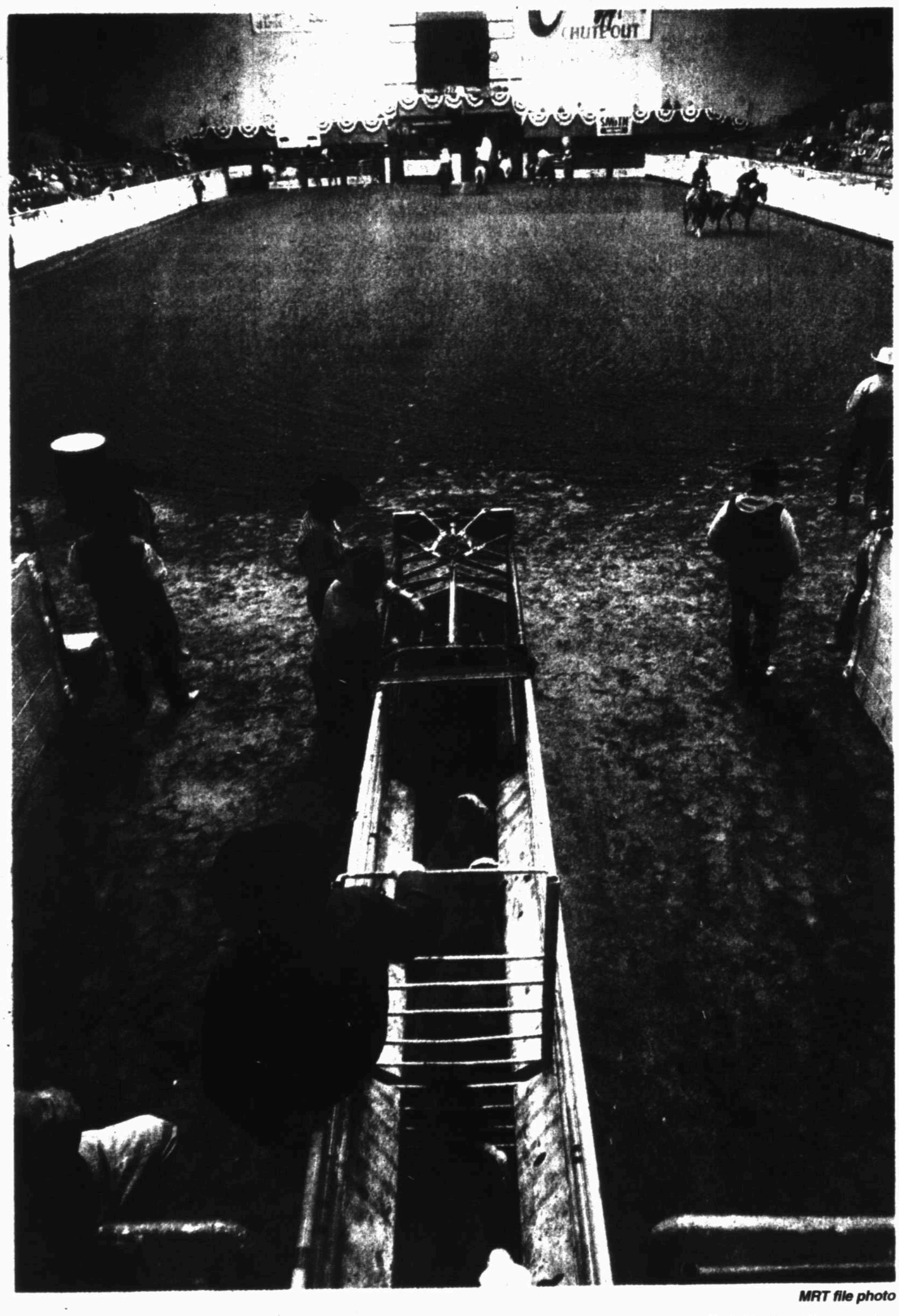
By Susan Montoya Bryan
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — With much of the Southwest struggling with drought, many ranchers and dairy farmers are having difficulty finding enough hay for their livestock and making tough choices: pay up to twice as much as last year and ship it in from hundreds of miles away or do without and sell off some of their herd.

Farmers, ranchers and scientists say a perfect storm has turned hay into gold this year. The drought reduced forage on the range and led to an increase in demand for hay, including alfalfa and other grass mixes. At the same time, the drought and lower water allotments for agriculture reduced the supply and prices skyrocketed. Farmers as far as North Dakota and Minnesota have been feeling the effects.

Please see **ALFALFA/3B**

REVVIN' UP FOR THE RODEO



MRT file photo

Calves wait in the chute at the Sandhills Rodeo in the Ector County Coliseum moments before the individual and team roping events begin in 2009. Beginnng Saturday, cowboys and cowgirls from across the country will compete over the next two weekends at the coliseum during the Sandhills Stock Show & Rodeo. The show is orie of the first Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association events of the calendar year. Events include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, team roping, steer wrestling, tie-down roping and barrel racing. Steer roping also will be a part of the program. Online: www.sandhillsstockshowandrodeo.com.

First-grader's resolution makes sense for new year



SHANNA SISSOM
City Editor

If you've never taken 6-year-old twins to a place where Happy Meals and a playhouse are the main attractions, you might just be missing something.

The twins, a girl and boy, and their big brother, age 8, were hungry for chicken nuggets, which apparently are a dietary staple for children that age. Once orders were placed, the children rushed to a playroom, as this aunt followed along behind.

With the benefit of hindsight, it would have made sense to let them play a while and unleash some of their boundless energy before feeding time. So, when the food came out a few minutes after ordering, the children would eat a nugget and fry, run through a play tunnel, and repeat the process. It seemed such an uncivilized way to dine, but everyone was happy.

All this was going well enough until one of the children set off an unusually loud alarm by opening a forbidden door in the playroom. A few people in the restaurant started to scatter and some even evacuated the building, not knowing what was happening.

It already had been a long day of bungee-jumping, miniature golf and a kid movie. And now this.

"Grab those Happy Meals, kiddos, we're leaving now," I told the children.

No one protested as nuggets and fries quickly were scooped up, and the children followed me outside.

Then, no one said a word for the first few minutes after buckling up in our getaway car.

Finally, the little girl twin, nicknamed "Brookie" spoke up, oozing with the wisdom of her six years.

"I don't think we need to tell Mom or Granny about this," she announced to her brothers, and then looked to her Aunt Shanna with pleading eyes.

Of the three children, Brookie is most prone to getting into a little bit of trouble.

So I was left to wonder if this kind of thing had happened before.

In any case, little Brookie has a new year's resolution, or at least a promise she's made to her mother:

She's going to be good this year.

That's a new year's resolution we probably all should embrace.

Baby offers hope for new year

Between three people being arrested on murder charges in Midland, the New Year's Day killing in Big Spring, a soldier allegedly trying to take explosives through airport security and a suspected alcohol-related fatal crash, there's been some tough news to digest over this past holiday weekend.

But despite all this bad news, one of my personal favorites of every year ran centerpiece on Monday's front page: The traditional story and photo of the first baby born in the new year.

The first baby born in 2012 was Brayden Underwood, who weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces. He came five days earlier than expected.

The way I see it, that baby, and all babies, bring hope for the new year.

Shanna Sissom can be reached at shanna@mrt.com

Obituaries



Carla H. Usrey

Carla H. Usrey, 70, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2012, surrounded by her family.

Carla was born on December 17, 1941, in Altus, Oklahoma, to Carl and Frances Hoffman. She married the love of her life, Curtis Usrey, on March 30, 1961, in Odessa, Texas. Carla was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend to so many. She was a very determined person in whatever she was doing. Carla was always a loving and caring person to whomever she met. She loved to shop and look at flowers, but her favorite thing to do was to travel and see her family. Carla worked at Casa de Amigos for eight years, where she retired in 2003.

Looking forward to the day they join her in heaven, Carla leaves behind her loving husband, Curtis Usrey of Midland, Texas; daughter, Holly Usrey of Midland, Texas; sister, Sue and husband, James West of Clyde, Texas; niece, Lori and husband, Justin Garrett and their children, Joseph and Jesse of Dumas, Texas.

Memorials can be made to Hospice of Midland, P. O. Box 2621, Midland, TX 79702.

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

Dorothy Rose Otho Whitt

Dorothy Rose Otho Whitt, 85, of Chapel Hill, NC died on Saturday, December 31, 2011. She was born on October 13, 1926, in Lubbock and raised in Midland, Texas. "Dot" was a devoted spouse; loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother; energetic homemaker; and community volunteer. She cultivated many friendships due to her friendly, positive outlook and caring demeanor, and love for maintaining communication, as life as a military wife took her from Louisiana to Alaska, California to Virginia, and Texas to Iceland, before she retired in San Antonio.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Lt. Col. James Andrew Whitt, USAF (Ret.), and her parents, Gertrude E. Bertram and Oscar Otho, Sr. She is survived by a brother, Oscar Otho, Jr., and his wife, Virginia "Goldie" of Midland, Texas; son, J. Kenneth Whitt, and daughter-in-law, Marlene E. Whitt of Chapel Hill; a grandson, Ronald K. Whitt of Atlanta, Georgia.; a granddaughter, Lori Rachele Dwyer, who lives in Hillsborough with her husband, Scott M. Dwyer; and two great-grandchildren, Ryan Patrick Dwyer and Kevin Michael Dwyer; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and their families, whose lives she enjoyed following.

The funeral service is to be held on Thursday, January 5, 2011, at 2:00 p.m., at the Union Grove United Methodist Church of Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Arrangements are by Walker Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, NC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Wounded Warrior Project, North Carolina Children's Promise, or a charity of your choice.



Guillermo Vazquez

Guillermo Vazquez, 88, of Midland, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on Monday, January 2, 2012, at the Hospice of Midland Inpatient Unit. He was born on February 10, 1923, in San Ignacio Municipio Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico. He married Maria Aguirre on November 25, 1953, in Escobillas, Chihuahua. The couple migrated to the United States in 1975, where Guillermo worked in the Agriculture industry as a rancher, until his retirement in 1992. He loved horses and ranching.

Guillermo was preceded in death by five brothers and two sisters. He is survived by his loving family; wife, Maria Aguirre Vazquez of Midland; sons, Porfirio Vazquez, Guillermo Vazquez, Omar Vazquez, and Homero Vazquez, all of Midland, and Sergio Vazquez of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico; daughters, Socorro Vazquez of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico and Maria Monseratt Vazquez of Midland; eighteen grandchildren; and sixteen great grandchildren.

A funeral mass will be held today at 3:00 p.m., at St. Stephen's Catholic Church, with Father Ricardo Lopez officiating. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were made with Heavenly Gate Funeral Home. Family messages and condolences may be emailed to: heavenlygate@suddenlinkmail.com.

Heavenly Gate Funeral Home & Chapel
405 N. Terrell Midland, TX - (432) 682-1927



Jimmie King

Jimmie King, 81, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2012. Jimmie was born on April 23, 1930, in Cleburne, Texas, to C. D. and Rosa Lou Myers. Jimmie worked for Southwestern Bell for 42 years, where she started out as an operator and ended her career as a supervisor. She was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. She was a loving, caring, wonderful grandmother to all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also, Jimmie was very strong in her Methodist faith.

Jimmie is preceded in death by both of her parents; her loving husband, Henry E. King; two brothers, H. W. "Bitsy" Myers and Charles "Bo" Myers; two sisters, Gearlene "Biggie" Timmons and Gearldene "Bill" Rosser.

Survivors include her two sons, Charles King and wife, Lisa of Greenville, Texas and Christopher Shane King of Midland, Texas; and her daughter, Brenda Moore and husband, Eddie of Midland, Texas. Also left to cherish her memory are eight grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at the Ellis Funeral Home from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Funeral service is planned for Wednesday, January 4, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel, with interment to follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Honorary pallbearer will be Gene Rosser.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Midland. Condolences may be made at: www.ellisfunerals.com.

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

Death Notices

Helen Betenbough Gregory

Helen Betenbough Gregory, 91, of Weatherford, and formerly of Andrews, passed away Saturday December 31, 2011, in Weatherford.

Services will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at McNett Funeral Home Chapel in Andrews. Burial will follow in Andrews Old Cemetery.

She is survived by her two sons, Terry Betenbough and Vin Betenbough; one brother, Billy Cox of Andrews; four grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

James E. Evans, Jr.

James E. Evans, Jr., 62, of Midland, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2012.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 5, 2012, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the funeral home. Funeral services will be on Friday, January 6, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Chapel in Midland.

Survivors include wife, Joyce Evans; son, James (Melissa) Evans; daughter, Maxine (R. J.) Fields; five grandsons; and four granddaughters.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Joe W. Blassingame

Joe W. Blassingame, 76, of Big Spring, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2012, in a local nursing home.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

Survivors include one daughter, Melissa Brooks (Marty); one son, Eddy Blassingame (Joyce); one grandson, Collin McMillan and fiancee, Kassi Wash; two brothers, Robert Blassingame (Lil), and Art Blassingame; three sisters, Betty Driver, Bobbi Webb, and Margie Larson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Judge John G. Hyde

Judge John G. Hyde, 69, of Midland, passed away Monday, January 2, 2012.

His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Marion B. Wilkerson

Marion B. Wilkerson, 80, of Garden City, passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2012, in a local hospital.

Graveside funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2012, at Garden City Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Wilkerson; one daughter, Staci Robertson (Jeff); one grandson, Brandon Robertson; and one sister, Wanda Moore (Bennett).

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

PIPELINE

From 1B

environmental officials and the State Department, which has authority because the pipeline would cross an international border.

The pipeline would carry oil from tar sands in western Canada to refineries in Texas, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. The project's developer, Calgary-based TransCanada, says the pipeline could create as many as 20,000 jobs, a figure opponents say is inflated. A State Department report last summer said the pipeline would create up to 6,000 jobs during construction.

The payroll tax cut law gives the Obama administration 60 days to decide whether to allow construction of the pipeline.

An "arbitrary deadline" for the permit decision would compromise the process, short-circuiting time needed to conduct required environmental reviews and preventing the issuance of a permit, the State Department warned in a written statement on Dec. 12. Obama administration officials confirmed that view after the payroll tax bill was approved.

Republicans call the threat little more than an excuse that allows Obama to placate environmental groups while not rejecting the pipeline outright.

"The only thing arbitrary about this decision is the decision by the president to say, 'Well, let's wait until after the next election,' " said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Boehner and other Republicans say the pipeline would help Obama achieve his top priority — creating jobs — without costing a dime of taxpayer money. They hope to portray Obama's reluctance to approve the pipeline as a sign he favors environmentalists over jobs.

Russ Girling, TransCanada's president and chief executive, said his company would do whatever is necessary to make sure the project is approved.

"We've had more than enough surprises on this," said TransCanada spokesman Shawn Howard.

In Nebraska, where the pipeline faces strong resistance, state officials are awaiting an environmental study that will determine a new route. Officials have said the review will take six to nine months.

Some landowners in the Sandhills celebrated the decision to reroute the project, but the pipeline's strongest opponents say they still have concerns about the prospect of the government using its power of eminent domain to seize land, as well as liability issues in case of a spill.

"Republicans have bullied their way to get a reckless rider attached to a bill that was supposed to be about helping middle-class families," said Jane Kleeb, executive director of the group Bold Nebraska, which opposes the pipeline.

With the bill signed into law, Obama "must do the right thing for our land, water and families' health by denying the pipeline permit," Kleeb said.

Project supporters say U.S. rejection of the pipeline would not stop it from being built. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said TransCanada could pursue an alternative route through Canada to the West Coast, where oil could be shipped to China and other Asian markets.

"Canada is going to develop this no matter what, and that oil is either going to come to the United States or it's going to go to a place like China. We want it here," said Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Opponents call the West Coast option farfetched, noting that Canadian regulators have announced a one-year delay for a similar project that would carry tar sands oil to British Columbia, on Canada's western coast.

Native groups strongly oppose both the Keystone XL and the Northern Gateway pipeline proposed by TransCanada rival Enbridge. Canada's First Nations have constitutionally protected treaty rights and unsettled land claims that could allow them to block or significantly delay both pipelines.

Unions are watching closely. Unemployment in construction is far higher than other industries, with more than 1.1 million construction workers jobless, said Brent Bookers, director of construction at the Laborers' International Union of North America.

"For many members of the Laborers, this project is not just a pipeline, it is a lifeline," Bookers said, adding, "Too many hard-working Americans are out of work, and the Keystone XL pipeline will change that dire situation for thousands of them."



Karen Warren/Houston Chronicle

Edward Smith, also known as Smitty, opens up a typewriter to repair at his business, the Universal Typewriter Shop, Dec. 15, 2011, in Houston. Smith has been repairing typewriters from the same Third Ward building for 44 years. Business has had its ups and downs, but lately Smitty has seen an uptick working on antique machines.

STILL QWERTY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Houston typewriter repairman has key to staying in business

By Renie C. Lee
Houston Chronicle

Businesses on Dowling Street in Houston's Third Ward have come and gone over the past four decades, except for the one with the cathedral roof.

The shabby building, sandwiched between overgrown shrubbery and trees from neighboring properties, is hard to spot, but that hasn't kept people in need of a good typewriter repairman from finding the Universal Typewriter Shop.

Inside, proprietor Edward Smith, 75, tinkers with an IBM Selectric III. Half of its keys are sticking. It's an easy fix, he says, looking down through his eyeglasses.

"This machine has been sitting somewhere," Smith said. "Some people would put a little oil here and there, but that's not my way. I go out of my way to do the best job."

That might explain his longevity in a waning industry diminished by the popularity of computers. Despite modern technology, Smith still has a steady stream of customers — some old, some new — who cherish their typewriters.

Smith, better known as "Smitty," opened his shop in 1967, after working several years as a repair technician for major typewriter companies, including IBM and Dromgooles, which now sells fine writing pens. The Houston native figured he could do just as good or better if he had his own shop.

"I didn't make a dime," said Smith, recalling his first years in business. "I sat on this corner about to starve to death."

He eventually landed a General Services Administration contract, he said, servicing typewriters and other machines for federal government offices in Houston. That work led to contracts with several school districts and other local businesses, he said.

With his business growing, Smith decided to expand, opening offices in the Palm Center and in Stafford. He says he worked solo around the clock to keep up with the demand. Good help with proper training was hard to come by, he said.

Then, computers popped up in the late 1980s. Businesses started replacing typewriters with the new faster machines with memory. Smith's business took a hit, forcing him to consolidate his two new offices into the Dowling shop.

"When the computer came I was sitting back saying, 'I don't need to learn computers. Typewriters will always be around,'" he said, laughing.

No Web searches

The soft-spoken grandfather said he never bothered to learn how to repair computers and doesn't have much use for them. He's never looked anything up on the Web, he said.

Dozens of typewriters, manual and electric, and spare parts are stacked and piled high in every direction in his tiny shop, which is no more than 100 square feet. Every turn has to be carefully negotiated to avoid any mishaps.

J.C. Loftis, a Houston attorney, who dropped by on a recent morning to pick up a typewriter, said the shop has been that way for the 30 years he's been coming there for repairs on his Selectric III. He learned about Smith through word of mouth and trusts only Smith to work on his typewriter.

Loftis bought his typewriter when he started his practice three decades ago. Nowadays, he uses it mostly for printing address labels. "You still can't beat a manual typewriter for some things," he said. "And Smitty knows how to repair a typewriter."

Smith says typewriters are a lot like cars. If you don't use them, they stop working.

Luz Vara, a customer for about five years, said good repairmen are hard to come by. Smith always knows exactly what's wrong with her typewriter, and he repairs it quickly, she said.

He also stands by his work, said Vara, who owns two typewriters and types about 40 pages a day. If a typewriter has any problems months or years later, he'll fix it, she said.

3 heart attacks

Smith's wife of 52 years, Laverne, says her husband is a workaholic who enjoys repairing just about anything, including cars.

"Even as a child, he would be working on bicycles or something," said Laverne Smith, who has known him since he was child. "His relaxation is work."

Three heart attacks in the past 15 years have slowed Smith down. He dropped to the ground in front of his shop seven years ago and nearly died. Doctors gave him a defibrillator to monitor his heart.

He quit driving and now rides the bus to and from work every day. His 73-year-old brother, James, keeps him company and watches after him at the shop.

He's doing much less contract work by choice and more small jobs for individuals. A renewed interest in typewriters has boosted business a little in the past three to four years, he said. People are collecting them and having them restored, he said.

Smith doesn't have plans to close his shop any time soon. He still likes coming to work.

"In order to do anything in life, you gotta enjoy doing it," Smith said. "My passion is to take my time to fix machines as well as I can."



Jay A. Rodman/New Mexico State University

This undated photo provided by New Mexico State University shows research technician Christopher Pierce logging alfalfa harvest data while operating a forage plot harvester at an NMSU science center near Las Cruces, N.M. NMSU researchers are using genetic analysis with traditional plant breeding to develop alfalfa varieties that are more drought tolerant.

ALFALFA

From 1B

Scientists at New Mexico State University are trying to help by using genetic analysis and traditional plant breeding practices to come up with more drought-tolerant varieties of alfalfa. The research is important because two-thirds of hay produced in the U.S. is grown in drought-prone areas of the Great Plains or the western U.S., said Ian Ray, the professor who runs NMSU's alfalfa breeding and genetics program.

Hay is the fourth most valuable crop grown in the United States with sales generating more than $7.5 billion. It's essential to everything from the billion-dollar dairy and beef industries to the wool market and even horse racing.

NMSU has been working on developing tougher alfalfa plants for more than three decades. Ray and his team, with help from the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Oklahoma, have identified a series of DNA markers on alfalfa chromosomes that they believe play a key role in producing more alfalfa with less water.

It took several years to map the alfalfa genome and identify the markers that influence development of the plant's shoots and roots during drought. Then a couple of years of breeding were needed to incorporate those characteristics into alfalfa cultivars typically grown by farmers in New Mexico.

The work is more precise than classical plant breeding because the scientists were able to introduce only the drought tolerance characteristics they were after.

"DNA markers just help us do a much better job of uncovering, tracking and selecting for natural genetic variation for drought tolerance," Ray said.

The team just wrapped up its harvest of the first test crops grown with less water and the results are promising. All the plants had smaller yields because of the lack of water, but those with drought-tolerant DNA markers produced 9 percent to 15 percent more than those without the markers.

One of the most promising cultivars being tested has a leafy canopy. More leaves means more nutritional value, Ray said.

"If what we're seeing is real, and it can be demonstrated that we see a yield advantage in multiple environments, then we've got a high forage quality population with enhanced drought resistance. That's the best of both worlds," he said.

Other universities, the federal government and large corporations like Monsanto Co. have been trying to develop alfalfa varieties that can withstand cold weather, salt-laden irrigation water and various insects and disease. But experts say the NMSU team is at the cutting edge when it comes to research on drought tolerance.

Mark McCaslin, president of Forage Genetics International in Nampa, Idaho, and a board member of the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance, said while drought is common in alfalfa country, this year's has been particularly devastating.

"What happened this year was really a tragedy, so that puts a lot more energy behind this kind of work," he said.

Leon Porter, a rancher from central New Mexico, said he had to sell about 140 head because the tufts of grass on his ranch failed to green up this year. Even the native yucca plants wilted and turned brown.

Porter and other ranchers are paying more than $300 a ton for hay and alfalfa grass mixes to get their herds through the winter. Last year, it cost about $165 a ton.

"The more producers that produce hay and the more efficiently they can produce it, the more affordable it makes it for us," he said.

Alfalfa farmers across New Mexico have been turning away customers since early fall. Arizona is about out, and a number of dairies in southeastern New Mexico have had to go to the Dakotas to get orders filled.

"Basically anywhere in the western United States, there's no hay to be found right now," said Justin Boswell, a crop consultant and executive director of the New Mexico Hay Association. Any scientific breakthrough would be welcome, he said.

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Reginald Anders Jr., 21, of Midland, was arrested Sunday by Midland police on charges of capital murder/terroristic threat and violation of probation.

Samuel Arizmendi, 48, of Midland, was arrested Saturday by Midland County deputies on a charge of deadly conduct/discharge of a firearm.

Raul Gameros Jr., 31, of Odessa, was arrested Saturday by Midland police on charges of driving while intoxicated and evading arrest and detention in a vehicle.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office.

Doctor who treated JFK in ER after shooting dies

Associated Press

DALLAS — An anesthesiologist who attached a heart monitor to President John F. Kennedy in a Dallas hospital's emergency room and interviewed wounded Texas Gov. John Connally for surgery has died. Dr. Adolph H. "Buddy" Giesecke Jr. was 79.

The doctor's son, Martin Giesecke, said his father died Dec. 24 at his home in the Dallas suburb of Irving.

The elder Giesecke was working at Parkland Hospital on Nov. 22, 1963, when Kennedy was assassinated and Connally was struck while riding in the same vehicle. The son said Dr. Giesecke recalled that the president didn't flinch while he inserted heart probes into Kennedy's skin.

Giesecke spent most of his career at Parkland's neighboring University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He was chairman of the anesthesiology department from 1981 to 1992.



Kathleen Thurber/Reporter-Telegram

Officials work the scene of a one-vehicle crash Monday afternoon on wall Street. The driver, a man in his 60s, had been traveling west on Wall Street at speeds of up to 80 mph, according to MPD, when he lost control, struck a pole and then wrapped his car around a second pole.

CRASH

From 1B

Some traffic at Midkiff Road and Wall Street was redirected for about a half an hour during the afternoon as the scene was cleared.

The New Year's weekend also resulted in other arrests and investigations related to intoxication.

According to Midland County Detention Center records, six people were arrested Sunday on misdemeanor driving while intoxicated charges. Sunday arrests represent those who were charged after the clock struck midnight marking the new year.

One additional person — Raul Gameros Jr., 31, of Odessa — was arrested on a felony charge of driving while intoxicated, another man was arrested for reckless driving and seven people were arrested on misdemeanor charges of public intoxication.

Three teens also were arrested Sunday for consumption of alcohol by a minor, which is a misdemeanor charge, according to Midland County records.

The Reporter-Telegram does not publish names of those charged with misdemeanors.

Man gives away bikes to children in need

By Kelly Gooch
Tyler Morning Telegraph

JACKSONVILLE — Gerla Rangel isn't old enough to drive a car, but he still enjoys his own set of wheels, courtesy of neighbor Oscar Harper.

The 9-year-old received two bicycles from Harper, one last year and another this year.

He said he feels good because he rides his bike all over his neighborhood.

"Sometimes my cousin takes me to the park, (and) sometimes my mom tells me to go to my aunt and take her something then come back ," he said. "I think I will use it on New Year's."

Gerla is one of the many children who have received bikes from Harper, a 79-year-old affectionately known as "the bike man" because of his repair work.

Harper's backyard is filled with about 40 bikes of all shapes and sizes, and tools sit neatly on a table. Two of the bikes are turned upside down, indicating they're a work in progress.

"This one here is almost ready," he said recently as he grabbed a bike near his work bench.

Harper learned how to make repairs as a teenager. When he retired and moved back to Jacksonville in 1985, he was still repairing bikes, but he said he didn't have the money to do it like he wanted to. That's all changed in the past 10 years. This past year, he gave away 54 bikes thanks to contributions from others. In 2010, he put out about 50.

"Me keeping this going is what keeps me going," Harper said. "I like to be busy. My wife (now deceased) called me hyper because I never laid down in the house."

Once a child decides to stop by, they can pick out a bike, and Harper will try to fix it, hopefully using the color they want.

When the weather's nice in the spring, he will work on bikes all day long in his backyard. He said he starts in mid-March; and by mid-April, 10 to 15 bikes are usually ready to be distributed. Children then drop by in late April and early May as the school year comes to a close.

"I'll give to any kid who comes up here and rides it. If they make time trying to find what they want, I think they're sincere," Harper said. "About two days ago, a boy down the street wanted to know if his bike was ready. He was anxious to get it."

Harper said his most common repair work is changing out wheels.

Most of Harper's bikes are used for parts, wheels and bearings. He also has adult bikes, which he sells to pick up more tubes and tires. Harper said he spends about $150 a year out of his pocket on his charity.

But he said it's all worth it because he enjoys the work.

"It just keeps me active. I want to be active and help people," he said.

Harper also raises greens in his garden to bring in money for gift cards, which he hands out to children around town.

He also still finds time to take a break and enjoy his other hobby — bass fishing.

Harper accepts monetary donations as well as donated tires and tubes.

Police find naked body under bridge

Associated Press

PASADENA — Police in Pasadena are investigating the death of a woman whose naked body was found under an overpass New Year's Day.

Pasadena Police spokesman Vance Mitchell told the Houston Chronicle the woman, whose body was found Sunday, is Hispanic. She appears to be in her mid-30s. Mitchell says police believe she was beaten because she has visible bruising on her face.

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Deaf woman speaks through artwork

By J.R. Ortega
Victoria Advocate

VICTORIA — The chilly winter air flutters tufts of short, mousey brown hair away from Laura Lang's face as she dabs a brush into a paint palette.

"Muh," the 44-year-old groans as she mixes soft and hard paint strokes onto a picnic table at Dad's RV Park — an artistic talent she recently tapped into.

Reds transition into yellows and gradually the parrot that Lang has been drawing and painting since the morning is brought to life.

Staring at her mother, Lang signs and uses facial expressions to communicate why she likes birds.

Lang breaks into a hearty laugh and claps. Her mother cracks a smile.

"Cause they're pretty" her mother translates.

Lang was born partially deaf and by the time she was 5 years old, she was completely deaf, her mother Wanda Wilson said.

Today, Lang pretty much takes care of herself.

The family has moved around most of their lives and last lived in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lang graduated from Nebraska's School for the Deaf, where she learned most of her American Sign Language. Now, she's tweaked some sign language to fit her needs.

Lang has been drawing for about five years, but it was not until three months ago that she expressed interest in drawing and painting for others.

Sketching floral arrangements with chalk was what Lang first picked up on.

"She's very proud of them (paintings)," her mother said, smiling. "As are we."

In the past three months, Lang has painted picnic tables with lighthouses, floral arrangements, landscapes but more specifically, birds.

She has drawn pheasants, blue jays and cardinals.

Her painting is bright, detailed and vivid.

Not only is Lang communicating through sign language, but also her painting shows her overall mood — she's just plain ol' happy.

Lang may not be able to hear the high-pitched tweets of a bird, but that does not make the detail in her paintings less powerful.

"When God takes one sense from us, he gives us another," her mother says.

Lang hops off a slow moving golf cart and walks between RVs.

Seven picnic tables with her art illustrations are sprinkled throughout the park; and like any good artist, she knows exactly where each one sits and the drawing it displays.

"Well, I think we're going to another one?" her mother says as Lang hops back into the cart.

Lang's mother passes by a table with a single parrot that was auctioned off.

Outside one of the RVs is Becky Watts, whose decor clearly shows her affinity for ladybugs.

Lang has painted a picnic table for her in the past.

The table sits in front of the RV with painted lady bugs and red trim.

Watts appreciates Lang's talent and is amazed by the work she does.

"She's fantastic," she says. "She really does great."

Lang smiles — a gesture that is universally understood.

Lang and her mother stare and silence ensues as they sign back and forth.

"What do you think about being able to draw for people?" her mother signs.

After a couple of seconds, Lang's mother sighs, smiles and translates.

"She just thanks God that she can," Lang's mother translates.



Frank Tilley/Victoria Advocate

Deaf most of her life and unable to speak, Laura Lang, of Victoria, is shown Dec. 29 painting with acrylics. Lang has discovered a new outlet for expression — painting.

TEXAS ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

FORT WORTH

Principal accused of pinching gets reassigned

A Texas high school principal accused of pinching some students is being reassigned for the rest of the semester.

Fort Worth schools spokesman Clint Bond said Monday the investigation found no evidence of sexual impropriety. But he said Douglas Williams' leadership effectiveness at Dunbar High has been compromised.

District officials said Williams was disciplined after admitting he pinched some male students' nipples. He was placed on leave last month amid other allegations.

Fort Worth police spokeswoman Sharron Neal said officers found the pinching was related to enforcing Dunbar's dress code. She said there was no sexual misconduct.

Some students told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Williams was known for pinching teens in a playful way.

FORT WORTH

Northrop Grumman announces 210 layoffs in Texas

The manufacturer of the B-2 bomber and unmanned aircraft used by the U.S. military said about 210 people working at the company's facility in Fort Worth will be laid off in February.

Herndon, Va.-based Northrop Grumman Technical Services Inc. said in a letter to the Texas Workforce Commission the employees will lose their jobs around Feb. 29.

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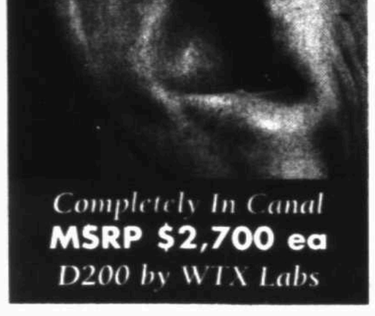
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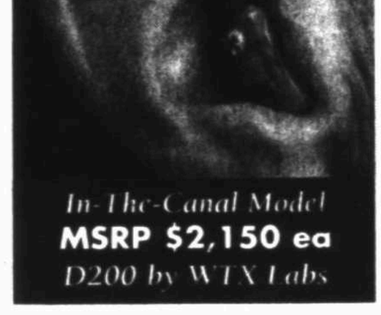
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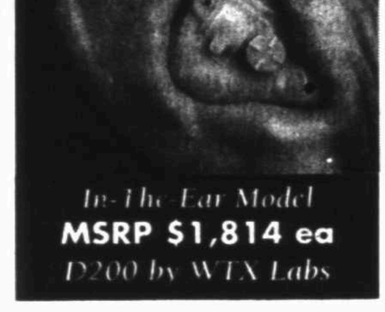
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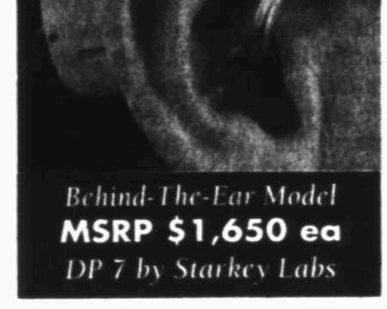
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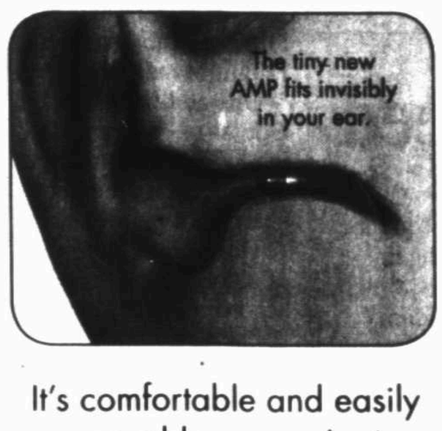


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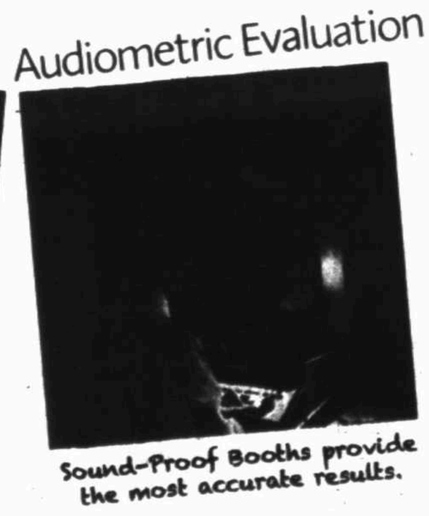
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Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Children race to throw their trash into a can last month during the Don't Mess with Texas Litter Force program at Crockett Elementary. The Litter Force, which consist of four superheroes, visited 50 cities throughout the state to teach children the importance of not littering.

KYLE

From 6B

Kyle said.

For Kyle, the most important part of the fundraiser was getting other students to give and know what's important.

"The kids see that giving is what it's about," Jennifer Mahan said, noting many students emptied their piggy banks into the collection jugs. "So many times we're stingy about doing things for others, but not with the fundraiser."

Mahan said she hopes his initial involvement will continue and influence other students who are interested in helping others.

Mahan describes her son as a generous boy with a good heart who understands the importance of helping others. She thinks he got the idea to hold a fundraiser after watching his parents organize a golf tournament for his dad's co-worker who is undergoing cancer treatments.

"I don't think he realizes the full gravity of the fact kids will be alive because of him and that he's providing," Mahan said.

Kyle knows he has to set an example for his 4-year-old sister and be a role model. "She looks up to everything I do," Kyle said.

Mahan said she hopes Kyle realizes it's not about him, but rather about the impact he can make on the world.

While Kyle doesn't know what his organization will do next or how many people he'll end up helping, he does know he's striving to be the three P's: paleontologist, preacher and PGA tour golfer.

Meredith Moriak can be reached at mmoriak@mrt.com.

Pranksters put science education to use



JACK HICKMAN

Fine arts chairman, Trinity School

Tender egos of adolescence and confused hormonal paths keep teaching an adventure for even the best prepared. A bad day in algebra may as well arise from that misplaced bobby pin or flagging cellphone battery as from confusing the Pythagorean Theorem with the Parthenon. And yet we, as teachers, are charged with the maintenance of such a cauldron of diverse ingredients, one that turns over seven or eight times a day at intervals of about every 45 minutes.

Sometimes the daily accumulation of so much baffling teenage personal baggage in the classroom flirts under the radar of even the most sensitive teacher and the collapse of even the best compiled and executed lesson suggests relief in after-hours tears in Margaritaville.

This sometimes is the adult answer to juvenile situations. Alternately, the juvenile answer to such stress in which emotions generally trump all logic, takes many forms. Specifically, in my own youthful experience of trying to negate the stress and world-ending feeling fueled by losing my girlfriend to a verifiable jerk (oh, just ask anyone), I allied myself with the idea of sweet revenge and proceeded with plans to bend Bob's (the jerk) perceptions of his perfect date.

In those days, part of the perfect date syndrome included having your car freshly washed, carpets whisked clean, ashtrays cleaned, and radio push-buttons pre-set to the two or three coolest stations around. In these regards, Bob knew the rules. And so it was a great scene when Bob hopped out of his 1957 Chevy, ran around to the passenger side and opened the door for the beautiful diminutive Diane whose charms I had lost.

While the Sparkles embraced the dancing crowd at the youth center, my cohort, Bill, and I hid behind a concealing row of pampas grass and viewed the arrival of Bob and Diane to the spring prom. Bill and I were ready with a large rubber mallet, a sawed-off 3-foot section of broom handle and two potatoes. At any rate, in no time we were behind Bob's Chevy, on our knees and ready to initiate the deed.

Thanks to Mr. E's lecture on thermodynamics, pressure and the resultant forces generated by pent-up gasses, our plan became simple. By not allowing the Chevy's exhaust gases to exit, tremendous pressure would build up somewhere. Bill and I hoped the release could occur either through a failed manifold gasket, a blown muffler, or by shooting a spark plug out through the hood at escape velocity. Beautiful.

The two potatoes were pared down slightly for a snug fit in the tailpipe. Bill held the broomstick against the potatoes, and I, using the rubber mallet, forcefully whammed the potatoes as far as possible. We then retired to my Pontiac Tempest station wagon and waited for the last dance.

I always disliked Bob's forced laughter, but that night it was like a siren's song for my attention as he and Diane approached his car. A gentleman to some end, he opened the door for her and then they chatted awhile. Excited anticipation was relieved when finally we heard his engine turn over. It ground around for some time before ceasing. Nothing happened. He waited a moment, then tried it again. Whrrrrrrrr. Nothing. Whrrrrrr. Nothing.

Bill and I looked at each other and grinned, knowing that somewhere tons of pressure were gradually preparing to rebel. Whrrrrrr. Bob put his elbow on the door sill. Shortly, he exited the car, opened the hood and took a look around. He knew as much about mechanics as Bill and I knew about grafting ocotillos — it was a pure macho play in front of Diane. He slammed down the hood, then with two more whirrs of an engine in despair — kablooey. There was a tremendous blast. The whole car disappeared in a huge cloud of black smoke as the tailpipe released its burden.

Bill and I grimaced in fear of manslaughter repercussions. From the thinning smog bellowed some obscenities, a slamming door, another look around and then squealing of tires as the discomforted couple peeled out into the sooty night.

Examination suggested that most likely the guy whose Buick was parked behind Bob's puzzled at length over how a highly carbonized layer of potato mush found its way across the front of his car.

If high fives had existed in that era, I would have given Mr. E the highest and thanked him for the education.

MISD's financial officer to head group's board

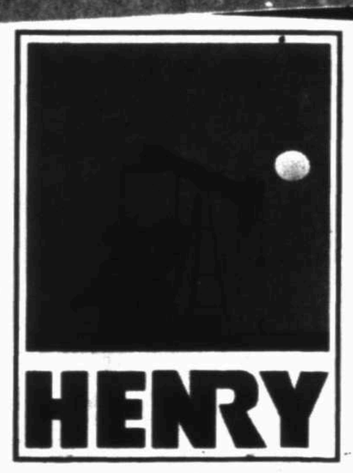
From staff reports

Midland ISD Chief Financial Officer David Garcia has been elected to serve as president of the Board of Directors of TASBO (Texas Association of School Business Officials). Garcia will serve a one-year term beginning March 2.

"This is really an honor for me and my family. This organization has been a tremendous asset in my 23-year career in Texas school business," Garcia said. "The individuals who have mentored me along the way have also been involved in TASBO, so I feel that it is very appropriate that I give back to the organization which has shaped me professionally."

Mark your calendar. The MRT's 2012 Regional Spelling Bee is Feb. 25 at Midland College.

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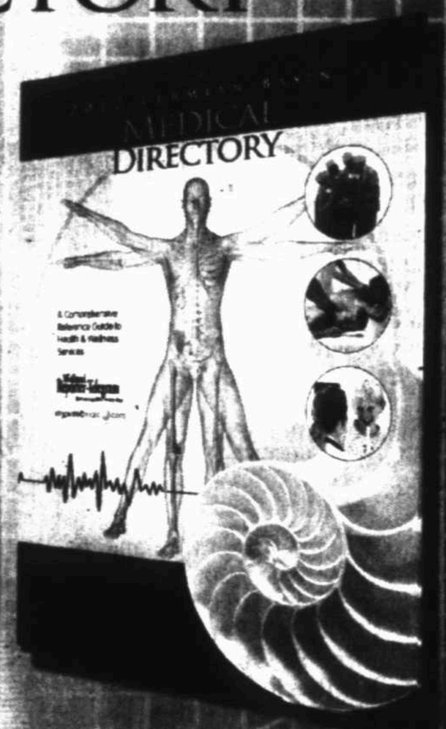


HENRY

Psalm 34:1-2

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

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Education

10-year-old Midlander is published author

■ Fifth-grader Anna Vark writes tale based on her grandmother's childhood spent on farm in Lamesa.

By Meredith Moriak
Staff Writer

What started out as a Christmas gift for her grandmother, has transformed into something much larger than 10-year-old Anna Vark and her family ever expected.

At age 9 Anna had her book, "The Adventures of Otis and Peck," published by Oklahoma-based Tate Publishing, and the Santa Rita fifth-grader has spent the past year signing books and sharing it with others.

Anna wrote the story when she was 7 as a Christmas gift for her grandmother. The book is based loosely on the animals living on her grandmother's childhood farm in Lamesa.

"They had a goat and a chicken and the chicken would always ride on the goat's back," Anna said. "And when her dad decided to sell all the chickens, the chicken jumped on the goat's back and ran away."

Because of that, the chicken got to stay. That is a story Anna's grandmother told her many times.

For Christmas, Anna's grandmother, Phyllis Garner, received the book. In addition, Anna and her family donated in her grandmother's honor a goat and chicken to a village in Africa.

Because her grandmother was so impressed and saw it as a unique story, she wanted to get it published, said Anna's mother, Simone Vark.

After lengthening and editing her story, Anna took her book to a publisher.

She worked with illustrators and told them what kinds of pictures she wanted to accompany her story.

The book is sold online and in bookstores, like Barnes & Noble, Simone Vark said.

"She's definitely making money — royalties on every sale — and gets a quarterly check," Vark said, noting all of the money is going toward Anna's college fund.

"This has been new territory for us. Through the pushing of Grandma, it kind of snowballed into something big," Vark said. "It's been a good experience with public speaking, and she's learned about getting up and giving presentations."



Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Ten-year-old Anna Vark and her grandmother, Phyllis Garner, sign copies of Anna's book, "Otis & Peck" last month. Anna based the story on her grandmother growing up on a farm in Lamesa.

In the future, Anna said she'd like to share her book with younger students at her school and potentially read it to them.

"They think it's cool to have someone in their grade who's published a book," Vark said.

Next up, Anna said she's considering writing another story about Otis and Peck but adding in her grandmother's brothers and other family members to make a series about life on the farm and add new characters in each version.

"We're very proud and very grateful for the opportunity for her and what it's going to mean for her future," Vark said. "It's just been a great experience for her to go through this."

Anna will sign books Jan. 28 at Hastings.

Meredith Moriak can be reached at mmoriak@mrt.com.

MAKING THE GRADE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Coleman High School senior **Brianna D'Nae Lewis** has been honored by the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club. She is the daughter of Norman and Barbara Lewis.

She is a trainer for the volleyball team and is a member of the choir and debate team.

She is a volunteer for United Way and a member of Church of New Beginnings and its praise and worship team.

Lewis plans to attend Midland College and University of Texas of the Permian Basin and major in nursing.

* * *

Lee High School senior **Bryan Bondy** has been honored by the Midland Morning Lions Club. He is the son of Mark and Nancy Bondy.



Bondy

He is a member of Chorale, Origin, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. He is an academic letterman.

He volunteers with Meals on Wheels and the March of Dimes. He is involved with Oasis Youth Ministries at First United Methodist Church.

Bondy plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in mechanical engineering.

* * *

SAN ANGELO — Eight Midlanders were among those who graduated last month from Angelo State University.

They are: **Caitlin C. Arrieta, Megan B. Ellis, Jennifer R. Graham** (magna cum laude), **Kimberlee R. Hammac Elena L. Marquez, Aaron R. Mays, Kayla M. Melendez** and **Minerva Ojeda.**

Young philanthropist raises money for kids in Africa

By Meredith Moriak
Staff Writer

To Kyle Mahan, a second-grader at Santa Rita Elementary, there's no time like the present to give back to others and be philanthropic.

After seeing a news report about starving children in Africa and being shocked by the physical weakness of their bodies, Kyle said he wanted to help.

"It said something about how 29,000 kids have died and I thought 'That stinks. I need to do something,'" Kyle said.

In August, while his mother, Jennifer, was setting up her second-grade classroom at Santa Rita, Kyle walked down to Principal Kellie Ebenstein's office and told her he wanted to make a difference.

"I heard a small voice in my head and Jesus telling me I can do something to help," Kyle said.

Without his mother's knowledge, Kyle already was starting to help others and make a difference.

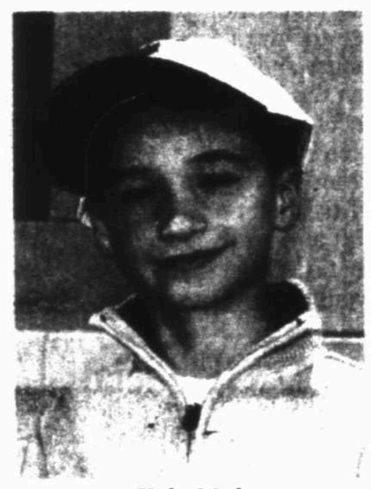
Ebenstein told him she'd be OK with the school doing a fundraiser but that he needed to develop a plan that included encouraging students to join in.

So with that, Kyle and his parents started Kids Giving Kids Hope. By talking to the Red Cross, they knew they could get the money to African kids in need.

In one week, the students at Santa Rita raised $1,234.61 for children in Africa by filling large water bottles with coins and bills.

"I don't have much money in my piggy bank, so I couldn't have done it without them,"

Please see **KYLE/5B**



Kyle Mahan



Learning new words

Each third-grader at Midland Academy Charter School received a copy of Scholastic Children's Dictionary last month from the Midland West Rotary Club. The organization's dictionary project provided new dictionaries to third-graders in Midland ISD and Greenwood ISD.

Tim Fischer Reporter-Telegram

Refueling, regrouping, relaxing make three R's possible

KRISTIE HAYWARD
Seventh-grade English, Alamo Junior High School



Since the days of yore, as we like to say at Christmastime, schools have stressed the three R's: readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic. And no one argues their importance. But there are three additional R's that should not be overlooked: refueling, regrouping and relaxing. For teachers and students alike, the breaks during the school year help make the reading, writing and arithmetic possible.

Refueling

We've memorized your kids' names, identified their learning styles, adjusted to their personalities, figured out who can sit next to whom and who must remain on opposite sides of the classroom, and ascertained what buttons not to push. Teachers' tanks are pretty empty come semester exams, and much of that fuel is spent on other people's children. We need the opportunity to refill our tanks with love from home. It's not asking too much for parents to pick up the slack a little bit so that teachers can get a much needed and much deserved break. (And by parents, I also mean my husband and me.)

Many people complain that students forget what they learn over long breaks and that too much time is spent reviewing and re-teaching. But trust me when I say just as much time is lost begging students to get on task, stay on task and complete tasks after so much time in the classroom. And who says learning stops at the school exit doors? Parents can read with their kids, play learning games and teach all manner of curriculums at home. Find letters and numbers, states and symbols on road trips. Teach kids to read maps. Read about places you'll go, cities you'll pass through and cultures you may encounter during your travels. On a budget? Perfect. Give your kids a dollar amount and a list of activities and have them plan an affordable itinerary. Take them shopping with a calculator or search for bargains in sales ads. Find a book to read together, then compare it to the movie version.

We're encouraged at school to mold students into lifelong learners. Well, they aren't going to be in school for life, so we need to teach them that there is as much to learn outside the classroom as inside.

Regrouping

The fall semester is actually a short one, with two of the six-week grading periods only spanning five weeks. And there's a ton to cram into a short amount of time. By now, we've collected a good bit of data to plan our second semester. With testing just around the corner, we must make the best use of our time. But planning is practically impossible when your days are filled with classrooms full of students, papers to grade, reports to complete and parents to contact.

Planners like me relish the downtime in which to make lists, organize calendars, revisit and update goals and basically regroup after the fall. It's a time to see what lessons were overlooked or we simply ran out of time to cover, revisit progress to see what should be attacked with fervor this spring and identify skills that were taught but that tests indicate lack mastery. There are supply closets to refill, pencil sharpeners to repair, graffiti to erase and any number of broken items to replace.

One teacher work day that is mostly spent in training is simply not enough time for the, shall we say, nitty-gritty.

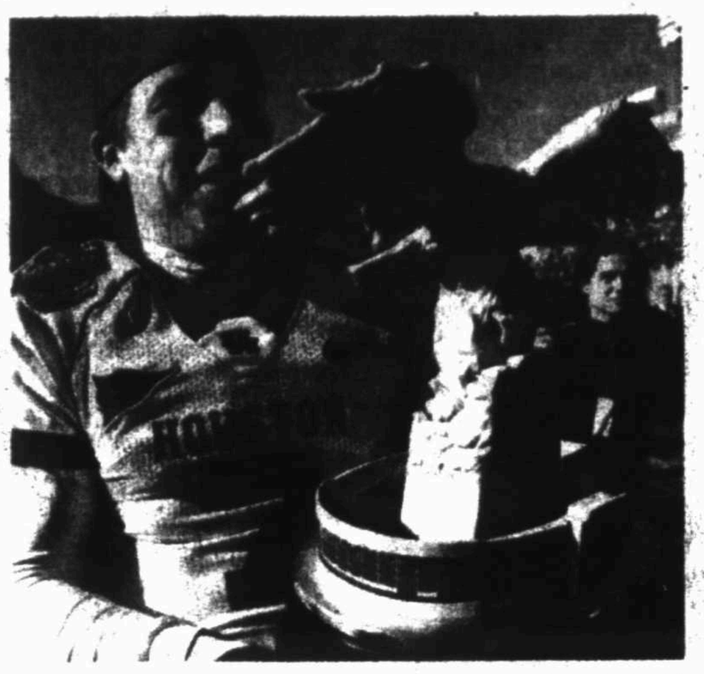
Relaxing

I won't pretend that a teacher's No. 1 priority during school breaks is not to relax. Without a good amount of relaxation, I certainly won't do much refueling or regrouping. And it so happens that school breaks have become a big topic of conversation around here. In Midland, there are two groups of thought when it comes to school breaks. One group is staunchly opposed to attending school in June, while the other is equally in favor of long and several breaks during the year. Count me among the second group. I'm baffled by people who are so against classes wrapping up the first week of June. Last year, most of my counterparts in the Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas finished a week after we did in Midland, and friends who live in California and start school after Labor Day don't finish up until well into June. I much rather would have a week at Thanksgiving and two full weeks at Christmas, along with three-day weekends, than try to cram everything in before June 1.

We're guaranteed several weeks off during the summer because the state mandates our start date, so what are a few extra days in June? As I see it, using those days off during the school year rather than after is beneficial to students and teachers alike. And if you take time to recall calendars of yore when we didn't have a full week at Thanksgiving or lost some of our days at Christmas, I hope most will agree.

Sports

Keenum ends record-setting career with bowl win



Brandon Wade/AP

Houston quarterback Case Keenum celebrates with the championship trophy after defeating Penn State in the TicketCity Bowl on Monday at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

Associated Press

DALLAS — Case Keenum finished his record-setting career with another performance for the history books.

The sixth-year senior threw for 532 yards and three touchdowns, leading No. 20 Houston to 30-14 victory against No. 24 Penn State in the TicketCity Bowl on Monday.

The Cougars (13-1) finished with a school record for victories and made Tony Levine a winner in his debut as Houston coach. Levine took over when Kevin Sumlin left to take the Texas A&M job after the regular season.

Cougars	30
Nittany Lions	14

Keenum came into the game as the NCAA's career leader in yards passing and touchdowns passes, then set a bowl record with 227 yards passing in the first quarter.

"I'm biased, obviously. I'd put him right at the top," Levine said when asked where Keenum ranks among the best college quarterbacks of all time. "You don't win 12 games by accident and I don't think you don't break the records he broke by accident, either."

Keenum wasn't concerned with his place. He leaves Houston as the school career leader with 37 wins, and that's what he chose to focus on.

"As far as rankings and all that goes, I'm concerned with our team ranking and how we end up," Keenum said. "Thirteen and one, I hope we end up in the top 15 in the country."

The loss put to rest Penn State's tumultuous year with three losses in the last four games. Hall of Fame coach Joe Paterno was fired as part of a child sex-abuse scandal involving former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky that shook college sports.

"I thought the guys came out and they played hard. It's been a difficult year for them," Penn State interim coach Tom Bradley said. "It just didn't go our way."

The Nittany Lions (9-4) were picked apart by Keenum. Penn State was allowing 162 yards passing per game, but Keenum threw for more than double that by halftime.

The Cougars raced out to a 17-0 lead in the first quarter behind Keenum's record-setting period.

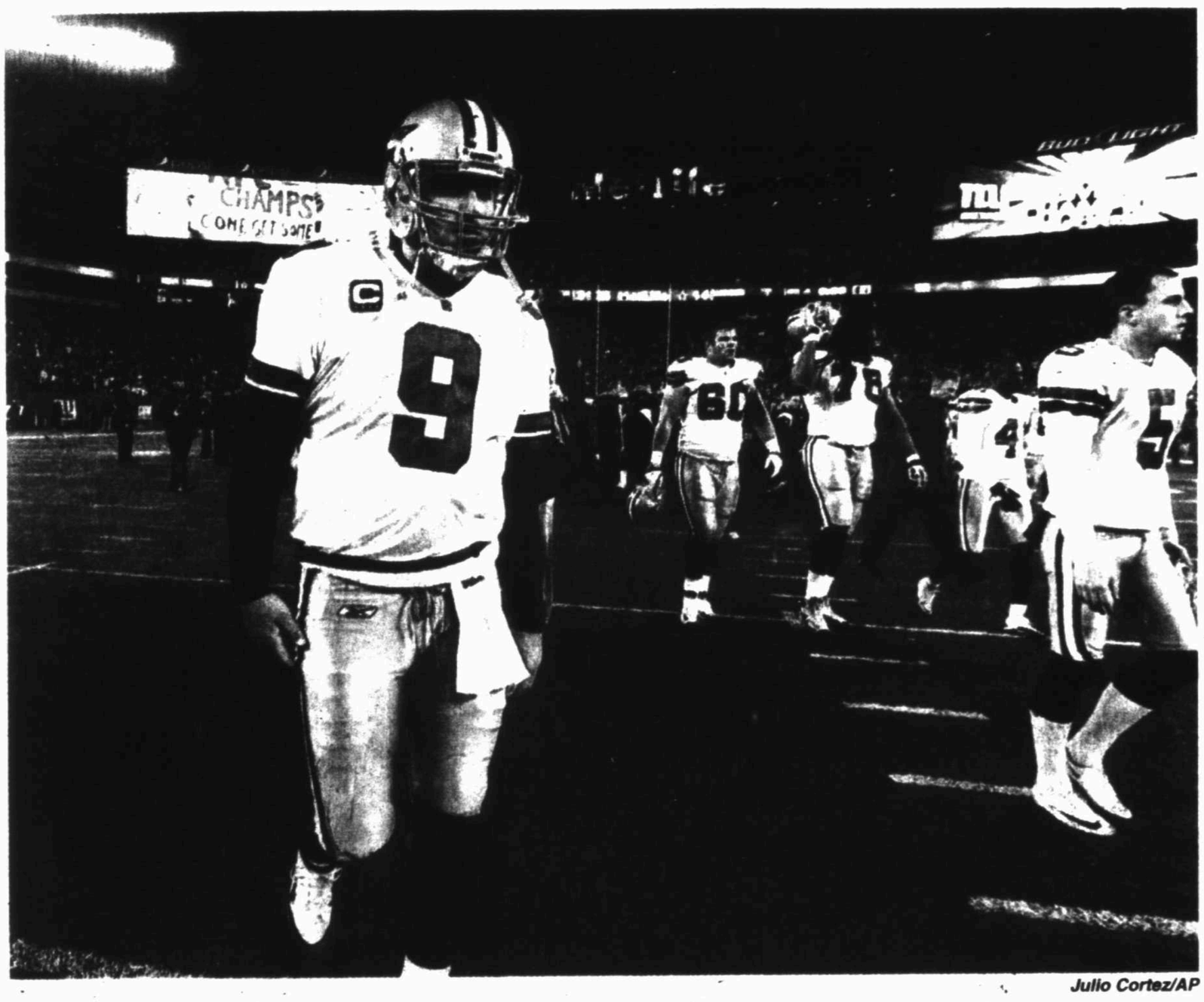
According to TicketCity officials, Louisville's Browning Nagle had the old mark with 223 yards against Alabama in the first quarter of the 1991 Fiesta Bowl.

Keenum worked the spread offense to perfection, with five different Cougars catching at least five balls. Patrick Edwards, one of the country's leading receivers, had 228 yards and two scores in the last game of his collegiate career. Justin Johnson had 12 catches for 148 yards.

Keenum is the ninth player in

Please see **KEENUM**/5C

Looking to the future



Julio Cortez/AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo walks off the field with his teammates following Sunday's loss to the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J.

Garrett sees Cowboys as being on right path

By Tom Orsborn
San Antonio Express-News

IRVING — Jason Garrett is confident the Dallas Cowboys are on the right path even after they lost four of their last five games, including Sunday night's playoffs-or-bust showdown with the New York Giants.

"I believe people believe in the direction we're going in," Garrett said Monday. "I think there is evidence of positive things, a positive direction we've taken."

In his first full season as head coach, Garrett fashioned a two-game improvement over 2010's 6-10 showing. He pointed to the Cowboys coming within a win of claiming the NFC East title as proof the franchise is close to being a contender, but there's plenty of evidence to argue they are not that close at all.

For the second straight season, the Cowboys finished third in the NFC East. In getting swept by Philadelphia and the Giants, the Cowboys were outscored in the four games by a combined 122-62. Dallas swept Washington, but it was by just a combined score of 45-40.

The Cowboys beat only one team that finished with a record of .500 or better (San Francisco) and recorded three wins over teams that fired their head coach (St. Louis, Miami and Tampa Bay).

"We've just go to get better going forward in 2012," Garrett said.

That kind of talk is routine this time of year for the underachieving Cowboys. In going 120-120 since the start of the 1997 season, Dallas has won only one playoff game in that 15-season span.

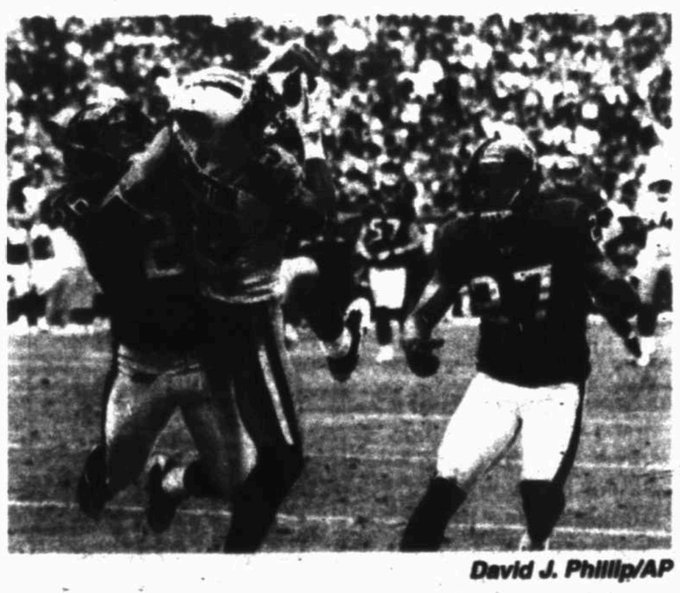
And its hopes of adding another postseason win crumbled when the Giants jumped out to a 21-0 lead and then held on to win 31-14.

"They rose to the occasion and got the job done, we did not," Garrett said. "We have no excuses."

The Cowboys blew fourth-quarter leads in five of their eight losses. Garrett chalked that up to the "growing pains" he expected the team to have after it cut a handful of aging veterans in favor of younger, hungrier players.

Please see **COWBOYS**/4C

Ready or not, Texans look to the playoffs



David J. Phillip/AP

Tennessee Titans wide receiver Nate Washington (85) falls into the end zone for a touchdown despite the efforts of Houston Texans defensive back Brandon Harris (26) on Sunday in Houston.

By Chris Duncan
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ready or not, the Houston Texans are less than a week away from the franchise's first playoff game.

The Texans (10-6) will ride a three-game losing streak into Saturday's game against Cincinnati (9-7) at Reliant Stadium.

Last week, Texans players talked about the importance of regaining momentum after consecutive losses. They lost to Tennessee 23-22 in Sunday's finale when they botched a 2-point conversion at the end, then said after the game that their three-game skid was irrelevant.

Coach Gary Kubiak said Monday that his players have "got to let it go," pointing out that a winning streak would've also had no bearing on what may happen in the postseason.

"You've got to let everything go," he said, "and start over."

Kubiak thought the Texans played better Sunday than they had in losses to Carolina and Indianapolis. His team has dealt with major injuries almost every week this season, and he said that's led to constant transition that's affected the level of play.

Add one more injury concern leading up to Saturday's game: Rookie quarterback T.J. Yates, who started the last five games, bruised his left shoulder when he was sacked on his first snap against Tennessee. Kubiak expects Yates to start against Cincinnati, though he acknowledged Monday the fifth-round pick is "sore."

Yates was a revelation when he first took over the starting role in the wake of season-ending injuries

Please see **TEXANS**/4C

No. 4 Baylor beats A&M to remain undefeated

By Brent Zwerneman
San Antonio Express-News

WACO — Baylor senior Quincy Acy vowed the Bears paid little attention to two big things Monday. The first came when Baylor earned its highest ranking in school history at No. 4.

"It's nice to have," Acy said, "but we want more."

The second came when Bears fans chanted "Big 12, Big 12!" late in Baylor's 61-52 victory over Texas A&M before 8,424 fans in the Brazos River rivals' Big 12 opener.

Bears	61
Aggies	52

"We just go out and play basketball, and represent our conference well," Acy said with a shrug.

The 14-0 Bears, in continuing their top start in school history, did exactly that in Southeastern Conference-bound A&M's final visit for the foreseeable future to the Ferrell Center.

"I wish they were still (going to be) in the Big 12," Baylor coach Scott Drew said when asked his sentiment about A&M leaving the league.

Especially after games like Monday's. The Aggies (9-4) scored 11 points in the first 18 minutes, before sinking two 3-pointers in the final 1:39 of the first half to tighten Baylor's lead at the break to 30-17.

"We played very timidly and a little bit overwhelmed," said A&M guard Elston Turner, who tallied a game-high 21 points. "The fact that we weren't making shots didn't help."

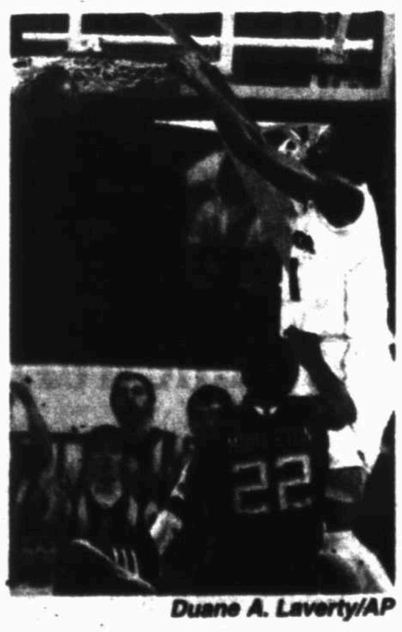
Turner said the Aggies playing their first Big 12 road game against a top five program created their sense of "awe" against the Bears, and A&M first-year coach Billy Kennedy agreed with his guard's assessment.

"I was really disappointed about that," Kennedy said, adding that some of his younger bench players appeared "afraid at times" upon entering the game.

In any case, the Aggies hung around in the second half and occasionally clipped Baylor's lead to single digits, but Bears guard A.J. Walton's off-balanced jumper as the shot clock expired staked the Bears to a 57-43 lead with 2:48 remaining.

"We knew they were a physical team," Baylor forward Perry

Please see **BAYLOR**/2C



Duane A. Laverty/AP

Baylor's Perry III Jones (1) dunks over Texas A&M's Khris Middleton (22) in first half Monday in Waco.

HSBASKETBALLCAPSULES

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Girls

ODESSA PERMIAN AT LEE

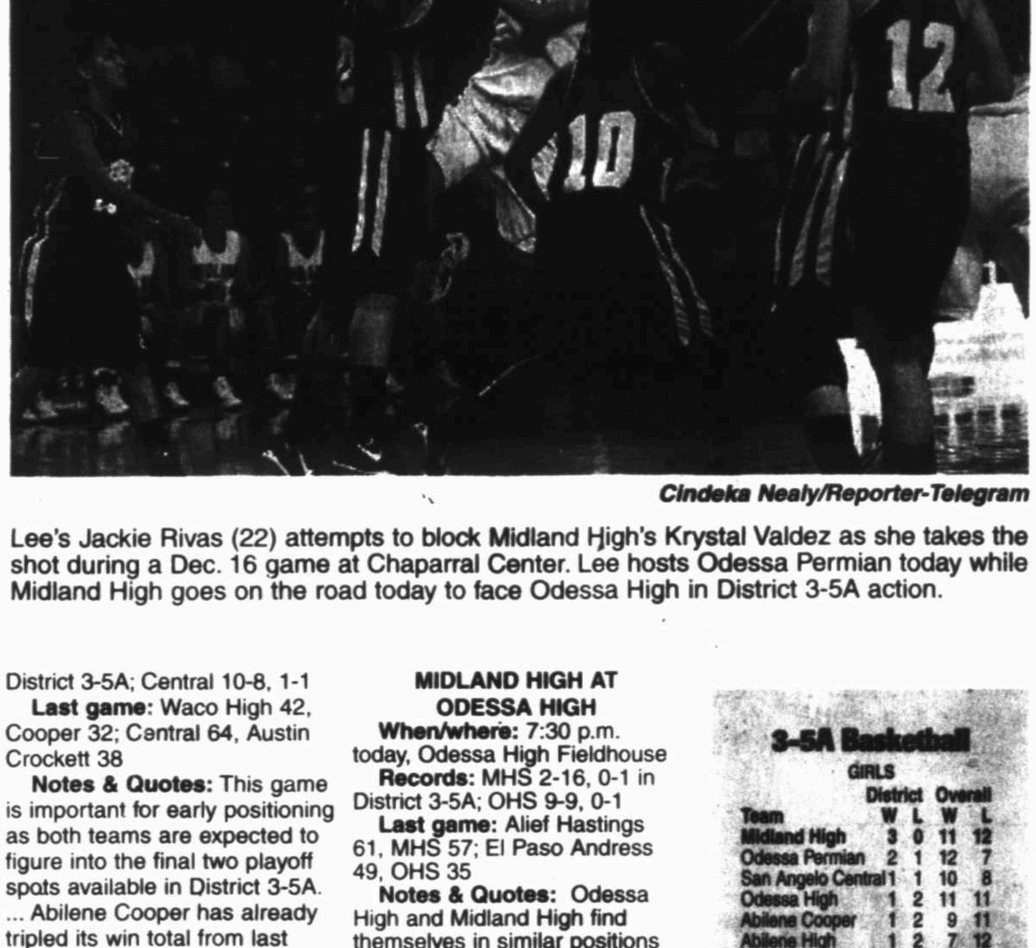
When/where: 6 p.m. today, Chaparral Center

Records: Permian 12-7, 2-1 in District 3-5A; Lee 7-11, 0-2

Last game: Permian 60, El Paso Austin 48; Amarillo Tascosa 43, Lee 35

Notes & Quotes: Lee is looking for its first District 3-5A win and is trying to pick it up against a team with hopes of winning the 3-5A title. The Lady Rebels are the only team in 3-5A to not have a district win. ... Permian's lone loss in 3-5A play came against Midland High in the district opener. The Lady Panthers won their other two district matchups by 10 and 23 points against Abilene Cooper and Odessa High, respectively. ... Lee went 1-2 during play at the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic with its lone tournament win coming against Canyon Randall on Thursday. The Lady Rebels appeared to be headed to a consolation championship Friday before Amarillo Tascosa turned a 31-25 late third-quarter deficit into a 43-35 victory. ... Lee senior post Landry Johnson was named to the All-Tournament team after scoring 13 points and pulling down 15 rebounds against Tascosa.

Next: San Angelo Central at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m. Friday; Lee at Abilene Cooper, 6 p.m. Friday.



Cindeka Nealy/Reporter-Telegram

Lee's Jackie Rivas (22) attempts to block Midland High's Krystal Valdez as she takes the shot during a Dec. 16 game at Chaparral Center. Lee hosts Odessa Permian today while Midland High goes on the road today to face Odessa High in District 3-5A action.

MIDLAND HIGH AT ODESSA HIGH

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Odessa High Fieldhouse

Records: Midland High 11-12, 3-0 in District 3-5A; Odessa High 11-11, 1-2

Last game: Plainview 38, Midland High 36; El Paso Americas 28, Odessa High 27.

Notes & Quotes: Midland High is trying to remain undefeated in district play this season. The Lady Bulldogs are trying to bounce back from a 38-36 loss to Plainview — Class 4A's 24th-ranked team — in the championshp game of the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic. It was the second loss to Plainview this season for MHS. ... Odessa High finished fourth in the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic after losing to El Paso Americas in the third-place game Friday. The Lady Broncos went 1-2 at the tourney with a win against Canyon Randall. ... Midland High defeated Odessa High handily, 54-33, during the Tall City Oilman's Tournament on Dec. 9. Sabrina Banks and Megan Hoppel led MHS with 10 points each in the win, while sophomore Alex Carpio had 13 for OHS.

Next: Abilene High at Midland High, 6 p.m. Friday, Chaparral Center; Abilene Cooper at Odessa High, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10.

ABILENE COOPER AT SAN ANGELO CENTRAL

When/where: 6 p.m. today, Central High School, San Angelo

Records: Cooper 9-11, 1-2 in District 3-5A; Central 10-8, 1-1

Last game: Waco High 42, Cooper 32; Central 64, Austin Crockett 38

Notes & Quotes: This game is important for early positioning as both teams are expected to figure into the final two playoff spots available in District 3-5A. ... Abilene Cooper has already tripled its win total from last season.

Next: Lee at Cooper, 6 p.m. Friday; San Angelo Central at Odessa Permian, 6 p.m. Friday.

Boys

ODESSA PERMIAN AT LEE

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

Records: Permian 14-3, 1-0 in District 3-5A; Lee 6-14, 1-0

Last game: Permian 45, Lubbock Monterey 40; Lee 56, Austin High 55

Notes & Quotes: Both teams enter the game with significant momentum after disappointing starts to holiday tournaments. Lee rebounded from an 0-2 start to the Byron Johnston Holiday Classic by winning three straight games in less than 48 hours to take third place. ... Permian, who has the least losses in 3-5A, opened the FiberMax Caprock Classic with a loss to Lubbock Estacado before winning the consolation championship with a 45-40 victory against Lubbock Monterey. ... Both Permian and Lee defeated their crosstown rivals in their district openers and will look to move to 2-0 in district with a win.

Next: San Angelo Central at Permian 7:30 p.m. Friday; Lee at Abilene Cooper 7:30 p.m. Friday

MIDLAND HIGH AT ODESSA HIGH

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, Odessa High Fieldhouse

Records: MHS 2-16, 0-1 in District 3-5A; OHS 9-9, 0-1

Last game: Alief Hastings 61, MHS 57; El Paso Andress 49, OHS 35

Notes & Quotes: Odessa High and Midland High find themselves in similar positions heading into this one as both lost to crosstown rivals to start district play and both are coming off of losses heading into this one. ... The Bronchos suffered a 14-point loss to El Paso Andress in their last game while Midland High lost 61-57 to Alief Hastings. ... The Bulldogs are particularly hungry for a win after losing second-half leads in their last two losses, stretching their losing streak to nine games. Midland High is hoping it can rebound from its slow start like it did last year as part of a district title run.

Next: San Angelo Central at Permian 7:30 p.m. Friday; Lee at Abilene Cooper 7:30 p.m. Friday

ABILENE COOPER AT SAN ANGELO CENTRAL

When/where: 7:30 p.m. today, Central High School

Records: Cooper 8-11, 0-1 in District 3-5A; Central 18-4, 0-0

Last game: Cooper 83, Dumas 51; Corpus Christi Carroll 67, Central 64

Notes & Quotes: Central, who has the most wins in 3-5A, will open district play at home after crosstown rivals in Midland, Odessa and Abilene played each other to open the season. ... Cooper lost its district opener against Abilene High but will look to continue momentum from a 32-point win in its last game to find its first district win. ... Central is coming off of a loss, but it was by just three points to an undefeated Corpus Christi Carroll team. Central still has the highest win percentage in 3-5A and will look to start district play on a positive note coming off the loss.

Next: San Angelo Central at Permian 7:30 p.m. Friday; Lee at Abilene Cooper 7:30 p.m. Friday

3-5A Basketball

GIRLS

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Midland High	3	0	11	12
Odessa Permian	2	1	12	7
San Angelo Central	1	1	10	8
Odessa High	1	2	11	11
Abilene Cooper	1	2	9	11
Abilene High	1	2	7	12
Lee	0	2	7	11

Dec. 16

Odessa Permian 54, Odessa High 31; Midland High 53, Lee 39; Abilene Cooper 39, Abilene High 20; Lubbock Monterey 66, San Angelo Central 37

Today's Games

Midland High at Odessa High; Odessa Permian at Lee, Chaparral Center; Abilene Cooper at San Angelo Central. All games at 6 p.m.

Non-District

Big Spring at Abilene High, 6 p.m.

BOYS

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Odessa Permian	1	0	14	3
Abilene High	1	0	8	6
Lee	1	0	6	14
San Angelo Central	0	0	18	4
Odessa High	0	1	9	9
Cooper	0	1	8	11
Midland High	0	1	2	18

Dec. 16

Lee 61, Midland High 58; Odessa Permian 51, Odessa High 46; Abilene High 62, Abilene Cooper 39; San Angelo Central 82, Lubbock High 46

Today's Games

Odessa High at Midland High; Lee at Odessa Permian; Abilene Cooper at San Angelo Central. All games at 7:30 p.m.

MCALUMNIUPDATE

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Here is an update of basketball players from Midland College who are now playing at four-year universities.

Men

DARREN WHITE
Campbell University, NC
(Big South Conference)
8-6 (2-0)
21.1 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.9 apg, 1.0 spg (14 games)

TY NURSE
Texas Tech University (Big 12 Conference)
7-5 (0-0)
10.7 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 1.1 apg, 1.4 spg (11 games)

Rodney Milum
Appalachian State University, WV
(Southern Conference)
5-7 (1-1)
9.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 1.1 apg, 0.4 spg (11 games)

Jamaal Trice
Appalachian State University, WV
(Southern Conference)
5-7 (1-1)
11.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 0.7 apg, 0.3 spg (12 games)

Jonathon Simmons
University of Houston
(Conference USA)
8-5 (0-0)
15.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.1 apg, 0.7 spg (13 games)

Kenny Moore
Tennessee State University
(Ohio Valley Conference)
8-7 (1-1)
7.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.0 apg, 0.5 spg (8 games)

Brockeith Pane
Utah State University (Western Athletic Conference)
8-6 (0-0)
11.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.1 spg (14 games)

TyShwan Edmondson
Austin Peay State University, TN
(Ohio Valley Conference)
3-12 (0-2)
14.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.9 spg (15 games)

Caleb Dean
Western Michigan University
(Mid America Conference)
5-8 (0-0)
1.0 ppg, 0.8 rpg, 0.0 apg, 0.0 spg (4 games)

Dwight Miller
University of Tennessee
(Southeastern Conference)
6-6 (0-0)
3.2 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 0.0 apg, 0.3 spg (12 games)

Guy Landry-Edi
Gonzaga University, WA
(West Coast Conference)
11-2 (1-0)
4.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 0.6 apg, 0.8 spg (5 games)

Note: Jordan Walker (California State University - Bakersfield), Dwayne Davis (University of Southern Mississippi), Larry Wilkins (University of Texas - San Antonio) and Darrell Williams (Oklahoma State University) will not compete this season, look for them in 2012-13.

Women

Lauren Mansfield
Iowa State University
(Big 12 Conference)
9-2 (0-0)
6.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.0 spg (11 games)

Adrie Shiels
University of Idaho
(Western Athletic Conference)
5-9 (0-0)
4.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 0.6 apg, 0.5 spg (14 games)

Erica Warren
University of Texas - El Paso
(Conference USA)
11-2 (0-0)
4.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 0.9 apg, 0.5 spg (12 games)

Tanica Anderson
James Madison University, VA
(Colonial Athletic Conference)
8-3 (0-1)
2.6 ppg, 1.5 rpg, 0.9 apg, 0.0 spg (8 games)

LOCALSPORTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MIDLAND COLLEGE HOLDING WINTER BASEBALL SHOWCASE

The Midland College baseball team is hosting the Texas Pro Scouts Winter Showcase on Jan. 14-15 at Christensen Stadium.

The one-day showcase is for any and all high school baseball players and will be led by coaches from Major League Baseball franchises like the Cleveland Indians, Florida Marlins and Atlanta Braves.

There are two sessions with each costing $100 to participate. The first session is for hitting and is from 9 a.m. to noon and then 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 14. The second session is for pitchers, catchers and position players, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 15.

Those interested can register at www.collegebaseballcamps.com.

AP women's poll: Baylor still unanimous No. 1

Associated Press

Baylor remains the unanimous No. 1 choice in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll.

The Lady Bears received all the first-place votes Monday for the fifth straight week after blowing out Mississippi Valley State in their only game.

The first five teams in the Top 25 remain unchanged. Connecticut is No. 2, followed by Notre Dame, Stanford and Maryland. After a light holiday schedule, all five teams dive into conference play this week.

Tennessee, Duke, Ohio State, Texas A&M and Rutgers round out the top 10. Kentucky fell five spots to No. 11 after losing to Middle Tennessee and then beating Florida.

Nebraska moved up four places to 19th with a victory over then-No. 16 Penn State in its Big Ten opener. The Nittany Lions had the biggest drop, falling to 22nd.

Longtime Turner Sports broadcaster Huber dies

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Turner Sports says longtime broadcaster Jim Huber has died. He was 67.

The cable network says Huber died Monday in Atlanta. A cause of death was not immediately released.

A statement from Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., said Huber was an Emmy Award-winning essayist who joined Turner Sports full-time in 2000 and was an announcer for professional golf matches and NBA games.

He previously served as an anchor and reporter for CNN/Sports Illustrated and hosted CNN's Pro Golf Weekly and Sporting Life with Jim Huber.

David Levy, a Turner president of sales, distribution and sports, said in the statement that Huber served 27 years with the company.

Levy said: "The Turner Broadcasting family suffered a great loss and we are saddened by the passing of our colleague and friend."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Men

TEXAS SAM HOUSTON STATE 83, JARVIS CHRISTIAN 49

HUNTSVILLE — Steven Werner had 19 points and 12 rebounds in just 17 minutes of action off the bench as Sam Houston State defeated Jarvis Christian 83-49 on Monday night.

Werner led five players scoring in double figures for the Bearkats (6-8). Marcus James added 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Michael Holyfield 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Maurice Jackson had 14 points and nine rebounds for Jarvis Christian, an NAIA school in Hawkins, Texas, that classified the game as an exhibition. The Bulldogs' record remained 2-6.

Sam Houston State took permanent control of the game with an 11-3 run at the end of the first half, which gave it a 38-29 lead at the break.

The Bearkats enjoyed a 58-31 rebounding advantage and outscored Jarvis Christian 48-20 in the paint.

TOP 25

NO. 21 VIRGINIA 57, LSU 52

BATON ROUGE, La. — Sammy Zeglinski scored 17 points, including a big 3-pointer late in the game, to help Virginia beat LSU.

Joe Harris added 14 points, also hitting a 3-pointer late, for the Cavaliers (13-1), who have won 11 straight games.

With their lead down to one, Zeglinski made his fourth 3 of the game to put the Cavaliers on top 51-47 with 3:25 remaining. A 3-pointer by Anthony Hickey again reduced Virginia's lead to a single point before Harris made his 3-pointer with 1:30 left.

The Tigers cut their deficit in half at 54-52 on a field goal by Justin Hamilton with 51 seconds remaining. LSU got the ball back when Ralston Turner blocked a shot by Harris and Hamilton grabbed the ball. However, Hamilton immediately lost the ball.

Women

TOP 25

NO. 5 MARYLAND 91, FLORIDA STATE 70

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Laurin Mincy scored 23 points, Alyssa Thomas added 21 points and 10 rebounds and Tiana Hawkins had 20 points and 13 rebounds as No. 5 Maryland remained unbeaten with a 91-70 rout of Florida State on Monday night.

Hawkins was 7 of 7 from the floor in the first half and had nine rebounds for Maryland (14-0, 1-0 ACC), which won the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

No. 7 DUKE 77, VIRGINIA 66

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Tricia Liston had 18 points to lead four players in double figures for Duke, which blew past Virginia in the ACC opener for both teams.

Haley Peters added 13 points, Richa Jackson 12 and Chelsea Gray 11 with eight assists for the Blue Devils (10-2), who have won 19 straight in the series.

No. 8 OHIO STATE 84, IOWA 71

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Samantha Prahalis scored 30 points and Tayler Hill added 28 Monday to rally Ohio State from a 15-point first-half deficit for a victory over Iowa, keeping the Buckeyes perfect this season.

The Buckeyes (15-0, 2-0 Big Ten) are off to their best start during the NCAA era.

NO. 25 NORTH CAROLINA 65, NO. 12 MIAMI 63

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Chay Shegog hit the go-ahead free throws with 1:11 left, helping North Carolina rally past Miami in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

Shegog finished with 20 points to lead the Tar Heels (11-2, 1-0 ACC), who won despite finishing with a season-high 31 turnovers. North Carolina trailed by eight with about 5 1/2 minutes left before fighting back to take its first lead on Shegog's free throws.

No. 18 PURDUE 64, ILLINOIS 63

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Courtney Moses made a 3-pointer from the top of the key as time expired, giving Purdue a win over Illinois.

Ivory Crawford made two free throws with 25 seconds left to give Illinois a 62-61 lead, but Lydia McCully hit just 1 of 2 free throws with 7 seconds left for a two-point lead before Moses nailed the game-winner.

No. 22 PENN STATE 82, WISCONSIN 49

MADISON, Wis. — Maggie Lucas scored 18 points to lead Penn State over Wisconsin.

Lucas led a balanced attack for the Nittany Lions (11-3, 1-1 Big Ten) with Nikki Greene adding 14 points and Mia Nickson with 10 points and 14 rebounds.



Duane A. Laverty/AP

Texas A&M's Naji Hibbert, left, pressures Baylor's Quincy Miller (30) in the second half Monday in Waco. Baylor won, 61-52.

BAYLOR

From 1C

Jones III said. "We just tried to match their intensity and their physicality."

Jones and Acy (14 and 13 points, respectively) led four Baylor players scoring in double digits in the Bears' typical well-rounded offensive effort. Baylor also blocked eight shots, including three by Acy, in adding to the Aggies' awe. A&M shot a season low in field-goal percentage (28.6), topping its previous worst effort (39 percent in a loss to Rice) by a long shot.

"Any time you play A&M, you're in for a hard fought game," Drew said. "Both teams are great defensively, and I was really proud of our defensive effort. A&M missed some shots it usually doesn't miss, but we were pretty active defensively contesting shots."

While Acy is imploring his teammates to ignore as much, the Bears own the school's first 14-game winning streak in history, and Baylor has won four straight against the Aggies in Waco.

"The atmosphere was live," Baylor freshman forward Quincy Miller, whose eight rebounds were second only to Jones' game-high 12, said of competing in his first Big 12 game. "That will help me be more mentally prepared for the next one."

Drew meanwhile is urging his players to mirror Acy's mentality regarding their early success.

"We have good upperclassmen leadership, and we know rankings are a nice compliment," Drew said. "But the only thing that matters is how you finish."

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM 2011 Reader's Choice Award GOLD
Award Winner
Town & Country Barber Shop
Favorite Barber Shop

NFL

NFL Playoff Glance
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 7
Cincinnati at Houston, 3:30 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 8
Atlanta at New York Giants, noon
Pittsburgh at Denver, 3:30 p.m.
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
Atlanta, NY Giants or New Orleans at San Francisco, 3:30 p.m.
Cincinnati, Pittsburgh or Denver at New England, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 15
Pittsburgh, Denver or Houston at Baltimore, Noon
Detroit, Atlanta or N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 3:30 p.m.

NFL Draft Order
At New York
April 26-28
First Round
1. Indianapolis Colts
2. St. Louis Rams
3. Minnesota Vikings
4. Cleveland Browns
5. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
6. Washington Redskins
7. Jacksonville Jaguars
8. Carolina Panthers-x
9. Miami Dolphins-x
10. Buffalo Bills
11. Kansas City Chiefs-x
12. Seattle Seahawks-x
13. Arizona Cardinals
14. Dallas Cowboys
15. Philadelphia Eagles
16. New York Jets
17. Oakland Raiders (belongs to Cleveland)
18. San Diego Chargers
19. Chicago Bears
20. Tennessee Titans
21. Denver Broncos-y
22. Cincinnati Bengals-y
23. New York Giants-y
24. Houston Texans-y
25. Atlanta Falcons-y
26. Detroit Lions-y
27. Baltimore Ravens-y
28. Pittsburgh Steelers-y
29. New Orleans Saints-y (belongs to New England)
30. New England Patriots-y-x
31. San Francisco 49ers-y-x
32. Green Bay Packers-y
x-Subject to coin flip
y-Subject to playoffs

2012 NFL Opponents
(Dates to be determined)
Dallas Cowboys
Home: New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Redskins, New Orleans Saints, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Chicago Bears, Cleveland Browns, Pittsburgh Steelers
Away: New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Redskins, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers, Seattle Seahawks, Baltimore Ravens, Cincinnati Bengals
Houston Texans
Home: Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Tennessee Titans, Buffalo Bills, Miami Dolphins, Baltimore Ravens, Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings
Away: Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Tennessee Titans, New England Patriots, New York Jets, Denver Broncos, Chicago Bears, Detroit Lions

NFL Coaching Changes
2011 Season
KANSAS CITY — Todd Haley, fired, Dec. 12; Romeo Crennel (interim)
JACKSONVILLE — Jack Del Rio, fired, Nov. 29; Mel Tucker (interim)
MIAMI — Tony Sparano, fired, Dec. 12; Todd Bowles (interim)
ST LOUIS — Steve Spagnuolo, fired, Jan. 2
TAMPA BAY — Raheem Morris, fired, Jan. 2

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y Rangers	37	24	9	4	52	110	79
Philadelphia	37	22	11	4	48	125	109
Pittsburgh	38	21	13	4	46	121	100
New Jersey	38	21	15	2	44	105	106
N.Y Islanders	36	13	17	6	32	84	113

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	35	24	10	1	49	123	68
Ottawa	40	20	15	5	45	123	135
Toronto	38	18	15	5	41	118	125
Buffalo	38	17	17	4	38	100	112
Montreal	39	14	18	7	35	99	110

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	35	20	12	7	47	103	107
Winnipeg	38	19	14	5	43	104	107
Washington	37	20	15	2	42	111	109
Tampa Bay	37	17	17	3	37	104	122
Carolina	40	13	21	6	32	103	135

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	39	24	11	4	52	128	111
Detroit	38	24	13	1	49	123	84
St Louis	38	21	12	5	47	95	85
Nashville	39	21	14	4	46	105	108
Columbus	38	10	23	5	25	93	128

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	40	24	13	3	51	131	99
Minnesota	40	21	13	6	48	95	95
Colorado	40	21	18	1	43	108	115
Calgary	40	18	17	5	41	99	111
Edmonton	38	16	19	3	35	104	107

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	35	20	11	4	44	102	85
Los Angeles	39	19	14	6	44	86	90
Dallas	37	21	15	1	43	100	107
Phoenix	39	19	16	4	42	102	103
Anaheim	37	10	21	6	26	87	124

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

Monday's Scores
San Jose 3, Vancouver 2, SO
N.Y Rangers 3, Philadelphia 2
Ottawa 3, New Jersey 2, OT
Edmonton 4, Chicago 3
Colorado at Los Angeles, late
Today's Games
Edmonton at Buffalo, 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 6 p.m.
Calgary at Washington, 6 p.m.
N.Y Islanders at Carolina, 6 p.m.
Phoenix at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 7 p.m.

MONDAY'S SUMMARIES
OILERS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3

Edmonton	0	2	1	— 4
Chicago	1	1	1	— 3

First Period—1, Chicago, J Toews 22 (Carcillo), 12:54.
Second Period—2, Edmonton, Smyth 15 (Horcoff, Hall), 7:39 (pp). 3, Edmonton, Hall 11 (Eberle, Potter), 11:00 (pp). 4, Chicago, Brunette 9 (Hjalmarsson, Kane), 12:39. 5, Edmonton, Sutton 2 (Eberle, Smyth), 16:23.
Third Period—6, Edmonton, Eager 3 (Petry), 8:17. 7, Chicago, Hayes 1 (Bickell, Mayers), 16:11.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 11-13-6—30. Chicago 10-9-23—42.
Goalies—Edmonton, Dubnyk. Chicago, Crawford. A—21,216 (19,717). T—2:22.

SHARKS 3, CANUCKS 2, SO

San Jose	0	2	0	0 — 3
Vancouver	1	0	1	0 — 2

San Jose won shootout 1-0
First Period—1, Vancouver, Hansen 12 (Hodgson), 15:42.
Second Period—2, San Jose, Ferraro 3 (Clowe, Couture), 1:34. 3, San Jose, Marleau 14 (Braun, Pavelski), 10:32.
Third Period—4, Vancouver, Hodgson 9 (Hamhuis, Bieksa), 11:35 (pp).
Overtime—None.
Shootout—San Jose 1 (Clowe NG, Pavelski NG, Handzus G). Vancouver 0 (Burrows NG, Hodgson NG, Kesler NG).
Shots on Goal—San Jose 7-17-9-2—35. Vancouver 9-7-11-2—29.
Goalies—San Jose, Niemi. Vancouver, Luongo. A—18,890 (18,810). T—2:39.

SENATORS 3, DEVILS 2

New Jersey	0	2	0	0 — 2
Ottawa	0	0	2	1 — 3

First Period—None.
Second Period—1, New Jersey, Zubrus 11 (Sykora), 7:47. 2, New Jersey, Clarkson 14 (Zajac, Tedenby), 14:18.
Third Period—3, Ottawa, Spezza 14 (Karlsson, C.Anderson), 1:21. 4, Ottawa, Condra 7 (Kuba), 13:17 (sh).
Overtime—5, Ottawa, Alfredsson 12 (Karlsson, Spezza), 4:00 (pp).
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 9-9-8-3—29. Ottawa 9-9-10-4—32.
Goalies—New Jersey, Brodeur. Ottawa, C.Anderson. A—19,573 (19,153). T—2:38.

RANGERS 3, FLYERS 2

N.Y. Rangers	0	1	2	3
Philadelphia	0	2	0	2

First Period—None.
Second Period—1, Philadelphia, Schenn 1 (Carter), 12:26. 2, Philadelphia, Gagne 10 (M.Talbot, Hartnell), 14:21. 3, N.Y. Rangers, Rupp 2 (Prust, Mitchell), 16:51.
Third Period—4, N.Y. Rangers, Rupp 3 (Prust, Mitchell), 2:41. 5, N.Y Rangers, Richards 14 (Dubinsky, Callahan), 5:21.
Missed Penalty Shot—Briere, Phi, 19:40 third.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 9-8-16—33. Philadelphia 12-14-10—36.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist. Philadelphia, Bobrovsky. A—46,262 (43,651). T—2:50.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ROSE BOWL
No. 6 OREGON 45, No. 9 WISCONSIN 38

Wisconsin	14	10	7	7 — 38
Oregon	14	16	7	10 — 45

First Quarter
Wis—Abbrederis 36 pass from Wilson (Welch kick), 11:48.
Ore—James 1 run (Maldonado kick), 9:41.
Wis—Wilson 4 run (Welch kick), 5:55.
Ore—Da.Thomas 91 run (Maldonado kick), :00.
Second Quarter
Wis—M.Bell 3 run (Welch kick), 10:52.
Ore—Barner 54 pass from Da.Thomas (Maldonado kick), 10:36.
Wis—Nzeginu 33 fumble return (Welch kick), 3:26.
Ore—Tuinei 3 pass from Da.Thomas (Maldonado kick), :30.
Third Quarter
Ore—Da.Thomas 64 run (Maldonado kick), 14:11.
Wis—FG Welch 29, 10:50.
Wis—Toon 18 pass from Wilson (Welch kick), 4:44.
Fourth Quarter
Ore—Tuinei 5 pass from Da.Thomas (Maldonado kick), 14:35.
Ore—FG Maldonado 30, 6:50.
A—91,245.

	Wis	Ore
First downs	23	22
Rushes-yards	46-212	40-345
Passing	296	276
Comp-Att-Int	19-26-1	18-24-1
Return Yards	44	4
Punts-Avg.	2-44.5	3-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	3-20	7-56
Time of Possession	35:42	24:18

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Wisconsin, M.Bell 32-164, White 8-30, Wilson 6-18. Oregon, James 25-159, Da.Thomas 2-155, Barner 7-30, Da.Thomas 6-1.
PASSING—Wisconsin, Wilson 19-25-1-296. Team 0-1-0-0. Oregon, Da.Thomas 17-23-1-268, Bennett 1-1-0-8.
RECEIVING—Wisconsin, Toon 9-104, Abbrederis 4-119, M.Bell 4-51, Pedersen 1-17, Ewing 1-5. Oregon, Tuinei 8-158, Da.Thomas 4-34, Barner 2-52, Huff 2-14, Paulson 1-10, Da.Thomas 1-8.

Rose Bowl Winners
Jan. 2, 2012—Oregon 45, Wisconsin 38
Jan. 1, 2011—TCU 21, Wisconsin 19
Jan. 1, 2010—Ohio State 26, Oregon 17
Jan. 1, 2009—Southern Cal 38, Penn State 24
Jan. 1, 2008—Southern Cal 49, Illinois 17
Jan. 1, 2007—Southern Cal 32, Michigan 18
Jan. 4, 2006—Texas 41, Southern Cal 38
Jan. 1, 2005—Texas 38, Michigan 37
Jan. 1, 2004—Southern Cal 28, Michigan 14
Jan. 1, 2003—Oklahoma 34, Washington State 14
Jan. 3, 2002—Miami 37, Nebraska 14
Jan. 1, 2001—Washington 34, Purdue 24
Jan. 1, 2000—Wisconsin 17, Stanford 9
Jan. 1, 1999—Wisconsin 38, UCLA 31
Jan. 1, 1998—Michigan 21, Washington State 17
Jan. 1, 1997—Ohio State 20, Arizona State 17
Jan. 1, 1996—Southern Cal 41, Northwestern 32
Jan. 2, 1995—Penn State 38, Oregon 20
Jan. 1, 1994—Wisconsin 21, UCLA 16
Jan. 1, 1993—Michigan 38, Washington 31
Jan. 1, 1992—Washington 46, Iowa 34
Jan. 1, 1990—Southern Cal 17, Michigan 10
Jan. 2, 1989—Michigan 22, Southern Cal 14
Jan. 1, 1988—Michigan State 20, Southern Cal 17
Jan. 1, 1987—Arizona State 22, Michigan 15
Jan. 1, 1986—UCLA 45, Iowa 28
Jan. 1, 1985—Southern Cal 20, Ohio State 17
Jan. 2, 1984—UCLA 45, Illinois 9
Jan. 1, 1983—UCLA 24, Michigan 14
Jan. 1, 1982—Washington 28, Iowa 0
Jan. 1, 1981—Michigan 23, Washington 6
Jan. 1, 1980—Southern Cal 17, Ohio State 16
Jan. 1, 1979—Southern Cal 17, Michigan 10
Jan. 2, 1978—Washington 27, Michigan 20
Jan. 1, 1977—Southern Cal 14, Michigan 6
Jan. 1, 1976—UCLA 23, Ohio State 10
Jan. 1, 1975—Southern Cal 18, Ohio State 17
Jan. 1, 1974—Ohio State 42, Southern Cal 21
Jan. 1, 1973—Southern Cal 42, Ohio State 17
Jan. 1, 1972—Stanford 13, Michigan 12
Jan. 1, 1971—Stanford 27, Ohio State 17
Jan. 1, 1970—Southern Cal 10, Michigan 3
Jan. 1, 1969—Ohio State 27, Southern Cal 16
Jan. 1, 1968—Southern Cal 14, Indiana 3
Jan. 2, 1967—Purdue 14, Southern Cal 13
Jan. 1, 1966—UCLA 14, Michigan State 12
Jan. 1, 1965—Michigan 34, Oregon State 7
Jan. 1, 1964—Illinois 17, Washington 7
Jan. 1, 1963—Southern Cal 42, Wisconsin 37
Jan. 2, 1962—Minnesota 21, UCLA 3
Jan. 2, 1961—Washington 17, Minnesota 7
Jan. 1, 1960—Washington 44, Wisconsin 8
Jan. 1, 1959—Iowa 38, California 12
Jan. 1, 1958—Ohio State 10, Oregon 7
Jan. 1, 1957—Iowa 35, Oregon State 19
Jan. 2, 1956—Michigan State 17, UCLA 14
Jan. 1, 1955—Ohio State 20, Southern Cal 7
Jan. 1, 1954—Michigan State 28, UCLA 20
Jan. 1, 1953—Southern Cal 7, Wisconsin 0

GATOR BOWL
FLORIDA 24, OHIO ST. 17

Ohio St.	0	10	0	7 — 17
Florida	7	0	7	10 — 24

First Quarter
Fla—Thompson 17 pass from Brantley (Sturgis kick), :56.
Second Quarter
OSU—Posey 5 pass from B.Miller (Basil kick), 11:25.
Fla—Debose 99 kickoff return (Sturgis kick), 11:13.
OSU—FG Basil 37, :15.
Third Quarter
Fla—Stewart 14 blocked punt return (Sturgis kick), 14:09.
Fourth Quarter
Fla—FG Sturgis 17, 14:09.
OSU—J.Hall 11 pass from B.Miller (Basil kick), :57.
A—61,312.

	OSU	Fla
First downs	20	20
Rushes-yards	37-137	38-131
Passing	162	132
Comp-Att-Int	18-23-0	12-16-1
Return Yards	0	45
Punts-Avg.	5-47.2	3-37.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	2-2
Penalties-Yards	4-25	7-74
Time of Possession	32:21	27:39

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Ohio St., Herron 12-82, J.Hall 4-24, B.Miller 15-20, Hyde 5-17, Posey 1-(minus 6). Florida, Harty 16-71, Demps 7-30, T.Burton 4-23, Gillislee 5-15, Joyer 1-0, Brantley 2-(minus 3), Team 3-(minus 5).
PASSING—Ohio St., B.Miller 18-23-0-162. Florida, Brantley 12-16-1-132.
RECEIVING—Ohio St., Posey 5-38, Herron 4-31, Hyde 3-12, D.Smith 2-47, Hagenow 1-25, Fields 1-13, Boren 1-8, Hyde 1-8. Florida, Rainey 3-31, Hines 2-40, Thompson 2-27, Debose 1-8, Harty 1-8, Demps 1-7, Dunbar 1-6, Leonard 1-4.

Gator Bowl Winners
Jan. 2, 2012—Florida 24, Ohio St. 17
Jan. 1, 2011—Mississippi St 52, Michigan 14
Jan. 1, 2010—Florida St. 33, West Virginia 21
Jan. 1, 2009—Nebraska 26, Clemson 21
Jan. 1, 2008—Texas Tech 31, Virginia 28
Jan. 1, 2007—West Virginia 38, Georgia Tech 35
Jan. 2, 2006—Virginia Tech 35, Louisville 24
Jan. 1, 2005—Florida St. 30, West Virginia 18
Jan. 1, 2004—Maryland 41, West Virginia 7
Jan. 1, 2003—N.C. State 28, Notre Dame 6
Jan. 1, 2002—Florida St. 30, Virginia Tech 7
Jan. 1, 2001—Virginia Tech 41, Clemson 20
Jan. 1, 2000—Miami 28, Georgia Tech 13
Jan. 1, 1999—Georgia Tech 35, Notre Dame 28
Jan. 1, 1998—North Carolina 42, Virginia Tech 3
Jan. 1, 1997—North Carolina 20, West Virginia 13
Jan. 1, 1996—Syracuse 41, Clemson 0
Dec. 30, 1994—Tennessee 45, Virginia Tech 23
Dec. 31, 1993—Alabama 24, North Carolina 10
Dec. 31, 1992—Florida 27, North Carolina State 10
Dec. 29, 1991—Oklahoma 48, Virginia 14
Jan. 1, 1991—Michigan 35, Mississippi 3
Dec. 30, 1989—Clemson 27, West Virginia 7
Jan. 1, 1989—Georgia 34, Michigan St 27
Dec. 31, 1987—Louisiana St. 30, South Carolina 13
Dec. 27, 1986—Clemson 27, Stanford 21
Dec. 30, 1985—Florida St. 34, Oklahoma St. 23
Dec. 28, 1984—Oklahoma St. 21, South Carolina 14
Dec. 30, 1983—Florida 14, Iowa 6
Dec. 30, 1982—Florida St. 31, West Virginia 12
Dec. 28, 1981—North Carolina 31, Arkansas 27
Dec. 29, 1980—Pittsburgh 37, South Carolina 9
Dec. 28, 1979—North Carolina 17, Michigan 15
Dec. 29, 1978—Clemson 17, Ohio St 15
Dec. 30, 1977—Pittsburgh 34, Clemson 3
Dec. 27, 1976—Notre Dame 20, Penn St 9
Dec. 29, 1975—Maryland 13, Florida 0
Dec. 30, 1974—Auburn 27, Texas 3
Dec. 29, 1973—Texas Tech 28, Tennessee 19
Dec. 30, 1972—Auburn 24, Colorado 3
Dec. 31, 1971—Georgia 7, North Carolina 3
Jan. 2, 1971—Auburn 35, Mississippi 28
Dec. 27, 1969—Florida 14, Tennessee 13
Dec. 28, 1968—Missouri 35, Alabama 10
Dec. 30, 1967—Penn St. 17, Florida St. 17
Dec. 31, 1966—Tennessee 18, Syracuse 12
Dec. 31, 1965—Georgia Tech 31, Texas Tech 21
Jan. 2, 1965—Florida St. 36, Oklahoma 19
Dec. 28, 1963—North Carolina 35, Air Force 0
Dec. 29, 1962—Florida 17, Penn St 7
Dec. 30, 1961—Penn St. 30, Georgia Tech 15
Dec. 31, 1960—Florida 13, Baylor 12
Jan. 2, 1960—Arkansas 14, Georgia Tech 7
Dec. 27, 1958—Mississippi 7, Florida 3
Dec. 28, 1957—Tennessee 3, Texas A&M 0
Dec. 29, 1956—Georgia Tech 21, Pittsburgh 14
Dec. 31, 1955—Vanderbilt 25, Auburn 13
Dec. 31, 1954—Texas Tech 35, Auburn 13
Jan. 1, 1954—Auburn 33, Baylor 13
Jan. 1, 1953—Florida 14, Tulsa 13
Jan. 1, 1952—Miami 14, Clemson 0
Jan. 1, 1951—Wyoming 20, Washington & Lee 7
Jan. 2, 1950—Maryland 20, Missouri 7
Jan. 1, 1949—Clemson 24, Missouri 23
Jan. 1, 1948—Maryland 20, Georgia 20
Jan. 1, 1947—Oklahoma 34, North Carolina St. 13
Jan. 1, 1946—Wake Forest 26, South Carolina 14

No. 10 SOUTH CAROLINA 30, No. 21 NEBRASKA 13

Nebraska	13	0	0	0 — 13
South Carolina	7	7	14	— 30

First Quarter
Neb—K.Bell 30 pass from Martinez (kick blocked), 11:58.
SC—S.Shaw 1 run (Wooten kick), 6:04.
Neb—Abdullah 1 run (Meller kick), 3:33.
Second Quarter
SC—A.Jeffery 51 pass from C.Shaw (Wooten kick), :00.
Fourth Quarter
SC—Miles 9 pass from C.Shaw (Wooten kick), 12:25.
SC—Miles 3 run (Wooten kick), 3:05.
A—61,351.

	Neb	SC
First downs	17	16
Rushes-yards	46-137	40-121
Passing	116	230
Comp-Att-Int	10-16-1	11-17-0
Return Yards	(-1)	22
Punts-Avg.	5-39.4	5-39.4
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	10-58	6-66
Time of Possession	30:49	29:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Nebraska, Burkhead 23-89, Martinez 16-37, K.Bell 1-14, Marlowe 1-6, Abdullah 4-(minus 1), Reed 1-(minus 8). South Carolina, Miles 15-67, C.Shaw 19-42, A.Sanders 3-15, Byrd 1-3, Team 2-(minus 6).
PASSING—Nebraska, Martinez 10-16-1-116. South Carolina, C.Shaw 11-17-0-230.
RECEIVING—Nebraska, Burkhead 5-35, K.Bell 3-53, B.Cotton 1-22, Lunt 1-6. South Carolina, A.Jeffery 4-148, A.Sanders 3-45, Miles 2-13, Anderson 1-21, Cunningham 1-3.

TICKETCITY BOWL
No. 20 HOUSTON 30, No. 24 PENN ST. 14

Houston	17	7	3	— 30
Penn St.	0	7	7	0 — 14

First Quarter
Hou—Edwards 40 pass from Keenum (M.Hogan kick), 13:08.
Hou—FG M.Hogan 35, 9:12.
Hou—J.Johnson 8 pass from Keenum (M.Hogan kick), 2:35.
Second Quarter
PSU—Green 6 run (Fera kick), 5:57.
Hou—FG M.Hogan 38, 4:21.
PSU—Brown 69 pass from Bolden (Fera kick), 2:38.
Fourth Quarter
Hou—FG M.Hogan 22, 14:52.
A—46,817.

	Hou	PSU
First downs	25	14
Rushes-yards	16-68	44-169
Passing	532	137
Comp-Att-Int	45-69-0	7-27-3
Return Yards	19	47
Punts-Avg.	6-42.5	5-41.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-Yards	6-55	6-55
Time of Possession	27:49	32:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Houston, C.Sims 6-39. Hayes 2-20, Keenum 7-10, Team 1-(minus 1). Penn State, Green 15-63, Bolden 14-53, Belton 5-38, Golden 6-16, De.Smith 2-0, Team 1-(minus 1).
PASSING—Houston, Keenum 45-69-0-532. Penn St., Bolden 7-26-3-137, Belton 0-1-0-0.
RECEIVING—Houston, J.Johnson 12-148, Edwards 10-228, Gamsky 9-44, Ron Williams 6-58, C.Sims 5-30, E.Smith 2-13, Hayes 1-11. Penn St., De.Smith 2-49, Green 2-6, Brown 1-69, Hapeta 1-12, Suhey 1-1.

Houston Bowl History
Record: 9-11-1
Jan. 2, 2012 TicketCity Bowl—Houston 30, Penn St. 14
Dec. 31, 2009 Armed Forces Bowl—Air Force 47, Houston 20
Dec. 31, 2008 Armed Forces Bowl—Houston 34, Air Force 28
Dec. 28, 2007 Texas Bowl—TCU 20, Houston 13
Dec. 29, 2006 Liberty Bowl—South Carolina 44, Houston 36
Dec. 23, 2005 Forth Worth Bowl—Kansas 42, Houston 13
Dec. 25, 2003 Hawai`i Bowl—Hawai`i 54, Houston 48, 3OT
Dec. 27, 1996 Liberty Bowl—Syracuse 30, Houston 17
Dec. 25, 1988 Aloha Bowl—Washington 34, Houston 22
Jan. 1, 1985 Cotton Bowl—Boston College 45, Houston 28
Dec. 26, 1981 Sun Bowl—Oklahoma 40, Houston 14
Dec. 14, 1980 Garden State Bowl—Houston 35, Navy 0
Jan. 1, 1980 Cotton Bowl—Houston 17, Nebraska 14
Jan. 1, 1979 Cotton Bowl—Notre Dame 35, Houston 34
Jan. 1, 1977 Cotton Bowl—Houston 30, Maryland 21
Dec. 23, 1974 Bluebonnet Bowl—Houston 31, N.C. State 31, tie
Dec. 29, 1973 Bluebonnet Bowl—Houston 47, Tulane 7
Dec. 31, 1971 Bluebonnet Bowl—Colorado 29, Houston 17
Dec. 31, 1969 Bluebonnet Bowl—Houston 36, Auburn 7
Dec. 22, 1962 Tangerine Bowl—Houston 49, Miami (Ohio) 21
Jan. 1, 1952 Salad Bowl—Houston 26, Dayton 21

TicketCity Bowl Winners
Jan. 2, 2012 — Houston 30, Penn St. 14
Jan. 1, 2011 — Texas Tech 45, Northwestern 38

NBA

Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	2	2	.500	—
Boston	3	3	.500	—
Toronto	2	3	.400	1/2
New York	2	3	.400	1/2
New Jersey	1	5	.167	2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	5	1	.833	—
Atlanta	4	1	.800	1/2
Orlando	4	2	.667	1
Charlotte	1	3	.250	3
Washington	0	5	.000	4 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	4	1	.800	—
Chicago	4	1	.800	—
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Detroit	2	3	.400	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	3	2	.600	—
Houston	2	2	.500	1/2
New Orleans	2	3	.400	1
Dallas	2	4	.333	1 1/2
Memphis	1	4	.200	2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	5	1	.833	—
Portland	3	1	.750	1
Denver	4	2	.667	1
Minnesota	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Utah	2	3	.400	2 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	2	2	.500	—
L.A. Lakers	3	3	.500	—
Phoenix	2	3	.400	1/2
Sacramento	2	3	.400	1/2
Golden State	2	3	.400	1/2

Monday's Scores
Phoenix 102, Golden State 91
Boston 100, Washington 92
Indiana 108, New Jersey 94
Detroit 89, Orlando 78
Atlanta 100, Miami 92
Denver 91, Milwaukee 88
Minnesota 106, San Antonio 96
Dallas 100, Oklahoma City 87
Utah 94, New Orleans 90
Today's Games
Charlotte at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Portland at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Memphis, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Utah, 8 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Cleveland at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
Houston at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY'S BOXES
MAVERICKS 100, THUNDER 87
OKLAHOMA CITY (87) Durant 10-21 4-7 27, Ibaka 4-10 2-2 10, Perkins 1-3 5-6 7, Westbrook 8-20 2-4 18, Sefolosha 0-1 0-0 0, Collison 0-0 0-0 0, Harden 5-11 5-5 16, Maynor 3-4 2-2 9, Hayward 0-4 0-0 0, Mohammed 0-0 0-0 0, Jackson 0-3 0-0 0, Aldrich 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-77 20-26 87
DALLAS (100) Marion 8-17 0-0 17, Nowitzki 10-16 5-6 26, Haywood 3-6 0-0 6, Kidd 0-1 1-0 0, West 2-5 0-0 4, Carter 3-9 8-9 14, Odom 2-4 5-8 - Terry 6-12 0-0 15, Marion 5-8 0-0 10, Beaubois 0-0 0-0 0, Cardinal 0-2 0-0 0. Jones 0-0 0-0 0. Total 39-80 17-20 100
Oklahoma City 29 27 17 22 — 87
Dallas 20 34 24 22 — 100
3-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 5-19 (Durant 3-6, Maynor 1-2, Harden 1-5, Sefolosha 0-1, Westbrook 0-2, Jackson 0-3), Dallas 5-16 (Terry 3-5, Marion 1-2, Nowitzki 1-5, West 0-1, Odom 0-1, Cardinal 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 51 (Westbrook, Ibaka 8), Dallas 45 (Mahimni 9). Assists—Oklahoma City 12 (Westbrook, Harden 3), Dallas 21 (Kidd 9). Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 17, Dallas 23. Technicals—Westbrook. A—20,108 (19,200).

TIMBERWOLVES 106, SPURS 96
SAN ANTONIO (96) Jefferson 6-10 0-0 16, Duncan 7-12 2-2 16, Blair 2-9 2-2 6, Parker 3-11 5-6 11, Ginobili 3-6 1-1 8, Splitter 5-7 2-4 12, Leonard 2-6 2-2 6, Anderson 1-6 1-2 4, Ford 2-3 0-0 4, Bonner 2-6 0-0 4. Green 3-6 2-2 9. Totals 36-82 17-21 96
MINNESOTA (106) Beasley 8-15 1-2 19, Love 8-15 4-5 24, Millsic 5-9 0-0 10, Ridnour 7-10 3-4 19, Johnson 5-6 0-0 14, Rubio 3-8 0-0 6, Ellington 0-2 2-2 2, Tolliver 1-3 2-2 5, Williams 3 3-0 0-7. Totals 41-71 12-15 106
San Antonio 25 34 21 16 — 96
Minnesota 35 31 28 12 — 106
3-Point Goals—San Antonio 7-20 (Jefferson 4-7, Green 1-2, Ginobili 1-3, Anderson 1-5, Bonner 0-3). Minnesota 12-21 (Love 4-9, Johnson 2-2, Beasley 2-2, Ridnour 2-3, Williams 1-1, Tolliver 1-2, Rubio 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 39 (Bonner 6), Minnesota 44 (Love 15). Assists—San Antonio 17 (Parker 9), Minnesota 28 (Ridnour 9). Total Fouls—San Antonio 15, Minnesota 18. A—14,514 (19,356).

RAPTORS 90, KNICKS 85
TORONTO (90) Butler 5-12 0-0 13, Bargnani 7-13 7-8 21, A.Johnson 2-4 1-2 5, Calderon 3-8 2-2 9, DeRozan 7-13 5-6 21, Mapp 0-2 0-2 0, J.Johnson 2-4 0-0 5, E.Davis 1-5 0-0 2, Carter 1-2 2-2 4, Barbosa 2-5 6-7 10. Totals 30-68 23-29 90
NEW YORK (85) Anthony 13-31 5-8 35, Harrellson 0-4 2-2 2, Chandler 3-4 5-6 11, Douglas 8-19 2-3 22, Fields 1-7 3-4 5, Hollosky 2-6 2-2 7, Bibby 0-3 0-0 0, Novak 1-3 0-0 3, Jordan 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 28-78 19-25 85.
Toronto 22 29 16 23 — 90
New York 23 11 24 27 — 85
3-Point Goals—Toronto 7-17 (Butler 3-7, DeRozan 2-2, J.Johnson 1-1, Calderon 1-4, Barbosa 0-1, Bargnani 0-1), New York 10-35 (Anthony 4-9, Douglas 4-11, Walker 1-3, Novak 1-3, Fields 0-2, Bibby 0-3, Harrellson 0-4). Fouled Out—None.

Time to peak, playoffs are here

Commentary

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

The way the Green Bay Packers blew through the regular season, it would be foolish to pick against them repeating as Super Bowl champions.

Yet they aren't on the hottest streak nor playing the best football as January rolls around. And as the Steelers, Giants and, yes, the Packers have proven in recent years, being a wild card isn't an overbearing burden, so don't dismiss Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Detroit or Atlanta entirely.

New England, the top seed in the AFC with a 13-3 record, and New Orleans, No. 3 in the NFC, haven't lost in the second half of the schedule. Like Green Bay (15-1), both have dynamic, sometimes unstoppable offenses led by magnificent quarterbacks, bolstered by a deep and dangerous group of receivers.

All three also have so-so defenses that often require Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees and Tom Brady to win shootouts. That's a difficult way to prosper in the postseason, particularly when playing against a rugged, versatile defense such as the 49ers, Ravens and Texans possess.

"A lot of it is working on what we need to work on; working on things that have been a problem for us, that if they come up again we need to handle better," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said, not mentioning in particular a penchant for falling into deep holes. New England rallied from 17-0 and 21-0 deficits to win its past two games.

Remember, also, that New England has lost its past three postseason games, including at home to the Ravens and Jets the past two years.

Behind Brees' record-setting performances, the Saints soared past all eight opponents at home, but if they can handle the Lions next Saturday night in the Superdome, then they must head to San Francisco. And if they get by the formidable Niners, who rode a stingy, big-play defense to a 13-3 mark, a date at potentially frigid Lambeau Field is likely.

That is, if the Giants don't start partying like it's 2007. They were seeded fifth that year, but closed the regular season with a close loss to unbeaten New England. Then the Giants knocked off division winners Tampa Bay, Dallas and Green Bay before shocking the Patriots for the championship.

New York won three of its last four, including impressive defensive efforts in wins over the Jets and Cowboys to grab the NFC East title. Defense was an issue for much of the season, but with the pass rush suddenly reborn, the Giants can be dangerous.

"Different guys, different teams. I'd love to have the same ending as the '07 team," Giants guard Chris Snee said. "We certainly have the capability of doing that, as we have shown. I'm happy just to be in the playoffs. We'll take it from there. I don't spend too much time reminiscing about that glorious time in our life."

Baltimore, like New Orleans and Green Bay, went 8-0 at home and is an entirely different team on the road (4-4). Still, with some help from outside — ironically, the AFC North rival Steelers are the most likely to provide it — the Ravens might not have to leave the Inner Harbor to get to Indianapolis in February.

Ah, the Steelers. The loss of running back Rashard Mendenhall to a torn right knee ligament is particularly damaging for a veteran team that has been to the Super Bowl three times in the past six seasons, winning twice.

Pittsburgh was the only contender not to lose to a weak team, falling twice to Baltimore, and to San Francisco and Houston. The Steelers won seven of their last eight as their supposedly aged defense looked fresh and frugal.

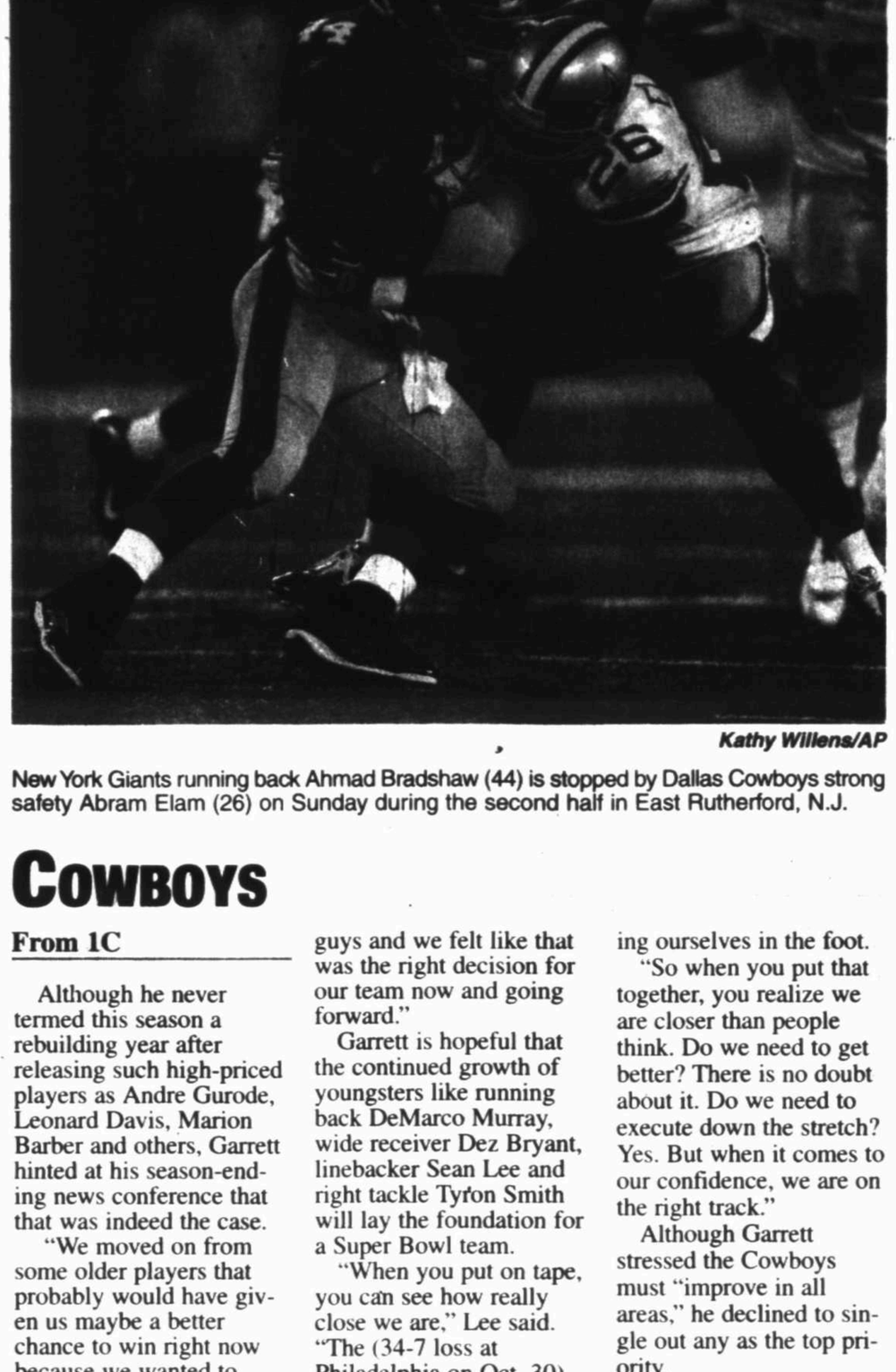
"We have a lot of veterans who know what January football is all about," said safety Ryan Clark. "Now's the time to go play it.

"Now we have to go and play better on the road," he added of Sunday's game in Denver. "I believe this team can win anywhere."

When a team is peaking, that certainly is true. The Steelers (2005) and Packers (2010) got going in December and carried their superb play right through the postseason.

Unfortunately for some playoff qualifiers, their recent performances spell early exit.

The banged-up Texans (10-6) lost their final three games, are playing a rookie, third-string quarterback, and have never been in the playoffs. Their opponent Saturday is Cincinnati (9-7), loser of three of its past five, backing into the postseason thanks to other team's defeats in their finales.



Kathy Willens/AP

New York Giants running back Ahmad Bradshaw (44) is stopped by Dallas Cowboys strong safety Abram Elam (26) on Sunday during the second half in East Rutherford, N.J.

COWBOYS

From 1C

Although he never termed this season a rebuilding year after releasing such high-priced players as Andre Gurode, Leonard Davis, Marion Barber and others, Garrett hinted at his season-ending news conference that that was indeed the case.

"We moved on from some older players that probably would have given us maybe a better chance to win right now because we wanted to take it in a different direction," Garrett said. "We did that for a lot of reasons....Those aren't easy decisions to make. We went with some younger guys and we felt like that was the right decision for our team now and going forward."

Garrett is hopeful that the continued growth of youngsters like running back DeMarco Murray, wide receiver Dez Bryant, linebacker Sean Lee and right tackle Tyron Smith will lay the foundation for a Super Bowl team.

"When you put on tape, you can see how really close we are," Lee said. "The (34-7 loss at Philadelphia on Oct. 30) was the only game we really weren't in. You look at every other game and we had an opportunity to win them. Some of the times it was us shooting ourselves in the foot.

"So when you put that together, you realize we are closer than people think. Do we need to get better? There is no doubt about it. Do we need to execute down the stretch? Yes. But when it comes to our confidence, we are on the right track."

Although Garrett stressed the Cowboys must "improve in all areas," he declined to single out any as the top priority.

"I just believe we have to get better across the board," Garrett said. "We'll evaluate each player, the schemes we use and try to get better."

TEXANS

From 1C

to Matt Schaub (right foot) and Matt Leinart (broken left collarbone), guiding the Texans to narrow victories over Atlanta and the Bengals to clinch the division.

In Cincinnati on Dec. 11, Yates engineered two long scoring drives in the fourth quarter, rallying Houston for a 20-19 win. Yates struggled in the next two games and played only one series Sunday, but Kubiak says he still has enough confidence to play him over veteran Jake Delhomme.

"He's very young and this is a big, big game," Kubiak said. "But he's the best guy for our team, and if he's able to go and do the things we need him to do in practice, then we'll turn him loose and let him go."

Delhomme, signed out of retirement in late November, relieved Yates on Sunday and completed 18 of 28 passes for 211 yards without an interception.

The 36-year-old Delhomme was seeing his first action since December 2010, when he played for Cleveland. He's one of only a handful of current Texans with playoff experience and the only one who's already played in a postseason game at Reliant Stadium.

Delhomme guided Carolina to its only Super Bowl in February 2004, when the Panthers played Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. Delhomme threw for 323 yards and three touchdowns in the Panthers' 32-29 loss.

The Panthers had only one postseason victory in their history before that Super Bowl season, and Delhomme thinks inexperience could actually work to Houston's advantage.

"When you don't know any better, to me, that's a great thing," Delhomme said. "If you play well during the season and prepare well, obviously you're one of the better teams at the end of the year. So we just knew that if we just did what we did week in and week out, it would work."

The 2003 Panthers won their last three games, but they lost three in a row just before that, so Delhomme isn't a big believer in needing momentum.

"This is a young, hungry football team that works," Delhomme said of the Texans. "I know I haven't been here long, but last week on that practice field, just watching guys fly around you saw how important it is. This team is going to be ready and sometimes innocence is bliss."

Kubiak isn't sure how much past experience helps in the playoffs, either, but he has plenty of it. He was an assistant coach on three Super Bowl teams, one in San Francisco and two in Denver.

"All those things took place for me somewhere else, on a different team," said Kubiak, Houston's coach since 2006. "I've been growing as a head coach with this group I have, they've been growing with me as a team, so it's our first opportunity together. That's what's most important."



Jose Yau/AP

Houston Texans running back Ben Tate (44) is tackled by Tennessee Titans defensive tackle Jurrell Casey (99) during the first half Sunday in Houston.

NFL FIRINGS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

COLTS FIRE POLIANS AS CLEANSING BEGINS: At Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Colts have fired team vice chairman Bill Polian and his son, Chris, the Colts' general manager.

Owner Jim Irsay announced the moves Monday, one day after the team finished the year 2-14. Coach Jim Caldwell was retained.

RAMS FIRE COACH, GM AFTER ANOTHER DISMAL YEAR: At St. Louis, the St. Louis Rams have fired coach Steve Spagnuolo and general manager Billy Devaney.

The team made the announcement Monday, a day after the team wrapped up a 2-14 season that tied for the NFL's worst.

The Rams made a six-win improvement last season and played for the NFC West title in the finale, but were just 10-38 overall in three seasons with Spagnuolo and Devaney calling the shots. Devaney joined the front office in 2008. In his four years as GM, the Rams were 12-52.

Owner Stan Kroenke fired both men with one year remaining on their contracts, and with fan interest dwindling. The Edward Jones Dome was been about half-filled much of the year.

BUCCANEERS FIRE HEAD COACH RAHEEM MORRIS: At Tampa, Fla., Raheem Morris has been fired as coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after three seasons.

The team announced the change on Monday, one day after a 45-24 loss to the Atlanta Falcons extended the franchise's longest losing streak within the same season since 1977 to 10 games.

Morris went 17-31, including a 10-6 mark in 2010, when the Bucs (4-12) narrowly missed the playoffs.

Bills fire defensive coordinator George Edwards: At Orchard Park, N.Y., Buffalo Bills coach Chan Gailey says defensive coordinator George Edwards has been fired and replaced by Dave Wannstedt.

Wannstedt takes over after spending the past season as the team's assistant head coach while also responsible for inside linebackers. He is a defensive specialist who previously served as head coach at Chicago and Miami.

Edwards had just completed his second season at the position.

The move was made Monday, a day after the Bills (6-10) closed their season with a 49-21 loss to the New England Patriots.

The Bills allowed a franchise worst 5,938 yards this season, and the 434 points they gave up was the second-worst in team history.

Gailey made the move because he needs better production from a defense that allowed 400 yards eight times this season.

Rangers rally to beat Flyers in Winter Classic

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

Rangers	3
Flyers	2

PHILADELPHIA — Alone in the cold, it was up to Henrik Lundqvist to preserve a Classic comeback.

His signature moment came with 19.6 seconds left after New York defenseman Ryan McDonagh was whistled for covering the puck in the crease. Flyers center Danny Briere streaked down the ice — a replica of the Liberty Bell and bundled-up fans behind his back — trying to send this one into overtime.

Lundqvist dropped to his knees on top of a chilly baseball field and stoned Briere with his pads when the center tried to sneak it through his legs.

This made-for-TV showcase had found its brightest star.

Lundqvist stopped 34 shots, Brad Richards scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and the New York Rangers rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 in the Winter Classic on Monday at Citizens Bank Park.

"I was just trying to be patient and do my thing," Lundqvist said. "He's a sneaky guy, and there was a lot of pressure on me."

More pressure than any other regular-season games in January. While this game meant two points in the standings, like the four other NHL games set for Monday night, it received the kind of hype normally reserved for the Stanley Cup finals. NBC televised the game and HBO had 12 camera crews filming the game and behind-the-scenes action for its "24/7" series.

Rangers coach John Tortorella wondered if the officials wanted their own time in the spotlight to build the drama.

"They called a penalty shot which I still don't understand," he said. "I'm not sure if NBC got together with the refs to turn this into an overtime game. I thought the game was reffed horrible.

"I just thought tonight, in that third period, it was disgusting."

Mike Rupp scored twice as New York won for the third time this season against Philadelphia.

Playing on a rink that stretched from first base to third base, the Rangers made the league's fifth Classic event a memorable one to stay atop the Eastern Conference standings.

The NHL surrounded the rink with Christmas trees, firewood, fake snow, and even trash-can fires. But there was nothing artificial in the elements with snow flurries late in the second period and temperatures that dipped into the 30s, forcing 46,967 fans to layer in jerseys for the big event.

All that was missing was one of the breakout stars of HBO's NHL show.

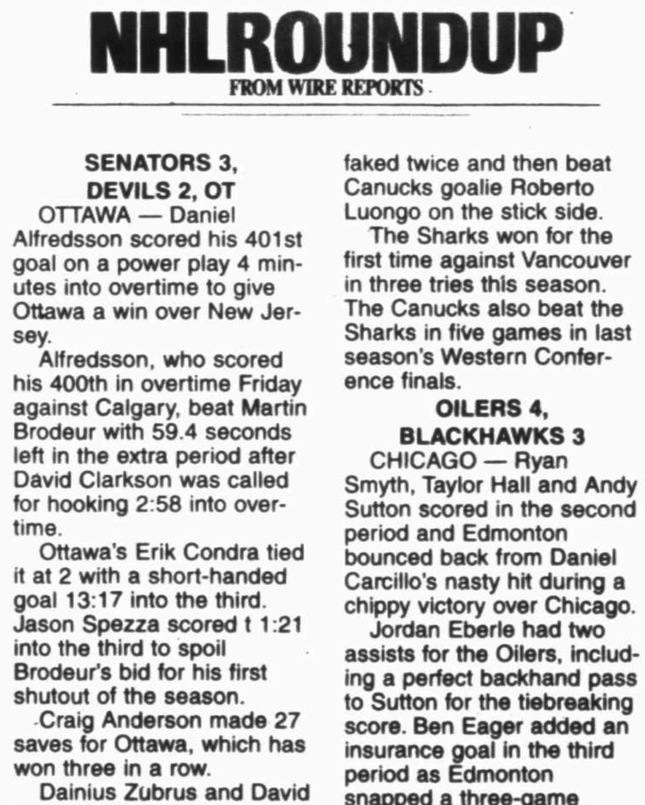
Flyers goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, who signed a nine-year, $51 million contract in June, saw a recent slump send him to the bench. Sergei Bobrovsky, instead, took the call from coach Peter Laviolette and failed to hold the early lead built in front of a decidedly orange-and-black crowd.

The Flyers ended the game without Jaromir Jagr, their star forward who played only a minute in the second period before leaving the game for good. The 39-year-old Jagr, a former Ranger, said after the game he injured his left leg and expected to return soon.

Even with Jagr out, his presence was noted.

Rupp's first goal late in the second came with a salute toward the Flyers' bench — the same move Jagr makes for the home crowd after one of his goals. Rupp smiled as his teammates mobbed him along the boards and the crowd booed his attempt at showing up Jagr.

"I was happy I had the goal," Rupp said, "and that's kind of where I'll leave it."



Matt Slocum/AP

New York's Ruslan Fedotenko (26) collides with Philadelphia's' James van Riemsdyk (21) in the first period of the Winter Classic on Monday in Philadelphia.

NHL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SENATORS 3, DEVILS 2, OT

OTTAWA — Daniel Alfredsson scored his 401st goal on a power play 4 minutes into overtime to give Ottawa a win over New Jersey.

Alfredsson, who scored his 400th in overtime Friday against Calgary, beat Martin Brodeur with 59.4 seconds left in the extra period after David Clarkson was called for hooking 2:58 into overtime.

Ottawa's Erik Condra tied it at 2 with a short-handed goal 13:17 into the third. Jason Spezza scored t 1:21 into the third to spoil Brodeur's bid for his first shutout of the season.

Craig Anderson made 27 saves for Ottawa, which has won three in a row.

Dainius Zubrus and David Clarkson scored in the second to put New Jersey up 2-0. The Devils had won two in a row and nine of 12.

SHARKS 3, CANUCKS 2, SO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Michael Handzus scored the only goal in a shootout to lift San Jose over Vancouver.

Jannik Hansen and Cody Hodgson scored for the Canucks in regulation. Benn Ferriero and Patrick Marleau gave the Sharks a 2-1 lead midway through the game.

In the shootout, Handzus faked twice and then beat Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo on the stick side.

The Sharks won for the first time against Vancouver in three tries this season. The Canucks also beat the Sharks in five games in last season's Western Conference finals.

OILERS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3

CHICAGO — Ryan Smyth, Taylor Hall and Andy Sutton scored in the second period and Edmonton bounced back from Daniel Carcillo's nasty hit during a chippy victory over Chicago.

Jordan Eberle had two assists for the Oilers, including a perfect backhand pass to Sutton for the tiebreaking score. Ben Eager added an insurance goal in the third period as Edmonton snapped a three-game slide.

Jonathan Toews, Andrew Brunette and Jimmy Hayes scored for the Blackhawks, who had won 10 of 13.

Devan Dubnyk made a couple of big stops in the final few minutes to preserve the victory. He finished with 39 saves.

Carcillo launched Edmonton defenseman Tom Gilbert into the boards 7:23 into the second period, resulting in a major boarding penalty and a game misconduct. Carcillo and Gilbert both went down after the vicious hit and had to be helped off the ice.

Cowboys top Stanford in Fiesta Bowl

■ Oklahoma State's Quinn Sharp hit a 22-yard field goal in overtime to secure the win.

By John Marshall
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Brandon Weeden threw for 399 yards and three touchdowns to Justin Blackmon in his final collegiate game, and Quinn Sharp hit a 22-yard field goal in overtime to give No. 3 Oklahoma State a 41-38 win over Andrew Luck and No. 4 Stanford in a wildly entertaining Fiesta Bowl on Monday night.

Cowboys	41
Cardinal	38 (OT)

The most anticipated postseason game outside of the BCS championship, the Fiesta Bowl was an impressive offensive show, two of the nation's best teams trading big plays and scores.

Oklahoma State (12-1) had the last one on Sharp's game-winner to win in its first BCS bowl game, earning a chance to stake claim at being No. 1 in The Associated Press poll should Alabama beat LSU in the BCS title game.

Stanford (11-2) had a chance to win in regulation, but redshirt freshman Jordan Williamson hooked a 35-yard field goal wide left as time expired. He also missed from 43 yards in overtime.



Matt York/AP

Oklahoma State wide receiver Colton Chelf, left, is tackled by Stanford safety Delano Howell, right, during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl on Monday in Glendale, Ariz.

BOWL SCHEDULE

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Saturday, Dec. 17
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Temple 37, Wyoming 15
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Ohio 24, Utah State 23
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana-Lafayette 32, San Diego State 30

Tuesday, Dec. 20
Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall 20, FIU 10

Wednesday, Dec. 21
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
TCU 31, Louisiana Tech 24

Thursday, Dec. 22
MAACO Bowl
At Las Vegas
Boise State 56, Arizona State 24

Saturday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Southern Mississippi 24, Nevada 17

Monday, Dec. 26
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Missouri 41, North Carolina 24

Tuesday, Dec. 27
Little Caesars Pizza Bowl
At Detroit
Purdue 37, Western Michigan 32
Belk Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
North Carolina State 31, Louisville 24

Wednesday, Dec. 28
Military Bowl
At Washington
Toledo 42, Air Force 41
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Texas 21, California 10

Thursday, Dec. 29
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Florida State 18, Notre Dame 14
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Baylor 67, Washington 56

Friday, Dec. 30
Armed Forces Bowl
At Dallas
BYU 24, Tulsa 21
Pinstripe Bowl
At New York
Rutgers 27, Iowa State 13
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi State 23, Wake Forest 17
Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Oklahoma 31, Iowa 14

Saturday, Dec. 31
Meineke Car Care Bowl
At Houston
Texas A&M 33, Northwestern 22
Sun Bowl
At El Paso
Utah 30, Georgia Tech 27, OT
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Cincinnati 31, Vanderbilt 24
Fight Hunger Bowl
At San Francisco
Illinois 20, UCLA 14
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Auburn 43, Virginia 24

Monday, Jan. 2
TicketCity Bowl
At Dallas
Houston 30, Penn State 14
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
South Carolina 30, Nebraska 13
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Michigan State 33, Georgia 30, 3OT
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Florida 24, Ohio State 17
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Oregon 45, Wisconsin 38
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Oklahoma State 41, Stanford 38, OT

Today
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Michigan (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
West Virginia (9-3) vs. Clemson (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 6
Cotton Bowl
At Arlington
Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arkansas (10-2), 8 p.m. (FOX)

Saturday, Jan. 7
BBVA Compass Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 8
GoDaddy.com Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
Arkansas State (10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 9
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
LSU (13-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan. 21
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West, 3 p.m., (NFLN)

Saturday, Jan. 28
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 3 p.m. (NFLN)

Saturday, Feb. 5
Texas vs. Nation At San Antonio
Texas vs. Nation, 1 p.m. (CBSSN)



Brandon Wade/AP

Houston's Daniel Spencer (27) and Kent Brooks (24) bring down Penn State's Chaz Powell (2) on Monday during the first half of the TicketCity Bowl at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

KEENUM

From 1C

bowl history to pass for at least 500 yards. He thought he could have done better.

"We left a lot out there," Keenum said. "There were a lot of throws I missed."

Houston came into the game determined to end the season on a high note having its BCS Bowl hopes dashed on Dec. 3. The undefeated Cougars fell to Southern Miss in the Conference USA championship game, costing UH a shot at the school's first BCS bid.

"That was the fluke," Levine said of the lone loss, "and not the 12 wins leading up to it."

Penn State quarterback Rob Bolden finished 7 of 26 passing for 137 yards, with three interceptions. Houston wanted Bolden, the backup quarterback all season, to air it out as much as possible.

"We know they were going to try to run the ball," Cougars linebacker Marcus McGraw said. "We just wanted to get them in second and long, third and long, and wanted them to pass the ball knowing they had a second string quarterback."

Keenum said he's ready for his next stop — the NFL.

"I rate my chances good," he said. "I'm very confident in my abilities. I've been playing this game a long time and I'm not going to change my game."

Oregon powers past Wisconsin in Rose Bowl

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Oregon's incredible offense busted up Wisconsin and the record books on the way to the Ducks' first Rose Bowl victory in 95 years.

Darron Thomas passed for three touchdowns, De'Anthony Thomas scored on runs of 91 and 64 yards, and the No. 6 Ducks earned their first bowl victory under coach Chip Kelly, holding off Wisconsin 45-38 Monday night in the highest-scoring Rose Bowl ever played.

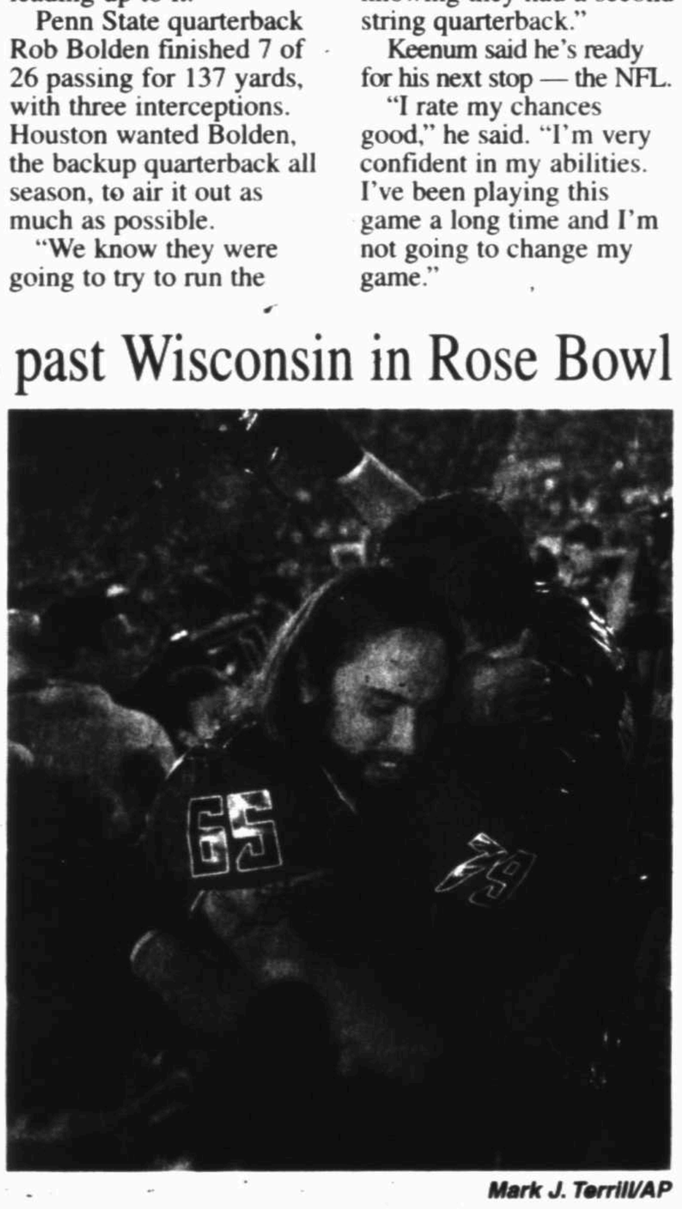
And it wasn't over until a video review confirmed the Badgers (11-3) ran out of time at the Oregon 25, out of timeouts and unable to spike the ball in time to stop the clock for a last-gasp fling.

Lavasier Tuinei caught eight passes for 158 yards and two TDs for the Ducks (12-2), who had no postseason success to show for Kelly's otherwise wildly successful three-year tenure until this landmark offensive performance in the 98th Rose Bowl. Oregon hadn't won the West Coast's biggest game since 1917.

The Granddaddy of Them All had never seen this many points, beating the record 80 scored by Washington and Iowa in 1991.

With the Ducks wearing mirrored helmets and playing at their usual frantic pace, Oregon racked up 621 total yards, just shy of the Rose Bowl record.

Montee Ball rushed for 122 of his 164 yards in the first half for the Badgers (11-3), who lost the Rose Bowl for the second straight year despite managing 508 yards of their own. Ball tied Barry Sanders' FBS record with his 39th touchdown of the season, while Russell Wilson passed for 296 yards and two scores.



Mark J. Terrill/AP

Oregon's Isaac Remington (65) celebrates with Mark Asper (79) after Oregon's 45-38 win over Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl on Sunday in Pasadena, Calif.

Va Tech, Michigan covet a BCS win in Sugar Bowl

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A couple decades ago, few in college football would have dreamed of placing Virginia Tech in the same elite class as Michigan.

As the two teams collide in Tuesday night's Sugar Bowl, however, the team more associated with sustained success in recent years won't be wearing maize and blue.

Virginia Tech (11-2) has won no fewer than 10 games in eight straight seasons. The Hokies are the ones whose 19th straight bowl appearance represents one of the longest streaks in the country.

If Virginia Tech has been short on anything since the program's landmark victory over Texas in the Sugar Bowl that capped the 1995 season, it has been more victories in BCS bowls.

The Hokies have been to four since, losing them all, including twice in the Sugar Bowl — once against national champion Florida State in the 1999 season and once against unbeaten Auburn in 2004-05.

"We've had some great wins and we've done a great job getting here," longtime Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer said Monday before posing for photos with Michigan coach Brady Hoke and the Sugar Bowl trophy. "Now we need to take that next step and get our share of the BCS wins. ... The challenge to Virginia Tech and to the ACC right now is not only get here, but get a win."

Beamer has already shown how serious he is about players emphasizing winning over partying, having sent home place kicker Tyler Weiss for a curfew violation. That left Tech thin at the position because top kicker Cody Journell had not even made the trip after his recent arrest in an alleged home invasion.

Still, this might be the right year for Virginia Tech to catch Michigan (10-2) in a BCS bowl, at least in terms of facing a Wolverines squad with relatively little experience in such an arena.

Michigan has not been to a BCS bowl since losing to Southern California in the Rose Bowl to conclude the 2006 season. Current Wolverines are in only their second bowl in four years, and none of them have a bowl victory to their name.

"We broke every record you didn't want to break as a team," Michigan senior defensive end Ryan Van Bergen said. "We were the team that snapped the (33-year) bowl streak. We were seven (straight) losses against Ohio (State). We had done pretty much everything incorrectly."

However, Hoke, in only his first season as head coach, has been able to re-establish a foundation of toughness and confidence at Michigan, an institution he has revered since childhood, despite growing up in Ohio.

Hoke was part of a national championship-winning coaching staff at Michigan under Lloyd Carr in 1997. When he returned to Ann Arbor in 2011 after leading San Diego State to a rare bowl victory, Michigan players responded to Hoke's passion for their program and its traditions.

Hoke never seemed to believe he was taking over a team that had diminished in stature, even if it had been a little thin on wins lately.

He made that clear when asked whether, with a Sugar Bowl triumph, Michigan would "be back," as a national power

"I don't think Michigan ever left," Hoke said. "There was some — maybe a lean year or two. But Michigan was always Michigan — and will be."

The Wolverines have been tough to beat again this season. Dual threat quarterback Denard Robinson has been a constant big-play threat even as his role has been scaled back by design since Hoke arrived. He has a 1,000-yard running back helping out in Fitzgerald Toussaint. The Wolverines' defense has improved under coordinator Greg Mattison returned to the Wolverines from the NFL's Baltimore Ravens.

They've played 10 other bowl teams this season, so no one is accusing Michigan of playing a soft schedule.

SUGAR BOWL

VIRGINIA TECH (11-2) VS. MICHIGAN (10-2)
7:30 p.m. today, ESPN
Line: Michigan by 3.
Series record: First meeting.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Michigan, which won 10 games in Brady Hoke's first season as head coach, is in its first BCS bowl since the 2007 Rose Bowl and is looking for its first BCS Bowl victory since defeating Alabama in overtime of the 2000 Orange Bowl. Virginia Tech seeks to salvage an otherwise impressive 11-win season which was marred by a lopsided loss to Clemson in the ACC championship game. That result left many questioning whether the Hokies deserved a BCS bid, so they look to answer that with their first 12-win season in program history.

KEY MATCHUP

Virginia Tech RB David Wilson, a projected first-round NFL draft choice who rushed for 1,627 yards and nine TDs this season, against Michigan's defense. The Wolverines have improved defensively since coordinator Greg Mattison returned to Michigan from the NFL's Baltimore Ravens, but still had some hiccups and yielded 1,549 rushing yards to opponents this season.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Virginia Tech: Senior WRs Jarrett Boykin (180 catches, 2,854 yards) and Danny Coale (157, 2,541) rank first and second in career catches and yards receiving for the Hokies.

Michigan: Dual threat QB Denard Robinson is not relied upon under Hoke's regime as he once was to create the bulk of the offense, but he remains a constant big-play threat. He ranks eighth all-time at Michigan in both rushing (3,216 yards) and passing (4,814 yards). He is also sixth in school history with 38 TD passes and fifth with 35 TD runs.

FACTS & FIGURES

Virginia Tech is in its 19th straight bowl and sixth BCS bowl since the 1995 season. ... The Hokies are 1-4 in BCS Bowls, including Sugar Bowl losses to Florida State on Jan. 4, 2000 and Auburn on Jan. 3, 2005. ... The Hokies are 1-2 in the Sugar Bowl overall, having beaten Texas on Dec. 31, 1995, before the BCS arrangement began. ... Virginia Tech has won at least 10 games in each of the past eight seasons. ... The Wolverines are making their 41st bowl appearance, taking a bowl game record of 19-21 into the Sugar Bowl. ... Michigan has played in one previous Sugar Bowl, losing 9-7 to Auburn on Jan. 2, 1984. ... Michigan is 18-3 all-time against schools from the ACC. ... The Wolverines have won one bowl game in their last six. ... Michigan is the only bowl participant this season to have played 10 other bowl teams during the regular season. ... Nine of Michigan's 10 victories this season came against teams that finished the season with six or more victories.

BOWL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

OUTBACK BOWL
NO. 12 MICHIGAN STATE 33, NO. 18 GEORGIA 30, 2OT

TAMPA, Fla. — Kirk Cousins threw for 300 yards and one touchdown and Dan Conroy kicked a 28-yard field goal in the third overtime, giving No. 12 Michigan State a 33-30 victory over No. 18 Georgia in the Outback Bowl on Monday.

Georgia's Blair Walsh became the Southeastern Conference's career scoring leader with a field goal in the second extra period. But he missed a 42-yarder in the first overtime after conservative play-calling and had a 47-yard attempt blocked on the final play of the game.

Michigan State (11-3) ended a five-game bowl losing streak with its first postseason win since beating Fresno State in the 2001 Silicon Valley Bowl. Georgia (10-4) finished on a two-game losing streak, including a lopsided loss to top-ranked LSU in the SEC championship game.

GATOR BOWL
FLORIDA 24, OHIO STATE 17

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Andre Debose returned a kickoff 99 yards — the longest scoring play in Gator Bowl history — and Chris Rainey blocked a punt that was returned for a touchdown Florida.

The speedsters helped the Gators (7-6) avoid their first losing season since 1979 and pick up some much-needed momentum after losing six of their previous eight games.

Ohio State (6-7) finished below .500 for the first time since 1986. The Buckeyes can take solace in knowing that former Florida coach Urban Meyer, who officially takes over at Ohio State this week, will make it a priority to improve special teams. He did that in his six seasons in Gainesville, and Rainey and Debose were two of his most prized recruits.

Ohio State fell to 0-10 in bowl games against teams from the Southeastern Conference. Yes, the Buckeyes beat Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl last year. But that victory was vacated.

CAPITAL ONE BOWL
NO. 10 SOUTH CAROLINA 30, NO. 21 NEBRASKA 13

ORLANDO, Fla. — Connor Shaw threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score, and South Carolina had six sacks as the Gamecocks shut out Nebraska over the final three quarters.

The victory gave South Carolina 11 wins for the first time in school history and snapped a string of three straight bowl losses.

Nebraska lost its second consecutive bowl game and drops to 12-6 all-time in bowl matchups against SEC foes.

Both teams lost standout players in the third quarter when Gamecocks' leading receiver Alshon Jeffrey and Cornhuskers' cornerback Alfonso Dennard were ejected for a post-play skirmish in which both players threw punches.

Mavericks send Thunder to first loss

By Jaime Aron
Associated Press

Mavericks	**100**
Thunder	87

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki scored 10 of his 26 points during the third quarter, sending the Dallas Mavericks to a 100-87 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday night.

The Thunder, who topped Dallas on a buzzer-beater in Oklahoma City on Thursday, came in as one of only two unbeaten teams in the NBA at 5-0. Miami was the other but the Heat lost to Atlanta 100-92 earlier Monday night, also falling to 5-1.

Dallas began pulling away with a 9-2 run at the start of the second quarter, but Oklahoma City kept clawing back to keep things close. Then Nowitzki took over.

He opened the second half with a jumper over Kendrick Perkins that left the big man snarling at his own bench. He made another shot with defender James Harden ducking for cover, then scooped in a layup on a play that began with Delonte West spinning Harden to the floor. The layup put Dallas up by 15 and the game wasn't close again.

The Mavs came in 1-4 with a victory over lowly Toronto. Their best effort probably had been their loss at Oklahoma City. Yet before the game, coach Rick Carlisle said, "I don't think we're as far off as it may appear." Dallas fixed two flaws by scoring 56 points in the paint and keeping the rebounds even at 41.

Nowitzki was 10 of 16, with four of his misses from 3-point range. He had six rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Shawn Marion scored 17 points, Jason Terry 15 and Vince Carter a season-high 14 — eight on free throws — for Dallas. Jason Kidd didn't score but had a season-high nine assists.

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant scored 27 points, but had only four during the pivotal third quarter. Russell Westbrook added 18 points and eight rebounds, and Harden had 16 points and seven rebounds.

Notes: Nowitzki made a 10-foot, stepback jumper at 7:40 of the second quarter for his 8,000th career basket. He's fourth among active players (behind Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett and Tim Duncan) and 31st on the NBA career list. ... Oklahoma City's Daequan Cook (flu) was inactive. Thabo Sefalosha also had a touch of flu, but started. He didn't play the second half because of a sore right foot. ... The Mavericks don't play in Washington, D.C., this season, but they're headed there on Monday for the annual champion's visit to the White House. Team president Terdema Ussery set it up after the club realized the omission on the lockout-condensed schedule. Mavs owner Mark Cuban said "the league office was stupid or dumb or worse" to let that happen.

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For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

					W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID	ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Last Man St (N)	Work It "Pilot" (N)	Celebrity Wife Swap (N)		Body of Proof "Falling For You"-(N)		KMID News	(:35) News Nightline	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live
	KOSA	CBS	7	7	7	7	7	CBS 7	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Housekeeping" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "The Watchers" (N)		Unforgettable "Butterfly Effect" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) Letterman	Lisa Lampanelli, Will Arnett (:35) Late
	KWWT	CW	5	14		5	14	Seinfeld	Seinf. "The Scoffaw"	The Secret Circle "Wake"		The Secret Circle "Masked"		Cops	'Til Death	King of Queens	South Park	South Park Roseanne
	KPEJ	FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Two and Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Glee "Rumours"		New Girl	Raising Hope	The Simpsons	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Loves Ray	Law & Order: Criminal Intent
	KMLM	IND	11	11	12	11	11	Mark Blitz	Cardoza Moore	Update News	Rico Cortes	Light of the Southwest				Jean-Claude	NewBeginning	Ministerios Nueva Vida
	KWES	NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Be Millionaire	The Biggest Loser Contestants are split from their loved ones. (SP) (N)				Parenthood "Road Trip" (N)		News-West 9	(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	(:35) LateNight
	KPBT	PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Egypt's Empire "The Warrior Pharaohs"		Egypt's Empire "Pharaohs of the Sun"		To Be Announced		Charlie Rose	BBC News	Tavis Smiley
	KUPB	UNI	4	4		4	16	Cuando me enamoro		Una familia con suerte		La fuerza del destino		Aquí y ahora		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Hasta que el dinero nos separe
	KOSA	MNT	16	16		16		Office	30 Rock	Case "Yo, Adrian"		Case "Time to Crime"		My News	Earl	30 Rock	Sunny	Scrubs Access H.
PREMIUM	FLIX		340	65		165		(5:00) Calling Lisa		★★★ Mostly Martha Martha Gabriel				★★★ Open Your Eyes Penélope Cruz				Digital Journals
	HBO		300	68	14	14		(5:45) ★★★ Inglorious Mongrels Tarantino				★ The Eagle (11, Adv) Channing Tatum				AngryBoys	Boys	Real Sports
	HBO2		302	69	15	101	23	(5:15) ★★ The Losers		★ Precinct (10, Sci-fi) Action Trolls				Flyers/ Rangers: NHL		★ Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps		
	HBOS		304	70	16	102		(5:15) ★★★ Lost in Translation				★ My Big Fat Greek Wedding		Mating		★ Our Family Wedding		Kimp
	MAX		380	71	17	120	24	(5:20) ★ Beethoven		★ The Rite (11, Dra) Colin O'Donoghue				★★★ Underworld: Evo Kate Beckinsale			StrikeBk	(:50) Co-Ed
	MAX2		382	72	18	122				★ Green Zone (10, Act) Yigal Naor		★★ Mao (Yan Mo Gingsen)			(:35)	★ The Night to Earn Al		★★★ In the Cut
	PLEX				96			(:00) ★★ Angus (95, Com) Charles Talbert				★★ The Rite McCoy		(:45)	★★ Blood Blades Matthew Broderick		Movie	
	SHOW		320	66	19	140	25	(5:40) ★ The Twilight		★ Brother's Justice Dat Shepard		★ Bitter Feast (10, Hor) James Legros				★ Robber Stephen Spinella		
	TMC		336	67	22	155	26	(5:15) ★ Fragile		★★ Cairo Time				★★★ Letters to Juliet Amanda Seyfried			★★★★ 2.6 Hour Party People	
CABLE	A&E		27	32	28	35	47	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars
	AMC		40	21	23	42	51	CSI "After the Fall"		★★★★ The Fugitive ('93, Thril) Sela Ward, Harrison Ford.						★★★★ The Fugitive Harrison Ford.		
	BET		58	26		40		(5:00) 106 & Park		★★ Life ('99, Com) Eddie Murphy.				★★ The Brothers Morris Chestnut.			Wendy Williams	
	BRAVO		65	63		41		It's a Brad World		Beverly Hills		Atlanta "New Tricks"		Salon Takeover		Salon Takeover	Beverly Hills	
	CNBC		46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		Bio. "Dave Thomas"		60 Minutes		American Greed		Mad Money	60 Minutes	
	CNN		43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan		A. Cooper 360		OutFront	Piers Morgan	
	DISC		50	20	31	24	42	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Swamp Loggers		Dirty Jobs	Swamp Loggers	
	DISNEY		56	27	36	25	36	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	★ 16 Wishes Kendall Cross.			(:10) Austin	(:40) Jessie	(:05) Goodl	GoodLuck	Wizards Wizards
	ESPN		32	29	48	31	30	Gameday	SugarBowl	SugarBowl	NCAA Football Sugar Bowl Michigan vs. Virginia Tech Site: Louisiana Superdome (L)					PostGame (:10) SportC		
	ESPN2		34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball Mich. St./Wisc. (L)			SportsNation			NFL Live		SportsCenter		NFL Live
	FAMILY		53	54	34	42	33	Switched at Birth		Switched at Birth (N)		Jane "Pilot" (P) (N)		Jane "Pilot"		The 700 Club		Birth "Starry Night"
	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	Cupcake "Surf's Up!"		Cupcake "Wicked"		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped		Chopped
	FSSW		37	43	50	45	29	NCAA Basketball UAB vs. Florida (L)				NCAA Basketball Southern Methodist University vs. Mississippi (Ole Miss) (L)				Cotton-BwlPre	SportsDay OnAir	UFC Unleashed
	FX		31	31	59	64	69	2½Men	Two 1/2...	★★ Forgetting Sarah Marshall Jason Segel.				★★ Forgetting Sarah Marshall Jason Segel.				
	HALLMARK		54	49	58		34	Little House Prairie		Little House Prairie		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	G. Girls G. Girls
	HGTV		63	50	26	48	44	House	HouseH	My Place	My House	Property	Property	HouseH	House	HouseH	House	Property Property
	HISTORY		71	62	29	50	43	(5:00) Ancient Aliens		Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Pwn Star Pwn Star
	LIFETIME		28	25	25	28	48	America's Supernanny		America's Supernanny		America's Supernanny (N)		One Born Every Minute		1BornEverMin "An Unexpected Delivery"		America's Supernanny
	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	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Auction	Flip Men	Flip Men	Auction	Auction	Auction Auction
	SYFY		66	64	41	57	67	(5:30) ★★ Outlander James Caviezel.				★★ Primeval ('07, Hor) Brooke Langton.				★★ Prey ('07, Adv) Bridget Moynahan.		
	TBS		25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan		The Office	The Office
	TCM		41	61	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ Hearts Divid...		★ Belle Starr, The Bandit Que... (:45)		★★★ Annie Oakley					★★★★ Annie Get Your Gun	
	TELE		20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Maid en Manhattan		Flor salvaje		La casa de al lado		Noticiero	Sin senos no paraiso	Decision
	TLC		51	33	32	38	52	What Not to Wear "Jackie"		What Not to Wear "Jodi"		What Not to Wear "Beryl"		Extreme Coupon	Extreme Coupon	What Not to Wear "Jodi"		What Not to Wear "Beryl"
	TNT		24	23	40	26	50	Bones "Aliens in a Spaceship"		Bones "Finder"		★★★ 300 (2006, Epic) Lena Headey, Dominic West, Gerard Butler.				CSI: NY		CSI: NY "Prey"
	TVLAND		49	48	35	54	35	MASH	M*A*S*H	Home I.	Home I.	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	The Exes	Hot In	Queens	Queens Queens
	USA		26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Alternate"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Avatar"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Impulsive"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Harm"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ritual"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"
	VERSUS		38	39				NHL Live!	NHL Hockey	Detroit Red Wings vs. Dallas Stars (L)					NHL Live!	NBC Sports Talk		Overtime
	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 "Argus"	Scrubs	Scrubs Always Sunny

Spurs lose Ginobli, then to Minnesota

By Jon Krawczynski
Associated Press

Timberwolves	**106**
Spurs	96

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Love had 24 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves to their second win in a row, 106-96 Monday night over the San Antonio Spurs, who lost star guard Manu Ginobili to a broken left hand.

Luke Ridnour had 19 points and nine assists and Wes Johnson broke out of a shooting slump with 14 points and 6-for-6 shooting for the Timberwolves, who snapped an 18-game losing streak with a win over Dallas on Sunday.

Ginobili injured his shooting hand in the second quarter. The two-time All-Star will be examined in San Antonio on Tuesday.

Tim Duncan had 16 points and five assists and Richard Jefferson scored 16 points for the Spurs.

The Timberwolves shot 58 percent for the game and were above 70 percent shooting midway through the third quarter.

Playing with five stitches in the index finger on his shooting hand, Michael Beasley had 19 points on 8-of-15 shooting and Johnson bounced back after going 3 for 13 in his previous two games.

The Spurs will get over the loss to Minnesota quickly. The loss of Ginobili could linger for a while.

The team's leading scorer is the emotional and fiery center of this proud, veteran team. With Duncan getting older and having his minutes limited to save him for the postseason, the offense revolves around Ginobili's perimeter shooting and slashing to the basket.

The former Sixth Man of the Year quickly walked to the locker room after he was injured for X-rays, which revealed a broken fifth metacarpal on his shooting hand.

Without Ginobili's offensive punch, the Spurs simply couldn't keep up with Minnesota's torrid shooting.

The Spurs have hung their hats on the defensive end for years, building a championship foundation that let opponents know they were going to have to work for every bucket against Duncan and Co. Coming into the game, they held their previous two opponents to 4 for 33 on 3-pointers.

That's why it was so startling to see the Timberwolves rout them on Monday night. They shot a scorching 67 percent from the field in the first half, including 7 for 8 from 3-point range. A lot of those were wide open looks for Love, who buried 3 of 4 from long range thanks to superb ball movement from Ridnour and Ricky Rubio at the point.

The Wolves hit 12 of 21 shots from deep for the game.

Rubio, the impressive rookie from Spain, was quiet with six points and three assists in 24 minutes, but the veteran Ridnour more than picked up the slack by hitting seven of his 10 shots and two of three 3-pointers.

NOTES: Timberwolves G JJ Barea sat out the game to rest his strained right hamstring. ... Spurs G Gary Neal, who has not played this season because of an appendectomy, has been assigned to the D-League Austin Toros to get some practice time in before rejoining the team.

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MONDAY'S NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

HAWKS 100, HEAT 92

MIAMI — Joe Johnson scored 21 points, Tracy McGrady hit a pair of big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and the Atlanta Hawks ended Miami's perfect start by beating the Heat 100-92 on Monday night.

McGrady and Al Horford each scored 16 for the Hawks (4-1), who opened the final period on a 15-3 run to take control. And McGrady made perhaps the two biggest plays of the night in the final minutes, first throwing a lob to Josh Smith for a dunk, then hitting a 3-pointer that gave the Hawks a 93-84 lead with 2:26 left.

LeBron James scored 28 points, Chris Bosh scored 19 and Dwyane Wade finished with 12 for Miami (5-1). The Heat led by as many as 10 in the early going and took a four-point lead into the final quarter before getting outscored 33-21.

Jeff Teague finished with 15 points for Atlanta.

RAPTORS 90, KNICKS 85

NEW YORK — Andrea Bargnani and DeMar DeRozan each scored 21 points, and Toronto held onto a big lead against New York after wasting one a night earlier.

Jose Calderon added nine points and 12 assists for the Raptors, who blew a 16-point lead Sunday in Orlando before losing 102-96. They opened a 17-point advantage at halftime in this one thanks to the Knicks' inept second quarter then held on to snap a three-game losing streak.

Carmelo Anthony had 35 points and 11 rebounds as the Knicks played their second straight game without Amare Stoudemire, who has a sprained left ankle.

Toney Douglas had 22 points for the Knicks, who made three baskets in the second quarter.

SUNS 102, WARRIORS 91

PHOENIX — Steve Nash scored 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and rookie Markieff Morris added 16 points to lead Phoenix over Golden State.

Jared Dudley had 15 points, and Channing Frye and Shannon Brown added 10 each for the Suns, who have won two of three overall and six straight against the Warriors. Phoenix has not lost to Golden State at home since March 8, 2005 — a 13-game stretch.

Monta Ellis had 18 points, Dominic McGuire scored 14 and Brandon Rush finished with 13 points for the Warriors, who lost their first road game after opening the season with four straight wins at home.

CELTICS 100, WIZARDS 92

BOSTON — Ray Allen scored 11 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and Boston won for the second straight night over Washington.

Paul Pierce had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Celtics (3-3), who pulled to .500 after losing their first three games of the season. Rookie Greg Stiemsma, making his first start, had 13 points and seven rebounds, and reserve Brandon Bass scored 12.

Andray Blatche led Wizards (0-5) with 28 points and nine rebounds, JaVale McGee had 17 points and 14 boards, and John Wall had 11 points.

Boston beat the Wizards 94-86 in Washington on Sunday.

PISTONS 89, MAGIC 78

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Ben Gordon scored 26 points, and Detroit overcame some early foul trouble in an impressive defensive effort against Dwight Howard and Orlando.

Rodney Stuckey and Tayshaun Prince scored 14 points apiece for the Pistons, who have won two in a row after losing their first three games of the season.

Howard had 19 points, seven rebounds and five steals before fouling out with 2:46 remaining on an illegal screen.

Orlando shot 44 percent from the field and 8 of 22 from 3-point range. Hedo Turkoglu and Ryan Anderson each scored 13 points for the Magic.

PACERS 108, NETS 94

NEWARK, N.J. — Paul George scored 21 points and Indiana shot a season-best 52.6 percent to beat skidding New Jersey.

Danny Granger added 15 points and David West scored 13 as the Pacers won for the fourth time in five games and sent the Nets to their fifth straight loss.

Deron Williams scored 22 points and rookie MarShon Brooks added 21 for the Brooklyn-bound Nets, who have not led for a second in their two losses at the Prudential Center in their final season in New Jersey. The Nets, who are already without center Brook Lopez because of a broken foot, also played without power forward Kris Humphries because of a sore left shoulder.

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LEVEL

Each of the two-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form a six-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

A E E H P R S
□□D O□□

A B D E P R U
□□M I□□

A A D E L M P
□□N U□□

A N O S T T Y
□□P I□□

Yesterday's Answer: EITHER, ERSATZ, GEYSER, GENIAL

1.3

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TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Sunny high 66 low 32	Partly sunny high 59 low 29	Sunny high 66 low 35

LOCAL FORECAST

Expect sunny skies today with a high near 66, a low around 32 and south winds between 5 and 15 mph.

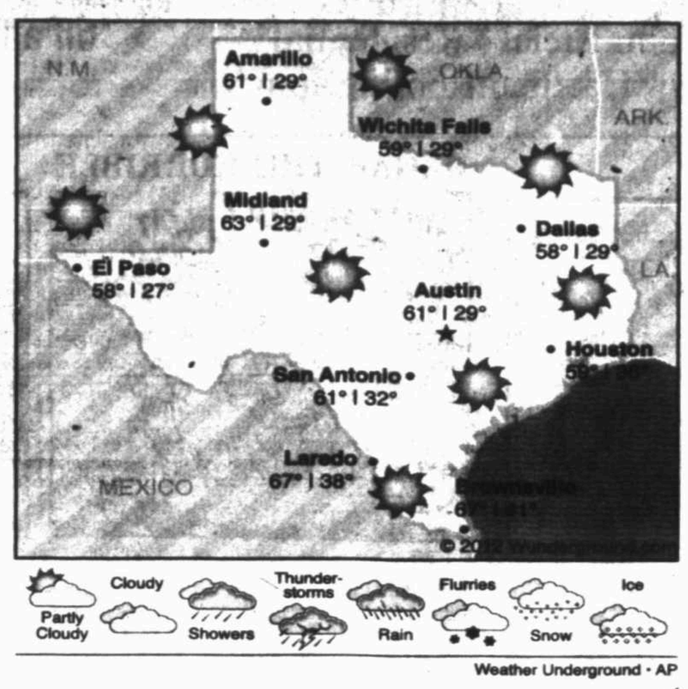
Wednesday, look for partly sunny skies with a high near 59, a low around 29 and north winds between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday, the forecast calls for sunny skies with a high near 66 and a low around 35.

The high on Monday reached 52 while the low dropped to 24. The record high for Jan. 2 is 79 set in 1997. The record low is 0 set in 1979.

***

The coldest air of the season will hover over the eastern third of the nation today and will be made worse by gusty winds from Maine to Michigan to Florida. The winds are being generated by a developing storm offshore and high pressure well to the southwest. Bands of heavy lake-effect snow will continue downwind of the Great Lakes, especially from lakes Erie and Ontario southward to the central Appalachians. The offshore storm will attempt to throw snow showers back into the coastal mid-Atlantic. The cold air will bring a freeze to some Florida growing areas Tuesday night.

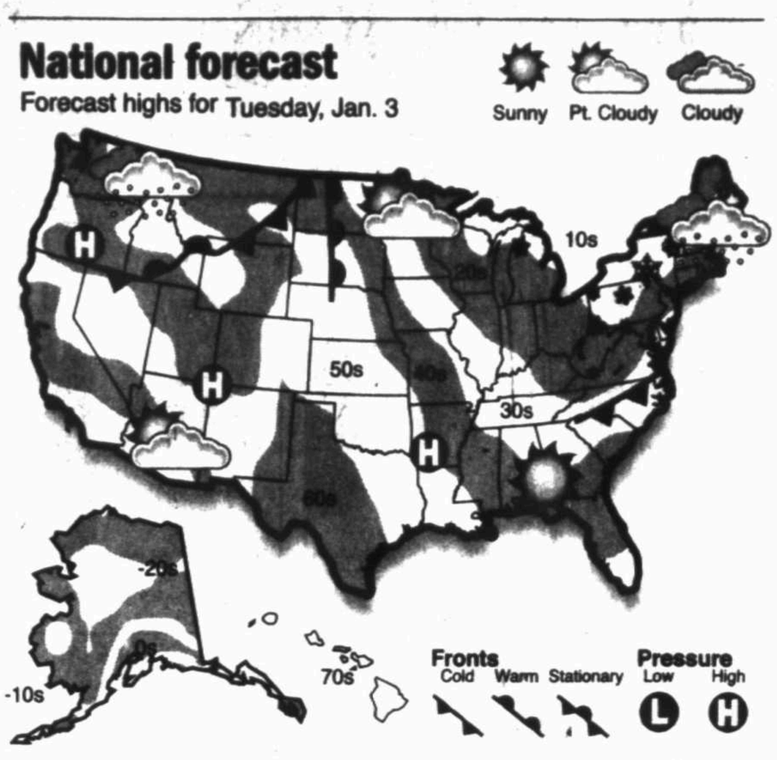


Precipitation

Sunday	.0.00 in.
Monday	.0.00 in.
Total for month	.0.00 in.
Total for year	.0.00 in.
Normal total (year to date)	.0.03 in.

Monday's temperatures

High	52
Low	24
Normal high	57
Normal low	30
Sunrise	7:49 a.m.
Sunset	5:57 p.m.



Fate of frozen embryos puts couple at crossroads

DEAR ABBY

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



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 11 years. We went through eight years of fertility treatments before having our twins. When they were a year old, we discovered I was pregnant with our third child. The twins are now 2 1/2 and the baby is almost a year old.

For the first time in our marriage, my husband and I are at an impasse. We have two embryos left and need to decide what to do. We either use them or destroy them. I think we need to give the embryos the chance they were meant to have. However, my husband is concerned only with the financial side of it as we have been living on one salary and things are tight.

My heart aches over this. Do I do what I believe is right and stand by my religious and moral beliefs, and take the chance my husband will resent me for the rest of our marriage? I'm afraid I'll resent him if I have to destroy them. I'd appreciate some words of wisdom. — DEADLOCKED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR DEADLOCKED: This isn't an either/or question. I discussed it with Diane Goodman, the past president of the Academy of California Family Formation Lawyers, who suggests a third option. Your embryos could be donated for embryo adoption by a couple who have been unable to conceive, and who would love to raise them. For more information, you should contact an attorney who specializes in family formation, or contact the Snowflakes Frozen Embryo Adoption and Donation Program. Its phone number is 714-693-5437 and its website is www.nightlight.org.

DEAR ABBY: I am 29 and met my birth mother last month for the first time. She abandoned two other children besides me. "Angie" is an alcoholic and has cirrhosis of the liver. When I met her she was in rehab and had been sober for two weeks. The day after she was released she was rearrested for driving with a revoked license. The following day she was arrested for DUI.

It's obvious that my birth mother has a major addiction, and my heart breaks for her because she has no support system. Should I reach out and help her or continue on with my life? My friends and family are afraid I'll get hurt, but it's hard to sit back and do nothing. Any words of wisdom will help. — CONFUSED AND TORN IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR CONFUSED AND TORN: Before involving yourself any further with Angie, take some time to visit Al-Anon (listed in your phone directory) and Adult Children of Alcoholics (adultchildren.org). That you want to help her is laudable, but it's important you fully understand what you're letting yourself in for if you do.

Much as you might wish to, you cannot "fix" other people — only they can do that.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-wife, from whom I was divorced for many years, died recently. Our middle-aged daughter, who grew up in her mother's care, was unhappy that I chose not to attend the funeral. (Actually, I never considered going.)

Not only would plane fare have been a financial burden, my ex and I hadn't communicated with each other for more than 30 years. She remarried and I didn't.

Was I wrong for not being there? I don't understand our daughter's feelings in the matter. — MEANT NO DISRESPECT, MESA, ARIZ.

DEAR MEANT NO DISRESPECT: Funerals aren't for the deceased as much as they are for the living. Because you didn't mention whether you had maintained contact with your daughter since your divorce from her mother, I can only guess that she felt she needed your emotional support during that sad time, and that would explain her reaction to your absence.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Where's the ace?

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6
♡ K 6 4
◇ A J 10 4
♣ Q 10 6 3

WEST
♠ A 9 2
♡ J 10 9 8
◇ 8 6 2
♣ 9 7 2

EAST
♠ Q J 10 5 4
♡ 7 5 2
◇ K 7
♣ K 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K 8 3
♡ A Q 3
◇ Q 9 5 3
♣ A J 4

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: Jack of ♡

Before reading on, cover the East-West hands. After three passes, South opens the bidding with one no-trump and is raised to game. West leads the jack of hearts, won in the closed hand with the queen. You run the nine of diamonds, losing to West's king, and back comes the queen of spades, ducked all around, followed by the jack. Do you duck again or rise with the king, and for what reason did you make the choice?

First, see what you need to make your contract, so you cannot afford to lose a fast trick in clubs. Therefore, to get home you need to find East with the king so that you can take a winning finesse. East has already shown up with six points in spades and diamonds and you are assigning him with three more in the king of clubs. Since he did not open the bidding in third seat, there is no way he can hold the ace of spades as well!

That makes your decision easy — duck again and hope that West holds no more than three spades. In that case, the defenders can take no more than three spades to go with the king of diamonds and you collect three tricks in each of the minors to squeeze home at three no-trump.

Today's Crossword Puzzle brought to you by Quiroz Custom Home Builders
Quiroz CUSTOM HOME BUILDERS
(432) 683-5504
(432) 631-6734

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012:

Your imagination makes you a force to be dealt with. You are in a period in which you are processing on a deep, emotional level. Others are constantly viewing you in a new light as you process and grow. Your creativity emerges more often, making your life and the lives of those around you more exciting. If you are single, you could meet someone very special. A unique chemistry attracts the two of you. If you are attached, you rebuild the heat of your dating period. Part of the stimulus is how you are changing, remaining exciting to your sweetie. Let it all happen. TAURUS draws out the best in you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ You are more than ready to handle a problem or move forward. Someone could be quite demanding without realizing it. It could even be you! Avoid a scene at all costs. You could be very tired and debilitated. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You seem to be able to stretch and go that extra mile when others cannot. Someone appreciates your efforts. Travel in the near future becomes a possibility. Right now, whatever you choose is perfect. Tonight: Be the all-around Bull.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Know when you would prefer to say less or nothing at all. Sometimes you create a lot of problems when there is no need to. You would be best off keeping your own counsel right now. Listen to your sixth sense. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Meetings and interactions in general draw success. Don't hesitate to ask for more of what you desire. Sometimes you get tired of pushing for the same idea without any response. Today you finally get the feedback you have been looking for. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You could be taken aback by a boss or someone you look up to. You only need to make an adjustment. The news you are hearing isn't a problem if you just relax and think. Be willing to state your case without feeling judged. Tonight: A force to be dealt with all night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Think outside the box, and success will follow. Sometimes you understate your case. Don't. Brainstorm with a trusted friend who plays devil's advocate well. Handle a situation differently. Think positively. Tonight: Put on a movie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You enjoy dealing with someone directly. Together you let go of many of the issues that interfere when you are not together. Having fewer people vying for your attention also makes a big difference. You can focus. Tonight: Continue the theme.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Maintain your limits with another person. He or she is on top of the world, no matter what anyone says or does. Stay even despite a totally different perspective. Be aware of how you might want to revise your financial situation. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Be aware of the costs of holding the line or assuming a particular point of view. You might be considering a change regarding the management of your money. Extra effort pays off, whether it might be taking a second job or cutting back on an expensive habit. Tonight: Go that extra step.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Your ingenuity comes out in nearly everything you do. You might not even notice it, as it is probably well integrated into whatever you do. Let the kid in you emerge. Sometimes more levity is healthy. Tonight: Make the most of the night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Home is where your mind — if not heart — is wandering to. Focusing on matters that aren't involved with the issue at hand could be difficult at best. Perhaps you need to change your routine and handle what is preoccupying your thoughts. Tonight: Whatever suits you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Your presence has an impact in a meeting, perhaps more than you want. You do wow a friend. Knowing the power of your charisma today, where would you most like to make an impact? What you want easily could become a reality if you act. Tonight: Think again: What do you want?

***

BORN TODAY

Musician Stephen Stills (1945), actor Mel Gibson (1956), musician John Paul Jones (1946)

DAILY CROSSWORD

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

1 Terminer's partner, in law
5 Arouse from sleep
9 What insomniacs count
14 Present
15 Leaf-to-branch angle
16 Terra __: pottery clay
17 User's morning reading
18 French-American soprano Lily
19 Ran competitively
20 Sounding relieved
23 Favorite
24 News agcy. since 1958
25 Doing witch's work
32 "What light through yonder window breaks?" speaker
33 Arizona natives
34 Corn unit
36 Like the Gobi
37 "King Solomon's Mines" hero Quatermain
38 Snug and comfy
39 Get some morning exercise
40 Apply for __: try to borrow money
41 Transplant recipient
42 Preparing greens
45 Purring pet
46 Conclusion
47 Losing it
53 Louisiana marsh
55 Baseball family name
56 Carbon compound
58 Flynn of film
59 Like much early TV
60 Neutral shade
61 Jules's 43-Down
62 New Zealand parrots
63 Strong taste

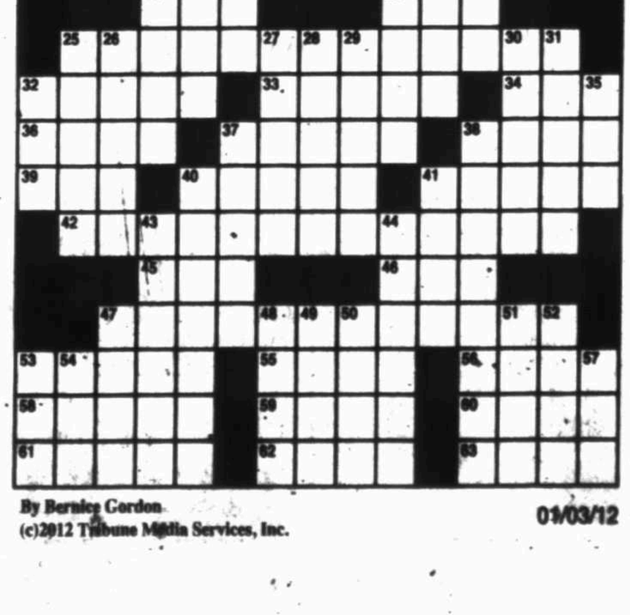
DOWN

1 Electrician's unit
2 Slangy assent
3 Lake where Perry achieved an 1813 victory
4 Became ill again
5 Antlered animal
6 Nerve cell transmitter
7 Certain monarch
8 Lioness in "Born Free"
9 Big name in newspaper publishing
10 Sub in a deli
11 Emulate Rembrandt
12 Summer along the Seine
13 Hippie's home
21 Presidential power
22 Lazy gal?
25 French landscape painter
26 Cancun comrade
27 Parachute fabric
28 Soviet labor camp agency
29 Radarange maker
30 British singer/songwriter Lewis
31 Took it easy, with "around"
32 British rule in India
35 Sandwich choice
37 2005 Bush Supreme Court nominee
38 Last-minute loss of nerve
40 Usually
41 Delany of "China Beach"
43 Word after high or tech
44 Smooth transitions
47 Beginner
48 Base on balls
49 Nastase of tennis
50 __ Scotia
51 Andean native
52 Struggling with choices
53 Spelling contest
54 Pop-up path
57 Loutish type

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/03/12



By Bernice Gordon
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01/03/12

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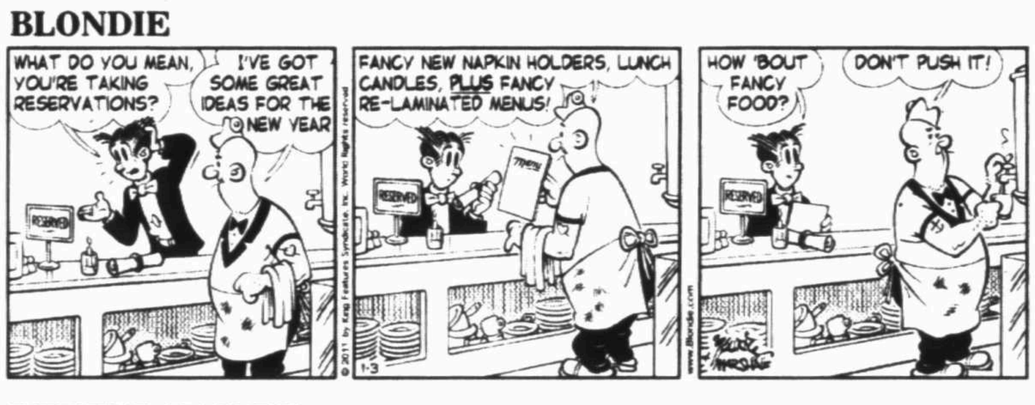
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



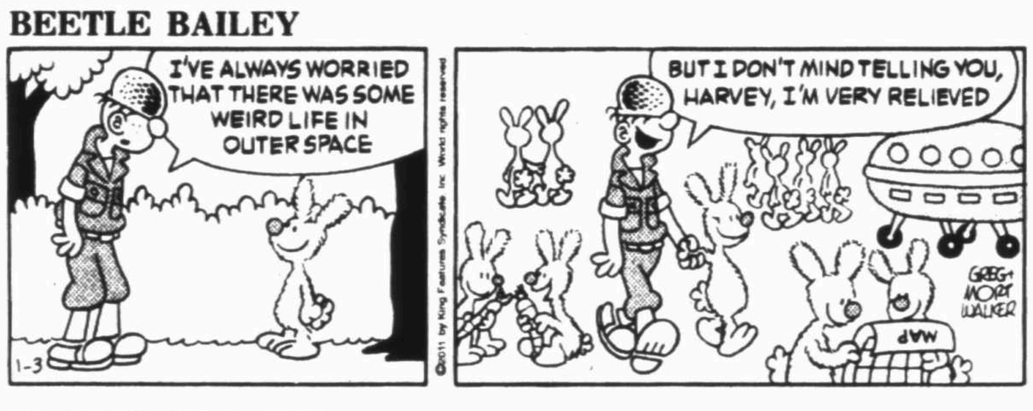
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



CLASSIC PEANUTS



SHOE



GARFIELD



DUSTIN



WIZARD OF ID



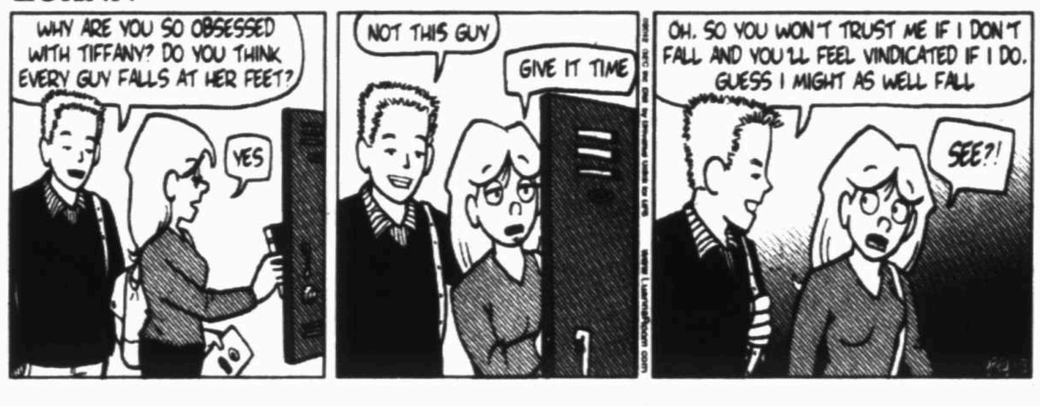
DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



LUANN



MARY WORTH



ZITS



BABY BLUES



MUTTS



CLOSE TO HOME



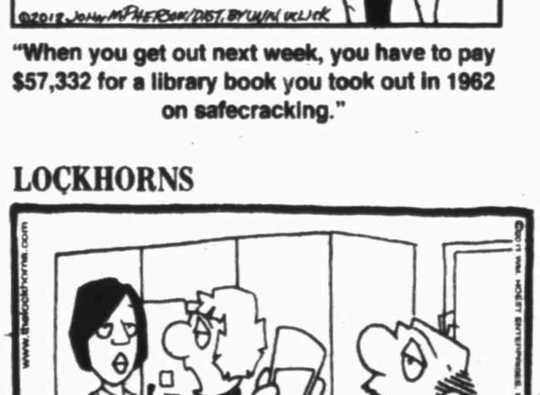
"When you get out next week, you have to pay $57,332 for a library book you took out in 1962 on safecracking."

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ANY IDEAS ON *HOW* TO GET KETCHUP BACK IN THE BOTTLE?"

LOCKHORNS



"NOT ONLY DOES LEROY SEE IT AS HALF-EMPTY, HE ALSO NOTICES THE WATER SPOTS."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Hereafter I go jogging alone."

Classifieds

The Bottom Line
76 percent of adults have read a daily newspaper in the past five days.
Source: Scarborough Research, 2005
Midland Reporter-Telegram
201 EAST ILLINOIS AVENUE • MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701 • 432-682-5311 • MYWESTTEXAS.COM

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273548
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 16, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 728424
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 27, 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. 7, Blk. 38 T1S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-294, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MARTIN County, being 6.2 miles NE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 27, 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 :	STIMSON-BURLEY 'D'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	7	
Lease/Unit Acres :	322.9	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	670.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1122.0	
Lease Lines :	670.0 F SOUTH L,	864.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	1980.0 F NORTH L,	1780.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) MIDLAND, EAST (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

MIDLAND, EAST (STRAWN) : Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11130 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, TAMMY SMITH, at (972) 444-9001.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273743
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 729214
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 20, 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. 46, Blk. 39 T2S, T&P RR CO / WOLCOTT, A J Survey, A-762, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 8.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 20, 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 :	TEXAS TEN 'X'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	7	
Lease/Unit Acres :	324.7	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	486.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1333.0	
Lease Lines :	486.0 F NORTH L,	1980.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	2173.0 F SOUTH L,	1980.0 F WEST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) : OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11300 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, DEBBIE BAKER, at (972) 969-3986.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273765
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 728738
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 20, 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. 45, Blk. 38, SHACKELFORD, MRS S E Survey, A-1049, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 13.1 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 20, 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 :	DONALD L HUTT 'FEE'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	106	
Lease/Unit Acres :	4228.8	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	488.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1328.0	
Lease Lines :	3302.0 F SOUTH L,	488.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines :	660.0 F SOUTH L,	1830.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) AZALEA (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 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 11050 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, MANDY HEDGEPETH, at (972) 969-3873.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 7C — Rule 38 Case No. 7C-0273771
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 12, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 729340
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 23, 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. 139, Blk. 2, T&P RR CO Survey, A-579, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, REAGAN County, being 23.7 miles NE direction from BIG LAKE, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 23, 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 :	PELZEL	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	5	
Lease/Unit Acres :	323.4	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	480.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1366.0	
Lease Lines :	480.0 F SOUTH L,	1980.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines :	2173.0 F NORTH L,	1980.0 F EAST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, MECHELLE TESTA, at (972) 969-4088.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273547
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 16, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 728421
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 27, 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. 7, Blk. 38 T1S, T&P RR CO Survey, A-294, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MARTIN County, being 6.2 miles NE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 27, 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 :	STIMSON-BURLEY 'D'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	5	
Lease/Unit Acres :	322.9	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	660.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1320.0	
Lease Lines :	660.0 F NORTH L,	666.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines :	660.0 F NORTH L,	660.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) MIDLAND, EAST (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

MIDLAND, EAST (STRAWN) : Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11130 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, TAMMY SMITH, at (972) 444-9001.

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 — Rule 38 Case No. 08-0273720
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 9, 2011 — Status/Permit No. 729197
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 20, 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. 48, Blk. 39 T2S, T&P RR CO / PEMBERTON, I M Survey, A-747, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MIDLAND County, being 8.5 miles SE direction from MIDLAND, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848**.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 20, 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 :	TEXAS TEN 'V'	
Lease/Unit Well No. :	6	
Lease/Unit Acres :	653.3	
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	660.0	
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	939.0	
Lease Lines :	660.0 F NORTH L,	2006.0 F WEST L
Survey Lines :	660.0 F NORTH L,	660.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 1 additional field: (1) BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for this field.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 467/660, 80.0 acres.

BRADFORD RANCH (STRAWN) : 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, DEBBIE BAKER, at (972) 969-3986.

FOUND A Horse, call to identify. 432-563-2264 or 432-559-9796.

FOUND YOUNG mixed breed dog. Found on Cardinal/Midland Dr. Call 432-349-5549.

$500 REWARD. Pick of the 1st liter for the return or information leading to the return of my Bull Mastiff female, 9 months old, 75LB. Wearing a light colored camouflage collar. Lost 9 miles North East of Stanton. Call 432-270-0360.

LOST HUSKY MIX SMALL female. Old Lamesa Rd & I-20. 432-557-8365 or 432-638-4206

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 Henry Ford was a Master Mason?

Business Center

Business Opportunity

BABY BIZ 4703 N. Midkiff, baby furniture and accessory store. Successful local business for 20 years. FOR SALE. Call 432-978-1234.

WELL ESTABLISHED Successful Franchise business. Owner Retiring. Send serious inquiries to P.O. BOX 8205 Midland, Texas 79708.

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

2002 TOYOTA Avalon, silver, cloth, 137K. Exceptionally nice! Only $8,000. 218-9941.

2006 ES 350 Lexus, black exterior, cashmere interior, fully loaded. 57k miles. $25,000. 425-7769

BMW 1987 535is White w/red leather. Good condition, must see. All service records. $3,550 694-7564/352-4054.

BMW 2003 330ci 104500 miles, 2 door, 5-Speed transmission good condition, Silver Gray Metallic exterior, Black interior, WBABN53493JU2921 8 2WD All options Loaded. $11,000 call 432-889-8279

BUICK 1999 Park Avenue Ultra. 107k miles, very nice car, $3500 Call 432-664-4690.

BUICK 2005 LeSabre Limited, beautiful car. Call 432-699-2054.

CHEVROLET 1972 Chevelle drag race car. Complete body and drive tran, $9,000 556-9945.

CHEVROLET 2002 Z28 convertible, 24K, looks and drives new, garaged, non smoker. $12,900. 685-4013.

FORD 2010 Fusion SE Charcoal, 4 dr, pwr, 44k. Great car! $13,500. 262-2024

NEW TODAY!

HONDA 2000 Prelude with 114k, silver, super nice. $6,275. Call 432-682-1706.

General Announcements

TACK & SADDLE AUCTION
Tues. Jan. 3rd 7pm, Preview at 6pm
Over $1000,000 in merchandise already consigned! Imagine everything you would find in a tack shop. If it is used or around a horse, it will be there.
Consignments Being Added Daily
10% Buyers Premium
Everybody is welcome
American Legion
501 Veterans
Airpark Ln.
Midland, TX 79705
(512) 943-6114
Consignments Now Being Accepted
TX Auctioneer #10151 Mike Murphy

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS

Aetna Life Insurance Co., and Aetna Dental Inc. and their affiliates will accept written applications for participation in their PPO, POS and DMO networks during the period of December 1, 2012 through December 21, 2012. Physicians and providers including advanced practice nurses and physician assistants, who wish to contract with us, must apply during this period and applications must be received no later than December 21, 2012. Medical network inquiries should be sent to: Aetna Life Insurance Co., 4400 NW Loop 410, Suite 105, San Antonio, Texas 78229, Attention: 2012 Provider Enrollment. Send Dental network inquiries to: Aetna Dental Management, Three Sugar Creek Center, Sugar Land, TX 77478. Attention: 2012 Provider Enrollment.

Find it fast in the Midland Reporter-Telegram

mywesttexas jobs

Midland Reporter-Telegram in partnership with monster

http://www.mywesttexas.com/jobs

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Assistant & Processors
Select Energy Services FT
Looking for a career, not just a job! Join our fast-growing company. We have current openings for an administrative assistant and processors. Must be detail-oriented, able to multi-task, proficient in Microsoft Office (qualified candidates will be tested), and effective communicators. Please submit resumes to mcalderon@selectenergyservices.com.

Administrative Assistant
Secorp Industries FT
Oilfield Service Company located in Odessa, TX. has an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant. Duties include: answering telephone, processing new employees, invoicing, purchase orders and payroll. Proficient in use of Microsoft Office, Mail or fax resume and salary requirements to: PO Box 53912, Lafayette, LA 70505-3912 Phone: 337-237-3471 Fax – 337-235-6278 Email – brandon.hebert@secorpindustries.com.

General Office
Levinge Freight Lines FT
Levinge Freight Lines is now hiring someone to perform general office and accounting duties at our Midland Terminal. Must have office/clerical experience, transportation experience a plus.
Apply online at www.levingefreightlines.com

Office Clerical
Bobbye Cheryl Smith CPA P/T
CPA office looking for part time clerical help. Position entails receptionist and secretarial duties as well as computer data entry. Experience with word and Excel a plus. Call to schedule interview at 432-697-7588 or send resume to PO Box 8110, Midland, TX. 79708. Will work with school schedule.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Commercial Workers Needed
L & L Construction FT
Drywall mechanics, hangers, trim carpenters and labors. Must be dependable with a neat appearance. Pay based on experience. Apply in person M-F 10-2, 619 W Texas, Ste 106, 570-4879.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

H2S Safety Technicians
Secorp Industries FT
Established Oilfield Service Company located in Odessa, TX. has immediate openings for H2S Safety Technicians. Oilfield experience a plus. Mechanical abilities and medical certification helpful. Job consists of both shop and field work, must be able to work extended hitches on locations. Good Driving Record and Reliable transportation recommended. Include references and salary requirements on resume. Send Resume and Salary Requirements to PO Box 53912, Lafayette, LA 70505-3912 Phone: 337-237-3471 Fax – 337-235-6278 Email – brandon.hebert@secorpindustries.com

Oil Field Cable Spooler
Horizon Cable FT
Willing to train the right person. Must have or be able to obtain a Class B CDL. Uniforms and benefits available after 90 days of employment. Please apply in person: Horizon Cable 12215 WCR 129, Odessa, TX 79765 Between 8am - 4pm or call 432-563-5552.

Tubing Tester
Confidential FT
Experienced Tubing Tester, CDL with tank endorsement required. Call 432-557-2809 or 432-557-2807.

HEALTHCARE

Attendants
Nurses Unlimited, Inc. PT
Nurses Unlimited, Inc is seeking enthusiastic Attendants to assist children in the home for Wed's & Sundays. Call: Ruth Ann orTerry H. @ 1-800-458-3257. E.O.E.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT and LVN
Midland Community Healthcare Services is hiring. Qualified candidates are well-rounded, detail oriented, able to multi-task in a fast paced environment, and possess excellent phone and customer service skills. Cross training with the other departments, computer skills, competency in Microsoft Office, and adaptability to technological changes are required. Complete Benefits Package Offered.
Interested applicants can print an application at
www.midlandchs.org and fax it to 432-699-3815,
or come by our office at **600 N. Marienfeld, Ste. 1090, Midland.**

FRONT DESK CLERK
Seeking an experienced Front Desk Clerk for a busy physicians office, this will be a fulltime position (MSO5000) Please fax or mail your resume to ATTN: Alesha McCoy P.O. Box 5291 Midland, TX 79704 or fax to 432-682-2284. NO WALK-IN'S PLEASE.

General Dentist
Confidential FT/PT
High volume Dental office seeking motivated General Dentist for immediate hire. Established patent base (Medicaid/CHIP, insurance and cash), all aspects of dentistry. Strong earnings opportunity in both Midland and Odessa offices. Please contact by email, careers@midlandmaildental.com

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Looking for an experienced Medical Assistant for a busy physicians office for a PRN position (PCB5053). Please fax or mail your resume to ATTN: Alesha McCoy P.O. Box 5291 Midland, TX 79704 or fax to 432-682-2284. NO WALK-IN'S PLEASE.

MEDICAL RECORDS CLERK
Busy medical facility needs a responsible Medical Records Clerk(PP-5276). Responsibilities include data transfer of medical records to electronic health records. Applicant should be detailed oriented. Will train the right person. Growth opportunities with employer. Fax or mail resume to 432-682-2284 or mail to P.O. Box 5291 Midland, TX 79704 Attn: Alesha McCoy. NO WALK-IN'S PLEASE OR PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

MEDICATION AIDE
Full time position for small assisted living facility. Assist with medications for elderly ladies. Please Call 432-687-2503.

Office Help
Busy medical practice looking for Office Help. Expenence required. Please mail resume to: PO BOX 8729, Midland, TX 79708.

Personal Care Attendants
Is needed for the Midland and Odessa area. Apply in person at 1311 West Florida, 79701.

Resident Assistants and Medication Aides
Saddleridge Lodge FT
1808 W. Loop 250 N.
Midland, TX 79705
Emeritus at Saddleridge Lodge "WANTS YOU!"
Resident Assistants and Medication Aides for all shifts needed at Saddleridge Lodge. We provide great opportunities plus Health Ins/Dental/401K. Please apply in person and become a part of our great team at 1808 W. Loop 250 N. in Midland or on line at www.emeritus.com E.O.E

Sitters/CNA'S
Nurses Unlimited, INC FT
Nurses Unlimited, INC seeking experienced Sitters/CNA'S to work for private duty clients. Hourly rate. Call 432-522-5080. All shifts available. E.O.E.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Various Positions
Travel Lodge #10082 FT/PT
Immediate opening for Housekeepers and Laundry for Day shifts and Front Desk Clerks for rotating shifts. Apply at: 2500 Commerce Dr, Midland, TX.

OTHER JOBS

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Fast Freddy's is seeking an experienced **Assistant Manager** with a minimum of 1-2 years experience. Position is salary plus cash daily, 30-40 hours a week. Please send resumes to **fastfreddysmid@gmail.com.**

DATA COLLECTORS
Field Interviewers Aspen of DC/CF International is seeking **Data Collectors** for a 5-6 month survey of HUD-assisted households in Brewster, Culberson, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler, and Yoakum counties in TX. Collect data and conduct in-person, computer-assisted interviews. Local travel required (costs will be reimbursed). Some weekend and evening hours likely. Flexibility and ability to work independently a must. Computer proficiency required. College degree or 2-3 years experience preferred. Background check will be conducted. Hourly rate $12.75. Must attend 10-day paid training this February in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. You must indicate Cluster 50 in "SUBJECT" line of email, or in cover of fax. Send resume to: E-Mail: HUD@aspenofdc.com Fax: 1-800-883-7028.

OTHER JOBS

Detailers
UNISEAL FT
Detailers needed for Local new car dealership. Used experience is helpful. Good pay. Please call 832-499-9574

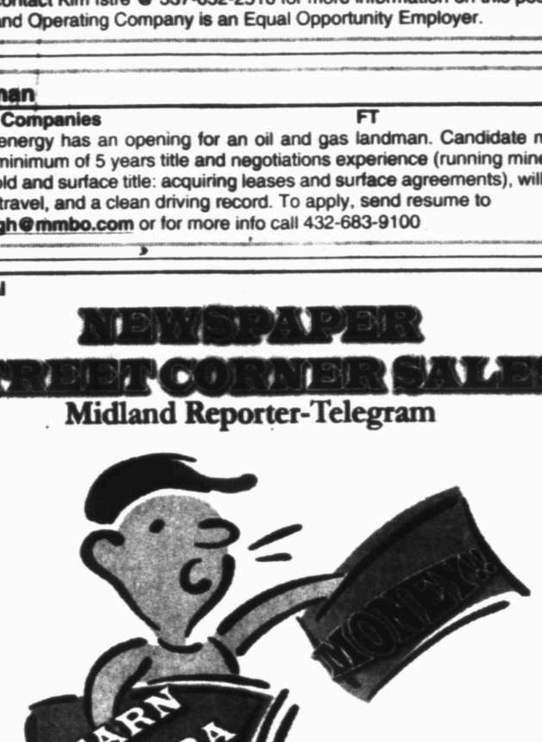
Funeral Assistant - Part-Time as Needed
Ellis Funeral Home FT
Duties include assisting Directors with setting up for funeral services and making sure they run smoothly, driving funeral vehicles, running errands. Come by 801 Andrews Highway to fill out an application.

LAND Gaugers & Production Clerks
ISLAND OPERATING COMPANY is seeking LAND Gaugers with a minimal experience of 3 years, and also production clerks with clerical experience, some knowledge of Excel to be responsible for daily production reporting. These positions will require the candidates to work in the Big Lake, Texas area. Island Operating offers great benefits and pay. All interested parties should contact Kim Istre @ 337-652-2516 for more information on this position. Island Operating Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Landman
Hilliard Companies FT
Hilliard energy has an opening for an oil and gas landman. Candidate must have a minimum of 5 years title and negotiations experience (running mineral, lease hold and surface title: acquiring leases and surface agreements), willingness to travel, and a clean driving record. To apply, send resume to **sterlingh@mmbo.com** or for more info call 432-683-9100

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES
Midland Reporter-Telegram



Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

*****NEEDED IMMEDIATELY*****
Clerical - must be computer literate, multi-task, time management, professional, and handle stress well.
Trophy Department - must be computer literate, multi-task, personable, professional, and creative. Corel Draw experience a plus. Apply in person at **2040 W. Cuthbert, Midland, TX 79701.**

Roustabout Crew Pushers and Hands
Golden Triangle Energy Services FT
Must have clean driving record. Also Backhoe Operator needed with CDL license. Salary depending on experience. Must pass Drug test. 432-853-9188

Route Person Needed
Jordan Amusements FT
Route Person Needed - Must have valid driver's license, communication skills, trustworthy and pass drug test. Apply in person or fax resume to Jordan Amusement Co. 10100 W. Hwy 80 432-563-2740

Seasonal Sales Position & Parts Head Position
TRACKER BOAT CENTER FT
1920 N Loop 250 W **432-697-3261**
Midland, TX 79707 **Apply in Person**
"Will Train" Experience not necessary. Drug screening and background

SERVICE TECH
All Clear Pool Treatment is looking for a **service tech.** Job responsibilities: check level of chemicals in residential swimming pools; then service pool w/ chemicals needed. Requirements: valid DL and able to lift 60lbs. cylinders. Mon-Friday. Hours each day varies on the daily route and your pace. Average hours in the winter months are usually 4-6 per day. Salary - $500/wk; eligible for raise after 90 days. Please apply at **7606 W. Hwy 80, Midland, TX.**

NEWSPAPER CARRIERS NEEDED

EARN EXTRA MONEY

Do You:
Need help paying monthly bills and enjoy early Morning hours

Call Tony Gonzalez (432) 687-9002

*Must have vehicle, insurance, & valid driver's license
Midland and Big Spring Areas Available

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Cook, Dish Washer, Server Prep Cook
Great Western Dining at Midland College FT/PT
Experienced Cook, Dish Washer and Server Prep Cook needed. Must pass background check etc. Pay according to experience. Apply in person M-F 8:00am to 3:30pm at: Jack E Brown Dining Hall at Midland College.

Kitchen Helpers
Emeritus at Saddleridge Lodge FT
1808 W. Loop 250 N
Midland, TX 79705
Emeritus at Saddleridge Lodge **"WANTS YOU!"**
Now hiring kitchen helpers.
We provide great opportunities plus Health Ins/Dental Ins/401K.
Please apply in person and become a part of our great team at 1808 W. Loop 250 or online at www.emeritus.com E.O.E

RETAIL JOBS

In-Store Account Reps
Del-Tex Marketing, Inc. FT/PT
New Year/New Career! In store Account Rep. $600 plus weekly
No felonies/paid training! Call jenny 432-349-7207

SALES JOBS

DRIVER-SALESPERSON
Looking for a rock solid company to grow and retire with? Blue Bell Creameries is accepting applications for a full time driver-salesperson in the Midland-Odessa Area. Route Sale Experience and Commercial Drivers License helpful. Good driving record required. Will train the right person. Blue Bell is a market leading company with a 104 year proven history. Competitive Salary + benefits. Apply in Person at Workforce Solutions, 3510 North A. Building A.

Sales
Fender Truck Access. FT
Midland, TX 79701
Position open for person knowledgeable in truck accessories or automotive industry. Salary plus commission, Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5:30 pm, vacation, insurance option. **Bilingual a plus.** Salary DOE. Send resume to: kerry@tendergroup.com

SKILLED LABOR

Chemist
Environmental Laboratory FT
Fax resume-432-689-6313 **0-1 Exp**
Midland, TX **Bachelor's Degree**
Science or Science related field. Fax or email: agomez@traceanalysis.com

Lead Maintenance
Summerhill Apartments FT
Now hiring **Lead Maintenance.** Must be HVAC certified. Apply in person only at: **3001 North Midland Dr. Midland, TX 79707.**

Licensed Experienced Journeyman Electrician
Now hiring! Email resume with references & salary requirements to: **journeymanelectrican-resume@yahoo.com.**

Licensed Plumber, Plumber Helpers, Office Assist.
Apply in person at **1101 W. Florida** or fax resume to **682-2939.** Salary DOE. We offer benefits, paid holidays, paid vacation & 401k.

RIG HANDS - MIDLAND, TX
Wireline company now hiring! Call **432-894-0712** for an excellent opportunity. We offer top pay, job bonus, insurance, 401k and uniforms. Must have CDL, Haz-Mat a plus, pass drug screen & background check.

Sand Blasters, Painters & Helpers
Accurate, Inc. FT
Hiring sand blasters, painters, helpers. Please call Accurate, Inc. at 432-563-1224 or 512-352-5278 or apply at 9504W CR 127, Midland.

Shop Mechanic
Basin Engine and Pump FT
Shop/Field Mechanic Needed for an Industrial Oilfield Shop. Tools, Uniforms provided. Benefits package, Pay DOE. Please call Shawn 432/570-1114, fax resume 432/570-1115 or email shawn@basinengine.com.

Technician Needed
Jordan Amusements FT
Must have Electronics experience, have valid driver's license, communication skills, trustworthy and pass drug test. Apply in person or fax resume to Jordan Amusement Co. 10100 W. Hwy 80 432-563-2740 fax

TIRE TECHNICIANS
Discount Tire is now hiring! We offer flexible schedules, benefits, and great starting pay. No experience needed; we will train. If you have a great attitude and you are a hard, reliable worker, please apply in person at one of our three Discount Tire Stores: **3100 N. Loop 250 (Midland), 2201 Rankin Highway (Midland),** or **4211 Grandview Ave. (Odessa)** No phone calls please.

Welders
Energy Fabrication FT
Now accepting applications for Welders.Top pay, 401K and paid vacation. Please send resume to: 3750 Kermit Highway, Odessa, TX 79764, or apply in person.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

CDL A Drivers
Select Energy Services FT
CDL A drivers needed for a fast-growing company. We offer a full range of benefits including medical/dental insurance, vacation, holidays, etc. Have a career, not just a job! Email resume to kmeadows@selectenergyservices.com , fax 432.686.2768, or apply in person at: Select Energy Services, 2911 SCR 1260, Midland, TX 79706

CDL/VAC Tank Drivers
Texas Freight Relocators
Must have valid Class A CDL with endorsement. $17/hour-Dayshift. $18/hour-Nightshift. Health, dental and vision benefits after 60 days of employment. Call (432) 684-6000.

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Silverline Transportation **432-563-1894**
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com**
Also hiring for Field Coordinators.

Drivers
Drivers wanted asap. Class A with Tanker required. Competitive wages. Call 719-859-1569 or 719-859-8449.

Drivers Wanted
Reagent Chemical & Research. Inc FT
Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Tx. Requirements include Class A CDL with tank and Hazmat Endorsement. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

McCOY'S BUILDING SUPPLY

McCoy's Building Supply is now hiring:

Full-time/Part-time Class B CDL Driver and Part-time Class A CDL

The successful candidate must be at least 23 years of age & meet McCoy's Driver requirements. Must have excellent customer service skills and be willing to assist in the Yard.

Apply at:
www.mccoys.com

Or
3112 West Front Ave.
Midland, TX

Please no calls to the Store
DOT Drug Screen & Background Check Required
EOE, AAP, D, F, VA.

Do You Have A Special Skill? Try Our Who's Who for Service Call Classified 682-6222

Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

WE BUY pecans come by 302 S. Weatherford. Sandy's Nursery. 432-687-7097.

FREE TO good home. Male & female mixed puppies, 6weeks old. 432-599-3620

FREE WOODEN PALLETS!
Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

BROYHILL QUEEN Continental Tapestry Bed frame in excellent condition, $500 worth $1500. 432-695-4599.

1 NEW tire, LT24575R16 $50. 432-352-8419

COMFORTER SET yours for only $10. Come take a look. Call 694-9491.

KITCHEN TABLE with 4 swivel chairs $350, dining table, 2 arm chairs & 6 straight back chairs, all padded $600, wrought iron lawn table & 4 chairs $200, entertainment center $300, elliptical trainer $200, office swivel chair $20, 432-262-0873.

MOTORCYCLE & Eagle on glass shade lamp, work good. $50. 432-631-8571.

STORAGE UNITS for rent, 10X20, $75 a month! Call 682-7827.

SUPER NINTENDO game system plus 25 video games. $50. 262-1192

WEST HAVEN Cemetery, Valhalla Mausoleum, Twilight Gardens. $3,000 obo. Call 432-381-0426

Musical Instruments

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS for sale, Western, Middle-Eastern, African, $10-$100, 432-699-1336.

Office Supplies & Equipment

Office Equipment & Supplies

GOOD USED office furniture. Desks, chairs, dividers, etc. 432-559-1037

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Animals & Pets

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PONTIAC 2001 Grand AM GT. V6, very sporty, $1900 Call 432-664-4690.

SATURN 1998 SL2, 4 door, automatic, 30+ mpg, $1300. Call 432-664-4690

SATURN 2004 ION, 4 dr Sedan, 193,995 mi. Engine runs well, needs transmission and other work, interior poor/exterior good. Great car for parts. AS IS, $900. Call 432-528-7024 if no answer leave message.

TOYOTA 1986 Celica GT, nds motor. Make offer, 432-889-8513

TOYOTA 1998 Corolla, nice car, 105k mi. 35+ mpg, $2300. Call 432-664-4690

TOYOTA 2002 AVALON SLX, loaded, Desert Sand, 1 owner, garaged, new tires, 1 owner, $14,975. 432-978-9335.

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars & pickups. 432-685-4078

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230* R.E.D. Dragster. rave ready, $25,000 obo. 28' tag along enclosed pace trailer, $22,500. 559-0600.

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BMW of the Permian Basin
5715 Andrews Hwy - Midland
432-272-9988

2004 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA
Silver/Black - 26K miles

2008 BMW 750Li
Alpine White/Beige, Luxury Seat Pkg., Convenience Pkg., Prem Sound Pkg., 19" Wheels - 43k Miles

2008 Mercedes Benz C300
Sand Beige/Cashmere
Prem Pkg II, Multimedia Pkg., Fold Down Rear Seats, Heated Seats, 23k Miles

2010 MERCEDES BENZ C300
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AMG Sport Pkg., Sunroof, 25k Miles

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FORD 1966 Thunderbird, perfect condition, reduced price, $11000 obo, 432-694-1429.

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CHEVROLET 2004 LS 2500 HD, 4 dr., long bed, good condition 92k miles. Asking $9,500. Serious inquires only please. 432-894-5728

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CHEVY 2003 Silverado 2500HD. Clean and in very good condition, white, power doors & locks. cd, tow pkg, break master, nearly new tires, 81k mi, $11,000. MUST SEE... Call 432-349-5111

CHEVY 2004 2500 HD great cond/clean, extras, 103k, $12,000 firm, 432-238-4825.

CHEVY 2008 COLORADO Crew Cab. Must sell, $15,500 OBO, 556-6947.

DODGE 2008 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT, Loan Star, 51,000 miles, $21,000 obo. Call 432-230-7810.

FORD 1995 F350 crew cab, long bed, automatic, great work truck $1500. 432-664-4690

Ford 2001 F150, single cab, long bed, V8 automatic, 61k miles. $5,600. 432-934-2318.

FORD 2003 F350 Super Crew Lariat. 130k miles, will financing, $12,800. 661-0173

FORD 2006 F150 SuperCrew XLT. Black with gray interior. Nice truck, 87K mi., 3-year transferrable warranty available. $15,500. Pictures @ www.chipmccarver.com 432-553-9972.

NEW TODAY!

TOYOTA 1995 Tacoma. $3,995. 432-967-2285 or 432-522-2155.

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CHEVROLET 2002 Regency Conversion Van leather seats, good condition. $5,500 obo. Call 432-425-8404.

MINI BUS for Sale 2000 Ford H50 Mini Bus, wheel chair accessible, air conditioner/ heater works. 250,000 Hwy. miles. $8,200 OBO. Call Chuck @ 432-296-1826

PONTIAC 2004 Montana minivan, 7-passenger seating. Nice van, $2800, 432-664-4690.

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2003 Chevrolet Suburban, LS, extra clean, only 87,000 miles, 3 seats, good tires, Bose Sound, new detail, 2nd owner, $9,050 432-853-5229

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CHEVROLET 2007 Thaltblazer SS with a D-15C Intercooled ProCharger, Kooks headers, Magnaflow muffler, packed with power, loaded, black with black leather, 20 inch chrome wheels with oversized tires, clean, non-smoker. $28,200. Call Chip 638-8372.

CHEVY 1997 Blazer V6 S10, 4dr., 166k mi, needs transmission work $1600, 934-1104

CHEVY 2005 2500HD 75000 miles 4 door, burgundy exterior, tan interior, 4WD, 8.1 Big Block V8, Allison 5 speed Automatic Transmission, Entertainment DVD System, loaded, priced $5000 below KBB $17000, 432-425-4553

CHEVY 2005 Tahoe Z71 4X4, black/tan leather, 126k mi., non-smoker, DVD, very good cond., $15,750, Tiffany 432-940-3631

DODGE 1987 Ram Charger, great shape & ready to drive, 133k, $4,800 OBO. Call 432-664-3557.

DODGE 2008 Nitro, 48,000 miles, 4 door, automatic transmission, like new condition, black exterior, 2WD, A/C, power windows, highway miles, 20" black rims. $17,527 O.B.O. 432-664-0722. bobbybyurkh older@yahoo.com

FORD 1994 Explorer XLT. New tires, 147k miles, $1800. Call 432-664-4690.

FORD 1995 Explorer XLT. 4WD, loaded, all power, $2250 OBO. 432-661-5874.

GMC 1999 SUBURBAN SLT 4 WD, gray/gray leather, fully loaded, 208k, $6000, 432-634-1802.

JEEP 2003 Wrangler Sport, black on black, 6cyl., 61k mi., Mickey Thompson wide mud tires and wheels. Great Christmas gift for that hunter. Slightly wrecked, lists for 12-14k, $8500 OBO. Serious, call 631-8268.

LEXUS 2004 GX470 4WD. 4 or 6 seats. All options, 39k mi, 1 owner, always garaged, KBB $28,600 OBO. 432-685-1865 or 432-267-1000.

NISSAN 2008 Pathfinder SE, 38K miles. Warranty to 100K miles. Third row seat. Very nice, $19,000. Call 432-664-9191

NISSAN 2011 MURANO SL, 2,800 miles, nav, $34000. 432-528-9497.

VOLVO 2005 XC90TG, 3rd row seat, premier, sound, leather, roof, rack, loaded, 105K miles. $12,500. Call 432-889-1822.

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CHEVY 2007 C5500, diesel, single cab, flat bed, 97k mi, $25,500, 432-686-7949.

INTERNATIONAL 1982 Winch Truck, $10,000. Only 16,000 miles. If interested contact Jerry at 288-1064 or jlewis126@suddenlink.net

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23T ALTERED 1998 454 with 2speed power glide. New paint, comes with 35 ft Sidhan trailer., overhead air, winch, generator & new tags. Ready for use. $15000 obo. 634-3034.

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SANDPIPER 2011 5th Wheel, 39ft. Fiberglass, 3 slideouts, 2 A/C'S, Washer/Dryer, Perfect condition, must see! $36,500 call 956-239-1647

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3306 EDGEMONT. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 1668 sq ft, granite, new tile, new shower. Includes all appliances, $189,500. Call 432-664-5834.

4 BEDROOM 2 bath $118,000. 5207 Thomason. Open house every Saturday and Sunday 2pm-4pm Call 432-683-2243.

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GREEN TREE: 4806 Teakwood Trace, On golf course, 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 bath, 2 studies, large patio, tile flooring, 3 car garage. 432-352-8367.

5306 Green Tree Blvd.
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BY OWNER - 4904 Timber Ct. Midland, 2496sqft, 4bd, 2.5bth, 3 living, 2 car. New A/C, water heater, roof, flooring, & granite. Cul-de-sac, lots of tile, big kitchen, sprinkler, lrg patio, His/Her mstr vanities & closets. Santa Rita, Abell-Lee, $240,000, Call April 432-697-2580.

BY OWNER Wallace Patio Townhouse, 1410 W. Pine, 3BD, 2BTH, 2 car, 2430 sq. ft., 1 owner, new roof, lrg living area, huge mast. ter bdrm, and 2 fireplaces. For appointment call 432-697-4010.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN CRANE 307 W 13th, 2 story, 4BR, 2BTH, LR, Den, 20x20 shop, 2 car carport, nice, shady yard. Corner lot, CH/A, tile, carpet, and wood floors.1948 sq ft. 1yr home warranty included 4 blocks from schools, nice neighborhood. $92,000 FMI 325-226-3090

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Homes for Sale

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HOUSE FOR sale completely remodeled, cute, 3/1, Eastside, 817-938-5634.

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Level: 1 2 3 4

6						7	4	1
			2	6				
			1		7			
2		1				3		
	8		6				5	
		3		7		1		4
			7		3			
			5	4				
8	4	5						3

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

1/3/12

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE

6	7	8	9	2	4	3	1	5
4	2	1	7	5	3	9	8	6
9	3	5	8	6	1	4	2	7
7	1	6	4	9	2	8	5	3
8	4	2	3	7	5	6	9	1
3	5	9	6	1	8	2	7	4
5	8	7	2	3	6	1	4	9
1	6	4	5	8	9	7	3	2
2	9	3	1	4	7	5	6	8

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Site Matters



The results are in. Consumers value and trust the premium-quality content found at newspaper Web sites as well as the advertising on those sites according to a just-released comScore survey.

Newspaper Web Sites continue to be the most used and valued sites for consumers seeking credible and trustworthy local content and advertising online.

Top Online Source 57percent of consumers identified local newspaper Web sites as the top online source for local information, ahead of the totals for all other media.

Source for Local Information Newspaper sites ranked first as a source for local information (29%), local sports (27%), local entertainment (26%) and local classifieds (39%), ahead of both local television Web sites and online portals. And, consumers value local content with 57% indicating that local information is very important.

Trustworthiness of Advertising Consumers agree that their opinion of online advertising is influenced by the type of Web site on which the ad appears. Local newspaper sites ranked first in trustworthiness of advertising.

Current, Credible and Relevant Consumers consider local newspaper Web sites to be the most trusted source of online advertising, with ads that are perceived to be more current, credible and relevant to them.

75 million unique visitors 37% of all active Internet users went to newspaper Web sites in January 2010, accessing more than 3.5 billion pages.

Local Matters, the Content Matters, the Site Matters.

Source: comScore 2010, Nielsen Online

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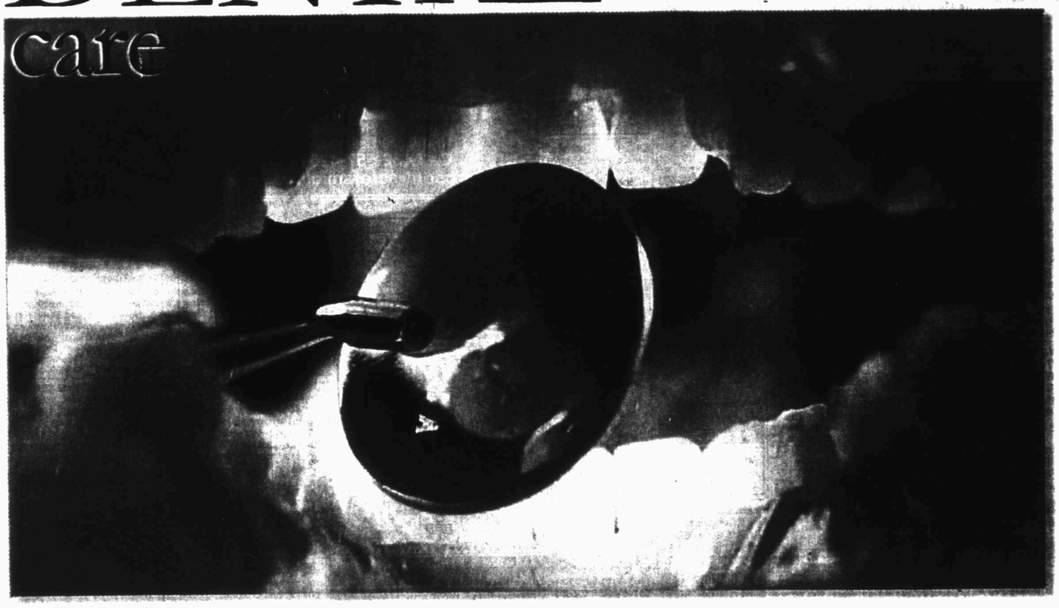
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DENTAL



Closer look at teeth may mean more fillings

By Ritchie King
N.Y. Times News Service

Until 2010, Amelia Nuwer, 22, visited the same dentist every year in Biloxi, Miss., her hometown. And every year she came back with a clean bill of dental health: no fillings necessary.

Then, as a junior at the University of Alabama, she saw a new dentist who delivered her first negative diagnosis: two cavities. Six months later, the dentist told her she had two more. Earlier this year, he once again had bad news: yet another cavity.

Somehow, in 12 months she had gone from perfect oral health to five fillings.

"It felt wrong to me," she said.

Her hometown dentist, Dr. Francis Janus, was surprised, too. He examined his longtime patient after she graduated. Nuwer's so-called cavities, he concluded, had actually been "incipient carious lesions," a form of early stage decay that some dentists call "microcavities."

"He said that he wouldn't have filled them," she recalled. "I was so upset and angry."

The five fillings cost her almost $500 out of pocket.

Nuwer is hardly alone. With increasingly sophisticated detection technology, dentists are finding — and treating — tooth abnormalities that may or may not develop into cavities. While some describe their efforts as a proactive strategy to protect patients from harm, critics say the procedures are unnecessary and painful, and are driving up the costs of care.

"A better approach is watchful waiting," said Dr. James Bader, a research professor at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry. "Examine it again in six months."

Every time a dentist drills into a tooth, he added, "you're condemning that person to a refilling" years down the road.

An incipient carious lesion is the initial stage of structural damage to the enamel, usually caused by a bacterial infection that produces tooth-dissolving acid.

The lesion doesn't always lead to a full-blown cavity, which entails decay of the layer right beneath the enamel, called dentin. Mineral-containing saliva can repair these lesions, especially when bolstered with fluoride.

Many experts think it doesn't make sense to operate in the early stages of decay.

"If you don't have any kind of demonstrable collapse of the enamel wall, then you shouldn't put in a filling," Bader said.

Yet a majority of practitioners are inclined to do so. According to a 2010 National Institutes of Health survey, 63 percent of more than 500 practicing dentists said they would operate on a tooth with decay that had not progressed beyond the enamel, even if the patient had a history of good dental hygiene.

Such operations typically cost $88 to $350 per filling, according to a 2007 survey in the magazine Dental Economics. According to the American Dental Association, about 175 million filling operations are performed in the United States every year.

Insurance plans cover all fillings, whether for microcavities or full-blown cavities, because dentists bill based on the work they've done, not the symptoms they've observed.

"In an ideal world, we would have a diagnostic code" for cavities, said Dr. John Yamamoto, vice president of Delta Dental, a major provider of dental insurance. "We know what tooth, we know what surface, but we don't know the severity of it."

Different dentists hold to different treatment philosophies, and the dental association intentionally offers little guidance. Aside from endorsing the use of fluoride and dental sealants to prevent cavities, the association eschews formal treatment recommendations and "does not have a policy on the treatment of incipient caries," or decay, according to a representative.

Dr. Douglas Young, a dental diagnostician at the University of the Pacific, thinks that "watchful waiting" doesn't make sense.

"If you were to go to a physician and he were to diagnose risk factors for heart disease, the physician would take action and treat the early signs of disease and try to prevent future disease," said Young, who helped develop a standardized cavity risk assessment adopted by the dental association.

To find incipient caries that can't be seen with X-rays or the naked eye, dentists like Young use a variety of new and sophisticated detection methods that include fiber-optic techniques and infrared laser scanning. The Diagnodent is a popular fluorescent light scanner that picks up on abnormalities in tooth density.

Whether to fill based on a Diagnodent reading "depends on the risk," said Dr. Margherita Fontana, an associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. An adult with great dental hygiene is probably at lower risk of seeing a microcavity progress than a teenager who drinks soft drinks all day, she said.

But other experts are critical of the Diagnodent and other early detection devices because they identify areas on teeth that aren't actually carious lesions. What's more, even with a risk assessment, it's hard to know whether a true lesion will develop into a cavity or not.

"What's going to happen to it over the next five years is unclear," Bader said. "That data isn't available yet."

Gabriella Ribeiro Truman, 36, who runs a travel agency in New Jersey, has never had a cavity.

"I've never had any extensive dental work, and I go for a cleaning twice a year," she said.

About a month and a half ago, however, she went to a see a new dentist. He took some high-resolution pictures of her teeth and enlarged the images on a screen. He pointed to six microcavities, and a possible seventh.

He said that "these could turn into something major," she said. "Root canals. I could lose my teeth."

"You feel uncomfortable when you're put in that position," she added.

The dentist handed her a quote for $3,500 worth of work. The high figure gave her pause.

"To go from great dental health to something like that?" she said. "I would rather get somebody else to look at them beforehand."

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A: My spidey-sense is tingling. I can see it now. You live in you parents' basement with 35 years of saved comic books and it's time to unload a few. Hmmm…come to think of it, that sounds familiar.

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Say hello to Square (squareup.com). This is a nifty service that includes a little (square) card swipe you attach to your iPhone, iPad, or Android phone. Launched in February 2011 by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, this may be the solution to get your next game machine and unload those Supergirl comics. What were you thinking?

The Square smartphone app and hardware are free with no set-up fees. They support receipt printing (from an iPad) and can issue refunds. Cards that don't swipe can be entered manually. They charge a bit less than the 3 percent per transaction for MasterCard, Visa, Amex and Discover. That may be a bit higher than a typical merchant account, but still might work out better for you because it is all-inclusive. With your new payment options in place, you will dominate that weird comic guy selling Archie and Friends. "It's clobberin' time!"

Riddle me this: what would be easier than swiping a credit card? How about just walking in? Recent upgrades to the iPhone allow Square's Card Case app to process your transactions based on Apple's geofencing capabilities (bit.ly/qJMMe4). This means you can pay for your coffee without even taking the phone out of your pocket, based solely on your presence in trusted merchant locations.

Other smart phone payment systems like Intuit's GoPayment (bit.ly/vxQapL) and Google Wallet (google.com/Wallet) are giving Square some competition. That may mean lower fees for us in the future. Competition is good, just like "truth, justice, and the American way."

So, how much are you asking for your Marvel number 1? My grandma just sent me a check for Christmas. Worst penmanship ever!

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