MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015 mrt★com *235,000 readers in print and online monthly*

MRT DAILY

See where Midland lands among the most violent cities.

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BACK TO TEXAS

Longview-native and comic-musician Rodney Carrington finds his second act. Read about Carrington, who is set to perform at the Wagner Noel on Sunday, and more in Weekender.

Inside

Taxing entities' total debt climbs to $866M

Total rises more than $150 million compared to last year, according to bond report

From staff reports

The Texas Bond Review Board is reporting Midland's five taxing entities are claiming more than $866 million in total debt payments as of Aug. 31, 2014 — an increase of more than $152 million compared to the previous year.

The Review Board's website showed that Midland County — "Midland Junior College," the city of Midland, Midland Hospital District and Midland ISD — owed $547,564,266 in principal and $318,700,064 in interest payments. In 2014's report, which took into account numbers as of Aug. 31, 2013, the TBRB reported the entities owed a combined $469.618 million in principal payments and $714.25 million in total payments. In 2013's report, the five entities owed a combined $442 million in principal payments and $668 million in total payments.

Total debt payments increased for the city of Midland and Midland ISD. The city's total debt payments increased from $174.69 million to $204.1 million ($137.7 million in principal and $64.4 million in interest). According to the TBRB's website, the city took out certificates of obligation (COs) for $26.18 million. Add another $15.3 million in interest and the total is $41.537 million.

Midland ISD's debt increased from $258 million to $407.15 million ($239.926 million in principal and $167.227 million in interest). According to the TBRB's website, MISD took out bonds for $85.235 million. Add another $81.7 million-plus in interest and the total moves to $166.996 million. That bond money is related to the $163 million bond referendum passed in November 2012.

Please see **BOND**/2A

COME WHAT MAY

Houston Chronicle

The small rural town of Big Lake is overwhelmed with infrastructure issues because of recent oil production. As increased housing demand, population and traffic test the community's hometown boundaries, a recent drop in the price of oil is causing some rigs to shut down.

Big Lake's future as uncertain as oil price

By Michael Brick
Houston Chronicle

BIG LAKE — On the timeworn main street through this small town on the high plains, a new store opened last spring. It has coffee and pastries, plus everything else a roving roustabout could need: game room, Taco Bell, check cashing, laundry machines, portable vacuum cleaners, high-performance scrubbing windshield wipers and an expansive Beer Cave.

"Shower Customer 61, your shower is now ready," intones a voice of robotic authority. "Please proceed to Shower 6."

Few places have been more overwhelmed by the petroleum machismo of the past five years than this outpost in the Permian Basin of West Texas, where global energy firms have staked claims on three major shale formations stacked like the pancake breakfast of a subterranean giant.

But as oil prices fall, Big Lake now finds itself at the front of a drilling downturn. Nationally, according to the oilfield services firm Baker Hughes, the number of rigs has fallen over the past two months from 1,928 to 1,676, including a decline in Texas from 902 to 766. Here in Reagan County, the count fell from 34 in November to 23 on Friday, one of the sharpest declines in the state. At an average of 100 workers per rig, that amounts to about 1,100 jobs.

Pioneer Natural Resources of Irving, the dominant operator in the area, declined an interview request. In a conference call with Wall Street analysts in November, company officials pledged to "prudently develop our industry-leading position in probably the largest oil field in the U.S."

Houston Chronicle

Reagan County Judge Larry Isom, far right, meets up with local residents during his usual lunch at Granny's Kitchen, located in the center of town along U.S. Highway 67. Big Lake residents treat each other like family, speaking fondly of yesteryears.

The math, though, defies any corporate instinct to play coy. When analysts from several investment firms recently estimated break-even production prices for various fields, their figures ranged from $61 to $75 a barrel in the surrounding formation known as the lower Wolfcamp. Benchmark West Texas crude closed Friday at $48.69 a barrel.

Uncertainty reigns

For Big Lake, the uncertainty of the moment captures an exaggerated version

Please see **BIG LAKE**/4A

Corporate lobby, not the taxpayer, wins in Texas Legislature

■ COMMENTARY

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

The government has no place trying to pick winners in the private sector by offering them special deals.

We hear that time and again from conservatives and tea party supporters who are tired of big government giving taxpayer money to private businesses. Liberals are equally opposed to these programs, denouncing them as corporate welfare and cronyism. Even Gov. Greg Abbott said during his campaign that government should "get out of the business of picking winners and losers."

Small-business people also openly wonder why big companies and the new kids on the block can get millions of dollars in tax breaks while roads slowly decay and test scores at public schools drop.

None of this opposition seems to matter, though, to Texas politicians who gauge their success by how much taxpayer money they can give away in return for vague promises of economic development. Unfortunately, even the most conservative Texas Legislature in living memory will likely keep handing out cash based on the draft report of the House Select Committee On Economic Development Incentives.

The committee and its staff didn't bother to question the fundamental premise that lawmakers should only spend taxes for the greater good. Instead they accepted the business lobby's threat that businesses would flee Texas without handouts.

"A common thread heard throughout hearings was that the application process for the varied incentive programs was too cumbersome and difficult to tackle," the committee's report conversely concluded. "The committee recommends the creation of one standardized application for the major incentive programs in the state."

That's right, the problem is that the state makes it too hard to get taxpayer money, not that successful corporations shouldn't need taxpayer money. The committee actually concluded that the state should expand incentives to buy off some of the critics.

"The committee finds there is an overall gap in incentives for small to medium-size businesses and to rural communities," it said. "The committee recommends working to fill this void with the restructuring of existing programs."

As to the concern that property tax incentives are taking money away from public schools, these fine lawmakers concluded that the state should shift more

Please see **LOBBY**/3A

Weather
Cloudy
34/26
Get your complete forecast on 7C

Energy prices

WTI Futures	$47.78	▲ $1.31
WTI Posted	$44.28	▲ $1.75
WTS Posted	$40.30	▲ $1.75
Natural Gas	$2.974	▲ $0.143
Gasoline	$2.000	▲ $0.006

The big number
Gov. Abbot submitted his first **3 appointments** to the Senate on Tuesday. Read more on Page 3A

Love to read?
Learn more about the MRT book club at mrt.com.

Coming Friday in F&P
Meet Buckner Children and Family Services' director.

Vol. 86, No. 317
Daily $1, Sunday $2

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BOND

From 1A

The Texas Bond Review Board also released that the Midland County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1 increased its total payments from $452 million to $486.356 million. The TBRB shows $226.57 million in principal and $259.78 million in interest for the district. Those bonds are related to the construction of the T-Bar Ranch pipeline from Winkler County to Midland and the pipeline from Clearwater Ranch to T-Bar.

Jay Edwards, general manager of the fresh water district, has said the debt will be paid off in 30 years — or earlier if the city's water demand increases. The city provides the district a monthly payment for delivering T-Bar water at a rate $2.78 per thousand gallons at an average of 10 million gallons per day, according to previous Reporter-Telegram articles. The monthly payments are then put into a trustee bank. In turn, the bank makes a payment on the interest every six months and a payment on the principal every 12 months.

By the numbers

Total payments by year

2014	$866,264,330
2013	$714,250,764
2012	$668,583,590
2011	$684,763,148

Total payments by entity

	2014	2013	2012
Midland County	$26,767,878	$36,978,565	$39,512,416
Midland College	$52,911,613	$57,100,429	$61,275,106
City of Midland	$202,184,080	$174,691,713	$204,101,268
Hospital District	$177,246,666	$187,304,339	$197,434,830
Midland ISD	$407,154,093	$258,175,718	$166,259,970

2015 report

(Based on numbers fiscal year end of Aug. 31, 2014)

	Prinicpal	Interest	Total payments
City of Midland	$137,770,000	$64,414,080	$202,184,080
Midland College	$40,208,052	$12,703,561	$52,911,613
Midland County	$19,055,000	$7,712,878	$26,767,878
Hospital District	$110,605,000	$66,641,666	$177,246,666
Midland ISD	$239,926,214	$167,227,879	$407,154,093

Midland County Freshwater District

Principal	$226,576,160
Interest	$259,780,465
Total payments	$486,356,625

Texas Bond Review Board

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

COLLEGE STATION

Missing painting of Texas A&M mascot Reveille I recovered

A painting of the original Texas A&M University mascot Reveille I missing since the 1990s has been recovered.

A&M officials in College Station on Wednesday afternoon planned to unveil the artwork of the much-beloved dog.

School authorities on Tuesday announced university police located the painting done in 1943 by College Station artist Marie Haines. Donations helped pay for the artwork commissioned by students and faculty, then presented to the school.

The Reveille I painting disappeared while in storage during renovation of the Military Science Building. The issue was recently revisited in a news story for a Texas A&M former students group.

Corps of Cadets Center curator Lisa Kalmus said she received a tip about someone years ago seeing the painting at a home. University police retrieved the painting last month.

LUBBOCK

Housing Authority wrongly posts personal data online

A West Texas public housing group accidentally posted online the personal information from about 1,100 applicants.

The Lubbock Housing Authority has asked those applicants to contact the organization to get free access to credit monitoring.

KCBD-TV on Tuesday reported the internal information, such as Social Security numbers, was wrongly posted online Dec. 23. Executive director Mike Chapman said the personal data remained online until the error was discovered Dec. 29.

Chapman said the information that should have been made public was winners of a lottery system for a waiting list to get public housing assistance. The authority provides subsidized housing to low and moderate income families.

Applicants whose personal information wrongly ended up online were notified Jan. 12.

SAN ANTONIO

Deputy US marshal admits role in fraud scheme

A San Antonio-based deputy U.S. marshal has pleaded guilty to wire fraud relating to an insurance fraud scheme.

According to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's office, Reynaldo Gonzalez entered his plea Wednesday in San Antonio. He admitted that he filed a fraudulent claim for medical treatment of various fictitious injuries and using a physician's signature and tax identification number without the doctor's knowledge.

The insurer then sent several benefit checks to Gonzalez.

The 38-year-old deputy is now on administrative leave. U.S. District Judge Micaela Alvarez could sentence him to up to $20 years in federal prison and fine him up to $250,000 at sentencing April 23. In the meantime, he remains free on bond.

DALLAS

Nurse who contracted Ebola donates blood in search for cure

One of two Dallas nurses who contracted Ebola last year is donating blood to a biotech firm to determine if her antibodies can be used to develop a drug to combat the deadly disease.

Amber Vinson gave the blood Wednesday to drug development company XBiotech.

XBiotech CEO John Simard told WFAA-TV in Dallas that those who survive Ebola have "very good antibodies" that could be the foundation for developing a resistance to the disease.

BEAUMONT

Police help find blind man, lost after he got off bus

Beaumont police have helped rescue a blind man who wandered alone for hours after becoming confused when he got off a city bus.

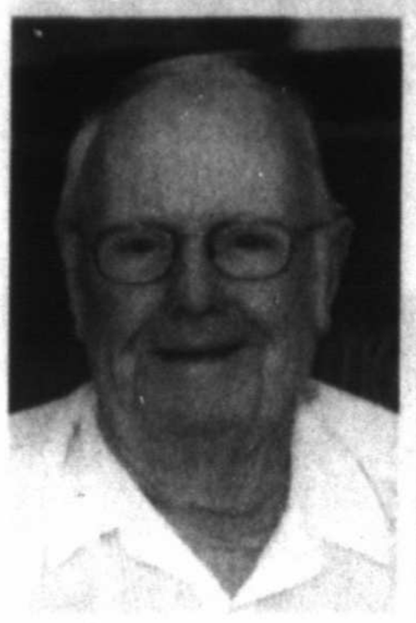
Officer Carol Riley said heavy fog early Wednesday hampered the ground search in Beaumont, a city of about 118,000.

A person walking a dog came across the lost man, who was then escorted home by officers.

The man called 911 shortly before 5 a.m. Wednesday to say he was lost somewhere in Beaumont. He said he was blind, disoriented, missed his bus transfer Tuesday night and was trying to walk home.

Dispatchers determined his general location as he stayed on the line. Officers even sounded a patrol car siren and asked him to listen, then the person with a dog encountered the lost man.

Obituaries



Herbert (Bert) A. Hemphill, Jr.

Herbert (Bert) A. Hemphill, Jr., 87, of Burton died January 17, 2015 after a lengthy battle with congestive heart failure. He was called to his wife Phoebe on the 36th anniversary of her passing.

A memorial service will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at Brenham Memorial Chapel, 2300 Stringer St., Brenham, Texas. 979.836.3611

Bert was born in Columbia, South Carolina on October 12, 1927, to Herbert Augustus Hemphill, Sr. and Helen Sellards Hemphill. He moved to Midland, Texas as a young boy. On graduation from high school, he served in the United States Navy.

He earned a degree in Geology from the University of Texas and became a geologist like his father, his grandfather Elias H. Sellards, and his wife's father, Frank E. Lewis. He worked for many years in the oil fields of west Texas, then moved his family to Austin where he worked as a realtor and appraiser before moving to his family's farm in Burton.

Bert loved his family and enjoyed photography, farm life, trying the latest high tech gadgets and sharing a good laugh with friends.

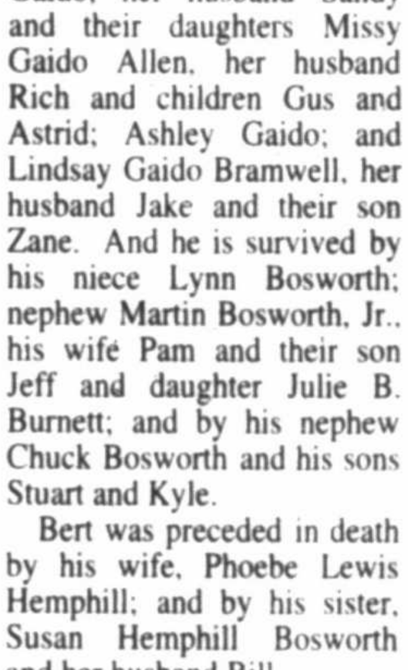
Bert is survived by his children, Leigh Hemphill Thompson, her husband Gary and their daughter Holly; Teg Hemphill Israeloff, her husband Sim and their daughters Kat, Amy Shine and her husband Nick; and by his son Mike Hemphill.

He is also survived by his sister, Nancy Hemphill Gaido, her husband Sandy and their daughters Missy Gaido Allen, her husband Rich and children Gus and Astrid; Ashley Gaido; and Lindsay Gaido Bramwell, her husband Jake and their son Zane. And he is survived by his niece Lynn Bosworth; nephew Martin Bosworth, Jr., his wife Pam and their son Jeff and daughter Julie B. Burnett; and by his nephew Chuck Bosworth and his sons Stuart and Kyle.

Bert was preceded in death by his wife, Phoebe Lewis Hemphill; and by his sister, Susan Hemphill Bosworth and her husband Bill.

At a later date, a private graveside service will be held in Austin where Bert will be interred next to Phoebe.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the American Heart Association.



James "Jim Ed' Edward Miller

December 11, 1932 - January 19, 2015

Born December 11, 1932 in Pecos, Texas to Robert and Gladys Miller, James Edward "Jim Ed" Miller passed away at his home in Pecos, Texas on January 19, 2015.

He is survived by his two sisters, Nancy Miller Hill of Stanford, Kentucky, and Carol Jean Miller Kelley (Bill) of Dallas, Texas; nieces, Harriett Kelley Brown (Kevin) of Chicago, Illinois, Nancy Kelley of Addison Texas, Virginia Carol Hill of Stanford, Kentucky; along with grand nephews, cousins, and more friends than can be named.

Jim Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Gladys Miller; his brother-in-law, Thomas Jefferson Hill, III; and his nephew, Thomas Jefferson Hill, IV.

Visitation will be on Thursday, January 22, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pecos Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be on Friday, January 23, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Pecos Funeral Home Chapel, and burial will follow at the Barstow Cemetery. Reverend Clark Ford will be officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Pecos Funeral Home.

Jim Ed's grandfather, Ed Miller, and his twin brother, Jim Miller, came to West Texas in the 1890's and settled in Barstow. They had a mercantile store on the Old Highway 80 at Barstow and were known as the "Twin Brothers of the West." Jim Ed grew up in Barstow, attended public schools in Barstow and graduated from Pecos High School.

Upon graduation from Pecos High School, he attend Arlington State College and then transferred to the University of Texas in Austin, where he was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. During this time, he made many lifelong friends. Jim Ed served two years in the Army at Fort Bliss in El Paso, and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduating, he returned to Pecos where he was involved in a number of different businesses. He was the owner of an oil distribution company, a very successful cotton broker, a very well liked officer and director of the First National Bank of Pecos, General Manger of Red Bluff Water District, and then a rancher and oil and gas operator during his later years

He was a member of the First Christian Church of Pecos. He was a member of the Rotary Club and a long term sustaining member of the Pecos Valley Country Club. Jim Ed was a supporter of the West of the Pecos Museum. He also was a Mason. Jim Ed was an enthusiastic host. He hosted numerous personal and civic parties at his home and allowed others to host personal and civic parties at his home.

Out of all his accomplishments, the one he was the most proud of was the annual fundraisers he had for the Russell family. All members of this family were accomplished artists; however, they were all disabled and a significant portion of their annual income was raised from the Annual Art Auctions which Jim Ed sponsored and underwrote. Over the years, Jim Ed raised hundreds of thousands of dollars which supported this family for years. In addition, he provided scholarships to deserving young high school students who otherwise would not have been able to attend college.

In his later years, he became a great admirer and supporter of The Smile Train and Wonder Works. Smile Train provides facial surgery to thousands of children born with facial deformities, and Wonder Works provides surgery to thousands of children to restore their sight.

Jim Ed never met a stranger and he truly loved people. The family would like to thank American Home Health and all the care givers who loved and cared for Jim Ed.

Memorials may be given to La Gran Familiar Inc. 2813 Southland Boulevard, San Angelo TX 76904, Care of Glenn Polhemus; First Christian Church of Pecos, 423 S. Elm, Pecos TX 79772; West of the Pecos Museum 120 E. 1st Street, Pecos TX 79772; and Wonder Works 6445 West North Ave, Oak Park, IL 60302.

To leave the family a message or to sign the guestbook please log online to *pecosfuneralhome.com* .

To Submit Obituaries:

Contact

Direct: 432-682-6222

Fax: 432-682-6999

Email: obits@mrt.com

Midland Reporter-Telegram mrt.com

All Obituaries must be submited by 3:30 P.M. prior to next publication day.

Linda Jennings

Linda Jennings passed away Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at home in Flower Mound. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home.

Linda Jennings was born Lela Ethelinda White on January 5, 1928 in Cleveland, Mississippi. Previously, she lived in Midland and Grapevine. She was a member of Meadow Creek Baptist Church in Bedford for more than 20 years.

She was totally dedicated to her husband of 59 years, five children, 15 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren.

Linda is preceded in death by husband, D.L. Jennings; parents, Walter and Laura Belle Hall; and five brothers.

Survivors include her children, Kathy Brown (Ronnie) of Midland, Judy Kiddoo (Steve) of Flower Mound, Don Jennings (Kara) of Decatur, Linda Snelling (Jim) of Grapevine, and David Jennings (Erica) of Denton.

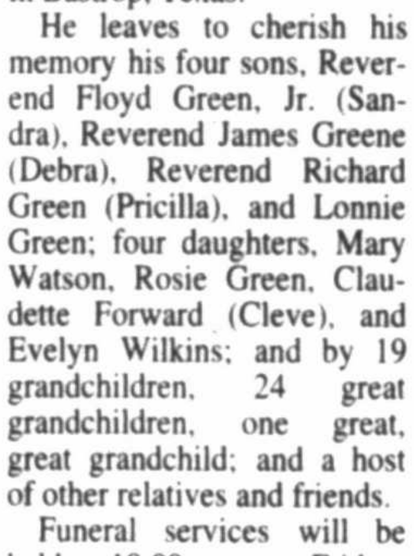
Reverend Floyd Green, Sr.

Reverend Floyd Green, Sr., 96, completed his journey in life on January 18, 2015, to go home to be with his Heavenly Father. He was born February 28, 1918 to Herman and Willie L. Green in Bastrop, Texas.

He leaves to cherish his memory his four sons, Reverend Floyd Green, Jr. (Sandra), Reverend James Greene (Debra), Reverend Richard Green (Pricilla), and Lonnie Green; four daughters, Mary Watson, Rosie Green, Claudette Forward (Cleve), and Evelyn Wilkins; and by 19 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, one great, great grandchild; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home Chapel, 906 Gregg St, Big Spring, Texas.

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



Wilma Smith

Wilma Smith was born on June 2, 1926, to Claude and Beaulah Dorris. She was the youngest of six children. She grew up and went to school in the small town of Louise, Texas. There, she met Clifton Smith. They married in Edna, Texas on December 9, 1943 and were married 47 years before he passed on February 12, 1991. Together, they had four daughters; Twyla, Sandra, Brenda, and Bobbie.

When the girls were young, they moved to Midland, where Clifton worked for Webb Davis Fruit Company for 23 years. Wilma worked there for eight years before they went out of business in 1982. She also worked for Westminster Presbyterian Church from 1987 - 1996 in the Mother's Day Out program. She also worked in the nursery at Terrace Hills Baptist Church in Odessa for 12 years, until retiring in March 2009.

She was a member of the Midessa Heights Baptist Church for many years before joining Cuthbert Avenue Baptist Church.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two daughters, Brenda Chambers and Sandra Blakeney; a grandson, James Blakely; a great grandson, Cade Thomas; and by her son-in-law, Bobby Thames.

She is survived by two daughters, Twyla Thams and Bobbie Bronaugh, both of Midand; two sons-in-law, Mike Chambers of Papalota, Texas, and Joel Blakeney of Sweetwater, Texas; grandchildren, Craig (Angie) Thames, Mark (Vickie) Thames, Bob (Nicole) Thames, Michael (Amanda) Chambers, Richard (Jennifer) Chambers, Jody Blakeney, Robby (Nanay) Blakeney, Stephanie Bronaugh, Steven (Crysta) Bronaugh; 21 great grandchildren, three great, great grandchildren, and two more that will be here soon.

She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and other various family members and friends.

Visitation will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be at Ellis Funeral Home on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Craig Thames will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Mark Thames, Steven Bronaugh, Tyler Thames, Wesley Davis, Richard Chambers, and Michael Chambers.

Honorary pallbearers will be John Harris, Jr., and other grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Death Notices

Carolina "Carrie" Gomez

Carolina "Carrie" Gomez, 89 of Midland, passed away on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

A memorial service will be Saturday, January 24, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home Chapel.

Jose Carbajal Benavides

Jose Carbajal Benavides, 93, of Midland, passed away Monday, January 19, 2015.

Rosary will be recited at Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2015. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2015 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Midland. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

He is survived by his second wife, Maria de Socorro Moreno Benavides; sons, David M. Benavides, Jesus M. Carillo, and George M. Benavides; daughters, Lorina B. Tavarez and Blanca B. Mack; and by one brother and three sisters.

Jose Luis Pando-Sotelo

Jose Luis Pando-Sotelo, 44, of Midland, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2015.

Rosary will be tonight at 7:00 p.m. at Heavenly Gate Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral mass is set for Friday, January 23, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

He is survived by his wife, Manuela R. Pando; three sons, Miguel Angel Ramos-Gayton, Jose Luis Pando, Jr., and Edgar Pando; and by six brothers and four sisters.

Stanley Joe Burton

Stanley Joe Burton, 61, of Midland, died January 20, 2015 in Midland.

He is survived by his wife, Donna A. Burton; sons, Stephen J. Burton and Nathan C. Burton; daughters, Pollian Massey and Jessica L. Rupe; and by one brother and two sisters.

Viewing will be today, January 22, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at American Heritage Chapel and the funeral service will be Friday, January 23, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at American Heritage Chapel.

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MAIN SWITCHBOARD
432-682-5311

■ PUBLISHER
Mike Distelhorst 687-8880
mdistelhorst@mrt.com

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

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

■ ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR — PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Trevor Hawes 687-8854
thawes@mrt.com

■ ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR — FEATURES & ENTERTAINMENT
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mbuck@mrt.com

■ SPORTS EDITOR
Len Hayward 687-8846
lhayward@mrt.com

■ OIL EDITOR
Mella McEwen 687-8860
mmcewen@mrt.com

■ PHOTO EDITOR
Tim Fischer 687-8833
tfischer@mrt.com

■ CITY & COUNTY REPORTER
Joseph Basco 687-8851
jbasco@mrt.com

■ BUSINESS REPORTER
Rye Druzin 687-8858
rdruzin@mrt.com

■ ENTERTAINMENT WRITER
Rich Lopez
687-8859
jrlopez@mrt.com

■ FEATURES WRITER
Steve Kuhlmann
687-8870
skuhlmann@mrt.com

ONLINE
■ ONLINE EDITOR
Rachael Gleason
688-3717
rgleason@mrt.com

CIRCULATION
■ CUSTOMER SERVICE
688-2700

■ DIRECTOR
Vincent Cone 687-8829
vcone@mrt.com

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■ REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT
Jeff Brown 687-8813
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■ MANAGER
Jeri Houston 687-8894
jhouston@mrt.com

RETAIL ADS
682-5311, ext. 4

CLASSIFIED ADS
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mrtclassified@mrt.com

PRODUCTION
■ DIRECTOR
John Maddox 687-8844
jmaddox@mrt.com

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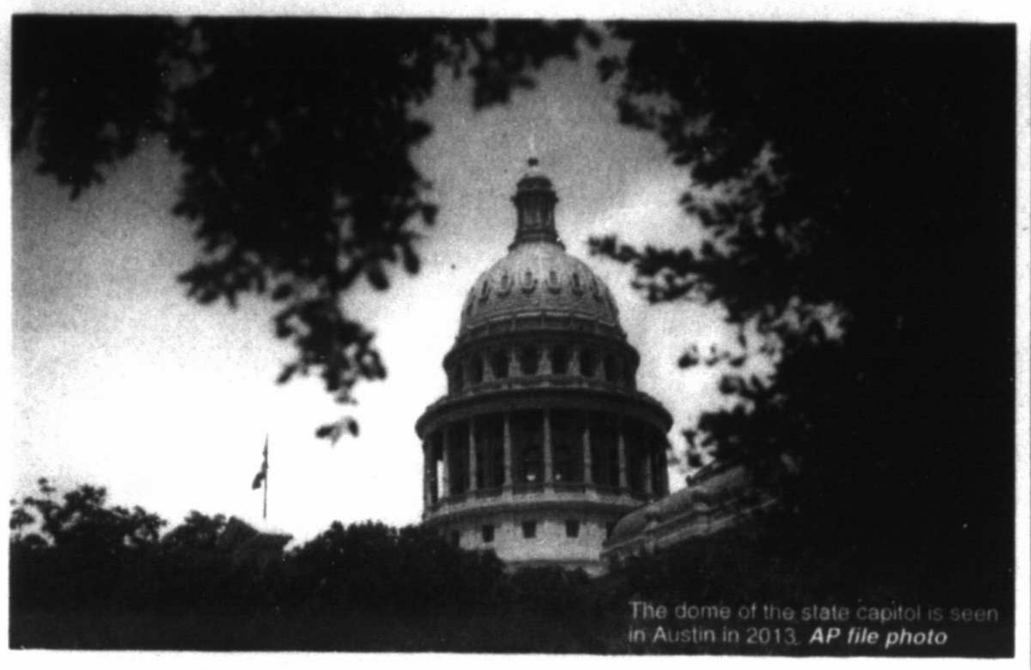
NOTICE: The Thanksgiving Day edition is delivered with every subscription delivery frequency and will be charged at the prevailing Sunday-only home delivery rate. This will result in an adjustment to the subscription expiration date.



The dome of the state capitol is seen in Austin in 2013. *AP file photo*

GOP forces Texas Senate change, increasing its power

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Republicans strengthened their grip on the Texas Senate on Wednesday, shrugging off nearly 70 years of tradition with a rules change that knocks out the Democrats' ability to block legislation on party-line votes.

The GOP holds a 20-11 majority in the upper chamber, which under the old "two-thirds" rule would have left them one vote short of being able to bring up bills for debate without at least one Democrat. The tradition ensured that, even though it could be outvoted on every issue, the minority party could effectively block the most controversial bills from the floor.

By reducing the number required to 19, the GOP seized a controlling majority over just about every major Senate vote to come in the session with a small cushion to spare. And though a small numerical change, it could have a huge impact as it may leave Democrats powerless to block bills or force compromise on issues such as school choice, gun rights, immigration and state spending.

The rule change was near the top of new Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's wish list. The former state senator and tea party favorite first sought to change the rule in 2007 when he was voted down 30-1 on his first day in the Legislature.

Less than a decade later, Patrick is the new presiding officer over the chamber and delivered on a promise to consolidate GOP voting power after the party's sweeping success in the November elections.

"It will help us deliver a conservative agenda a majority of Texas voters elected us to pass," Patrick said after the vote.

Republicans needed only a majority vote to make the much-watched change. The 20-10 vote broke mostly along party lines, with Sen. Eddie Lucio of Brownsville as the only Democrat to join Republicans in support. One Republican, Sen. Craig Estes of Wichita Falls, did not vote.

■ Capitol Almanac

Abbot's appointments

New Gov. Greg Abbott has submitted his first three appointments to the Texas Senate for approval.

Abbott on Wednesday asked the Republican-controlled chamber to OK Cameron County Judge Carlos Cascos as secretary of state. He also sought approval of David Mattax as commissioner of the Department of Insurance, and Jerry Strickland as head of the Office of State and Federal Relations.

Abbott announced all three appointments while still governor-elect, making his requests a formality.

Cascos is a Hispanic Republican who Abbott made a point of tapping as his first nominee.

Mattax was a deputy attorney general who took the lead defending Republican-drawn Texas voting maps in federal court. Abbott's successor, Gov. Rick Perry, already appointed him insurance commissioner for a term ending Feb. 1.

Strickland is a former Abbott spokesman.

On deck

The House and Senate are in recess until next week, but members of both chambers are anxiously awaiting committee assignments and seeing who gets what key chairmanships on issues like the state budget, education and public health so they can begin filing bills.

Quote of the day

"I think it's a sad day for the Senate and one we will look back on with regret." — Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, opposing from the floor the rules vote that scrapped the upper chamber's two-thirds tradition.

Lobby

From 1A

of that responsibility to the private sector, but only if companies volunteer.

"The committee recommends realigning programs to foster more partnerships between the state, institutes of education, and private industry to meet the needs of potential employers," the report concluded. "Adequate attention must be given to public education to ensure we are providing the tools necessary for our children to join the workforce when the time comes."

The bottom line is that Texas legislators plan to rearrange the deck chairs and hope the public stops questioning the incentives, which the state auditor excoriated last year due to lax oversight.

Allow me to introduce a very retro idea. Instead of giving away another $3.4 billion — the total calculated by the committee since the programs began — try doing things that will benefit every business in every corner of the state.

The first item is eliminating the state business tax, often referred to as either the margin or franchise tax because it's not an income tax, something forbidden in Texas.

This tax is reviled by almost everyone because for years lobbyists have carved out exceptions for major industries. Those who can't afford lobbyists must pay it even when their business loses money. Even then, the tax never raises as much money as lawmakers expect, creating a structural budget deficit.

The nonpartisan Tax Foundation calls the Texas Margin Tax one of the worst in the nation and calls for replacing it with something more economically efficient and fair. The right-leaning group said repealing the tax would create 41,500 new jobs, $3.4 billion in new investment, and $9.8 billion in real disposable income over a four-year period by boosting all businesses.

"The Texas Margin Tax does not raise revenue in an equitable, simple or transparent way. While policymakers aimed to increase education spending from a source other than property taxes, they inadvertently created one of the worst business taxes in the country," wrote Scott Drenkard, manager of state projects for the foundation. "The Margin Tax experiment has failed."

Eliminating this tax, and replacing the lost revenue by increasing existing user and license fees, would benefit every business. An income tax is the most efficient form of business tax, but that is a non-starter in Texas.

Lawmakers could also use taxes for their intended purpose, such as fully funding public schools, roads, energy and water projects to make Texas the most desirable place in the nation. Every community knows that the best way to attract new residents is with good schools and infrastructure. The same works for states too.

Unfortunately, the first draft of the budget released by the Texas House fails to cover the growing cost of public schools or health insurance for the disabled, elderly and poor.

Government's role is to set a level playing field where merit determines success. Unfortunately lawmaking in Austin tends to benefit the corporate lobby, not the taxpayer.

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"Lassie" was played by a group of male dogs; the main one was named Pal.

In May 1948, Mt. Ruapehu and Mt. Ngauruhoe, both in New Zealand, erupted simultaneously.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Snow in Midland?

The National Weather Service is reporting a chance of snow for a large chunk of the Permian Basin.

Midland, however, is not likely to be hit hard, if at all.

According to the NWS, the forecast for Midland calls for precipitation — 30 percent today, 60 percent tonight and 60 to 80 percent on Thursday. However, the snow impact shouldn't be great. Less than a half inch of snow accumulation is expected tonight and "little to no" accumulation during the day on Thursday.

The chance for snow continues Thursday night, according to the NWS, which combined with a low of 25, might be provide the best opportunity for any accumulation in Midland.

Overall, the NWS is calling for "possibly" 1 to 3 inches in Midland's portion of the Permian Basin, but at this point, it is hard to expect any real snow event will be possible until Thursday night.

Temperatures are expected to rise into the 40s on Friday, 50s on Saturday and 60s on Sunday.

Things to do

■ Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us.

■ Storytime for ages 2-6, 10:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us.

■ Teen video game tournament, 4-7 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. co.midland.tx.us

■ Ernesto Calderon, 6:30-9:30 p.m., The Wine Rack. winerackmidland.com.

Note: For more information on events happening this weekend, check out our entertainment section, the Weekender, in today's edition.

Club meetings, support groups today

■ Midland Gem and Mineral Society, 7 p.m., Sibley Nature Center, 687-6467.

■ Permian Basin Chess Club, 6 p.m., University of Texas of the Permian Basin student union; Steve Dudley, 556-1920; Brian Farrell, 288-7141, pbcc.50gigs.net, odessachess@cableone.net.

■ TOPS(Take Off Pounds Sensibly), 6:30 p.m., Christian Church of Midland, 2609 Neely Ave., weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. 694-8643.

Documentary screening

There will be a free screening of the documentary "Es el Chapo?" at 6 p.m. today at UTPB in the campus library room 1.

The general public is welcome and filmmaker Charlie Minn will take questions after the movie.

Top hotels in Midland-Odessa

(Based on total receipts reported in November)

DoubleTree by Hilton	$918,993
MCM Fundome (O)	$844,711
Hilton Garden Inn	$690,299
MCM Fundome (O)	$665,587
Residence Inn	$603,469

Source: Texas Comptroller

Note: See the hotel report for November in Sunday's edition.

When it's open

Midland Health & Senior Services
3303 West Illinois, Space 22
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
681-7613

Flu vaccine

Midland Health & Senior Services, 3303 W. Illinois Ave., is offering the flu vaccine 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-noon Friday. Private insurance, Medicaid and Medicare are accepted. An appointment isn't necessary. For more information, call 681-7613.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 8-7-0
Pick 3 day: 4-0-8
Pick 3 evening: 8-0-5
Pick 3 night: 1-6-1
Daily 4 morning: 8-2-6-3
Daily 4 day: 0-0-3-7
Daily 4 evening: 0-5-6-0
Daily 4 night: 6-2-1-9
Cash Five: 2-11-28-31-36
Lotto Texas: 2-3-11-26-31-49
Powerball: 11-12-15-28-57 PB: 23 Power Play: 4
All or Nothing morning: 3-5-7-9-13-14-17-18-19-20-22-23
All or Nothing day: 1-3-6-7-8-9-11-13-14-16-22-23
All or Nothing evening: 5-6-7-9-10-13-15-17-18-20-21-22
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-4-7-8-9-13-14-20-22-24

Today in history

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

In 1984, the CBS-TV broadcast of Super Bowl XVIII featured Apple Computer's famous "1984" commercial introducing the Macintosh computer.

Five years ago: Conan O'Brien ended his brief tenure on "The Tonight Show" after accepting a $45 million buyout from NBC to leave the show he'd long dreamed of hosting after only seven months.

One year ago: Edgar Tamayo, a Mexican national, was put to death in Texas for killing Houston police officer Guy Gaddis despite pleas and diplomatic pressure from Mexico and the U.S. State Department to halt the execution.

Houston Chronicle

Pumpjacks overlook the rugged Reagan County terrain on Jan. 8. Horizontal and vertical drilling rigs pepper the landscape, while heavy equipment, people and traffic overwhelm the small town of Big Lake.

BIG LAKE

From 1A

of the conundrum facing all of Texas. As state lawmakers plan the next two years of spending on drought abatement, road repair and public education, no one can say how far prices may fall. No one can say how long geopolitical factors may keep them down. And even in an economy that has grown more diverse since the last oil bust, no one can say how well cheap gasoline may offset the losses.

No matter how severe the downturn, of course, proved reserves will remain in place, engineers will remember how to perform the modern hydraulic fracturing techniques that flush hydrocarbons from tight shale formations and the industry most likely will ascend again when the price is right.

"We as a city need to stay in a positive-thinking mode," said Gloria Baggett, director of the local economic development corporation. "We need to plan for the next onslaught."

She has the numbers, in a report from Texas A&M University, to support her choice of words. Her town, listed by the census bureau at 3,139, draws a daytime population exceeding 12,000.

Plagued by potholes, power outages and bursting water mains, local officials have made significant efforts to take advantage of the economic activity. In the past five years, annual sales tax revenue rose from $978,000 to $2.2 million. Voters approved a $32 million bond measure to build a new hospital. Renovations are improving the airport and schools. Paving projects seem unending.

But the goal of attracting certain necessities of civilized life has remained largely out of reach. No one, it seems, wants to open a supermarket in a place where three of every four people may disappear at the whim of a minister from OPEC.

Still arriving by thousands

For now, oilfield workers still arrive by the thousands every morning via U.S. 67, which is technically an interstate highway but figuratively a dystopian hellscape. On the 70-mile stretch leading here from San Angelo, the Texas Department of Transportation counted 168 vehicles involved in wrecks last year, leaving eight people dead. Shortly after sunrise the other day, as emergency crews cleared a fairly routine monstrous wreck, motorists made up for lost time by driving near triple-digit speeds on the wrong side of the double yellow line, veering around trucks full of crude, sand and chemicals.

On the outskirts of town, many survivors of this daily excursion present their credentials at the field office of Pioneer, a fenced dirt yard of low-slung facilities resembling a medium security detention center. Those who desire lodging drive on to places like the Delhi RV Park, an encampment directly adjacent to the high school, where a trailer accommodating five men rents for $6,750.

"I'll work with you, darlin'," the manager, Angel Davis, was telling a man who had lost his oil job. "Don't freak out; I'll work with you."

Amid the layoffs, labor continues apace for those employed in some stages of petroleum production. Lucid Energy Group is completing a facility capable of processing 200 million cubic feet of natural gas a day. At the courthouse, a dozen or so landmen scour property records for potential well sites.

"A lot of companies don't want to fall behind in case prices do come back, so they keep us going as long as they can," said Matteo Kunst, 21, who took a job with a land brokerage straight out of high school in the early days of the boom. His employment does little for the tax revenues of Big Lake; he lives in Amarillo, commutes daily from a hotel in San Angelo and usually skips lunch.

A resilient people

Among residents who shower in their own homes, views of a looming bust run from anxiety to relief. The range emerged in a tour led by the county judge, Larry Isom, who ignored the insistent beep of his truck's seat belt reminder alarm as he described the perils of a truck traffic scourge.

"A lot of them are tired of it," he said, "myself included."

He drove past scrapyards of rusting pumpjacks behind wire fences on cratered roads. He drove past the Dollar General, which has been forced to close on some weekends to restock. He drove past a group of modest single-family homes. Asked the name of the neighborhood, he said, "Uh, Big Lake."

On the way to lunch, he picked up a friend, Buddy Poynor, who runs a construction and oilfield services firm. Poynor, 59, was not worried about his business, which he inherited from his father and runs with little debt. He was worried about his employees, some of whom he has known all their lives, including his son-in-law.

Riding through the noxious blight of a town where he once raced boyhood friends to the ice cream shop on his bicycle, Poynor tried several ways to articulate a certain spirit persisting through boom and bust alike. He finally settled on: "I'd describe the people as resilient and caring."

"Just because the rig count's falling down and everything, it's not going to be like the world's coming to an end," he said. "They're going to continue to be here and go to football games and go to church and support each other."

'We love being busy'

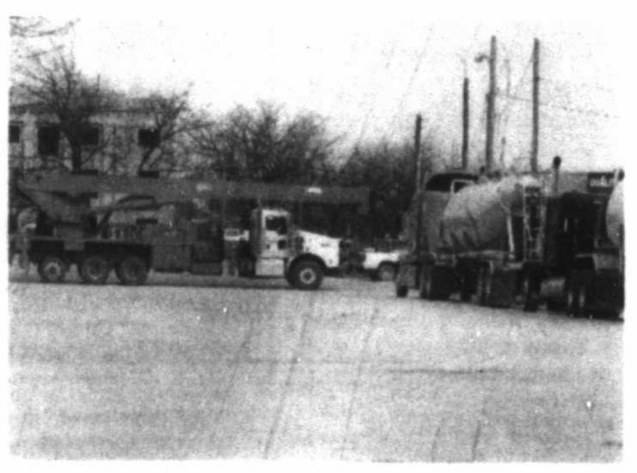
Lunchtime, and the only sensible choice was Grandma's Kitchen, where a crown on the revolving sign preserves the memory of the restaurant's incarnation as Dairy King, which ended in the mid-1970s. Pat Brown, dressed in a T-shirt honoring the high school tennis team, served platters of enchiladas, burgers and chicken strips. Her own view of trends in the oil trade, which she tracks daily, left little room for misinterpretation.

"The boom's a good thing; the bust is a bad thing," she said. "We love being busy."

At the end of the meal, their visitor set out to cross the street for another meeting. The men of Big Lake quickly shouted him down. Crossing a street on foot in this small town, they explained, could invite grievous injury, potential death and the prospect of additional traffic snarls. Being good ol' boys of West Texas, though, they were glad to provide a lift.

Houston Chronicle

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Workers construct the foundation for the new hospital in Big Lake on Jan. 8; the new facility is a result of the economic growth because of recent oil production in Reagan County. Trucks line up to refuel early in the morning Jan 8 at the new Stripes in Big Lake. Heavy equipment and tank trucks fill the streets of downtown. The city of Big Lake posts signs on each neighborhood street because of overwhelming truck traffic and temporary housing because of oilfield production in the area taxes the small rural community.



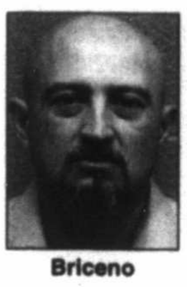
CRIMEBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Report reveals new details in stabbing

Court documents revealed new details Wednesday in the stabbing death of a Midland man on Tuesday.

Midlander Edward Briceno, 43, has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the death of Dedrick Lewis, 36, also of Midland. Details were not available Wednesday evening on whether bond has been set for Briceno.



Briceno

Police who were dispatched Tuesday morning to a motel in the 3600 block of Bankhead Highway found Lewis lying face down in a pool of blood, according to the arrest affidavit.

The officers also found blood on a door a few rooms down from where Lewis was found, according to the affidavit.

When the officers knocked, a man — later identified as Briceno — opened the door. Briceno had blood stains on his knee, shoes and other parts of his body but no visible injuries, according to the affidavit.

Motel security footage showed Briceno talking to Lewis near where his body was found, according to the affidavit.

Briceno was arrested and taken to the Midland Police Department, where he said he did not want to talk to anyone without an attorney and a priest present, according to the affidavit.

Officers seized Briceno's and Lewis' vehicles, and they found a knife wrapped in a towel and bloody clothing in the trunk of Briceno's vehicle, according to the affidavit.

Witnesses said they heard someone scream that morning and then encountered Briceno, who was seen wrapping something in a white towel, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the first-degree felony, Briceno faces between two and 99 years in prison.

MPD: Man assaults government employee

An Andrews man was arrested Tuesday after allegedly kneeing a government employee in the face, according to court documents.

Ronald Wooten, 45, was charged with a third-degree felony of assault against a government contractor or employee. He was held as of Wednesday evening on an unspecified bond, according to the Midland County Sheriff's Office.

Wooten

A Midland County sheriff's deputy was dispatched at about 7 a.m. Tuesday to the 20 block of West Industrial Loop in reference to a disturbance. Witnesses told the deputy that a man — later identified as Wooten — had assaulted a government employee, according to the arrest affidavit.

Wooten allegedly became angry and began "picking" at the door to the front office, according to the affidavit. The employee came around to the front lobby, and Wooten allegedly grabbed the man, bent him over, pulled his shirt over his head and began kneeing him in the face and head area, according to the affidavit.

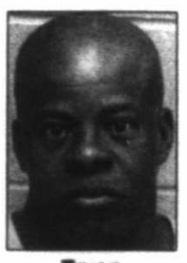
The man suffered swelling on the left side of his head, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the third-degree felony, Wooten faces up to 10 years in prison.

Man allegedly commits sexual assault

A 52-year-old man was arrested Tuesday after allegedly sexually assaulting a woman after smoking crack cocaine, according to court documents.

Frank Tryon Jr. of Midland was charged with a second-degree felony of sexual assault. He was being held on an unspecified bond as of Wednesday evening.



Tryon

A Midland police officer was called to an emergency room Tuesday in reference to a woman claiming she had been sexually assaulted by a man — later identified as Tryon, who had used profanities against her, according to the arrest affidavit.

Tryon first said he and the woman did not have sex, but then said that they did and that he used profanity because that's how he talks to prostitutes, according to the affidavit. The woman and Tryon admitted to smoking crack cocaine together, but she said that the sex was not consensual, according to the affidavit.

If convicted of the second-degree felony, Tryon faces up to 20 years in prison.

FELONYARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Jose A. Flores, 26, of Midland was charged Tuesday with tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

Samuel A. Galvan, 24, of Fort Stockton was charged Tuesday with possession of a controlled substance of less that one gram.

Desirae N. Martinez, 19, of Midland was charged Tuesday with possession of a controlled substance between four and 200 grams.

Kristopher Eugene Moore, 23, of Midland was charged Tuesday with failure to register as a sex offender.

Frank J. Tryon Jr., 52, of Midland was charged Tuesday with sexual assault.

Ronald G. Wooten, 45, of Andrews was charged Tuesday with assault against a government contractor or employee.

Lucio D. Ramirez, 17, of Midland was charged Monday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and possession of a controlled substance of less than 1 gram.

Omar R. Saenz, 17, of Midland was charged Monday with possession of a controlled substance between 4 and 200 grams.

Francisco Vasquez Jr., 44, of Midland was charged Monday with theft between $1,500 and $20,000.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office

Officer in crash still in critical condition

■ Prisoners transferred from MCH to other hospitals

From staff reports

The corrections officer involved in last week's bus crash near Penwell remains in critical condition at University Medical Center in Lubbock, according to a press release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The prisoners injured in the wreck also remain hospitalized.

Officer Jason Self had surgery on Tuesday, according to the release.

Three of the prisoners have been discharged from Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, and one was set to be released Wednesday. The men will be treated elsewhere, according to the release.

Damien Rodriguez and Remigio Pineda are being treated at the Western Regional Medical Facility, which is on the grounds of the TDCJ's Montford Unit in Lubbock; Hector Rivera is being treated at a Galveston hospital; and Terry Johnson was to be discharged Wednesday and will be transported to the Lubbock facility, according to the release.

The prisoners' family members will be allowed to visit them at the re-assigned hospitals, according to the release.

The men were injured Jan. 14 when the TDCJ bus on which they were riding skidded on an icy Interstate 20, veered down an embankment and hit a moving Union Pacific train. Eight prisoners and two corrections officers were killed, according to a previous Odessa-American article.

Associated Press

In this photo taken Jan. 12, crews dig up land at a saltwater spill site near Blacktail Creek outside Williston, N.D. A North Dakota health official called the 70,000 barrel spill the state's largest during the state's current oil boom.

Nearly 3M gallons of brine spill in ND

Associated Press

Nearly 3 million gallons of saltwater generated by oil drilling have leaked from a North Dakota pipeline, an official said Wednesday, the largest such spill since the state's current oil boom began and nearly three times worse than previous record spills. Two creeks have been affected, but the full environmental effect might not be clear for months.

Operator Summit Midstream Partners LLC detected the pipeline spill on Jan. 6, about 15 miles north of Williston and told health officials then. Officials said they weren't given a full account of the size until Tuesday.

Cleanup has begun and inspectors have been monitoring the area, but it will be difficult to measure the effects on the environment and wildlife until the ice melts, said Dave Glatt, chief of the North Dakota Department of Health's environmental health section. Some previous saltwater spills have taken years to clean up.

"This is not something we want to happen in North Dakota," Glatt said.

At the moment, the spill doesn't threaten public drinking water or human health, Glatt said. He said a handful of farmers have been asked to keep their livestock away from the two creeks, the smaller of which will be drained.

The saltwater, known as brine, is an unwanted byproduct of oil and natural gas production that is much saltier than sea water and may also contain petroleum and residue from hydraulic fracturing operations.

The new spill is almost three times larger than one that fouled a portion of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in July. Another million-gallon saltwater spill in 2006, near Alexander, is still being cleaned up nearly a decade later.

Summit Midstream said in a statement Wednesday that about 65,000 barrels of a mix of freshwater and brine have been pumped out from Blacktail Creek. Brine also reached the bigger Little Muddy Creek and potentially the Missouri River.

Glatt said the Blacktail Creek will be fully drained as part of the initial cleanup, but the water and soil will have to be continuously tested until after the spring thaw because some of the contaminated water has frozen. The Little Muddy Creek will not be drained because it is bigger than the Blacktail Creek and the saltwater is being diluted.

"We will be monitoring to see how quickly it gets back to natural background water quality conditions, and we are already starting to see that," Glatt said of the Little Muddy Creek. "It's getting back pretty quickly."

Summit Midstream's chief operating officer, Rene Casadaban, said in a statement that the company's "full and undivided attention" is focused on cleaning up the spill and repairing any environmental damage.

Spokesman Jonathan Morgan did not immediately confirm exactly when the spill began. It also was not clear what caused the pipeline to rupture. Glatt said the company has found the damaged portion of pipeline and it was sent to a laboratory to determine what caused the hole.

Research: E-cigarettes pose formaldehyde risk

Associated Press

Using certain electronic cigarettes at high temperature settings could potentially release more formaldehyde, a cancer-causing chemical, than smoking traditional cigarettes does, new lab tests suggest.

The research does not prove a health risk — it involved limited testing on just one brand of e-cigarettes and was done in test tubes, not people. It also does not mean e-cigarettes are better or worse than regular ones; tobacco smoke contains dozens of things that can cause cancer.

But it does highlight how little is known about the safety of e-cigarettes — battery-powered devices that heat liquid to deliver nicotine in a vapor rather than from burning tobacco.

"It's a potential red flag," one independent expert — Stephen Hecht, a chemist and tobacco researcher at the University of Minnesota — said of the study. "Under some conditions, e-cigarettes might be generating more formaldehyde than you'd want to be exposed to. But I don't think we know enough yet. There's a huge variety in the makeup of these cigarettes and how they are used."

The study was published Wednesday as a letter in the New England Journal of Medicine. The journal said it had been reviewed by experts in the field.

Formaldehyde is found in many things — certain building materials, disinfectants and embalming fluid. An earlier study found e-cigarettes generated less formaldehyde than regular cigarettes do, but that study looked at just the gas portion of the vapor. The new one looked at the liquid particles in the vapor, like the spray from an aerosol can.

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OPINION

National leaders avert gaze from terrorism

■ In SOTU address, Obama barely mentioned threat to America

DANA MILBANK
Washington Post Writers Group

In 1938, Winston Churchill published "While England Slept," about Britain's failure to prepare for the Nazi threat.

Let's hope that, when the history of this moment is written, the 2015 State of the Union address will not be retold under the title "While America Slept."

Not since before the 2001 terrorist attacks has there been such a disconnect between the nation's focus and the condition of the world. As threats multiply in the Middle East and Europe, President Obama delivered on Tuesday night an annual message to Congress that was determinedly domestic. And his inward-looking gaze is shared by lawmakers and the public.

Thousands of foreign fighters have joined with Muslim extremists in Syria and Iraq, and their fanatical cause has inspired sympathizers across the globe: 17 killed by terrorists in Paris; terrorism raids and a shootout in Belgium; a hunt for sleeper cells across Europe; a gunman attacking the Canadian Parliament; an Ohio man arrested after buying guns and ammunition, allegedly with plans to attack the Capitol. Even Australia has raised its terrorist threat level.

And yet, when it comes to countering the terror threat in America, the State of the Union is nonchalant. "We are 15 years into this new century, 15 years that dawned with terror touching our shores," Obama said at the start of his speech. "It has been, and still is, a hard time for many. But tonight, we turn the page."

Obama, full of swagger, turned the page — several pages — from the start of his address, when he assured Americans that "the shadow of crisis has passed," before arriving at his discussion of national security.

He went more than halfway through his speech before mentioning the "challenges beyond our shores." He said that "we stand united with people around the world who've been targeted by terrorists, from a school in Pakistan to the streets of Paris." But he dwelled on the topic only long enough to say he'd "continue to hunt down terrorists and dismantle their networks" and "keep our country safe while strengthening privacy."

The proposals were decidedly domestic: increasing the capital-gains tax, boosting cybersecurity, encouraging paid family and sick leave, reviving free-trade deals, and expanding access to broadband and community college.

The response to Obama's address, delivered by new Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, gave terrorism no more prominence than Obama did. Indeed, the new Republican Congress has been just as domestic in its emphasis. The House on Tuesday was passing a purely symbolic resolution condemning the attacks in Paris and was then preparing to move on to an anti-abortion bill. The Senate was working on passage of the Keystone XL pipeline, a priority for the new majority.

Meanwhile, Republicans in both chambers are preparing for a showdown with Obama next month — and a possible shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security — as they attempt to defund his executive orders on immigration.

With national leaders averting their gaze from terrorism, only 2 percent of the American public says terrorism is the top problem facing the nation, according to a Gallup poll this month. This compares with 46 percent in October 2001, 19 percent in 2004, dropping all the way to 1 percent in 2010 and then 4 percent last year. Only 1 percent said the Islamic State is the top problem, and 2 percent cited national security generally — versus 3 in 10 who cited economic issues.

At the same time, the administration's secrecy and misinformation regarding the National Security Agency's electronic eavesdropping methods have left the public skeptical about programs that will be vital to disrupting terrorism in the United States. A new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found that a small plurality of Americans thought such programs would go too far; until the past couple of years, Americans were more concerned that such efforts wouldn't go far enough.

The fight against terrorism got its mention, and Obama called on Congress to authorize continuing military strikes against the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. But both had small roles in the speech.

Obama was livelier, and downright cocky, in the domestic portion of his address, speaking conversationally as he recited gains in the economy and health care and departing from his prepared text to proclaim, "This is good news, people." Later, he broke from the text again to taunt Republicans by reminding them of the outcome of his presidential campaigns: "I won both."

If — God forbid — terrorists do here what they did in Paris and attempted in Brussels, the State of the Union in 2015 will be remembered as complacent.

OUR VIEW

What media sources say about Midland matters

We have been asked — and surely will be asked in the future — why we print stories about Midland from other publications.

In Wednesday's edition, we offered a New York Times piece, "Midland hunkers down for the oil slowdown." The article offers a blend of perspective gained from interviews, fact-based reporting, color taken from background-based reporting and decades-old cliches such as mention of the Rolls-Royce dealership.

Frankly, we were surprised the lead paragraph didn't mention activity levels at the Petroleum Club or Wall Street Bar and Grill, tried-and-true anecdotal evidence of as goes the oil industry, so goes Midland.

Some may question why we offer these reports, whether from the New York Times, Dallas Morning News or one of our Hearst Corp. sister newspapers — the Houston Chronicle or San Antonio Express-News.

The reason is simple: Perception can be reality, and if the perception of Midland is skewed due to what we are seeing in the media — including stories from reporters who might have taken some liberty in describing what is happening in the mecca of the Permian — then the people of Midland should know about it. We should know, and tell those who can influence opinion elsewhere (lawmakers, industry leaders, etc.) so our side is given equal time.

The fact is, not everyone across the United States understands Midland, West Texas or the oil patch. Not everyone gets the industry. In our view, that is their loss.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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

SENATORS
Ted Cruz (R)
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Suite SDB-40B, Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tedcruzpage
Web: http://www.cruz.senate.gov

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

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

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

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

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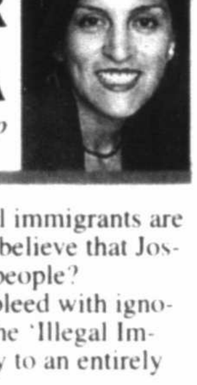
Shouting 'racist' isn't the answer

■ Whether talking about Oscars or Barbie, racism charges shouldn't be thrown around



ESTHER CEPEDA
Washington Post Writers Group

To appropriate the Franco-centric rallying cry of those who defend satire even when they don't agree with it: *Je suis Barbie!*

Specifically, the fictional "Six New Barbie Dolls That Reflect 21st Century Women," which Janet Eve Josselyn thought up and listed on the "Points in Case" blog.

Among these treasures of contemporary femininity are "Facebook Barbie," which posts "food-porn pictures of desserts she will never eat" and "copious pictures of herself and Ken in front of famous sites around the world so everyone will know that Barbie isn't stuck at home doing housework anymore."

And there's "Hot Flash Barbie," which "sports plastic sweat beads on her brow and a big old spare tire of belly fat to accompany her saggy fanny."

"Lesbian Barbie," "Xbox Barbie" and "Rehab Barbie" are described in the same vulgar — and hilarious — terms. But I would never have heard of them if "Illegal Immigrant Barbie" hadn't infuriated the Hispanic blogosphere into losing any sense of perspective and humor.

"Illegal Immigrant Barbie is tethered to a bunch of children and comes with a compass and a coyote," reads her description. "Her hair is unkempt and her cheeks lack the rosy glow of the 20th-century Barbies. She is armed with wire cutters and sandwiches wrapped in tinfoil. She clutches Ken's phone number in the event that she is detained by the Border Patrol."

"Illegal Immigrant Barbie" is pregnant, sports a black eye and is pictured with a shopping cart full of multi-racial children (one of which looks remarkably like North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un) and two six-packs of Budweiser, several packs of Marlboros, a bottle of Jack Daniels and a box of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese.

Tasteless? Yes. Offensive? Sure — as offensive as assuming that all lesbians wear "baggy dark clothing and military-style boots."

But is it racist?

That's the charge among people with no sense of humor.

A contributor at Latina.com — which features such dignified fare as "6 Crazy Ways to Get a Bigger Butt" and a promo for "Latina's Hot Papi Search!" — called the piece racist and declared it "not funny," all the while agreeing it was satire.

The piece, written by Cristina Arreola, never explained the race part since "Illegal Immigrant Barbie" is tall, blond, blue-eyed and, in all ways except the pregnant belly, Barbie-ish.

Who's to say "Illegal Immigrant Barbie" isn't Polish or Estonian? (Not all illegal immigrants are Hispanic or Latino.) Or are we to believe that Josselyn is prejudiced against white people?

Arreola wrote: "All six entries bleed with ignorance and intolerance. However, the 'Illegal Immigrant' Barbie takes the stupidity to an entirely new level."

True.

Then again, overreacting to something silly and smearing its creator for it — Arreola dropped this little nugget on Josselyn: "Racism makes you die earlier. Just saying." — arguably takes intolerance to a whole new level as well.

But overreaction seems to be our default mode these days.

The "all-white Oscars" complaint is overblown. Those who believe we need more movies that include actors with ethnicities and races that are representative of our diverse population aren't doing their cause justice by jumping on this bandwagon.

Just look at the Best Picture nominees.

"Selma" obviously has a diverse cast, but "Whiplash" also features Asian, East Asian and African-American actors. Not only was "Birdman" directed by Alejandro González Inarritu, a Mexican director, but is also features a score by Mexican-born drummer/composer Antonio Sanchez.

Wes Anderson's "The Grand Budapest Hotel" features two magnificent actors in the co-starring role of "Zero": Guatemalan-American Tony Revolori and Assyrian-American F. Murray Abraham.

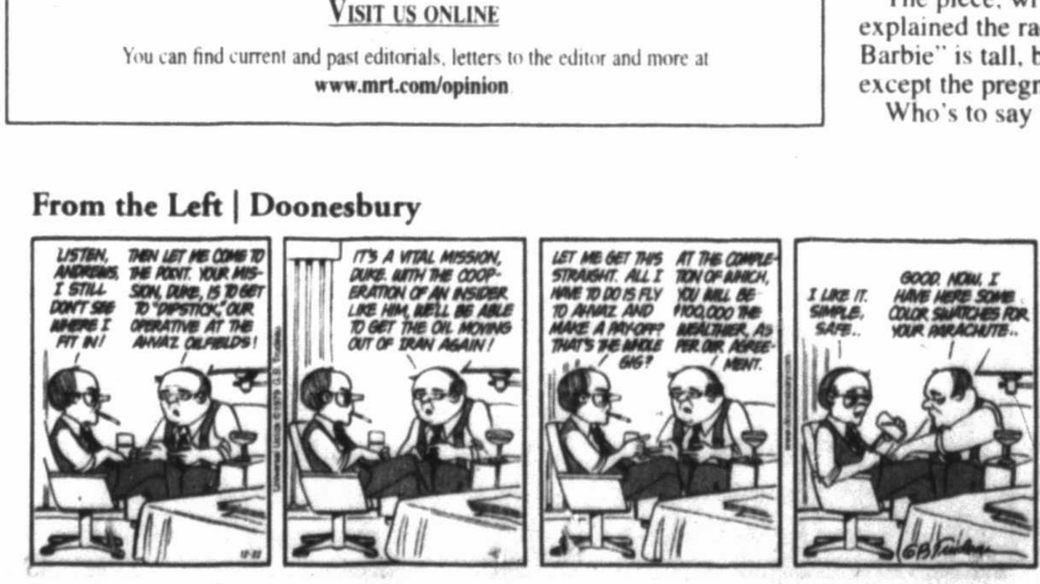
Yes it would be wonderful, if by some miracle, the nominees and winners of all awards given in the United States were not only based solely on merit and outstanding excellence but were also exactly 63 percent white, 17 percent Hispanic, 13 percent black, 5 percent Asian and about 1 percent Native American or Pacific Islander.

But alleging that an awards show is racist because it's not delivering on a social justice ideal is hardly constructive.

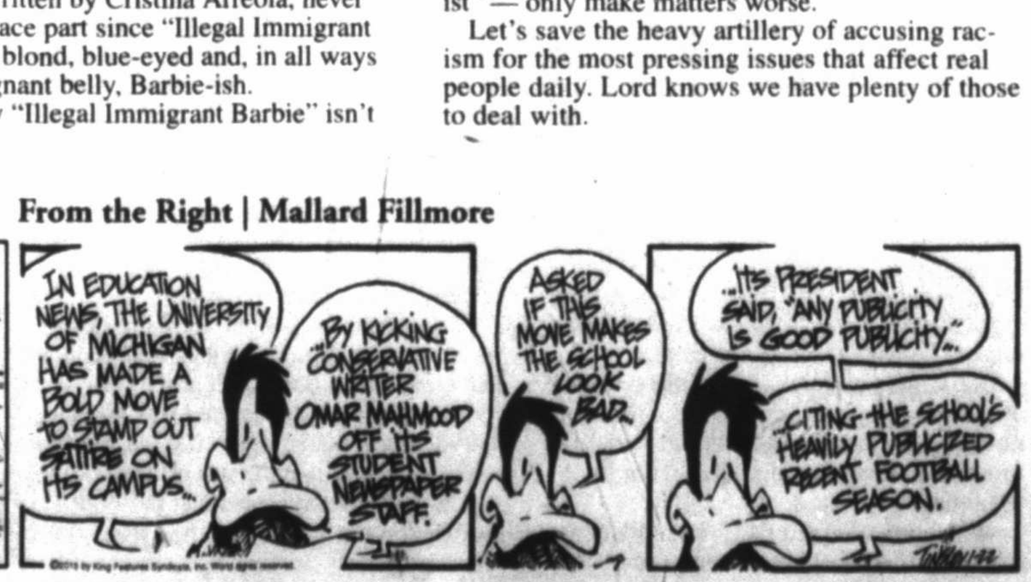
Those who are intolerant of everything that rubs them the wrong way and resort to the most inflammatory slur modern America has to offer — "racist" — only make matters worse.

Let's save the heavy artillery of accusing racism for the most pressing issues that affect real people daily. Lord knows we have plenty of those to deal with.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



POLITICS BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

Scalia could be surprise vote in housing case

The Obama administration may need the vote of a frequent conservative antagonist on the Supreme Court to preserve a decades-old strategy for fighting housing discrimination.

Justice Antonin Scalia on Wednesday appeared at times to side with the administration and civil rights groups during arguments over the reach of the landmark Fair Housing Act of 1968, a case that otherwise seemed to split the court along ideological lines.

Scalia seemed to agree with the court's four liberal justices that the law can be used to ban housing or lending practices without any proof of intent to discriminate. The court is considering a challenge from Texas officials to the use of so-called disparate impact lawsuits, which allege that even race-neutral lending or housing policies can have a harmful effect on minority groups.

Scalia said Congress seemed to have such lawsuits in mind when it passed the law in the 1960s, and later amendments in 1988, to eliminate segregation in housing.

"I find it hard to read those two together in any other way than there is such a thing as disparate impact," Scalia told Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller.

Civil rights organizations have speculated that conservatives on the court took up the case to knock out such lawsuits, which lower courts have uniformly allowed for 40 years. Their only hope is that Scalia or, perhaps Justice Anthony Kennedy, who is sometimes a swing vote, will side with the court's four liberals to uphold the practice.

Later in the hourlong argument, Scalia made comments critical of disparate impact when he told Michael Daniel, lawyer for a Texas fair housing group, that "racial disparity is not racial discrimination."

"The fact that the NFL is largely black players is not discrimination," Scalia said.

WASHINGTON

House approves bill to fast track natural gas pipelines

The Republican-controlled House has easily passed a bill designed to expedite the approval of natural gas pipelines.

The House on Wednesday cleared legislation setting a one-year deadline for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve new applications to build gas pipelines.

The 253-169 House vote comes as the Senate continues debate on a bill to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The House has already passed a bill to approve that pipeline's construction.

Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Midland, voted to approve the bill.

Republicans say the gas pipeline bill was needed to ensure that the gas being produced gets to market.

Democrats say the bill short-circuits a well-established process. A federal report issued in February 2013 found that on average it took less than a year to a year-and-a-half for pipelines to get approved.

WASHINGTON

Reid to undergo eye surgery next week

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid will undergo surgery on his right eye next week after doctors determined it is a "necessary step to assist in recovering full vision" after an accident suffered while exercising, his office announced Wednesday.

The statement said Reid is expected to be released from the hospital quickly after the operation, but will need to remain home for several days to minimize strain on the injured eye. It provided no details about the nature of the surgery.

Key issues, updates on the Keystone XL

By Dina Cappiello
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To build or not to build?

That question is at the heart of the debate over the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

The answer, and the fate of the $8 billion project, depends on what happens in Congress, the courts, the White House and with TransCanada, the company planning to construct it.

The odds of building seem to change almost daily.

A lawsuit is tossed out, then some others filed. The Republican-controlled Congress is poised to approve a bill authorizing construction, despite a White House promise of a veto. The State Department, after stalling its review because of a Nebraska court case, gives federal agencies a new deadline to weigh in.

For environmentalists, approval would prove catastrophic for the global climate and erode efforts by President Barack Obama to rein in heat-trapping emissions.

For Republicans, who have made it their first order of business in the new Congress they control, the pipeline is critical to supplying the country with jobs and with oil from a friendly neighbor, rather than the Middle East.

A look at the major players and where they stand:

Congress

The House this month passed legislation approving, for the 10th time, the pipeline's construction. Identical legislation cleared an initial hurdle in the Senate, where a 63-32 vote was three more than the 60 required, but not enough to override a veto.

The Senate is now considering dozens of amendments. It sidetracked two on Tuesday: banning exports of oil from the pipeline, and the gasoline derived from it, and ensuring U.S. steel is used in the construction.

An energy efficiency measure was added. But Democrats still plan to use debate to put the Senate on the record as saying that climate change is real. Republicans intend to offer other additions, including one that would say the Senate rejects international agreements that would harm the U.S. economy.

The White House

The White House explained the veto threat by saying it had to wait for the outcome of a Nebraska court case and the State Department review to play out.

Obama's remarks about the pipeline have gotten increasingly negative in recent months, emboldening environmental groups who have called on him to reject the pipeline outright. In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, Obama urged Congress to "set our sights higher than a single oil pipeline."

The courts

Opponents in Nebraska reignited the legal fight last week, filing two new suits over its proposed route.

They came from seven landowners in Holt and York counties who have received written warnings that TransCanada plans to file eminent domain papers to gain access to their land.

The landowners' lawyer, Dave Domina, said TransCanada's written warnings give the plaintiffs a clear legal basis to challenge the project. That's a key issue, because the Nebraska Supreme Court tossed an earlier, similar suit, with three judges saying those plaintiffs failed to meet the threshold. The judges' decision removed an obstacle to the project and was a major reason the White House's threatened a veto.

The State Department

The department has given federal agencies until Feb. 2 to weigh in on whether the pipeline serves the national interest, a determination required for all border-crossing pipelines. That gives agencies specializing in the environment, commerce and other matters just weeks to file their opinions.

The department didn't set a timeline for when it would make its long-awaited judgment on whether the pipeline was in the U.S. national interest.

The company

With the state court removing a legal barrier, TransCanada has filed paperwork in nine counties to acquire access to the remaining land that's needed to construct, operate and maintain the pipeline.

By law, TransCanada can use the courts to force landowners to sell access to their land. Company officials say they still need to acquire 12 percent of the total land easements from landowners who have not yet reached a deal. Some holdouts have said they won't negotiate.

Statuses of the Keystone XL bills

Senate Bill 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act, was added to the Senate schedule Wednesday. The scheduling of a bill generally means the bill will be considered in the days ahead. If S. 1 passes the Senate, the bill will go to the House, where it must be scheduled, debated and passed in order to move to the president, who must sign the bill for it to become law. Republican Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota is this bill's sponsor, and it was introduced Jan. 7.

House Resolution 3, which also is titled the Keystone XL Pipeline Act but is separate from the Senate bill, passed the House by simple majority vote 266-153 on Jan. 9. Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Midland, voted to approve the bill. H.R. 3 has been sent to the Senate but has not been scheduled. Rep. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota is this bill's sponsor, and it was introduced Jan. 6. Conaway is a co-sponsor.

S. 147, which like the other bills is named the Keystone XL Pipeline Act, was introduced in the Senate on Jan. 12 and was reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee the same day. Its sponsor is Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. This bill has not yet been added to the Senate schedule.

From staff reports

Senate says climate change is real but doesn't agree on cause

The Republican-controlled Senate acknowledged Wednesday that climate change is real but refused to say humans are to blame.

The series of votes publicly tested Republicans' stance on global warming just days after two federal agencies declared 2014 the hottest year on record and hours after President Barack Obama called global warming one of the greatest threats to future generations.

It also came as Republicans in control of Congress moved to challenge Obama's actions to curb the pollution blamed for global warming. The votes were held during debate over a bill on the Keystone XL pipeline.

In a surprise move, Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma endorsed one of the measures, which passed 98-1 and read simply that "Climate change is real and not a hoax." But he quickly made clear that he still thought humans were not to blame.

"Climate is changing and climate has always changed and always will. There is archaeological evidence of that, there is biblical evidence of that, there is historical evidence of that," said Inhofe. But "there are some people who are so arrogant to think they are so powerful they can change climate."

Many in his party were also unwilling to back measures Wednesday that said human activities contributed to the warming of the planet. The vast majority of scientists have cited pollution from fossil fuels, chiefly emissions of carbon dioxide, as the main culprit in the Earth's temperature rise.

Associated Press

Lew slams door on efforts to lower top tax rate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew dismissed efforts in Congress to overhaul the nation's tax laws by lowering the top income tax rate paid by individuals, saying Wednesday that Democrats and Republicans are too far apart to forge such a sweeping package.

Instead, Lew said, lawmakers should focus on simplifying taxes paid by businesses, an approach that is gaining traction on Capitol Hill.

"I don't think that there's any advantage in pretending that there aren't big disagreements on the individual tax side," Lew said at a forum hosted by the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "We had a national debate just two years ago about the top rate. We're not looking at the kind of negotiation to go back to lower the top rate."

"While our views on individual tax reform may be far apart," Lew added, "there is a broad set of business tax reforms on which we should be able to agree."

Lew's comments came a day after President Barack Obama proposed raising taxes on the rich and using some of the revenue to finance tax breaks for the middle class. In his State of the Union address, Obama called his approach "middle-class economics."

Congressional Republicans panned the speech, saying there is no way they would use their majorities in the House and Senate to enact tax increases.

"All the president really offered (Tuesday) night was more taxes, more government, more of the same approach that has failed the middle class for decades," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "These just aren't the wrong policies, they're the wrong priorities."

On Wednesday, congressional Republicans said they were disappointed the Obama administration isn't pushing to simplify taxes for individuals. They noted that the vast majority of small business owners report business income on their individual tax returns.

Still, key Republicans said they would welcome more talks about business taxes.

"We're going to keep talking. We're going to exhaust the possibilities of seeing where the common ground exists and see if we can get something done," said Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Boehner defies Obama on Iran sanctions, invites Netanyahu

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defying President Barack Obama, House Speaker John Boehner announced on Wednesday that he's invited Israel's prime minister to stand before Congress and push for new sanctions against its archenemy Iran.

Boehner's decision to bring Benjamin Netanyahu before a joint meeting of Congress on Feb. 11 seemed to catch the White House by surprise. And it added fuel to a drive by lawmakers from both parties to pass legislation calling for fresh penalties if there is no deal soon to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

Barely sworn in, the new Republican-controlled Congress is already on a collision course with Obama over a major foreign policy issue. Obama has threatened to veto any new sanctions legislation, saying it could scuttle ongoing nuclear talks with Iran and heighten the risk of a military showdown.

Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday quoted an unidentified Israeli intelligence official as saying that adding sanctions now "would be like throwing a grenade into the process."

But Boehner is not backing down. He told a private meeting of GOP lawmakers that Congress would proceed on further penalties against Iran despite Obama's warning.

"He expects us to stand idly by and do nothing while he cuts a bad deal with Iran," Boehner said. "Two words: 'Hell no!' ... We're going to do no such thing."

The Democrats' House leader, Nancy Pelosi of California, strongly disagreed. She said Obama has had diplomatic success in bringing countries together for the current economic sanctions aimed at stopping Iran's nuclear program. And she said it would be "irresponsible" for Congress to impose new penalties that "could undermine the negotiations and undermine the diplomatic coalition that is there — the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany."

The White House said Boehner's invitation also was a breach of diplomatic protocol. Traditionally, no administration would learn about a foreign leader's plan to visit the United States from the speaker of the House, said State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki.

Said Boehner: "I don't believe I am poking anyone in the eye."

The invitation was a coordinated effort involving Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell with staff discussions beginning last year, according to a senior Republican aide, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the private talks. Boehner contacted the Israeli ambassador on Jan. 8 to assess Netanyahu's interest and received a positive response.

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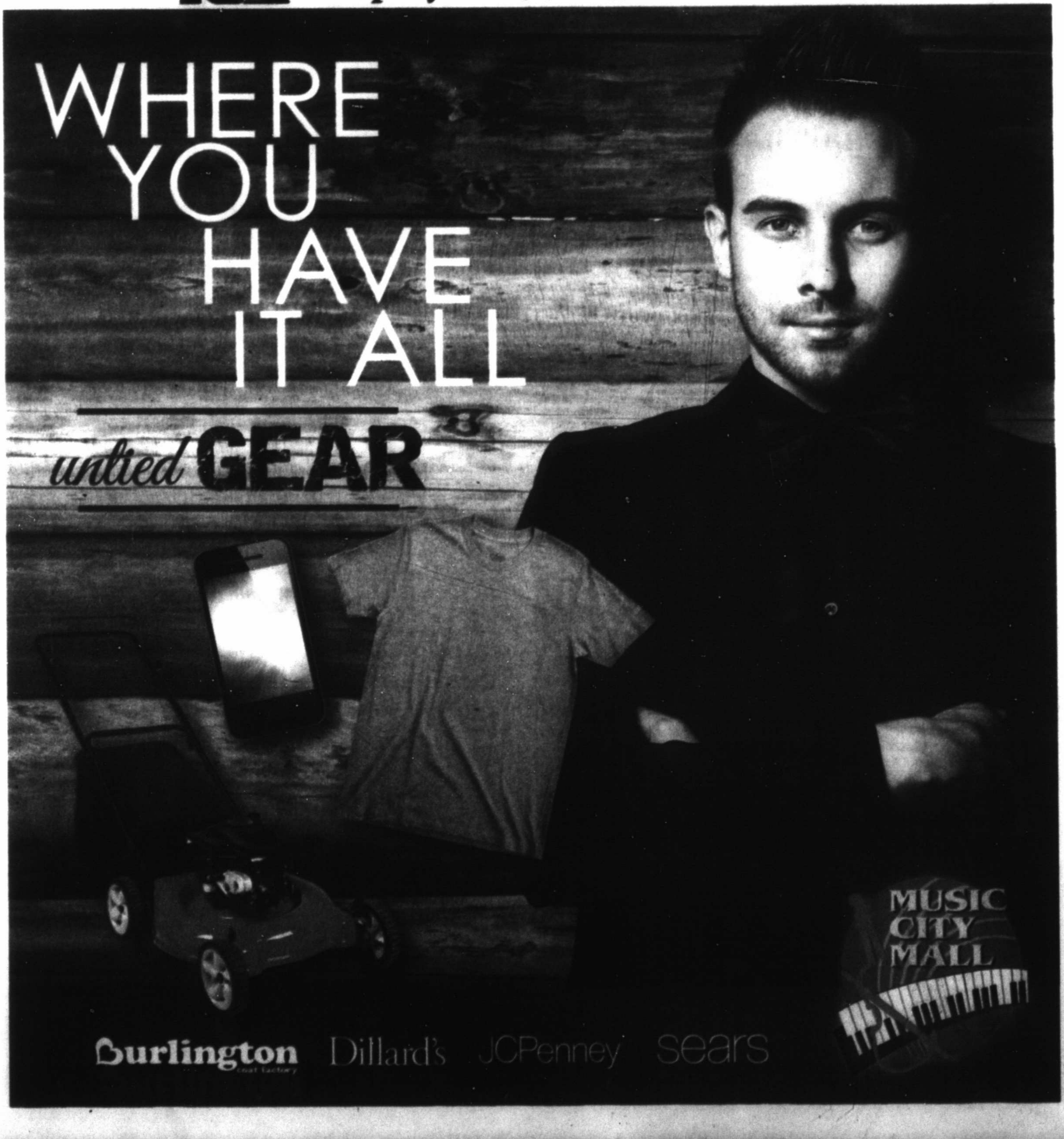


WEEKENDER

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN

WEEKEND TO-DO LIST

FRIDAY

TEXAS COUNTRY
See Mark McKinney at Lone Star Bar.

SATURDAY

TOOL BOX BASH
Habitat for Humanity's annual fundraiser is fun for the whole family.

SATURDAY

BIG WHEELS
Crashmaster Monster Truck Show will be at the Horseshoe this weekend.

See complete schedule of weekend events on Page 2.

INSIDE

AMERICAN POLITICS
'American Sniper' is a hit drawing fire. **Page 4**

ONLINE

CABARET REVIEW
Check out Entertainment Writer Rich Lopez' thoughts on the recent MRRRP production.

MOVIES

Films opening and closing this week at Midland theaters:

TALL CITY 14
Opening: "Strange Magic," "Mortdecai," "The Boy Next Door"
Closing: "Annie," "Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death," "The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies"

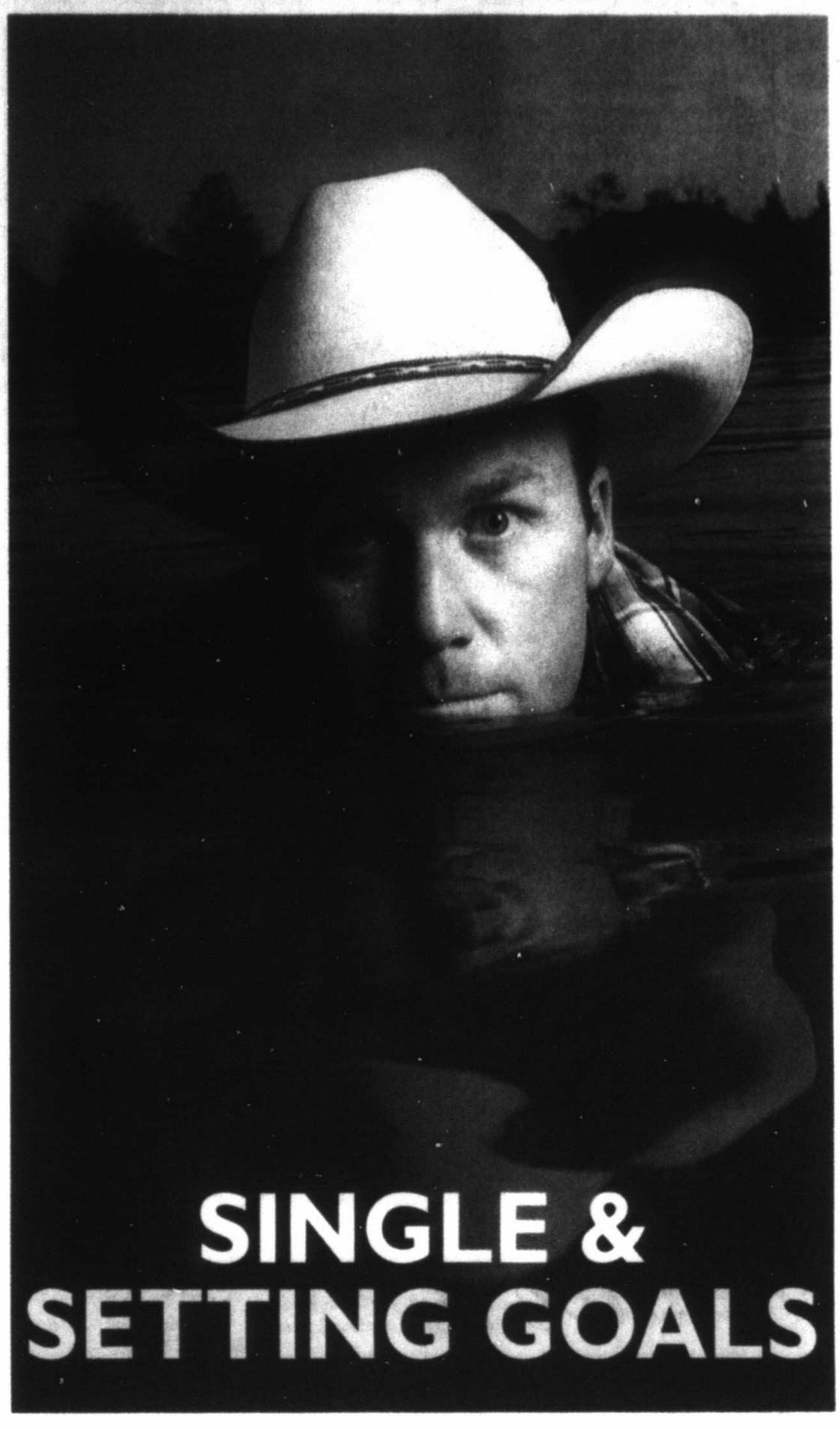
CINERGY CINEMAS
Opening: "Strange Magic," "Mortdecai," "The Boy Next Door"
Closing: "Annie," "Unbroken," "Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death," "The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies"

BIG SKY DRIVE-IN
Opening: "Strange Magic," "Into the Woods"
Closing: "Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb," "Unbroken"

STAYING IN?
Find out which movies are worth watching from the comfort of your couch. **Page 3**

COMING SOON

ON STAGE
The Oak Ridge Boys take the Wagner Noel stage Monday.



From Longview to Las Vegas, comic-musician Rodney Carrington finds his second act

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

As his "Here Comes the Truth" tour brings Longview-born Rodney Carrington back to Texas, he admits Texas crowds are just the same as his other crowds.

Only he means that in the best of ways.

The comic and musician will head to Midland for an early and late show Sunday at the Wagner Noel.

Before his tour goes back on the road, he talked from his Tulsa home about how divorce has sparked his drive, being single at 46 and of course, Texas.

MRT: Welcome back to Texas. Does it feel different to play to your Texas audiences when you head back to your home state?

Carrington: It's like everywhere else and crowds respond the same way, but that's just because my fans know what they are getting. Heck, if the crowds are breathing, they'll respond the same way. I'm just having fun doing it — more fun than I've ever had.

MRT: Why is that?

Carrington: Because I'm single now! I was married for 18 years and now I got that done, checked that off.

MRT: How did divorce affect your work?

Carrington: Look, when you go through divorce, you can't help but be grateful. Either be happy or be dead. And I'm not saying that as anything bad about the other person.

It's a tragedy on so many levels. But once I got past it, I was excited. And now I'm getting back creatively.

MRT: How so?

Carrington: This is a new chapter. And creatively, I got a lot of things going on. I'm pursuing TV again, I released an album ("Laughter's Good," which charted at No. 1). I just feel like I'm back on the train and moving on. The crowds are as big as they've ever been, so it's like I'm hitting my stride.

MRT: It sounds like divorce has been a catalyst for your successes.

Carrington: Comedy comes from pain. And 18 years of marriage is not a failure by any means. You've been successful. We were married, then she wanted something different.

MRT: How is it being single at this time in your life? Are you in the market?

Carrington: No, man! I am not looking!

MRT: That was an emphatic response.

Carrington: I've been on a few dates. This one girl started crying — on the date! I said 'enough of that' and took her home. People are either young and dumb or old and crazy. And I can spot crazy with the best of them. I can usually tell right away if someone is pretty well-rounded or have completely lost their marbles. The good news is I can always look at their Facebook to see if they're nuts.

MRT: I'm curious about your music against your comedy. You're a good singer and your songs have substance. But then you primarily do comedy. Did one win out over the other somehow?

Carrington: My whole life is a product of lack of planning. Music found its way into my life and I love it but when I discovered I could just talk and make a fortune at it, then I wasn't interested in manual labor anymore. Also, this job is a big '(expletive) you' to every English teacher who said I couldn't say things the right way. Now I say whatever I want.

MRT: I have to admit I find myself conflicted about your comedy. There are notes of racism, homophobia and misogyny that go to right up to the line, but then you have this knack of knowing how to toe that line. And I laughed listening to it. How do you balance your material?

Carrington: Every piece of comedy is a time capsule and as I've gotten older, things change and my mind changes. I started in (expletive) places doing comedy, so I was making jokes just to get people to laugh. It was in your face. Now, I just try to tell the truth and talk up the same (expletive) we all experience. I'm talking about divorce now, being single, paying bills, raising my sons. I'm in a different place in life.

MRT: What does that mean for your live shows?

Carrington: We have an hour and half of our time together and I'm not interested in making you chuckle. My one goal is to make people pee their pants.

WANT TO GO?

Rodney Carrington

When: Saturday, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Where: Wagner Noel Perfoming Arts Center, 1310 Noth Farm-to-Market Road 1788
Tickets: $52-$62
Info: www.wagner-noel.com

Concerto marks a first for MOSC's Chris Chance

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

Simply put, Chris Chance is a nice guy. So much so, that even as the featured performer in Saturday's "There's a Good Chance You'll Love Strauss" concert (get it?) at the Wagner Noel, his selected concerto brings much for his fellow players to partake in.

"Well there are a lot of concertos where soloists play with some string accompaniments, but I wanted something fun for everyone on stage to play. What I found had so much personality, and in addition to displaying what the clarinet can do, the orchestra can still shine," he said.

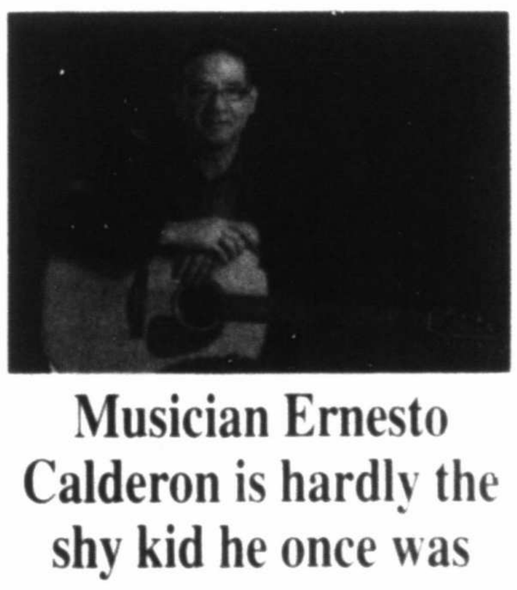
See? Nice guy.

When conductor Gary Lewis asked Chance to play a concerto, he eschewed more obvious concerto choices. Going for music that had something a bit different, he skipped more classical pieces and opted for the modern Clarinet Concert No. 2 by Spanish composer Oscar Navarro.

While he's created orchestral pieces, much of Navarro's work is filmic in nature. He's scored both feature and short films in Spain. And this is what Chance determines will allow audiences to relate to the concert.

"This uses a lot of harmonic language or orchestration you would hear in films, which I think is a language people will understand. It isn't so esoteric or experimental. Instead, whether they know it or not, are used to hearing sounds and music like this."

Please see **CHANCE**/Page 3



Musician Ernesto Calderon is hardly the shy kid he once was

By Rich Lopez
jrlopez@mrt.com

With his deep, rich voice and confident stride, it's tough to imagine Ernesto Calderon once felt debilitated by his shyness.

His "affliction" likely doesn't come across at the Wine Rack, where he performs today.

In hindsight, he recalled his lack of confidence and mediocre grades may have stemmed from an undiagnosed attention deficit disorder.

"Yeah, I had to read things over and over and I knew I wasn't the smartest kid I struggled with that," he said. "That really put me in a shell."

But one particular episode of "The Ed Sullivan Show" changed all that for Calderon.

"It started when I saw The Beatles on the show, and the response they got from people," Calderon said. "I somehow knew that's what I wanted."

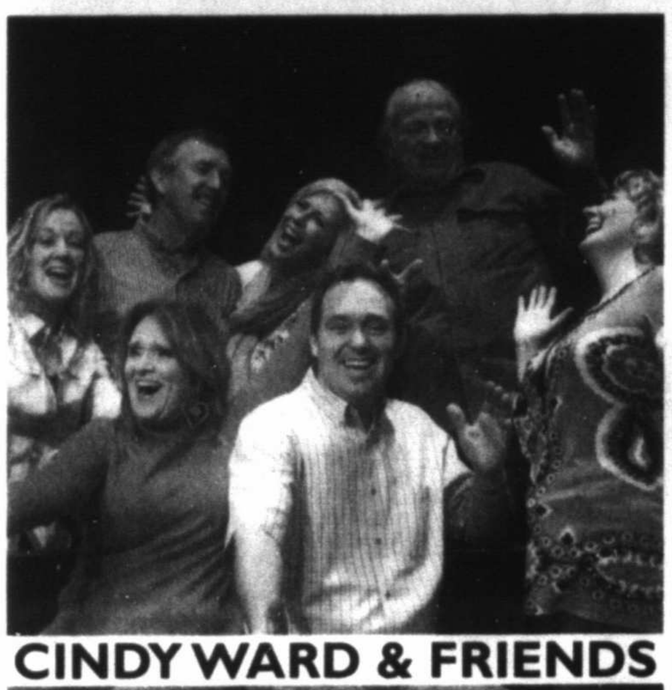
He discovered the drums, which slowly drew him out of his shell.

Born in Del Rio, and raised in Abilene, Calderon was drawn to the big city, and when he turned 21, he moved to Austin where he saw an endless array of live music including a Bob Dylan performance. He then moved to Arlington but family called him to Midland in 1979.

"My brother and my aunt had started Freddy's Instant Shopping over on Tyler and Front and it was a successful convenience store," he said. "And my mother kept telling me to go help so I packed up my El Camino and moved here and been here ever since."

Please see **CALDERON**/Page 3

CALENDAR



CINDY WARD & FRIENDS

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MUSIC

Ernesto Calderon, 6:30-9:30 p.m. today at The Wine Rack. winerackmidland.com.

Mark McKinney, Friday at Lone Star Bar. facebook.com/thelonestarbar.

MOSC Masterworks 3: "There's a Good Chance You'll Love Strauss," 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

ARTS & EXHIBITS

Sibley in the Arts program with Susan May, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at Sibley Nature Center. sibleynaturecenter.org.

Valentine Heart Pin workshop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Artizen Outlet. artizenoutlet.com.

GAMES & SPORTS

Play bridge at Allison Bridge Center. 682-8595.

Hold 'em poker tournaments, 7 p.m. Friday at The Detour.

Senior bingo, 10 a.m. Fridays at Cimarron House.

THEATER, COMEDY & FILM

Cindy Ward & Friends in "Make 'Em Laugh," 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at Permian Playouse in Odessa. 362-2329.

Rodney Carrington, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

EVENTS

Teen video game tournament, 4-7 p.m. today at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. co.midland.tx.us.

Crashmaster Monster Truck Show, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

TS Bola book signing "One Bad Night in Mexico," noon-2 p.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Tool Box Bash benefiting Habitat for Humanity, 6:30 p.m. Saturday at CAF. 686-8877.

KID-FRIENDLY

Storytime with "I Love You Night and Day," 11 a.m. Saturday at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for ages 2-6, 10:30 a.m. today at Midland County Public Library downtown location. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for ages 2-6, 11 a.m. Saturdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for 2-6 years, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for birth-2 years, 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for 2-6 years, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us.

Storytime for preschool, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

"Framed: Step Into Art" exhibit through Feb. 1 at Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum. museumsw.org.

Dome shows, throughout the week at Marian Blakemore Planetarium. museumsw.org 683-2882.

COMING SOON

JANUARY

Local Agriculture Study with speaker Emmy Ulmschneider, 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at 3201 Lockheed.

The Oak Ridge Boys, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Harlem Globetrotters "Washington Generals' Revenge" tour, 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at Chaparral Center. harlemglobetrotters.com.

"The Addams Family," Jan. 30-Feb. 21 at Midland Community Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Visual Journaling Workshop, 1-4 p.m. Jan. 31 at ArtiZen OurJet. artizenoutlet.com.

American Girl craft time, 5 p.m. Jan. 31 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Tyler Farr, Jan. 31 at La Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Silver Spur and Gun Show, Jan. 31-Feb. 1 the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

FEBRUARY

Ernesto Calderon, Feb. 2 at The Wine Rack. winerackmidland.com.

First Friday art show with Brad King and Andrew Lawson, 6 p.m. Feb. 6 at Kamiposi. facebook.com/kamiposi.

Los Tigres Del Norte, Feb. 6 at La Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Mike Huckabee book signing "God, Guns, Grits and Gravy," 11 a.m. Feb. 6 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra with 12-year-old violin prodigy Elizabeth Aoki, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at First Baptist Church Big Spring. bigspringsymphony.com.

Brian Roman, 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Storytime with "Ready Rabbit Gets Ready!," 11 a.m. Feb. 7 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

"Moving Past Auto" photography workshop, 1-4 p.m. Feb. 7 at ArtiZen Outlet. artizenoutlet.com.

Ernesto Calderon, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at The Wine Rack. winerackmidland.com.

Jeff Foxworthy, Feb. 7 at Horseshoe Pavillion. midlandhorseshoe.com.

West Texas Winds "Symphony of Five," 3 p.m. Feb. 8 Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

"Guys and Dolls," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Beginning silversmithing workshop, Feb. 12-13 or Feb. 14-15 at ArtiZen Outlet. learnsilver.com.

Chocolate Decadence benefiting Aphasia Center of West Texas, Feb. 12 at Horseshoe Pavillion. midlandhorseshoe.com.

2015 Student Art Exhibition: Time Warp opening reception, 6 p.m. Feb. 13 at Museum of the Southwest. museumsw.org.

Rhea Lana's consignment sale, Feb. 13-15 at the Horsehoe. midland.rhealana.com.

HeART Affair, 7-10 p.m. Feb. 13 at Ellen Noel Art Museum. noelartmuseum.org.

Chubby Checker, 8 p.m. Feb. 13 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

MAP Monster Trucks, Feb. 13-14 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Storytime with "I Love You Just Like This!" 11 a.m. Feb. 14 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

City Rock Fest tour with Disciple, Decyfer Down, Seventh Day Slumber and Nine Ashes, 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at Andrews County Expo. whatyeshuacando.com.

West Texas Guitar Festival: Texas Guitar Quartet, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

West Texas Kennel Club Dog Show, Feb. 18-22 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Laura Bush Literacy Program free reading event, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at George W. Bush Childhood Home. bushchildhoodhome.org.

West Texas Guitar Festival: Pepe Romero, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

West Texas Guitar Festival: Andy McKee, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Continental Antique Shows, Feb. 20-22 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Storytime with "Click, Clack, Peep," 11 a.m. Feb. 21 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Curious George storytime, 2 p.m. Jan. 21 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Jack Hanna's Into the Wild Live! Feb. 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Permian Basin String Quartet: "Cross-Cultural Inspirations," Feb. 22 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Ellen Noel Art Museum's Shrimpfest, Feb. 23 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Loretta Lynn, 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Diana Ross, 8 p.m. Feb. 25 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Circus Gatti, Feb. 25-28 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

Vienna Boys Choir, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Permian Basin Home & Garden Show, Feb. 26-28 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Just Between Friends consignment sale, Feb. 26-28 at Ector County Coliseum. ectorcountycoliseum.org.

2 Cellos, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

"Greater Tuna," Feb. 27-March 21 at Midland Community Theatre. mctmidland.org.

Black History Month storytime with "I Am Rosa Parks," 11 a.m. Feb. 28 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

Midland County Public Library Foundation's third annual luncheon featuring Bob Philips of "Texas Country Reporter," noon Feb. 28 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch. www.co.midland.tx.us/lib.

American Girl craft event, 5 p.m. Jan. 28 at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. barnesandnoble.com.

MARCH

The Australian Bee Gees, 8 p.m. March 3 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Pool and Spa Show, March 4-8 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

First Friday art show with Thomas Burns, 6 p.m. March 6 at Kamiposi. facebook.com/kamiposi.

S'Wonderful, S'Marvelous, S'Gershwin, 7:30 p.m. March 7 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Jerry Seinfeld, 7 p.m. March 11 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Permian Basin Celtic Festival, March 13-15 at the Horseshoe. midlandhorseshoe.com.

Ernesto Calderon, 6:30-9:30 p.m. March 14 at The Wine Rack. winerackmidland.com.

Live on Stage: Live From Nashville, March 16 at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center. wagnernoel.com.

Aaron Lewis, March 19 at La Hacienda. haciendamidland.com.

Live At The Wine Rack January 22 & February 7 — 6:30pm-9:30pm

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MIDLAND, TX • JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 1

MIDLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ON STAGE

JB AND THE MOONSHINE BAND

LIVE WIRE

MIDLAND
ODESSA
BIG SPRING
ANDREWS

JANUARY

20 **Urban Pioneers, The Rock Botton String Band, Armadillo Creek** @ Blue Max
20 **Johnny and Susie Band** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
20 **Matthew Smith** @ Grace Covenant Church
22 **Ernesto Caldeon** @ The Wine Rack
22 **JB and the Moonshine Band** @ Rockin Rodeo
22 **Stevie Tombsrone** @ Blue Max
22 **Goodtimers** @ West Texas Dance Club
23 **Loco Motive** @ The Detour
23 **Siggno** @ Club la Playa
23 **Mark McKinney** @ Lone Star Bar
23 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry & Co.** @ Midland Senior Center
23 **Gary Gorence** @ Polo Park Estates
23 **Meredith Andrews, Shaun Groves** @Stonegate Fellowship
23-24 **Mister Happy** @ The Bar
23-24 **Santa Fe Band Featuring Welvis** @ Your Place
24 **MOSC Masterworks III: There's a Good Chance You'll Love Strauss** @ Wagner Noel
24 **Aaron Einhouse** @ Lone Star Bar
24 **Texas Buck'n Heat Band** @ Rhemadeez
24 **Hammer Down** @ Redneck's
24 **Ty Miller, All Stars, Mike Leonard** @ Music City Mall
24 **Roger Creager, Mario Flores** @ Graham Central Station
24 **Gerardo Ortiz el rey del corrido** @ Far West Event Center
24 **Lil.T.Ton, T.Ton** @ Shack in the Back
25 **Goodtimers, Gregory Blair, Martha Elliot** @ Music City Mall
25 **Kari Jobe** @ First Baptist Church (Odessa)
26 **Oak Ridge Boys** @ Wagner Noel
27 **Another Lost Year, Brother Grey, Drugs Delaney** @ Blue Max
27 **Goodtimers** @ Permian Basin Dance Club
29 **Chance Anderson** @ Lone Star Bar
29 **Mobile Deathcamp, Final Drive, Adipocere** @ Blue Max
29 **Tommy, Jean, Jerry and & Co.** @ West Texas Dance Club
28 **Kyle Park** @ Rockin Rodeo
30 **Sunny Sweeney, Judson Cole Band** @ Graham Central Station
30 **Back Row Sinners** @ Your Place
30 **Forgotten Road** @ The Detour
30 **The Band McGraw** @ Redneck's
30-31 **Freeride** @ The Bar
30 -31 **Gary Nix & West Texas** @ Riley's
31 **Tyler Farr** @ La Hacienda
31 **Jay Strahan, Midnight River Choir** @ Lone Star Bar
31 **Samuel Zachary, Mike Leonard, Martha Elliot** @ Music City Mall
31 **Jack Nelson Band** @ Redneck's
31 **Justin Langston** @ Cigar Frog's

FEBRUARY

5 **Era 9, 7 Stone Riot** @ Blue Max
5 **Cory Morrow** @ Rockin Rodeo
6 **Brian Roman** @ Wagner Noel
6 **Los Tigres Del Norte** @ at La Hacienda
6 **Stoney LaRue** @ Graham Central Station
6 **Forgotten Road** @ Redneck's
6 **Jamie Berryhill and the Hard Times** @ 10 Sports Bar
6-7 **MoneyShot Band** @ The Bar
7 **Reverse Order** @ Pine Box
7 **Ernesto Calderon** @ The Wine Rack
7 **Gary Nix & West Texas** @ Barn Door
7 **Sansietch, Speed Limit** @ Cigar Frog's
7 **Hogg Maulies** @ Redneck's
7 **No Dry County** @ Lone Star Bar
7 **Nathan Kalish and the Lastcallers** @ Blue Max
7-8 **Texas Buck'n Heat Band** @ Rhemadeez
12 **Tracy Lawrence** @ Graham Central Station
12 **Micky and the Motorcars** @ Rockin Rodeo
13 **Chubby Checker & The Wildcats** @ Wagner Noel
13 **Texas Buck'n Heat Band** @ Rhemadeez
13-14 **Cory Dutton** @ The Bar
19 **William Clark Green** @ Rockin Rodeo
19 **Teach Me Equals** @ Kampos
20 **Texas Buck'n Heat Band** @ Rhemadeez
20-21 **Grindstone** @ The Bar
24 **Loretta Lynn** @ Wagner Noel
26 **Vienna Boys Choir** @ Wagner Noel
26 **Curtis Grimes** @ Rockin Rodeo
27 **2cellos** @ Wagner Noel
27 **Anvil, Lord Dying, Sunlord** @ Blue Max
27-28 **Electric Gypsies** @ The Bar
28 **Callahan Divide** @ Lone Star Bar

CHANCE

From Page 1

So why this piece?

"Many concertos are beautiful and refined with exciting technical demands," Chance said. "But I was looking for something that had big emotional impact and lots of drama, in addition to being beautiful."

Navarro's Clarinet Concert No. 2 is a fairly new piece only written in 2012. In addition, Chance said it hasn't been performed too much albeit is gaining popularity.

Evidence of that comes in Saturday's performance.

Also, as a member of the MOSC since 2009, this is Chance's first professional solo concerto.

"It does feel good for this to happen," Chance said. "I've had opportunitiess to play as a soloist in school but that was my only experience. So being asked to perform this also shows me that Gary has an appreciation of my playing."

And so for the first half of the show, Chance will have the spotlight all on him.

"That is a lot more nerve-wracking because there's no place to hide," he revealed. "And as a featured soloist, there definitely is more accountability for every note I play. So yeah, it's easier to be part of what's going on in the middle of everyone, but there's also some nervous excitement wrapped up in it."

In addition to Navarro's concerto with Chance, the night's repertoire will also include performances of Johann Strauss' "Overture to Die Fledermaus" and the "Radetzky March" and Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier Suite" with a pre-concert lecture.

WANT TO GO?

"There's a Good Chance You'll Love Strauss!" at Wagner Noel, 1310 North Farm-to-Market Road 1788. Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Lecture at 6:45 p.m. Tickets $17-$30. For more information, check out the website, mosc.org.

CALDERON

From Page 1

Now 61, Calderon finds himself fully entrenched here, which is ironic because he's always thought of himself as a big city guy.

"I like Dallas and Austin and the variety they have to offer but yeah, I'm a Realtor, a master Mason, I have my family, the gigs and other obligations," he said. "It goes back to being shy I think. I overcompensate to force myself to be out there so I always keep a lot of irons in the fire."

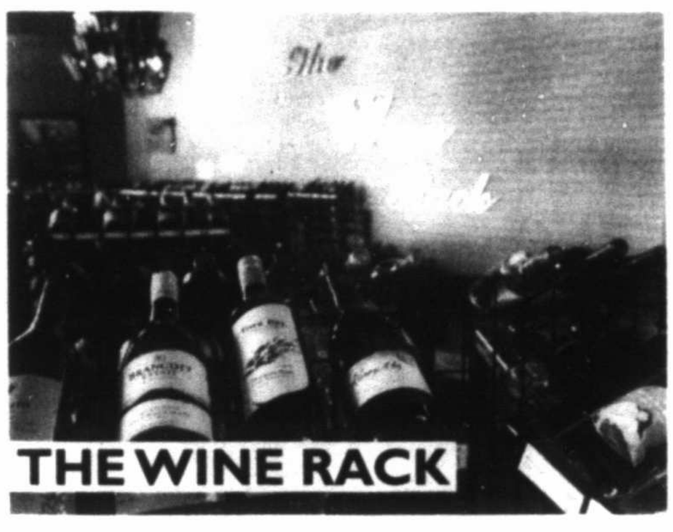
But music is Calderon's passion that he can't stress enough.

In Midland, he performed for several years with the Chek Point band before moving on to his current band Showdown which has played locally for more than 25 years. But something was amiss and so he made a change.

"I always wanted a solo gig where I sung with a guitar and I put it in my mind to have that," he said. "So I picked up a guitar 10 years ago and taught myself a few chords to make it happen."

With an already long career as a regional musician, Calderon made his solo debut a mere three years ago.

"I was asked to play St. Patrick's Day at the Wine Rack and it was standing room only," he said. "I was so nervous. Man, I still get nervous playing in front of a crowd. You're naked up there with just your art. But I get through it because I enjoy entertaining people."



THE WINE RACK

And he gives credit to his wife, Kimberly, a registered nurse at Midland Memorial Hospital.

"She understands this is my passion and so does my family. But I couldn't ask for a better partner, and critic," he said.

And while his gig at the Wine Rack has become a stable one, he hopes more restaurants can open their doors to local musicians. His passion extends not just to his work, but live music as a viable option for Midlanders.

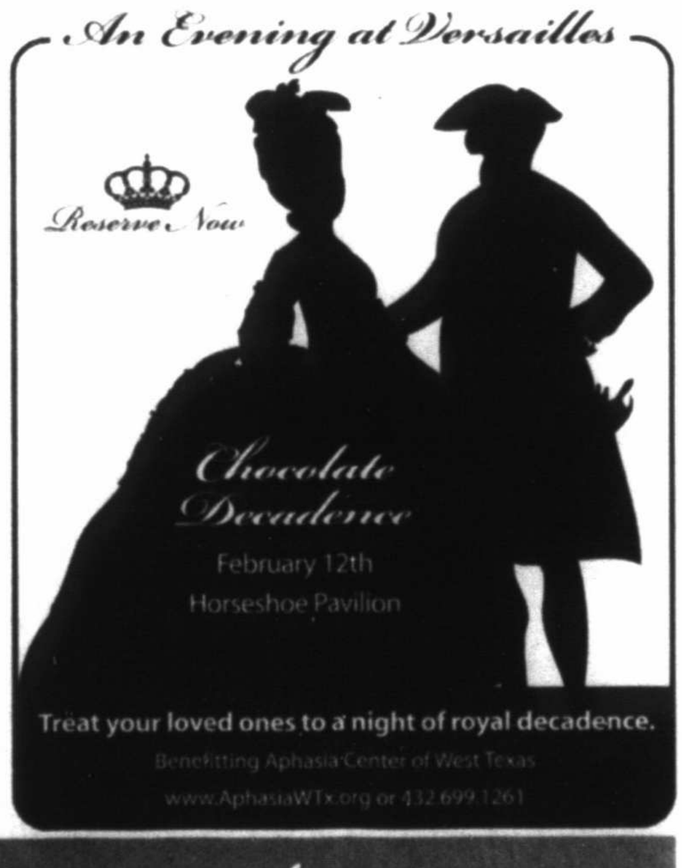
"I think the city is still starving for more entertainment. During booms, we get hotels and motels and more apartments but no money toward music venues," he said.

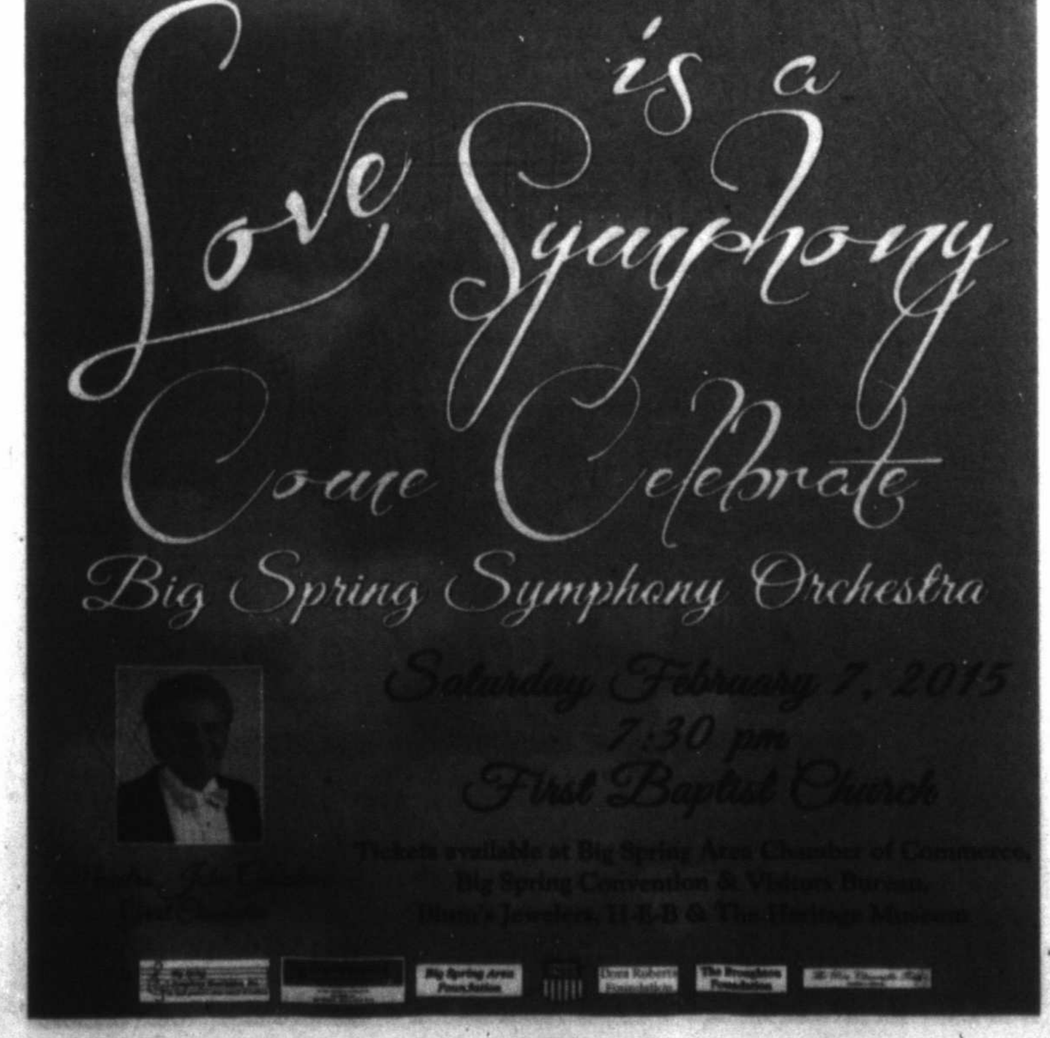
But Calderon's persistence has led to gigs at Saltgrass, the Petroleum Club, Abuelo's and of course the Wine Rack — as long as he can play his eclectic selection of covers.

"I've written poems but I've yet to put them to music. So I play music that people are familiar with but may not expect," he said. "But I'll do this for as long as I can. Music is my whole life."

WANT TO GO?

Ernesto Calderon at The Wine Rack, 4610 N Garfield St. 6:30 p.m. today winerackmidland.com.





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MOVIES

'Gone Girl' didn't deserve best picture Oscar snub

PICK O' THE WEEK

"Gone Girl" (R) Clever whodunit features a wicked twist or two, an Oscar-worthy performance by Rosamund Pike — she got the film's only Academy Award nomination — and one of the year's most dastardly villains. **A**

ICK! O' THE WEEK

"Revenge of the Green Dragons" (R) Gangster film that centers on an American-Asian community is totally void of originality or the eye-popping fight scenes that could have been this film's centerpiece. **F**

Reeled & Stream

By Nancy Adamson | nadamson@mrt.com

MORE REVIEWS

"The Identical" (PG) While I'm reluctant to trash any movie featuring the delightful Joey Pants (Pantoliano), the Elvis Presley theme steals enough of The King's story to look familiar — including a what-if-Elvis'-twin-brother-Jesse-had-survived plot point — but not enough to pony up the cash to use real names. I also couldn't help but wonder how much better this film might have been if Adam Lambert played the lead. **C**

"Jessabelle" (PG-13) If this is the first horror movie you've ever seen, it probably will be quite frightening. If it's the second, you will recognize that all of the scary moments are contrived. **C-**

"Love is Strange" (R) John Lithgow and Alfred Molina are wonderfully convincing as a longtime couple who face financial hardships after 40 years together. **B+**

"Men, Women and Children" (R) Ambitious stories — most revolving around sexual themes — and an eclectic cast never bore but do sometimes disappoint. **B**

"Middle of Nowhere" (R) Riveting drama centered around a woman's determination to survive after her husband goes to prison is very low-key but rewarding. **B**

"Not Another Happy Ending" (unrated) Snappy dialogue highlights this otherwise predictable romantic comedy from Scotland. **B-**

"1,000 Times Goodnight" (unrated) It's unclear whether Juliette Binoche's accent is supposed to be American or Irish, but she doesn't quite nail either, which is a minor distraction in this otherwise gripping drama. **B**

"Scorpion King 4" (PG-13) Low expectations may play a factor in this, but after a ho-hum first act, it becomes easier to forgive the glaring lack of detail to period and embrace the intentional and unintentional humor. **B-**

"To Be Takei" (unrated) It's slow-going in a couple of sequences but worth watching solely to see William Shatner's borderline homophobia emerge in his interview. **B**

"A Walk Among the Tombstones" (R) Generic action thriller is enlivened by the presence of Liam Neeson, who essentially plays the same misanthropic hard case he does in almost all of his films. **B-**

'AMERICAN SNIPER'

'American Sniper' is a hit drawing fire in social media

Editor's note: This article contains spoilers that describe key moments in the film, including the ending.

By Cara Buickley
N.Y. Times News Service

Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper" has been the talk — or a talk — of the town since surprising prognosticators by mopping up six Oscar nominations last week.

Between Friday and Monday, it nabbed a record-breaking $105 million at the box office, the best opening on a January weekend ever. The film, which focuses on the life of Chris Kyle, a member of a Navy SEAL team who shot his way to a record 160 confirmed kills in Iraq and Afghanistan, was also the target of some sniping from celebs.

"'American Sniper' kind of reminds me of the movie that's showing in the third act of 'Inglourious Basterds,'" actor Seth Rogen wrote on Twitter on Sunday. (The faux film-within-a-film he is referring to featured a cornered Nazi soldier gunning down his enemies in droves.)

Rogen later sent out a few tweets mocking news outlets for blowing his comment "out of proportion."

Michael Moore, the liberal documentarian and vociferous Iraq war opponent, also weighed in on Twitter, saying that snipers weren't heroes. He wrote Sunday: "My uncle killed by sniper in WW2. We were taught snipers were cowards. Will shoot u in the back. Snipers aren't heroes. And invaders r worse."

Moore later took to Facebook to clarify that he was not commenting on the film itself, saying: "Awesome performance from Bradley Cooper. One of the best of the year. Great editing. Costumes, hair, makeup superb!"

But he went on to add: "Too bad Clint gets Vietnam and Iraq confused in his storytelling. And that he has his characters calling Iraqis 'savages' throughout the film. But there is also anti-war sentiment expressed in the movie. And there's a touching ending as the main character is remembered after being gunned down by a fellow American vet with PTSD."

Yet another aspect of the film garnered attention: the distractingly fake baby that shows up in a scene between Bradley Cooper, who plays Kyle, and his wife, played by Sienna Miller. Drew McWeeny at HitFix was among the early critics to point out the baby — not as bad as the one from "Trainspotting," but close.

The Oscar nominations gave the fake-baby angle new life: After they were announced Jan. 15, Mark Harris of Grantland penned an arch tweet, "Nice candid shot of one of the actors who worked with Bradley Cooper in American Sniper," under a photo of a baby doll. Other outlets jumped aboard, too.

Eastwood's decision to use a fake infant was a curious one, considering he took such pains to ensure the authenticity of the war scenes. The film was partly shot in Morocco; Eastwood told the Bagger that the architecture shared by the countries was what made those scenes work.

So why the fake baby? The film's screenwriter, Jason Hall, weighed in late December, in a tweet that has since been deleted: "Hate to ruin the fun but real baby 1 showed up with a fever. Real baby 2 was no show. (Clint voice) Gimme the doll, kid."

FILM CAPSULES

American Sniper (R) Director Clint Eastwood and star Bradley Cooper combine to tell the story of the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history and focus on the destructive inner price that must be paid for inflicting violence.

Big Eyes (PG-13) A biopic about the artist Margaret Keane, whose work became popular in the 1950s and '60s while her husband took the credit, revolutionizing the commercialization of popular art along the way. With Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz, Danny Huston and Krysten Ritter. Written by Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski. Directed by Tim Burton.

Blackhat (R) A convicted hacker serving a 15-year sentence is furloughed to hunt a high-level cyber-crime network. With Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis and Tang Wei. Written by Michael Mann and Morgan Davis Foehl. Directed by Mann.

The Boy Next Door (R) A high school teacher coping with a failed marriage and raising a teenage son has an affair with her much younger neighbor, who becomes increasingly obsessed with her. With Jennifer Lopez, Ryan Guzman and John Corbett. Written by Barbara Curry. Directed by Rob Cohen.

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13) The hobbit Bilbo Baggins and his dwarf companions battle the dragon Smaug and the forces of the dark lord Sauron. With Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman, Richard Armitage and Evangeline Lilly. Written by Fran Walsh, Philippa Boyens, Peter Jackson and Guillermo del Toro. Directed by Jackson. In 3-D, Imax and HFR.

The Humbling (R) A famous but depressed stage actor attempts to get his mojo back and has an affair with a lesbian half his age. With Al Pacino, Greta Gerwig, Nina Arianda. Written by Buck Henry and Michael Zebede. Directed by Barry Levinson.

The Imitation Game (PG-13) A gripping story, a sad story, a true story, about British mathematician Alan Turing, who led the team of Brits during World War II trying to crack the German's daunting Enigma encryption machine. Secretly gay, this unsung hero's life was brought to grievous conclusion. Benedict Cumberbatch stars (another remarkable performance), with Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode and Mark Strong.

Into the Woods (PG) In this adaptation of the Tony-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim, a baker and his wife who have been cursed by a witch head into a dark forest to make their deepest wishes come true, crossing paths with Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and other classic fairy-tale characters. With Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden and Anna Kendrick. Written by James Lapine. Directed by Rob Marshall.

Mortdecai (R) A roguish art dealer races to recover a stolen painting that may hold the key to a stash of Nazi gold. With Johnny Depp, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ewan McGregor. Written by Eric Aronson. Directed by David Koepp.

Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) A museum security guard travels the globe on a quest to save the magic of an ancient artifact that brings history to life. With Ben Stiller, Robin Williams and Owen Wilson. Written by David Guion and Michael Handelman. Directed by Shawn Levy.

Paddington (PG) A young Peruvian bear travels to the city in search of a home in this film based on Michael Bond's children's books. With Ben Whishaw, Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins. Written and directed by Paul King.

Selma (PG-13) The first Hollywood production to put Martin Luther King jr. front and center is a necessary film, even an essential one, with more than its share of memorable performances, especially by star David Oyelowo, and vivid, compelling sequences. But it is also inconsistent and not always as strong as its strongest moments.

Strange Magic (PG) Goblins, elves, fairies and imps battle over a powerful potion in this animated musical inspired by Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." With the voices of Alan Cumming, Evan Rachel Wood and Kristin Chenoweth. Written by David Berenbaum, Irene Mecchi and Gary Rydstrom. Directed by Rydstrom.

Unbroken (PG-13) A biopic about Louis Zamperini, the Olympic runner turned World War II bombardier who survived in a raft for 47 days after a near-fatal plane crash in the Pacific — only to be caught by the Japanese navy and sent to a POW camp. With Jack O'Connell, Domhnall Gleeson and Miyavi. Written by Joel Coen, Ethan Coen and Richard LaGravenese. Directed by Angelina Jolie.

The Wedding Ringer (R) A successful but socially awkward groom-to-be enlists a best-man-for-hire to fill out his half of the bridal party. With Kevin Hart, Josh Gad and Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting. Written by Jeremy Garelick and Jay Lavender. Directed by Garelick.

The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (PG-13) During the Blitz of World War II, London schoolchildren are sent to a house in the countryside for their safety, but a dark force awakens there. With Jeremy Irvine and Helen McCrory. Written by Jon Croker. Directed by Tom Harper.

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the YMCA

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Midland YMCA - 800 N Big Spring Street, Midland, TX 79701
Registrations Fee: $30 Adults / $15 Kids under age 10
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- Prizes for Fastest Runners in Each Age Category for Timed Run
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Registration opens at 7:30 AM

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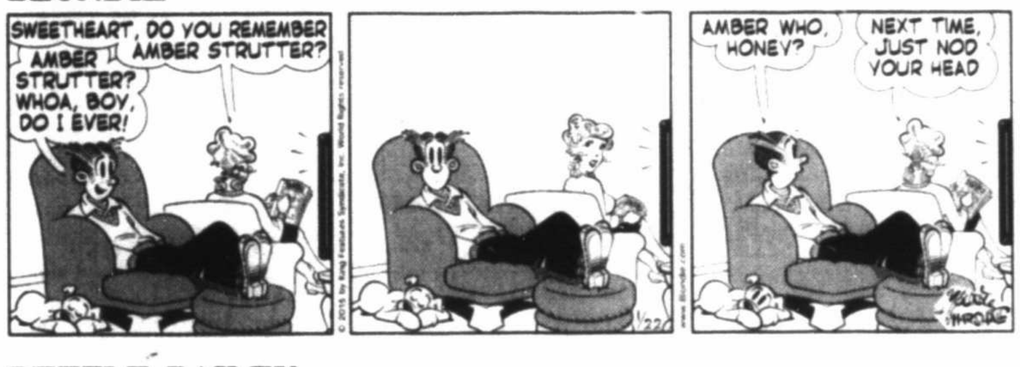

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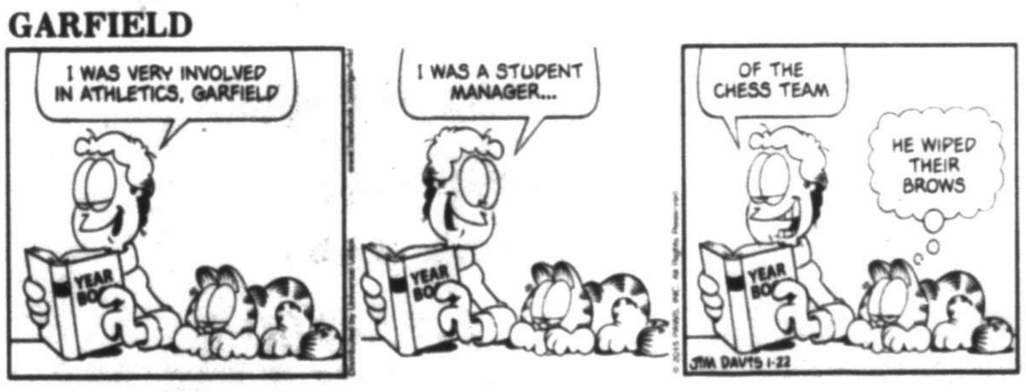
CLASSIC PEANUTS

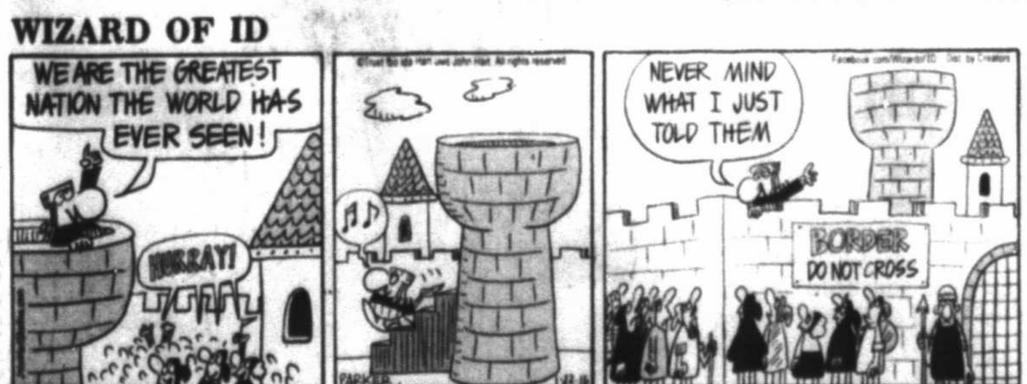
SHOE

GARFIELD



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

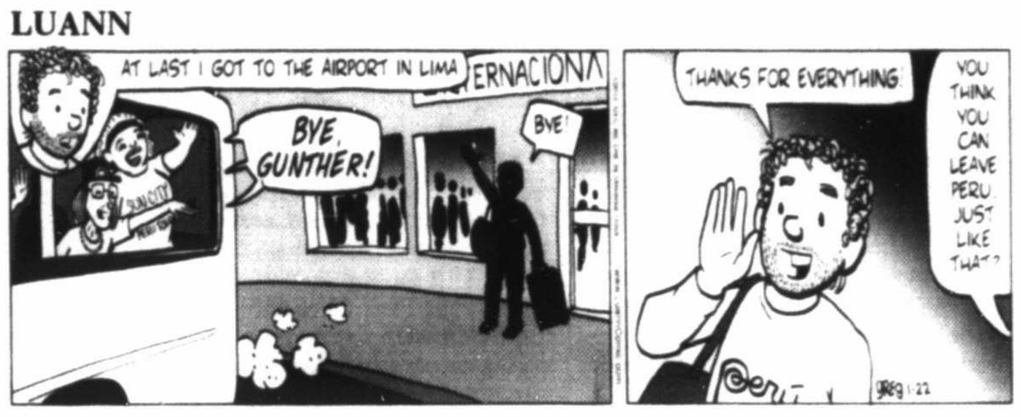
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN



MARY WORTH

ZITS

BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME

DENNIS THE MENACE

"SINCE WE GOT THE BIG TV, I GET TO SELL HOT DOGS AN' LEMONADE DURIN' THE GAME."

LOCKHORNS

"LEROY'S A TRAINEE IN ANGER MANAGEMENT."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"How long do I have to hold the door while Kittycat decides if it's too cold to go out?"

DINING

WEEKENDER PUBLISHES A PORTION OF THE RESTAURANT GUIDE EACH WEEK. ENTREE PRICE RANGE IS BASED ON THE AVERAGE ENTREE PRICE ON THE MENU: $ = $1-10, $$ = $10-20 AND $$$ = $20 OR MORE. RESTAURANTS ARE GIVEN A GENERAL RATING BASED ON QUALITY OF FOOD, SERVICE, CLEANLINESS, ATMOSPHERE AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE. 1 SPOON = POOR, 2 SPOONS = AVERAGE, 3 SPOONS = ABOVE AVERAGE, 4 SPOONS = GOOD AND 5 SPOONS = EXCELLENT.

MEXICAN

ABUELOS Mix of traditional Tex-Mex with unique menu items featuring steak and seafood. Tired of rice and beans on the side? Try papas con chile and espinaca casserole. 2908 W. Loop 250 N. 685-3335 www.abuelos.com | $$ | 4 spoons

AJUUA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Tex-Mex favorites such as enchiladas, tacos, burritos and combination plates. Daily specials and menudo served on weekends. 3205 W. Cuthbert Ave. 694-4116 | $ | 2 spoons

CANCUN GRILL Stylish downtown Mexican restaurant inside Wall Towers. Start with the corn queso and then move on to the seafood enchiladas or one of the steaks. 223 W. Wall St. 618-0390 | $$ | 4 spoons

CARAMBA'S SPANISH INN Bustling Mexican restaurant with a variety of foods and combination plates. Tex-Mex favorites and burgers, steaks and seafood. 3116 W. Front St. 520-9724 or 520-9525 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA DEL SOL RESTAURANTE Y CANTINA Reminiscent of a Mexican cantina. Mexican stir-fry is a popular choice or try one of the West Texas specialties like country-fried steak, shrimp or catfish. 523 East Illinois Ave. 686-1118 | $ | 3 spoons

CASA LOPEZ CAFE Sports bar, restaurant and catering service with entrees like enchiladas and fajitas and appetizers such as bacon wrapped shrimp and stuffed jalapenos. 4411 W. Illinois Ave. 699-7373 | $ | 4 spoons

CASA MADRID Established Midland restaurant serves fajitas, Mexican combination plates, tacos, tamales, flautas and enchiladas. 911 S. Big Spring St. 685-1350 | $ | 3 spoons

CHARLAS RESTAURANTE & BAR With a casual atmosphere and full service bar, Charla's serves enchiladas, shrimp nachos, tortilla soup and tropical salad. Delicious chips and salsa. 3330 W. Illinois Ave. 699-2440 | $ | 3 spoons

CHITO'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT & SPORTS Traditional Mexican fare with sports bar atmosphere. Breakfast served on weekends. 4400 N. Midland Drive 689-8646 | $ | 4 spoons

DONA ANITA'S Some of the best chile rellenos in town. Or try the tacos or enchiladas. Heuvos con chorizo, menudo, huevos rancheros and migas on Sundays. 305 W. Florida Ave. 683-6727 | $ | 3 spoons

DOS COMPADRES We recommend the carne guisada or any of the enchiladas with a tangy and mild green sauce. 2200 W. Wadley Ave., #1 Oak Ridge Square 684-7239 www.Doscompadres.net | $ | 3 spoons

DOS MARGARITAS Extensive menu includes fajitas, combination plates, lunch specials and breakfast plates such as huevos rancheros and omelettes. 1501 North Big Spring St. 618-9536 www.dosmargaritasusa.com | $ | 3 spoons

EL BANQUETE Traditional Mexican cuisine such as soft beef and pork tacos. Breakfast burritos, fajitas and enchiladas. 1802 Rankin Highway 620-0123 | $ | 2 spoons

EL BURRITO RESTAURANT Serving burritos for more than 30 years. Breakfast and lunch burritos on homemade tortillas and other Tex-Mex favorites. Also known for their burgers. 1106 N. Big Spring St. 683-9701 | $ | 4 spoons

FAJITAS BRAVO Delicious and tender beef and chicken fajita burritos. Or try nachos, burgers, quesadillas or barbecue. 409 E. Scharbauer Drive 682-6848 | $ | 3 spoons

FREEBIRDS Create your own burrito, tacos, nacho, salad or bowl with fillings that range from cilantro lime rice, black beans and tomatillo sauce to carnitas, queso and pico de gallo. 3322 N. Loop 250 West www.freebirds.com 689-9100 | $ | 4 spoons

GARCIA'S BURRITOS Pick up a breakfast burrito for $2 starting at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays. Or try a fajita plate with beans, rice, guacamole and sour cream. 1306 N. Lamesa Road 684-4383 | $ | 2 spoons

GERARDO'S CASITA Try the tortilla soup or the fajitas. Don't forget a margarita from the full-service bar. 2407 N. Big Spring St. 570-8012 www.gerardoscasita.net | $ | 4 spoons

JAVI'S MEXICANO RESTAURANTE Mexican restaurant, bakery, tortilla and tamale factory serves wide variety of burritos and great burgers. 1511 Rankin Highway 684-4898 | $ | 4 spoons

JORGE'S CAFÉ Two locations in Midland serving Tex-Mex fare. Jorge's does a simple queso without chunks of peppers or tomatoes — you'll either love it or hate it. 3323 N. Midland Drive 689-0032 4400 N. Big Spring St. 683-6303 www.jorges.com | $ | 4 spoons

JUMBURRITO Drive-through or eat-in for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Try the stewmeat with cheese and avocado and smother it with queso and/or Jumburritos' hot sauce. Expect a line for weekend breakfast. 1301 Lamesa Road, 682-5060 | 2101 W. Wadley Ave., 683-7017 | 908 S. Midkiff Road, 689-0350 | 4509 N. Midkiff Road, 689-3894 | www.jumburrito.com | 4 spoons

LA BODEGA MEXICAN RESTAURANT AND BAR Try the chile rellenos — stuffed with beef, chicken, cheese or shrimp, deep-fried and topped with red sauce, sour cream, pecans and raisins — or the rueda, described on the menu as a Mexican pizza. The upstairs bar allows smoking and keeps later hours than the restaurant. 2700 N. Big Spring St. 684-5594 www.mylabodega.com | $ | 4 spoons

LA HERRADURA MEXICAN CUISINE Go for breakfast and try the huevos rancheros with beans, potatoes and tortillas. Menudo, caldo de res and cabrito en salsa verde on the weekends. 1422 Rankin Highway 687-3000 | $ | 2 spoons

LA MISION Festive, colorful restaurant with great Tex-Mex favorites. In a hurry? Go for the lunch buffet. 1008 S. Big Spring St. 682-0320 | $ | 4 spoons

MANUEL'S AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD Home of the "Son of a Gun" plate — a 90 percent lean hamburger steak with onions, jalapeno gravy, beans, potatoes and tortillas — Manuel's also is known for its hot sauce. After you try it you can buy some to take home with you. 3905 Texas 349 www.manuelsdeli.com 682-2258 | $ | 4 spoons

PENO'S CAFÉ & CATERING COMPANY Try the tacos or the variety of breakfast burritos. Some menu items can be bought by the pound. Order tamales by the dozen. 4305 W. Illinois Ave. 262-5720 Facebook: Café J-Peno | $ | 3 spoons

REYNA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT An order of fajitas is too much for one person to eat, but they're so good you'll try anyway. 3601 W. Wall St. 699-2109 | $ | 4 spoons

ROMIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANTE Don't underestimate this hole-in-the-wall restaurant serving traditional Tex-Mex fare. Quick service, daily specials and delicious food. 701 S. Marienfeld St. 432-683-5344 | $ | 3 spoons

OSCAR'S SUPER BURRITO Serving Lee High School students, and other loyal customers, for years, Oscar's offers almost endless choices of burritos and other Tex-Mex favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Try the brisket and cheese burrito and don't skimp on the salsa. 4306 Neely Ave. | 699-0242 | 4 spoons

ROSA'S CAFÉ & TORTILLA FACTORY If you're a native Midlander, you get it. If you're not, try the queso and tortillas or the chicken fajitas with queso or the combo burritos. It's worth the long drive-through lines. 903 Andrews Highway 520-2358 2501 N. Big Spring St. 620-0634 | 4301 N. Midland Drive 520-0489 | $ | 4 spoons s

SEDONA MEXICAN GRILL & CANTINA Sit on the patio and enjoy drinks and chile con carne queso before your meal. Live entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays. 2101 W. Wadley Ave., # 45 www.sedonamexicancantina.com 570-9600 | $ | 4 spoons

TAMPICO SPANISH INN Go early to get a table. Start with an appetizer like queso, quesadillas or avocado salad. 2411 W. Wall St. 682-5074 | $ | 4 spoons

AMERICAN & GRILL

ADDIE'S DINER Great burgers and salads with a '50s diner vibe. Breakfast until 10:30 a.m. 304 E. Florida Ave., 686-2044. | $ | 4 spoons

BUSH'S CHICKEN Save room for the red cinnamon apple pie for dessert. Fried chicken with traditional sides. Three-lane drive through. 2210 N. Big Spring St. 687-7090 www.bushschicken.com | $ | 3 spoons

THE CAFÉ AT CRESTVIEW Quiet cafe inside Crestview Baptist Church is open to the public and serves fabulous desserts. Sandwiches, soups, burgers, Tex-Mex dishes. 301 N. Loop 250 West. 681-8200 www.crestviewmidland.org | $ | 3 spoons

CAFÉ AT THE GARDENS Want to feel like you've left West Texas? Enjoy a cup of soup next to a koi pond inside a green house. Sandwiches and burgers on freshly baked bread, quiche, salads. 3300 Fairgrounds Road. 687-1478 www.alldredgegardens.com | $ | 4 spoons

COTTON PATCH CAFE Casual dining chain restaurant off of Loop 250. Specials include chicken fried steak and fried catfish. 2320 W. Loop 250 N. 618-0070. www.cottonpatch.com | $ | 2 spoons.

CRACKER BARREL Breakfast all day. Chicken and dumplings, meatloaf, smoked ham, fried fish. 3108 N. Loop 250 West. 689-3137 www.crackerbarrel.com | $ | 3 spoons

CLEAR SPRINGS CAFE One of the few places in Midland specializing in seafood claims to have the best onion rings and catfish in "Texas, the World and the known Universe." Seafood, steaks, burgers, salads. 5707 Andrews Highway 522-1188 www.clearspringscafe.com | $$ | 3 spoons

DENNY'S Open 24 hours a day, Denny's is one of very few options for people looking to grab a bite to eat at 3 a.m. Breakfast, burgers, snacks, pies and coffee. 3701 W. Wall St. 520-5306 www.dennys.com | $ | 2 spoons

EDDIE'S CATFISH COMPANY When you open a catfish restaurant, why mess around with anything else. Except maybe fried shrimp, french fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and onion rings. 301 N. Lee St. 684-4422. www.eddiescatfishco.com | $ | 3 spoons

GRAHAM PHARMACY Refreshingly simple menu makes this a hot spot for lunch. Try the pimento cheese sandwich and treat yourself to homemade fudge for dessert. 1601 W. Wall St. 684-5756 www.grahampharmacy.com | $ | 3 spoons

JOJO'S EATERY Possibly the best desserts in town, and the sandwiches, salads and burgers aren't bad either. Downtown inside the Petroleum Building. 214 W. Texas Ave. 682-3134 | $ | 3 spoons

LORI'S CAFÉ Homestyle, diner cooking with a few surprises like wild boar sausage served with two eggs and toast. 2201 W. Wall St. 570-1701 www.loriscafe.net | $ | 3 spoons

THE RANCH HOUSE Sandwich options include chicken or tuna salad, turkey, peppered beef, ham, smoked brisket and barbecue. 5103 W. Wadley Ave. 699-0695 www.goldenglazedhams.com | $ | 3 spoons

STANTON DRUG AND OLD-FASHIONED SODA FOUNTAIN Drive about an hour from Midland for a hamburger or sandwich. Get there early. The owners close shop when they run out of meat for the day. 201 N. St. Peter, Stanton. 432-756-3731 | $ | 3 spoons

STRAWBERRY FIELDS CAFE Try the Santa Fe wrap. All organic menu with daily specials, sandwiches, wraps, smoothies. Soup and salad bar. 2311 W. Wadley Ave. 684-5869 www.naturalfoodsmkt.com | $ | 4 spoons

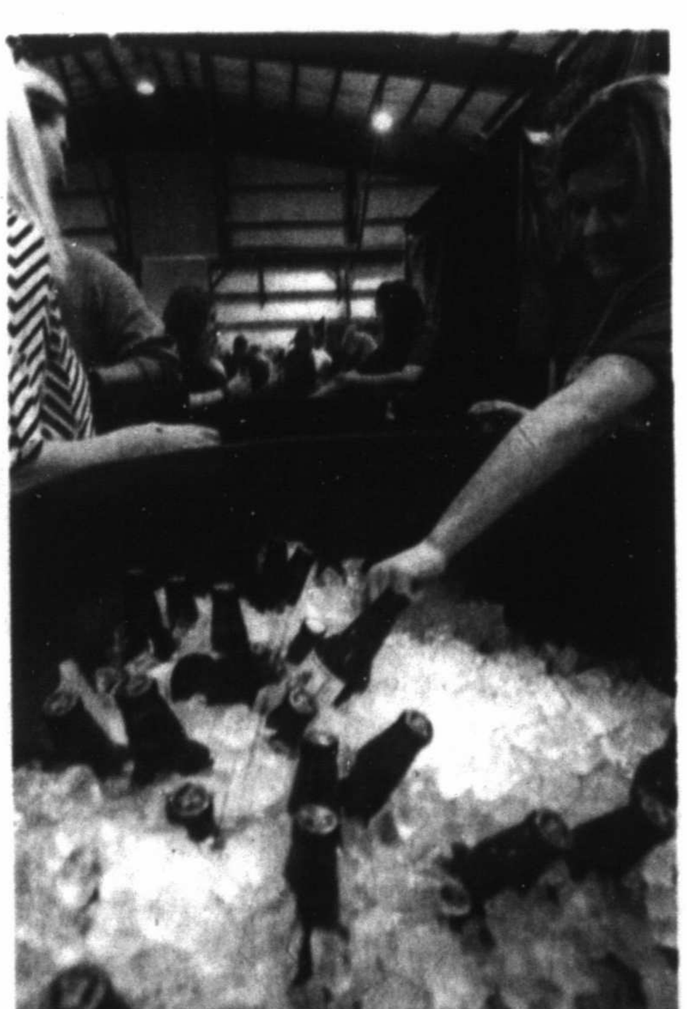
TATER WORLD If you're hungry, go for the huge baked potatoes stuffed with brisket or steak. The menu has more than just potatoes. 802 S Garfield St. 682-9111 | $ | 4 spoons

THE BAR Arguably the best burgers in town. Go during the fall or winter for the chili and cornbread. Live music and drink specials in the evenings. Try a bloody Mary with Saturday brunch. 606 W. Missouri Ave. 685-1757 www.thebarmidland.com | $$ | 4 spoons

TRIPLE THREAT SPORTS BAR & GRILL Philly cheesesteaks are the star of the menu. Smoking is permitted inside. 12 Meta Drive 683-5300 | $ | 4 spoons

Photos by James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

More than 100 beers were featured at Midland on Tap on Saturday at the Commemorative Air Force Hangar. In addition to the beer, live music and food trucks were featured at the event.



REVIEW

Craft didn't flow much at Midland on Tap

By Rye Druzin
rdruzin@mrt.com

The first-ever Midland on Tap took place at the Commemorative Air Force hangar on Saturday, and while the event had more than 50 breweries and 100 beers, food trucks and live music, the experience was a bit of a letdown.

The first cause for worry came in the form of the presentation. Out of the 104 beers purportedly offered, this reporter saw only eight that were poured from an actual tap. The rest were poured from bottles, which can offer a much different tasting experience than beer from a keg because bottles can be exposed to the elements and skunk the beer.

Secondly, all of the people serving the beer were local hires, except some workers from organizer America on Tap, which hosts these promotional events across the country. This is a far cry from other tastings I have attended, where those who brew the beer not only pour you a glass, but also talk to you about what makes their brew unique. When I asked one pourer about a milk stout that had just been poured, she told me unconvincingly that it had a "high ABV" (alcohol by volume). I looked at the label and found that the ABV was 6 percent (5 percent is the unofficial benchmark in the U.S.). The lack of beer knowledge in the building was palpable and disappointing.

It wasn't all doom and gloom, though. The event was festive, and hundreds of people packed the venue. The turnout was, in my opinion, outstanding. It showed that the Basin hungers for these sorts of cultural events enjoyed by bigger cities such as El Paso and Austin.

But for an event that sold out all of its $20 tickets, I expected more effort to be put into it. Sure, we are about five hours from a major metropolitan area. But the point of these types of tasters is to bring out local, state and regional brewers to introduce them to a wider audience. Having the brewers serving their libations is key, because they have the passion and the knowledge that makes these events unique. And bringing in more than eight Texas breweries would show people that this state has its own growing craft brew culture and encourage those people to grow and expand further away from their home markets.

Deflated balls latest in Belichick's reputation

By Rob Maadi
Associated Press

Add underinflated footballs to the list of incidents giving Bill Belichick a reputation for guile and playing above the rules.

Softer footballs wouldn't explain all of a rout that earned the New England Patriots a spot in the Super Bowl but it's another example of Belichick's reputation of searching for edges and bending any rules until he gets caught.

Vague injury reports. Spygate. Signing players with intel on opponents. And now, an open NFL investigation into whether the team cheated during its AFC championship win.

"Because it's the Patriots and they have a history, that brings in a different issue," former All-Pro running back Jerome Bettis said on ESPN. "There's some type of culture there that's conducive to cheating and that's a problem."

Team officials on Wednesday did not respond to a request for comment from Belichick, quarterback Tom Brady or team owner Robert Kraft.

Belichick no longer gets the benefit of the doubt among fans and those in football circles, even those who think he's the best coach in the league. Earlier this month, Hall of Fame coach Don Shula called him "Beli-cheat."

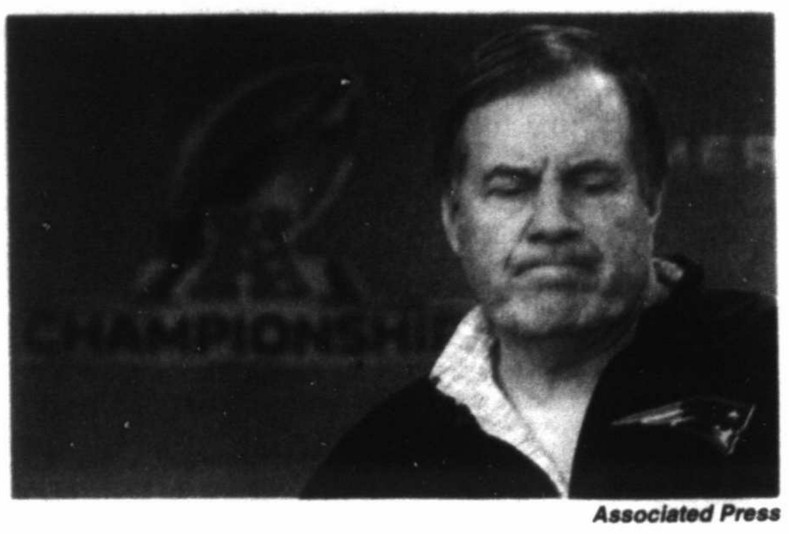
It all traces back to a reputation for gamesmanship that blossomed after the three-time Super Bowl winner's last title in 2004.

In 2007, Belichick was fined $500,000 and the team was fined $250,000 and stripped of its 2008 first-round draft choice by the NFL for videotaping New York Jets signals during a 2007 game. At the time, opponents wondered whether he taped practices, too.

Last year, Cleveland Browns coach Mike Pettine suggested Belichick might have gotten a copy of the Jets playbook through Alabama coach Nick Saban, an accusation denied by Saban and then-Jets coach Rex Ryan.

Belichick has signed players days before the Patriots faced their former team, opening up new avenues of intel. Six days before the opener against Miami this season, a 33-20 loss, the Patriots signed safety Don Jones a day after he was cut by the Dolphins. He played nine games for New

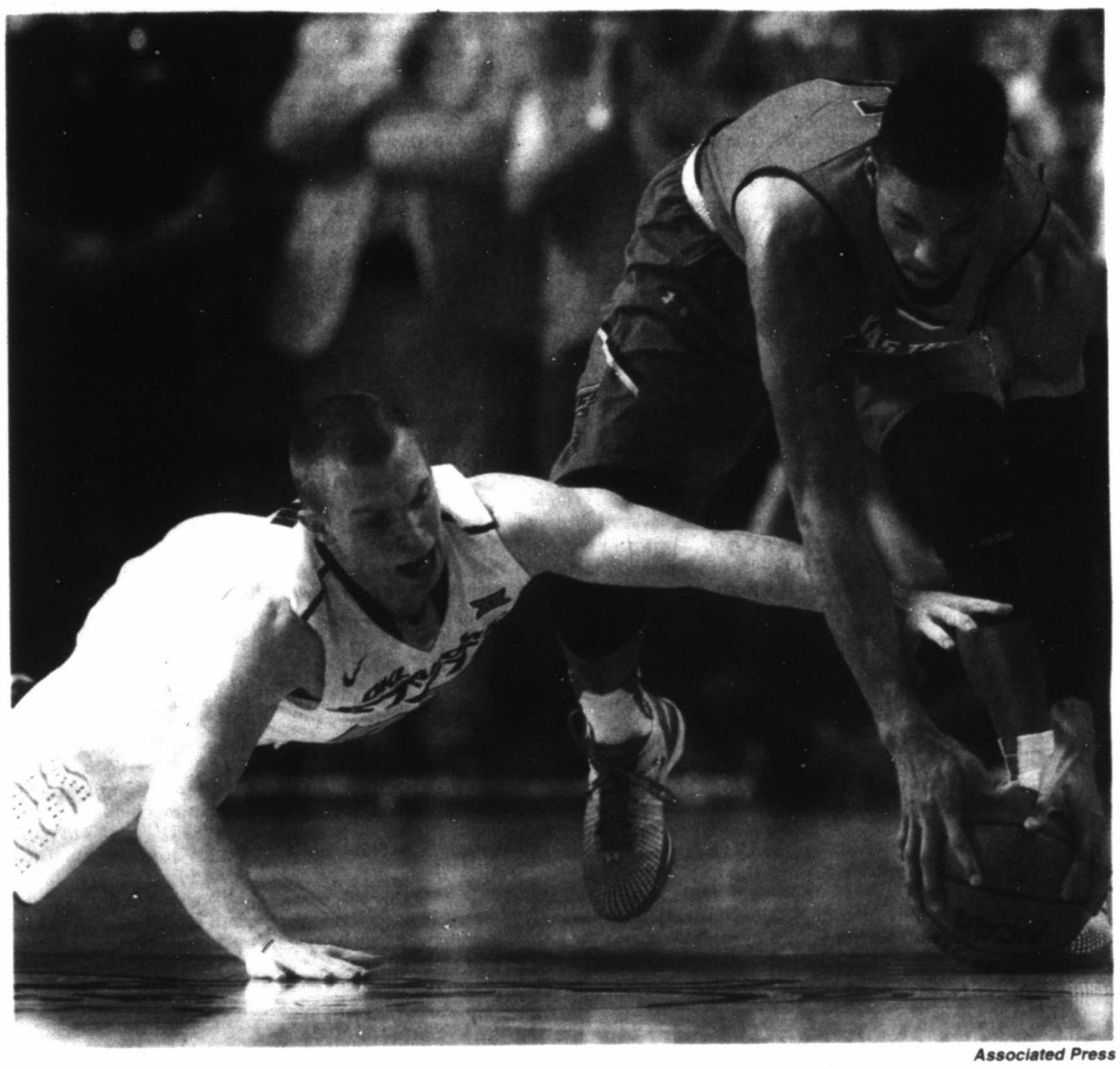
Please see **BELICHICK**/6C



Associated Press

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick is shown at a news conference prior to a team practice in Foxborough, Mass., on Jan. 14. Belichick already received the largest fine for a coach in NFL history a few years ago. Now he faces more repercussions as the Patriots are trying to prepare for the Super Bowl against Seattle.

Cowboys dominate Tech



Associated Press

Oklahoma State guard Phil Forte, left, reaches for the ball with Texas Tech forward Justin Gray, right, in the first half of the game in Stillwater, Okla., on Wednesday.

Oklahoma State beats Texas Tech

By John Tranchina
Associated Press

Oklahoma State	**63**
Texas Tech	43

STILLWATER, Okla. — Le'Bryan Nash scored 16 points as Oklahoma State never trailed in defeating Texas Tech 63-43 Wednesday night.

Phil Forte added 15 points and Jeff Newberry had 13 points, six rebounds and three assists for Oklahoma State (13-5, 3-3 Big 12). OSU had lost its last two and gone three of its last four — all against ranked conference opponents.

Freshman Keenan Evans scored a career-high 18 points to lead Texas Tech (10-9, 0-6), which has lost eight of its last nine.

Leading 32-27 early in the second half, Oklahoma State went on a 19-6 run over the next eight-plus minutes to push the lead into double digits. When Anthony Hickey made a perfect alley oop pass that Jeff Newberry slammed down with 9:51 to go, the Cowboys led 51-33.

Oklahoma State surged out to an 8-0 lead on Newberry's 3-pointer with 17:34 left. Texas Tech pulled within 11-8 when Evans hit a short jumper with 12:53 left in the half.

OSU built its advantage back to 25-16 when Michael Cobbins slammed home a pass from Hickey, but Evans continued his hot shooting by making three consecutive 3s to tie the game for the first time at 25-all with 4:29 remaining.

The Cowboys scored the last five points of the half for a 30-25 lead. Texas Tech missed its final six shots before the break.

Parsons, Mavericks roll over Timberwolves

Mavericks	**98**
Timberwolves	75

By Jon Krawczynski
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Chandler Parsons scored 22 points, and the Dallas Mavericks hit 11 3-pointers while cruising to a 98-75 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Parsons hit 9 of 13 shots and Dirk Nowitzki added 16 points and nine rebounds in 26 minutes for the Mavericks (30-13), who crept in front of idle Houston (29-13) for sole possession of fourth place in the demanding Western Conference.

More NBA

Be sure to check out the roundup of Wednesday's NBA games.

Page 3C

Andrew Wiggins had 18 points for the Timberwolves (7-34), who tied a franchise mark for worst record halfway through the season. Nikola Pekovic scored 14 points in 23 minutes in his return from a 31-game absence for a right ankle injury.

The Mavericks shot 51 percent and held the Wolves to 35 percent shooting.

Dallas only had two players score in double figures, but that was all it needed against the overmatched Timberwolves.

Parsons has tangential ties to Minnesota. Houston drafted him with a pick it bought from the Wolves in 2011, and Parsons' emergence as a star is one of many opportunities this struggling franchise has missed in the last decade of futility.

The Mavericks lured Parsons away with a three-year, $45 million deal in the offseason, and he hit eight of his first nine shots, including all three of his 3-pointers, while helping Dallas to a 21-point lead in the second quarter.

J.J. Barea had 10 assists, and the Mavericks passed circles around Minnesota's inept defense to get open shot after open shot.

Pekovic was sidelined with chronic pain in his ankle in November and spent the next two months consulting with doctors at the Mayo Clinic in hopes of finding a treatment for an injury that has plagued him for much of his career. But he was sharp in his return, going 5 for 11 with four rebounds.

Thaddeus Young had 14 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for Minnesota.

Texas A&M stages comeback, tops Missouri

Sam Craft/Bryan-College Station Eagle

Texas A&M's Danuel House has the ball knocked out of his hands by Missouri forward Keanau Post during the game on Wednesday at Reed Arena in College Station.

Associated Press

Texas A&M	**62**
Missouri	50

COLLEGE STATION — Following its third consecutive comeback from a halftime deficit, Texas A&M coach Billy Kennedy vowed Wednesday his team needs to excel in both halves to seriously compete in the Southeastern Conference.

But he'll take A&M's solid play only after halftime for now if it means another victory, as it did in a 62-50 triumph over Missouri in Reed Arena.

"The beginning of the second half our guys played like we're capable of playing," Kennedy said. "(But) you have to be a 'both-half' team to win at this level."

In overcoming a 31-24 halftime deficit, the Aggies were led by Jalen Jones and Danuel House with 16 points each, while Wes Clark paced the Tigers with a game-high 18.

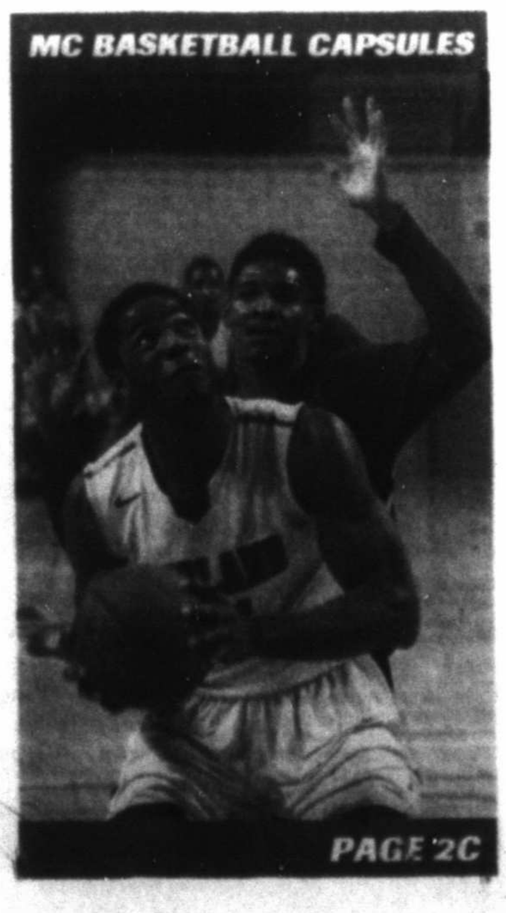
A&M had erased a one-point deficit to Mississippi State and an eight-point deficit to LSU in its previous games.

"We knew we couldn't let this one slip away from us," Jones said. "Missouri gave us the first punch, but we knew we needed to hit back."

The Aggies (12-5, 3-2 SEC) held a wide rebounding advantage over the Tigers (7-11, 1-4) at 37-24, and shot 15 of 20 (75 percent) from the free-throw line. A&M entered the contest making 64 percent of its free throws.

"We do a lot of rebounding drills in practice," Jones said of an emphasis of late for the Aggies. "It's a

Please see **TEXAS A&M**/2C



DAILYRUNDOWN

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

WHAT'S ON TV

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Senior Bowl Practice Day 3, 3 p.m., NFL

GOLF
European PGA: Commercialbank Qatar Masters, Second Round, 5 a.m., GOLF
PGA: Humana Challenge, First Round, 2 p.m., GOLF
European PGA: Commercialbank Qatar Masters, Third Round, 3:30 a.m., GOLF

HOCKEY
CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game, 6 p.m., NHL

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
USF at Temple, 5:30 p.m., ESPNews
Ohio State at Northwestern, 6 p.m., ESPN
Alabama at Arkansas, 6 p.m., ESPN2
Coastal Carolina at UNC Asheville, 6 p.m., ESPNU
DePaul at Seton Hall, 6 p.m., FS1
George Washington at Fordham, 6 p.m., NBCSN
UCF at Connecticut, 6 p.m., CBSSN
Xavier at Providence, 6 p.m., FSSW
Notre Dame at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m., FSSWP
Farleigh Dickinson at Sacred Heart, 6 p.m., FCSA
La Salle at Rhode Island, 6 p.m., SNY
Austin Peay at SIU Edwardsville, 7 p.m., FCSC
Arizona at Stanford, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Maryland at Indiana, 8 p.m., ESPNU
UTEP at Western Kentucky, 8 p.m., FSSW
Murray State at Eastern Illinois, 8 p.m., CBSSN
UCLA at Oregon State, 8 p.m., P12
Grand Canyon at New Mexico State, 8 p.m., FCSP
Washington at Colorado, 8:30 p.m., FS1
St. Mary's at Gonzaga, 10 p.m., ESPNU
Arizona State at California, 10 p.m., P12/P12 BAY
USC at Oregon, 10 p.m., P12 LA

MEN'S SOCCER
CAF Orange Africa Cup of Nations: Zambia vs. Tunsia, 9:55 a.m., beIN/beIN2
CAF Orange Africa Cup of Nations: Cape Verde vs. Congo DR, 12:55 p.m., beIN
Copa del Rey: RCD Espanyol vs. Sevilla FC, 2:55 p.m., beIN/beIN2
UEFA U-20: Argentina vs. Bolivia, 4:55 p.m., beIN2
UEFA U-20: Paraguay vs. Peru, 5:55 p.m., beIN2
CONCACAF U-20: Haiti vs. Mexico, 7 p.m., FS2/UniDep

NBA
San Antonio at Chicago, 7 p.m., TNT
Brooklyn at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS
Australian Open, Third Round, 6 p.m., TENNIS
Australian Open, Third Round, 10 p.m., ESPN2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
LSU at Tennessee, 6 p.m., SEC
Idaho at North Dakota, 6 p.m., FCSP
Mississippi State at Ole Miss, 8 p.m., SEC
Auburn at Alabama, 8 p.m., FSSWP
Montana at Northern Arizona, 8 p.m., FCSA

X GAMES
Men's Superboard Pipe Eliminations & Final; Snowmobile Style Qtrs, Semi's, & Final, 8 p.m., ESPN

WHAT'S ON DECK

JUNIOR COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL
South Plains College at MC, 7:45 p.m.

JUNIOR COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
South Plains College at MC, 5:45 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Men, Lubbock Christian at UTPB, 7:30 p.m.
Women, Lubbock Christian at UTPB, 5:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER
Lee at Wichita Falls Winter Cup
Midland High vs. Lubbock High, 5 p.m., Wichita Falls Winter Cup

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER
Lee at Richardson Tournament

NJCAA MEN'S POLL

NJCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL POLL
first place votes in parentheses

Rank College	Record	Pts.	Pvs.
1 Vincennes University (8)	18-0	342	1
2 Northwest Florida State (7)	20-0	341	2
3 Coll. of Southern Idaho (1)	21-0	326	3
4 Butler CC	19-0	308	4
5. Hill College	**18-1**	**284**	**5**
6 Connors State College	18-	268	6
7 Southwest Tennessee CC	14-1	255	8
8 Mineral Area College	20-1	253	10
9 Indian Hills CC	18-2	236	9
10 Jones County JC	11-0	201	16
11 Southeastern CC	19-2	199	15
12 Eastern Florida State	19-2	194	7
13 South Georgia State	19-1	192	17
14. Trinity Valley CC	**17-3**	**147**	**19**
15 Pearl River CC	12-1	130	14
16 Georgia Highlands College	16-2	122	23
17 Broward College	18-3	119	22
18 Hutchinson CC	15-4	97	12
19 Williston State College	17-3	79	RV
20 Harcum College	16-3	75	18
21 Coffeyville CC	16-4	58	13
22. San Jacinto College-Central	**15-3**	**44**	**RV**
23. McLennan CC	**17-3**	**42**	**RV**
24. Odessa College	**16-4**	**31**	**10**
25. South Plains College	**15-4**	**27**	**NR**

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended free-agent RHPs Carlos Artiles and Felix Bautista 72 games and free-agent C Kyle Bacak, San Diego RHP Travis Remillard (Arizona League) and Houston RHP Andrew Walter (Lancaster-Cal) 50 games, for violations of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL — Ratified a five-year labor agreement with the World Umpires Association

American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Named Tommy Esmay manager of Kannapolis (SAL), Tim Esmay manager of Winston-Salem (Carolina) and Cole Armstrong manager of Great Falls (Pioneer)
HOUSTON ASTROS — Traded C Carlos Corporan to Texas for RHP Akeem Bostick
TEXAS RANGERS — Designated RHP Gonzalez Germen for assignment

National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jason Marquis on a minor league contract that includes an invite to spring training
MIAMI MARLINS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Ryan Chaffee, Vin Mazzaro and Ryan Reid, LHPs Pat Misch, Chris Narveson and Pat Urckfitz, Cs Vinny Rottino and Jhonatan Solano, INFs Reid Brignac and Scott Sizemore, and OFs Tyler Colvin, Cole Gillespie and Kenny Wilson on minor league contracts
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Dontrelle Willis on a minor league contract
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Designated 2B Marco Scutaro for assignment
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Max Scherzer on a seven-year contract

American Association
GRAND PRAIRIE AIR HOGS — Signed INF Jon Dziomba and INF Victor Lebron
SIOUX FALLS CANARIES — Signed INF Vickash Ramjit and LHP Josh Ferrell. Traded OF Brandon Jones to York for cash. Traded RHP Alan DeRatt and 1B Chris Duffy to Ottawa (Can-Am) for cash
WINNIPEG GOLDEYES — Signed LHPs Gabe Aguilar and Taylor Bratton

Can-Am League
QUEBEC CAPITALES — Signed RHP Javier Avendano

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NEW YORK KNICKS — Signed F Lance Thomas to a second 10-day contract

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS — Named Ed Donatell defensive backs coach
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Named John DeFilippo offensive coordinator
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Named Greg Olson offensive coordinator

Canadian Football League
EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Released PK/P Hugh O'Neill

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Assigned D Mark Fistric to Norfolk (AHL)
ARIZONA COYOTES— Recalled G Mike McKenna from Portland (AHL). Assigned D Brandon Gormley and Philip Samuelsson, F Lucas Lessio and G Mike Lee to Portland
DALLAS STARS — Reassigned D Jamie Oleksiak and Jyrki Jokipakka to Texas (AHL)
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned LW Teemu Pulkkinen to Grand Rapids (AHL)
MONTREAL CANADIENS — Assigned F Christian Thomas to Hamilton (AHL)
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reassigned G Marek Mazanec to Milwaukee (AHL)

American Hockey League
AHL — Suspended Rockford RW Ryan Hartman one game
IOWA WILD — Assigned F Olivier Archambault to Alaska (ECHL)

ECHL
CINCINNATI CYCLONES — Released G Branden Komm and Fs Michael Neal and Tom Serratore
COLORADO EAGLES — Claimed G Daniel Spence off waivers from Utah
EVANSVILLE ICEMEN — Released Fs Mark Anthoine and Jordan Sims

SOCCER
U.S. SOCCER — Suspended G Hope Solo from the U.S. women's national team for 30 days for unspecified reasons

Major League Soccer
FC DALLAS — Acquired MF Kyle Bekker from Toronto FC for allocation money. Agreed to terms with MF Atiba Harris
NEW YORK RED BULLS — Announced they will place a team in USL PRO based in Hanover, N.J.
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS — Signed D Pa-Modou Kah

COLLEGE
ATLANTIC HOCKEY ASSOCIATION — Suspended Army F Tyler Pham one game for his slew footing major penalty during a Jan. 17 game against Air Force
GEORGIA SOUTHERN — Announced the resignation of director of football player development Vic Cabral to take a coaching position at Samford
LEES-MCRAE — Named Thomas Rusling men's interim soccer coach
MISSOURI — Named Phil Pitts defensive analyst
MONTANA STATE — Named J.J. Riley women's volleyball coach. Promoted Kane Ioane to co-defensive coordinator
NEBRASKA — Named Keith Williams receivers coach. Announced DL Avery Moss has tranferred to Youngstown State

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

FEB. 1
SUPER BOWL

FAVORITE	OPEN	TODAY	O/U	UNDERDOG
Seattle 3	Pk	(48½)	New	England

SKI REPORT

New Mexico
Angel Fire — Wed 6:47 am packed powder machine groomed 27-27 base 68 of 78 trails 88% open, 450 acres, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Thu: 9a-4p Fri: 9a-8p Sat: 9a-8p Sun: 9a-4p
Red River — Wed 9:22 am packed powder machine groomed 25-30 base 44 of 57 trails 78% open, 225 acres, 7 of 7 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Sipapu — Wed 11:55 am 4 new powder machine groomed 20-28 base 41 of 41 trails 100% open, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Apache — Tue 8:14 pm MG machine groomed 20-52 base 50 of 55 trails 91% open, 22 miles, 550 acres, 6 of 10 lifts, sm Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Ski Santa Fe — Wed 7:57 am 2 new variable machine groomed 33-36 base 66 of 77 trails 95% open, 6 of 7 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Taos — Wed 7:42 am MG machine groomed 35-36 base 60 of 113 trails, 54% open 14 of 15 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p
Enchanted Forest XC — Wed No Recent Information packed powder machine groomed 12-24 base 40 of 40 trails, 22 miles Mon-Fri: 9a-4:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-4:30p

Colorado
Arapahoe Basin — Wed 5:46 am 1 new powder machine groomed 38-38 base 98 of 109 trails, 90% open, 936 acres, 7 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Aspen Highlands — Wed 7:45 am packed powder machine groomed 35-50 base 122 of 122 trails 100% open, 1040 acres, 5 of 5 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Aspen Mountain — Wed 7:44 am packed powder machine groomed 27-31 base 76 of 76 trails 100% open, 675 acres, 6 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Beaver Creek — Wed 5:47 am powder machine groomed 42-42 base 139 of 150 trails 93% open, 1736 acres, 24 of 25 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Breckenridge — Wed 5:48 am 3 new powder machine groomed 55-55 base 175 of 187 trails, 94% open, 2758 acres, 34 of 35 lifts, Mon-Fri: 8:30a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Buttermilk — Wed 7:45 am packed powder machine groomed 26-28 base 33 of 44 trails 75% open, 380 acres, 4 of 8 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-3:30p Sat/Sun: 9a-3:30p
Copper Mountain — Wed 5:27 am 3 new packed powder machine groomed 51-57 base 142 of 143 trails, 100% open, 5 miles, 2465 acres, 21 of 23 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 8:30a-4p
Crested Butte — Wed 7:00 am powder machine groomed 37-37 base 87 of 121 trails 98% open, 757 acres, 13 of 16 lifts, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p Sat/Sun: 9a-4p

MCBASKETBALLCAPSULES

COMPILED BY OSCAR LEROY

WJCAC Women

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
New Mexico JC	5	0	18	1
Odessa College	4	2	18	4
Midland College	**4**	**2**	**13**	**8**
South Plains	3	2	6	11
Frank Phillips	3	3	15	4
Clarendon College	3	3	12	7
Western Texas	0	5	8	10
Howard College	0	4	5	13

Monday's Scores
Midland College 69, Odessa College 57; Clarendon College 70, Western Texas College 59; South Plains College 65, Frank Phillips College 53 ; Victoria College at Howard College (non-conference), late; New Mexico JC was open

Today's Games
South Plains College at Midland College; New Mexico JC at Howard College; Western Texas College at Frank Phillips

WJCAC Men

Team	District W	District L	Overall W	Overall L
Howard College	6	0	15	4
South Plains	5	1	15	4
Odessa College	4	3	16	4
Frank Phillips	3	3	14	6
New Mexico JC	3	3	14	6
Midland College	**3**	**4**	**13**	**8**
New Mexico Military	2	4	8	8
Western Texas	1	5	10	8
Clarendon College	1	4	4	14

Monday's Scores
Midland College 72, Odessa College 64; Clarendon College 66, Western Texas College 58; South Plains College 88, Frank Phillips College 75; Howard College 79, New Mexico Military Institute 66; New Mexico JC was open

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

Potential inclement weather

MC OFFICIALS PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE BAD WEATHER

In an email from Midland College Athletic Director Forrest Allen, he stated that he and South Plains College Athletic Director Joe Tubb have made contingency plans in case today's wintry weather affects tonight's basketball games between the two schools.

If the South Plains teams can travel safely from Levelland to Midland today, the games will go as scheduled with the women playing at 5:45 p.m., and the men playing at 7:45 p.m.

If it is determined that it is not safe enough to travel, the games would be rescheduled to at a time Friday afternoon at Chaparral Center. The high school games scheduled that night at Chaparral Center between Lee and Abilene High would be moved to Lee High School.

The other option would be for MC and South Plains to play the games early Saturday afternoon.

A final determination will be made this morning, according to the email.

Women

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

When/where: 5:45 p.m. today, Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 13-8, 4-2 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; South Plains 6-11, 3-2

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 69, Odessa College 57; South Plains College 65, Frank Phillips College 53

Notes & quotes: Midland College got back into the thick of the WJCAC race with its win on Monday against rival and sixth-ranked Odessa College. The Lady Chaparrals had an awful start against OC as they fell behind by as many as 14 points in the first half thanks to turnovers and missed shots. Once MC began to eliminate those turnovers and started converting on its offensive possessions, it got back into the game, got to within 36-31 at halftime, and then had a strong second half to beat OC. Walnatia Wright had a game-high 21 points and 12 rebounds, Sierra Dixon had 13 points, and Mary Savoy had a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds. "It was an important game and it was important to get that home game," MC coach Ron Jones said. "Now we turn around and we were in the same place that we were on Monday. We just need to focus on continuing to get better. I was pleased that for the second game in a row, we competed for 40 minutes. That is something we've been trying to emphasize for a while." ...South Plains snapped a two-game losing streak with a win over Frank Phillips at home on Monday. SPC forced 25 turnovers and had three players score in double figures. Courtney Randle, a 5-foot-7 sophomore wing, led the Lady Texans with 15 points and nine rebounds; 5-4 freshman guard Markeyla Hicks had 13 points and 5-8 freshman wing Regina Scott added 10 points. ...Jones said the Lady Texans are doing things similar to what they've done in the past in that they are athletic and try to run much of their offense off of dribble penetration. "We need to make sure we stay in front of them and try to make them shoot the shots we would like for them to take and try not let them break down our defense," Jones said.

Next: Howard College at Midland College, 5:45 p.m. Jan. 29; Odessa College at South Plains College, 5:45 p.m. Monday

Men

NO. 25 SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE AT MIDLAND COLLEGE

When/where: 7:45 p.m. today, Chaparral Center

Records: Midland College 13-8, 3-4 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference; South Plains 15-4, 5-1

Last WJCAC game: Midland College 72, Odessa College 64; South Plains College 88, Frank Phillips College 75

Notes & quotes: Midland College looks to build off Monday's upset win over rival Odessa College. MC coach Jordan Dreiling said he was proud of the way his team showed toughness, especially down the stretch when the Chaparrals outscored the Wranglers 15-6 in the last four minutes of the game. "It was a big win and a must-win for us, but we feel like the next two are going to be the same way," Dreiling said. "If we lose this next game, will we still have life? I think so. But if we win and we can pilot though the first turn of conference play at 4-4, I think we can have a really good run through conference in the second half." ...The Chaps were led by Torren Jones with 18 points and 14 rebounds, Dontay Caruthers had 15 points, Maurice O'Field had 13 and Quay King added 12. ...Dreiling said the Texans are playing as well or better than any team in the WJCAC as SPC comes into the game with a four-game winning streak, including a win over Frank Phillips on Monday. "I don't think we've played a bigger game or a better team all year," Dreiling said. "They're deep as they have nine, 10 guys that can produce for them and they have the best returning guard in the conference in Andre Spight. They also have two post guys that are really good in (6-foot-8 Emmanuel) Omogbu, who's going to Colorado State, and I really like (6-9) Marlon Jones, a guy that can hurt you also from the outside." Dreiling added that it's going to be important for his players to keep SPC's big men off the glass, while he believes that MC's guard can match up with the Texans' well. "I think the toughest team that shows the most discipline will win the game," he said.

Next: Howard College at Midland College, 7:45 p.m. Jan. 29; Odessa College at South Plains College, 7:45 p.m. Monday

Gathers has 25 points, 28 rebounds in No. 21 Baylor's win

Associated Press

No. 21 Baylor	**81**
Huston-Tillotson	61

WACO — Rico Gathers set career highs with 25 points and a Big 12-record 28 rebounds, and No. 21 Baylor finally pulled away in the second half for an 81-61 win over NAIA school Huston-Tillotson on Wednesday night.

With their two senior starters both getting a night off, the Bears (14-4) trailed by as many as nine points early. They led 37-36 at halftime only after Taurean Prince's buzzer-beating 3-pointer that was part of a 10-2 run.

Shai Fields had 27 points with five 3-pointers for the Rams (3-13).

Baylor opened the second half with a 13-3 run in which Gathers and Prince scored all the points, including consecutive dunks to push the lead to 50-39 less than five minutes after halftime.

Gathers broke Baylor's nearly 60-year-old single-game rebounding record on a putback basket while being fouled with 4:22 left. He added the free throw before coming out of the game with the Bears up 77-53.

Jerry Mallett had 27 rebounds for Baylor against North Texas on Feb. 1, 1955. The Big 12 record had been 24 by Michael Beasley for Kansas State against Sacramento State on Nov. 9, 2007.

Gathers got his 27th rebound when he grabbed a miss, then immediately got No. 28 on the ensuing missed tip-in. He secured the ball between three defenders and went right back up for the score.

Prince had 13 points and Al Freeman scored 10.

Royce O'Neale and Kenny Chery, the only Baylor players averaging more than 30 minutes per game, got a planned night off even though they were in uniform.

TEXAS A&M

From 1C

man's game, and we know we have to be strong in the paint."

Meanwhile first-year coach Kim Anderson's Tigers have dropped four consecutive SEC games after defeating LSU in overtime in their conference opener.

"The Aggies came out in the second half and their game plan was to throw the ball inside, and we just didn't have an answer for it," Anderson said. "They also came out and guarded a lot better than they did in the first half. It was a tale of two halves."

Jones and House, two 6-foot-7 transfers who lead A&M in scoring, each tallied only four points in the first half. But the duo came alive in the second half, combining for 24 points in helping A&M overcome a 31-24 deficit at the break.

"A&M came out in the second half aggressive and playing hard, and we got a little stagnant," Clark said.

The Tigers made 5 of 8 3-pointers in the first half and 3 of 9 in the second.

"We didn't do a great job contesting 3-pointers in the first half," said A&M guard Alex Caruso, who finished with 11 points. "We did a better job in the second half keeping the ball outside the 3-point line, and not allowing penetration in the second half."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES AND SCHEDULES

Men

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
Baylor 81, Huston-Tillotson 61
Oklahoma St. 63, Texas Tech 43
Texas A&M 62, Missouri 50
Tulsa 73, Memphis 55
SOUTH
Bryan 75, Tenn. Temple 66
Coker 90, Newberry 74
Emory & Henry 96, Roanoke 89
Guilford 74, Randolph 54
Hampden-Sydney 63, Lynchburg 61
Johns Hopkins 88, Washington (Md.) 73
Mississippi St. 78, Auburn 71
North Carolina 87, Wake Forest 71
SMU 66, Tulane 52
Spalding 72, Greenville 70
St. Augustine's 68, Johnson C. Smith 63
Transylvania 90, Franklin 78
Tusculum 91, Carson-Newman 90
UNC Wilmington 58, Coll. of Charleston 56, OT
Union (Ky.) 109, Montreat 74
Washington & Lee 76, E. Mennonite 75
Winston-Salem 74, Shaw 69

TOP 25 FARED WEDNESDAY
1. Kentucky (18-0) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday
2. Virginia (17-0) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Thursday
3. Gonzaga (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Mary's, Thursday
4. Villanova (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Creighton, Sunday
5. Duke (16-2) did not play. Next: at St. John's, Sunday
6. Wisconsin (17-2) did not play. Next: at Michigan, Saturday
7. Arizona (16-2) did not play. Next: at Stanford, Thursday
8. Notre Dame (17-2) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday
9. Iowa State (14-3) did not play. Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday
10. Louisville (15-3) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Sunday
11. Kansas (15-3) did not play. Next: at No. 17 Texas, Saturday
12. Utah (14-3) vs. Washington State. Next: vs. Washington, Sunday
13. Maryland (17-2) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Indiana, Thursday
14. Wichita State (17-2) beat Missouri State 76-53. Next: vs. Drake, Sunday
15. North Carolina (15-4) beat Wake Forest 87-71. Next: vs. Florida State, Saturday
16. VCU (15-3) did not play. Next: at Saint Louis, Friday
17. Texas (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11 Kansas, Saturday
18. West Virginia (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday
19. Oklahoma (12-6) did not play. Next: at No. 21 Baylor, Saturday
20. Northern Iowa (17-2) beat Indiana State 66-60. Next: at Illinois State, Sunday
21. Baylor (14-4) beat Huston-Tillotson 81-61. Next: at Oklahoma State, Tuesday
22. Dayton (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Richmond, Saturday
23. Indiana (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Maryland, Thursday
24. Seton Hall (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. DePaul, Thursday
25. Iowa (13-6) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Saturday

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Alabama at Arkansas, 6 p.m.
Louisiana Tech at North Texas, 7 p.m.
Southern Miss. at Rice, 7 p.m.
Utah Valley at Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
Georgia Southern at Texas St., 7:30 p.m.
Troy at UALR, 7:30 p.m.
SOUTH
VMI at Chattanooga, 6 p.m.
The Citadel at ETSU, 6 p.m.
Towson at Elon, 6 p.m.
Longwood at Gardner-Webb, 6 p.m.
Stetson at Kennesaw St., 6 p.m.
Winthrop at Liberty, 6 p.m.
UTSA at Marshall, 6 p.m.
North Florida at N. Kentucky, 6 p.m.
Campbell at Presbyterian, 6 p.m.
High Point at Radford, 6 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast at SC-Upstate, 6 p.m.
Morehead St. at Tennessee Tech, 6 p.m.
Coastal Carolina at UNC Asheville, 6 p.m.
Notre Dame at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.
Mercer at W. Carolina, 6 p.m.
Furman at Wofford, 6 p.m.
South Alabama at Appalachian St., 6:30 p.m.
Jacksonville at Lipscomb, 6:30 p.m.
UT-Martin at Belmont, 7 p.m.
E. Kentucky at Jacksonville St., 7 p.m.
Texas-Arlington at Louisiana-Monroe, 7 p.m.
NC State at Miami, 7 p.m.
Old Dominion at Middle Tennessee, 7 p.m.
UNC Greensboro at Samford, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at UAB, 7 p.m.
Georgia Tech at Virginia, 7 p.m.
Arkansas St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 7:15 p.m.
UTEP at W. Kentucky, 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
N. Arizona at Montana, 8 p.m.
Grand Canyon at New Mexico St., 8 p.m.
UCLA at Oregon St., 8 p.m.
Arizona at Stanford, 8 p.m.
Portland St. at Weber St., 8 p.m.
N. Colorado at E. Washington, 8:05 p.m.
Sacramento St. at Idaho St., 8:05 p.m.
S. Utah at Montana St., 8:05 p.m.
Washington at Colorado, 8:30 p.m.
UC Irvine at CS Northridge, 9 p.m.
Cal St.-Fullerton at Cal Poly, 9 p.m.
North Dakota at Idaho, 9 p.m.
Pacific at Portland, 9 p.m.
Pepperdine at San Francisco, 9 p.m.
UC Riverside at UC Santa Barbara, 9 p.m.
Arizona St. at California, 10 p.m.
Saint Mary's (Cal) at Gonzaga, 10 p.m.
Southern Cal at Oregon, 10 p.m.
Loyola Marymount at Santa Clara, 10 p.m.
UC Davis at Hawaii, 11 p.m.
MIDWEST
Ohio St. at Northwestern, 6 p.m.
Milwaukee at Oakland, 6 p.m.
Austin Peay at SIU-Edwardsville, 7 p.m.
South Dakota at W. Illinois, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago St., 7:05 p.m.
CS Bakersfield at UMKC, 7:05 p.m.
Murray St. at E. Illinois, 8 p.m.
N. Dakota St. at IUPUI, 8 p.m.
Maryland at Indiana, 8 p.m.
EAST
Stony Brook at Mass.-Lowell, 4:30 p.m.
South Florida at Temple, 5:30 p.m.
LIU Brooklyn at Bryant, 6 p.m.
St. Bonaventure at Duquesne, 6 p.m.
George Washington at Fordham, 6 p.m.
Albany (NY) at Hartford, 6 p.m.
Robert Morris at Mount St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Vermont at New Hampshire, 6 p.m.
James Madison at Northeastern, 6 p.m.
Xavier at Providence, 6 p.m.
La Salle at Rhode Island, 6 p.m.
Iona at Rider, 6 p.m.
Fairleigh Dickinson at Sacred Heart, 6 p.m.
DePaul at Seton Hall, 6 p.m.
UCF at UConn, 6 p.m.
St. Francis (Pa.) at Wagner, 6 p.m.
Canisius at Fairfield, 7 p.m.
UMBC at Maine, 7 p.m.

Women

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
SOUTHWEST
East Carolina 67, SMU 49
Kansas 68, Texas Tech 66
Midwestern St. 69, Angelo St. 61
South Florida 71, Houston 55
Texas A&M Commerce 70, E. New Mexico 62
West Texas A&M 87, Tarleton St. 86, OT
SOUTH
Belmont 70, Jacksonville St. 66
Bryan 70, Tenn. Temple 54
Carson-Newman 91, Tusculum 54
Cent. Arkansas 53, New Orleans 46
Cumberlands 76, Berea 68
E. Mennonite 75, Shenandoah 41
Guilford 73, Emory & Henry 63
Miami 67, Virginia 58
Milligan 62, St. Andrews 56
Newberry 69, Coker 63
Northwestern St. 74, Nicholls St. 71
Pikeville 93, WVU Tech 78
Queens (NC) 52, Lenoir-Rhyne 50
Richmond 56, Davidson 48
Spalding 60, Greenville 53
St. Augustine's 84, Johnson C. Smith 82
Tennessee St. 67, Tennessee Tech 64
UConn 100, UCF 45
UT-Martin 81, E. Illinois 51
Union (Ky.) 78, Montreat 56

TOP 25 FARED WEDNESDAY
1. South Carolina (18-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Texas A&M, Monday
2. UConn (17-1) beat UCF 100-45. Next: at Cincinnati, Sunday
3. Baylor (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Saturday
4. Louisville (17-1) did not play. Next: at No. 17 Florida State, Thursday
5. Tennessee (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. LSU, Thursday
6. Notre Dame (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Thursday
7. Maryland (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan State, Thursday
8. Texas (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State, Sunday
9. Oregon State (16-1) did not play. Next: at Arizona, Friday
10. Texas A&M (16-3) did not play. Next: at No. 22 Georgia, Thursday
11. Stanford (13-5) did not play. Next: at UCLA, Friday
12. North Carolina (16-3) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Thursday
13. Arizona State (17-1) did not play. Next: vs. Oregon, Friday
14. Kentucky (15-4) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Sunday
15. Duke (13-5) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Thursday
16. Nebraska (14-3) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Thursday
17. Florida State (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Louisville, Thursday
18. Mississippi State (19-2) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Thursday
19. Princeton (17-0) did not play. Next: at Harvard, Friday, Jan. 30
20. Iowa (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Thursday
21. Minnesota (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Thursday
22. Georgia (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Texas A&M, Thursday
23. Syracuse (13-5) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday
24. Western Kentucky (16-2) did not play. Next: at UTEP, Thursday
25. Rutgers (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Minnesota, Sunday

TODAY'S GAMES
SOUTHWEST
Georgia Southern at Texas St., 5:30 p.m.
Troy at UALR, 5:30 p.m.
McNeese St. at Incarnate Word, 6 p.m.
Sam Houston St. at Abilene Christian, 7 p.m.
Stephen F. Austin at Lamar, 7 p.m.
Marshall at UTSA, 7 p.m.
W. Kentucky at UTEP, 8 p.m.
SOUTH
South Alabama at Appalachian St., 4 p.m.
Arkansas St. at Louisiana-Lafayette, 5 p.m.
Texas-Arlington at Louisiana-Monroe, 5:15 p.m.
UAB at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
S.C.-Upstate at Florida Gulf Coast, 6 p.m.
Louisville at Florida St., 6 p.m.
Texas A&M at Georgia, 6 p.m.
Lipscomb at Jacksonville, 6 p.m.
William & Mary at James Madison, 6 p.m.
Michigan St. at Maryland, 6 p.m.
North Carolina at N.C. State, 6 p.m.
N. Kentucky at North Florida, 6 p.m.
Middle Tennessee at Old Dominion, 6 p.m.
Rice at Southern Miss., 6 p.m.
Kennesaw St. at Stetson, 6 p.m.
LSU at Tennessee, 6 p.m.
Elon at UNC Wilmington, 6 p.m.
North Texas at Louisiana Tech, 6:30 p.m.
E. Kentucky at Murray St., 7 p.m.
Texas A&M-CC at SE Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Arkansas at Vanderbilt, 7 p.m.
Auburn at Alabama, 8 p.m.
Mississippi St. at Mississippi, 8 p.m.
FAR WEST
New Mexico St. at Grand Canyon, 8 p.m.
Montana at N. Arizona, 8 p.m.
E. Washington at N. Colorado, 8 p.m.
Gonzaga at Saint Mary's, 8 p.m.
Montana St. at S. Utah, 8 p.m.
Texas-Pan American at Utah Valley, 8 p.m.
UMKC at CS Bakersfield, 9 p.m.
Cal Poly at Cal St. Fullerton, 9 p.m.
Santa Clara at Loyola Marymount, 9 p.m.
Portland at Pacific, 9 p.m.
San Francisco at Pepperdine, 9 p.m.
Weber St. at Portland St., 9 p.m.
Idaho St. at Sacramento St., 9 p.m.
Chicago St. at Seattle, 9 p.m.
Hawaii at UC Davis, 9 p.m.
CS Northridge at UC Irvine, 9 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara at UC Riverside, 9 p.m.
MIDWEST
Denver at IUPUI, 4 p.m.
Green Bay at Cleveland St., 6 p.m.
Oakland at Detroit, 6 p.m.
South Dakota at IPFW, 6 p.m.
Georgia Tech at Notre Dame, 6 p.m.
Wright St. at Youngstown St., 6 p.m.
Northwestern at Illinois, 7 p.m.
Purdue at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
N. Dakota St. at Nebraska-Omaha, 7 p.m.
Idaho at North Dakota, 7 p.m.
Nebraska at Wisconsin, 7 p.m.
Michigan at Iowa, 8 p.m.
EAST
Drexel at Hofstra, 11 a.m.
Albany (N.Y.) at UMBC, 11 a.m.
Rider at Fairfield, 4 p.m.
Vermont at Maine, 4:30 p.m.
Duke at Boston College, 6 p.m.
Coll. of Charleston at Delaware, 6 p.m.
Siena at Monmouth (N.J.), 6 p.m.
Indiana at Penn St., 6 p.m.
Syracuse at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.
Marist at Quinnipiac, 6 p.m.
Northeastern at Towson, 6 p.m.
Stony Brook at UMass-Lowell, 7 p.m.

NBA ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PISTONS 128 MAGIC 118

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Brandon Jennings had 24 points and a career-high 21 assists, and the Detroit Pistons held off the Orlando Magic 128-118 on Wednesday night.

Andre Drummond added 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Pistons, who have won 12 of 15. Detroit nearly blew a 21-point third-quarter lead, but Jennings helped the Pistons close it out in the fourth.

Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 26 points.

Greg Monroe had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which never trailed. The Pistons led by 11 after the first quarter and by 17 at halftime.

Orlando cut the lead to two in the fourth, but the Pistons went on a 14-2 run to regain a comfortable margin.

Associated Press

The Minnesota Timberwolves' Thaddeus Young, right, peeks around the Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki as he drives in the first quarter of the game on Wednesday in Minneapolis.

HORNETS 78 HEAT 76

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Charlotte Hornets were held without a field goal for the last seven minutes. And they still earned another victory.

The surging Hornets are winning with defense these days.

Kemba Walker scored 15 points, Bismack Biyombo had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Charlotte edged the Miami Heat 78-76 on Wednesday night.

The Hornets (18-25) have three in a row and eight of nine overall. The key has been the defensive side, with Charlotte holding its opponent to less than 100 points for 10 straight games.

"More than anything, we're just trying to protect the paint, which has been a key for us," said Biyombo, who had two of Charlotte's eight blocked shots and altered several others. "Along the way, everybody's putting more into the defense."

The Hornets had a 56-41 rebounding edge against the Heat, who played without Hassan Whiteside and Luol Deng. They held Miami to 34.5 percent shooting.

"Our communication has been great," Walker said of the Hornets' defense. "We're constantly talking and in the right spots. It's been picture perfect."

Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade each had 17 points for the Heat (18-24).

Miami had a chance to win the game on its final possession, but Bosh missed a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Mario Chalmers ran down the loose ball and fired up another 3 that missed from corner.

"I rushed it," Bosh said. "I was not balanced. You have to find a way between not taking a quick shot and rushing it. I did not have my feet under me. I rushed the shot and it was a bad miss."

Walker returned to the starting lineup after missing the previous two games with a left knee cyst. He was 4 for 17 from the field and had just one assist, but went 5 for 6 at the line in the final minute.

Walker averaged 29.8 points in the six games before his knee began giving him problems.

PELICANS 96 LAKERS 80

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis scored 29 points and blocked four shots in his return from a sprained toe, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the slumping Los Angeles Lakers 96-80 on Wednesday night.

Eric Gordon had 17 points and a season-high 10 assists for New Orleans. Tyreke Evans added 19 points and Quincy Pondexter finished with 12.

Los Angeles shot 37 percent from the field in its season-long sixth consecutive loss.

Lakers star Kobe Bryant returned after missing two games as part of coach Byron Scott's plan to give the 36-year-old guard extra rest this season. He scored 14 points on 6-of-14 shooting — not the dominant type of performance Los Angeles would have needed to overcome Davis and Co.

Jordan Hill had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles, which was 4 for 20 from the field in the fourth quarter.

The Lakers played the game close for three quarters, helped by a spurt in which Bryant threw down a driving two-handed dunk and turned a steal into an open 3. Los Angeles took a 68-67 lead on Wayne Ellington's free throws in the last minute of the third quarter, but Pondexter responded with a slashing, double-pump scoop to give New Orleans a lead it would not relinquish.

Davis helped the Pelicans pull away in the fourth by hitting a quick baseline turnaround as he was fouled by Robert Sacre and a 15-foot jumper that made it 76-68. He then blocked Nick Young and Gordon converted a driving layup to give New Orleans a 10-point cushion.

Los Angeles fell behind with Bryant on the bench as part of Scott's plan to cap his minutes at 32 per game. By the time Bryant checked back in with 5 minutes left, New Orleans led by 12.

GRIZZLIES 92 RAPTORS 86

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Marc Gasol scored 26 points, Zach Randolph had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the Toronto Raptors 92-86 on Wednesday night.

The Grizzlies broke open a close game with a 13-3 run midway through the fourth quarter. There were 14 ties and six lead changes for the night.

Gasol was 9 for 16 from the field, and also had seven rebounds and five assists. Randolph was 8 of 14

Lou Williams led the Raptors with 21 points. Kyle Lowry had 20 points and eight rebounds, but was 7 for 23 from the field.

Toronto dropped to 3-8 in its last 11 games.

HAWKS 110 PACERS 91

ATLANTA — DeMarre Carroll and Jeff Teague scored 17 points apiece to lead a balanced offense, Kyle Korver dunked for the first time in more than two years, and the Atlanta Hawks tied the franchise record with their 14th straight victory, routing the Indiana Pacers 110-91 on Wednesday night.

With the victory, which improved the Hawks' conference-leading record to a stunning 35-8, Mike Budenholzer clinched a spot as the Eastern coach in next month's All-Star Game in New York City.

Budenholzer should be taking several players with him. The Hawks romped to their 28th victory in the last 30 games, showing the kind of teamwork that has become their trademark in a season that no one saw coming.

Ten players had scored by halftime, with the pesky Carroll leading the way. All five starters scored in double figures, and Pero Antic chipped in off the bench with 12 points.

CAVALIERS 106 JAZZ 92

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 26 points. Kevin Love added 19 and the rejuvenated Cleveland Cavaliers won their fourth straight, 106-92 over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night.

Shaking off a flu bug that forced him to miss practice Tuesday and also slowed Kyrie Irving, James added nine assists and seven rebounds. The Cavs are 4-1 since the four-time MVP returned after missing eight games with a strained back and knee.

Irving added 18 points and Timofey Mozgov 16 for Cleveland, beginning to find its stride following a stretch of injuries and two major trades. J.R. Smith scored 15 as all five Cavs starters scored at least that many for the second straight game.

Until that happened on Monday, the Cavs hadn't done that since March 16, 1993.

Enes Kanter scored 24 with 17 rebounds and Gordon Hayward scored 14 for Utah, which has dropped five of six and four straight road games.

The Cavs avenged a 102-100 loss to the Jazz on Nov. 5, when Hayward dropped a buzzer-beating jumper after escaping James. There would be no such heroics this time for Hayward, who received an icy stare from James in the third quarter. James got ahead of Hayward on a breakaway and delivered a vicious dunk the Utah forward could do nothing to stop.

KNICKS 98 76ERS 91

PHILADELPHIA — Carmelo Anthony had 27 points and 11 rebounds to lead the New York Knicks past the Philadelphia 76ers 98-91 on Wednesday night.

The worst team in the Eastern Conference is suddenly on a hot streak. New York snapped its 16-game losing streak Monday with a win against New Orleans and made it two straight with the victory against the lowly Sixers.

The Sixers' eight wins are only one more than New York's total, and each team is battling to better its odds to win the No. 1 pick in the draft lottery.

Knicks President Phil Jackson tried to tell Knicks fans better times were ahead by building around Anthony.

The Sixers started the season on a 17-game losing streak and have been open about a rebuilding process that included holding a bounty of draft picks.

NBA BOX SCORES AND STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	27	15	.643	—
Brooklyn	17	24	.415	9½
Boston	13	26	.333	12½
Philadelphia	8	34	.190	19
New York	7	36	.163	20½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	35	8	.814	—
Washington	29	14	.674	6
Miami	18	24	.429	16½
Charlotte	18	25	.419	17
Orlando	15	30	.333	21

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	27	16	.628	—
Cleveland	23	20	.535	4
Milwaukee	21	20	.512	5
Detroit	17	26	.395	10
Indiana	15	29	.341	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	30	12	.714	—
Dallas	30	13	.698	½
Houston	29	13	.690	1
San Antonio	27	16	.628	3½
New Orleans	21	21	.500	9

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	31	11	.738	—
Oklahoma City	22	20	.524	9
Denver	18	24	.429	13
Utah	14	28	.333	17
Minnesota	7	34	.171	23½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	33	6	.846	—
L.A. Clippers	28	14	.667	6½
Phoenix	25	18	.581	10
Sacramento	16	25	.390	18
L.A. Lakers	12	31	.279	23

Wednesday's Scores

New York 98, Philadelphia 91
Charlotte 78, Miami 76
Cleveland 106, Utah 92
Atlanta 110, Indiana 91
Detroit 128, Orlando 118
New Orleans 96, L.A. Lakers 80
Memphis 92, Toronto 86
Dallas 98, Minnesota 75
Oklahoma City 105, Washington 103, OT
Portland at Phoenix, late
Brooklyn at Sacramento, late
Houston at Golden State, late

Today's Games

San Antonio at Chicago, 7 p.m.
Utah at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Boston at Portland, 9 p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S BOX SCORES

MAVERICKS 98, TIMBERWOLVES 75

DALLAS (98): Parsons 9-13 0-0 22, Nowitzki 6-9 2-2 16, Chandler 3-3 1-2 7, Rondo 4-10 0-0 9, Ellis 3-12 1-2 7, Powell 3-3 0-0 6, Harris 2-4 0-0 6, Jefferson 2-5 0-2 5, Barea 2-5 3-4 7, Aminu 2-6 0-0 5, Smith 2-2 0-0 4, Felton 0-1 2-2 2, Villanueva 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 39-76 9-14 98.

MINNESOTA (75): Hummel 2-2 0-0 5, Young 7-17 0-0 14, Dieng 3-6 0-0 6, Williams 2-12 1-1 5, Wiggins 7-17 4-6 18, Pekovic 5-11 4-4 14, Budinger 0-3 0-0 0, Bennett 2-7 2-4 6, LaVine 1-3 0-0 2, Daniels 2-9 0-0 5, Robinson III 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 31-89 11-15 75.

Dallas	24	35	16	23	—	98
Minnesota	21	17	19	18	—	75

3-Point Goals—Dallas 11-27 (Parsons 4-6, Harris 2-3, Nowitzki 2-4, Rondo 1-2, Aminu 1-2, Jefferson 1-3, Barea 0-1, Felton 0-1, Villanueva 0-2, Ellis 0-3), Minnesota 2-15 (Hummel 1-1, Daniels 1-4, Young 0-1, Budinger 0-1, LaVine 0-1, Wiggins 0-3, Williams 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 49 (Powell 10), Minnesota 55 (Young 11). Assists—Dallas 26 (Barea 10), Minnesota 22 (Young 6). Total Fouls—Dallas 13, Minnesota 11. Technicals—Dallas defensive three second. A—13,737 (19,356).

PISTONS 128, MAGIC 118

ORLANDO (118): Marble 0-1 0-0 0, Frye 3-4 0-0 8, Vucevic 11-23 4-4 26, Payton 4-9 0-0 8, Oladipo 9-18 4-4 23, B.Gordon 0-3 0-0 0, A.Gordon 2-2 0-0 4, Harris 7-15 4-4 19, Ridnour 2-3 0-0 4, O'Quinn 6-9 0-0 12, Fournier 4-8 4-4 14, Green 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 48-97 16-16 118.

DETROIT (128): Singler 4-5 2-2 14, Monroe 11-16 2-2 24, Drummond 10-14 6-8 26, Jennings 10-21 3-5 24, Caldwell-Pope 4-8 1-1 10, Butler 2-5 0-0 5, Meeks 2-6 2-2 7, Tolliver 3-7 2-2 9, Augustin 2-9 0-0 5, Anthony 1-2 2-2 4. Totals 49-94 20-24 128.

Orlando	24	24	36	34	—	118
Detroit	35	30	31	32	—	128

3-Point Goals—Orlando 6-15 (Frye 2-3, Fournier 2-3, Oladipo 1-2, Harris 1-2, Marble 0-1, Vucevic 0-1, Ridnour 0-1, Green 0-1, O'Quinn 0-1), Detroit 10-24 (Singler 4-5, Butler 1-2, Augustin 1-2, Caldwell-Pope 1-2, Meeks 1-3, Tolliver 1-4, Jennings 1-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Orlando 45 (Vucevic 15), Detroit 53 (Drummond 17). Assists—Orlando 29 (Payton 8), Detroit 35 (Jennings 21). Total Fouls—Orlando 21, Detroit 17. A—12,148 (22,076).

HORNETS 78, HEAT 76

MIAMI (76): Granger 1-3 0-0 3, Andersen 2-5 2-2 6, Bosh 7-20 2-2 17, Chalmers 4-10 4-6 13, Wade 8-21 1-1 17, Napier 0-4 0-0 0, Haslem 1-2 0-0 2, S.Williams 3-9 0-0 8, Ennis 2-8 4-4 8, Cole 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 29-84 13-15 76.

CHARLOTTE (78): Kidd-Gilchrist 2-7 4-8 8, Zeller 1-8 4-7 6, Biyombo 5-10 2-3 12, Walker 4-17 5-6 15, Henderson 4-13 2-2 11, Roberts 1-2 2-2 5, Stephenson 2-4 0-0 4, M.Williams 1-3 1-2 3, Jefferson 6-11 0-0 12, Neal 1-5 0-0 2. Totals 27-80 20-30 78.

Miami	17	22	16	21	—	76
Charlotte	25	20	20	13	—	78

3-Point Goals—Miami 5-18 (S.Williams 2-5, Granger 1-1, Chalmers 1-3, Bosh 1-6, Napier 0-1, Ennis 0-2), Charlotte 4-19 (Walker 2-9, Roberts 1-1, Henderson 1-4, M.Williams 0-1, Neal 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 48 (Wade, Bosh, Ennis 7), Charlotte 72 (Kidd-Gilchrist 14). Assists—Miami 14 (Napier, Wade 4), Charlotte 19 (Zeller 6). Total Fouls—Miami 22, Charlotte 16. A—16,914 (19,077).

KNICKS 98, 76ERS 91

NEW YORK (98): Anthony 8-24 9-10 27, Amundson 2-4 0-0 4, Smith 4-9 0-0 8, Calderon 5-10 2-2 15, Galloway 5-11 0-1 11, Hardaway Jr. 5-13 3-4 13, L.Thomas 3-10 0-0 6, Stoudemire 3-5 3-3 9, Larkin 2-4 0-0 5, Wear 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 37-91 17-20 98.

PHILADELPHIA (91): Covington 5-11 4-4 17, Aldemir 0-1 0-0 0, Sims 4-12 3-4 11, Carter-Williams 10-26 7-8 27, McDaniels 4-13 2-2 12, Grant 1-2 2-2 4, M.Thomas 1-4 4-7 6, Thompson 2-4 2-3 8, Drew II 1-3 1-2 4, Sampson 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 29-79 25-32 91.

New York	18	31	25	24	—	98
Philadelphia	18	24	20	29	—	91

3-Point Goals—New York 7-20 (Calderon 3-6, Anthony 2-7, Larkin 1-2, Galloway 1-2, Hardaway Jr. 0-3), Philadelphia 8-23 (Covington 3-8, McDaniels 2-3, Thompson 2-4, Drew [illegible], Grant 0-1, Carter-Williams 0-1, Sampson 0-1, M.Thomas 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New York 59 (Anthony 11), Philadelphia 55 (Sims 12). Assists—New York 26 (Calderon 7), Philadelphia 20 (Carter-Williams 7). Total Fouls—New York 22, Philadelphia 19. Technicals—Philadelphia Coach Brown, Philadelphia defensive three second. A—13,201 (20,318).

CAVALIERS 106, JAZZ 92

UTAH (92): Hayward 4-11 4-4 14, Favors 6-11 [illegible] 12, Kanter 9-20 6-8 24, Burke 1-10 0-0 2, Ingles 1-4 0-0 3, Gobert 3-3 0-0 6, Exum 2-5 0-0 4, Booker 2-6 1-2 5, Millsap 4-9 2-2 12, Williams 3-4 1-2 10, Clark 0-1 0-0 0, Evans 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-84 14-18 92.

CLEVELAND (106): James 8-16 10-14 26, Love 7-15 4-4 19, Mozgov 8-12 0-2 16, Irving 8-13 0-1 18, Smith 5-16 3-4 15, Thompson 2-2 0-0 4, Marion 3-3 0-0 6, Dellavedova 1-3 0-0 2, Jones [illegible], Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Haywood [illegible]. Harris 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 42-81 17-25 106.

Utah	20	20	22	30	—	92
Cleveland	31	22	29	24	—	106

3-Point Goals—Utah 8-22 (Williams 3-3, Hayward 2-4, Millsap 2-5, Ingles 1-3, Booker 0-1, Clark 0-1, Burke 0-2, Exum 0-3), Cleveland 5-24 (Irving 2-3, Smith 2-11, Love 1-7, Dellavedova 0-1, James 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 51 (Kanter 17), Cleveland 49 (Love 13). Assists—Utah 24 (Exum 5), Cleveland 24 (James 9). Total Fouls—Utah 22, Cleveland [illegible]. A—20,562 (20,562).

HAWKS 110, PACERS 91

INDIANA (91): S.Hill 3-9 [illegible], West [illegible], Hibbert 1-4 2-2 4, Watson 4-9 4-4 13, Stuckey 5-10 2-2 12, Miles 7-15 2-2 18, Scola 2-6 [illegible], Sloan 0-2 2-2 2, Mahinmi [illegible] 3-0-0 2, Rudez [illegible] 2 8, Whittington 2-4 2-2 6, Copeland [illegible], Allen 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-78 24-26 91.

ATLANTA (110): Carroll [illegible] 17, Millsap 4-7 3-3 12, Horford 6-10 2-3 14, Teague [illegible] 17, Korver 4-6 0-0 10, Antic 4-[illegible] 12, Sefolosha [illegible] 2 8, Schroder 2-4 0-0 [illegible], Scott [illegible], Bazemore 1-5 1-2 3, Muscala 0-0 4-4 4, Jenkins 1-2 0-0 [illegible]. Totals 39-78 14-26 110.

Indiana	21	20	23	27	—	91
Atlanta	25	27	36	22	—	110

3-Point Goals—Indiana 5-25 (Miles 2-8, Rudez 1-3, Watson 1-3, S.Hill 1-4, Copeland 0-1, Stuckey 0-2, Sloan 0-2, Whittington 0-2), Atlanta 13-29 (Carroll 3-5, Antic 3-5, Korver 2-4, Schroder 1-1, Jenkins 1-2, Teague 1-3, Millsap 1-3, Sefolosha 1-3, Horford 0-1, Scott 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 46 (West 11), Atlanta 49 (Millsap 9). Assists—Indiana 22 (Sloan 5), Atlanta 30 (Teague 11). Total Fouls—Indiana 21, Atlanta 23. A—15,045 (18,729).

PELICANS 96, LAKERS 80

L.A. LAKERS (80): Johnson 2-11 4-5 8, E.Davis 3-9 1-1 7, Hill 7-14 1-2 15, Price 0-[illegible] 2, Bryant 6-14 1-1 14, Boozer 2-6 2-2 6, Lin 2-4 2-2 [illegible], Young [illegible] 9, Ellington 3-4 4-5 12, Sacre [illegible] 0-0 [illegible]. Totals 28-[illegible] 80.

NEW ORLEANS (96): Cunningham [illegible], A.Davis 11-18 7-8 29, Asik 3-4 [illegible], Evans [illegible] 19, Gordon [illegible] 17, Wolters [illegible], Pondexter 4-[illegible], Anderson [illegible], Rivers [illegible]. Totals 38-83 17-21 96.

L.A. Lakers	20	24	24	12	—	80
New Orleans	22	21	26	27	—	96

3-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 6-20 (Ellington [illegible], Young [illegible], Bryant 1-5, Price [illegible], Johnson 0-5), New Orleans 3-16 (Anderson 1-4, Gordon 1-4, Evans 1-4, Wolters [illegible], Pondexter [illegible]). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 41 (Hill 13), New Orleans 54 (Asik 10). Assists—L.A. Lakers 16 (Johnson 4), New Orleans 21 (Gordon 10). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 21, New Orleans 12. Technicals—Anderson, New Orleans defensive three second. A—16,268 (16,867).

GRIZZLIES 92, RAPTORS 86

TORONTO (86): DeRozan 2-11 2-2 6, A.Johnson 4-9 3-4 11, Valanciunas 4-8 4-4 12, Lowry 7-23 4-7 20, Vasquez 1-8 1-2 3, Ross [illegible], Patterson 2-7 6-6 11, Williams 6-15 [illegible] 21, J.Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Hansbrough [illegible] 0-0 2. Totals 27-85 27-32 86.

MEMPHIS (92): Green 2-6 2-2 6, Randolph 8-14 3-6 19, Gasol 9-16 8-9 26, Conley 4-[illegible], Allen 3-6 0-0 6, Lee 0-3 [illegible], Koufos 2-3 4-4 [illegible], Carter 0-2 0-0 0, Udrih 2-5 2-2 6, Calathes 3-5 0-0 6, Leuer 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 34-74 23-29 92.

Toronto	16	22	23	25	—	86
Memphis	16	25	19	32	—	92

3-Point Goals—Toronto 5-28 (Lowry 2-8, Williams 2-8, Patterson 1-6, Ross [illegible], Vasquez [illegible]), Memphis [illegible]. Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto [illegible] (Valanciunas [illegible]), Memphis [illegible] (Randolph [illegible]). Assists—Toronto [illegible] (Vasquez [illegible]), Memphis [illegible] (Gasol [illegible]). Total Fouls—Toronto [illegible], Memphis [illegible]. A—[illegible].

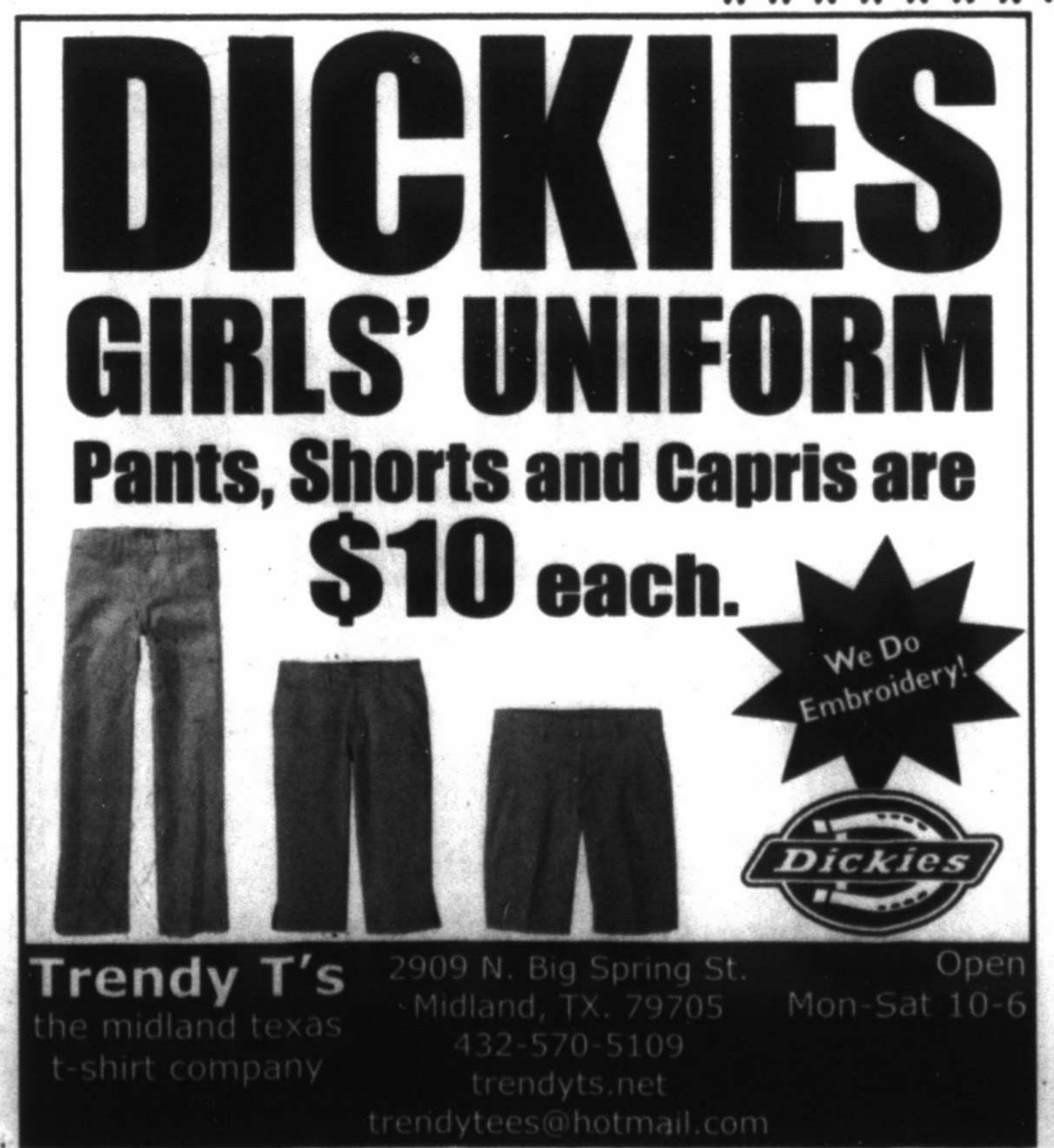
THUNDER 105, WIZARDS 103

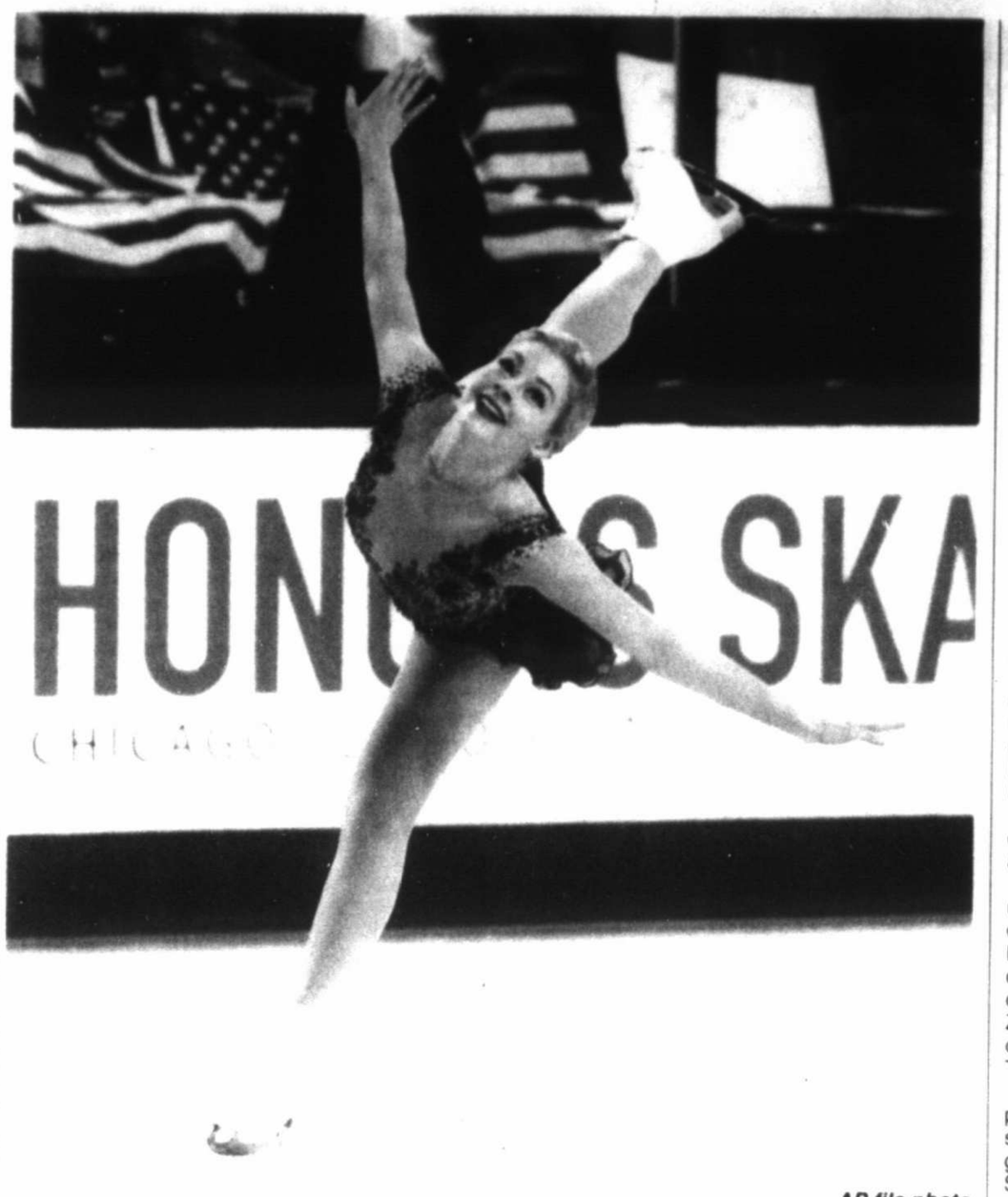
OKLAHOMA CITY (105): Durant [illegible], Ibaka [illegible], Adams [illegible], Westbrook [illegible] 28 [illegible], Roberson [illegible], Morrow 4-9 [illegible], Waiters 4-[illegible], Perkins [illegible], Jackson [illegible], Collison [illegible]. Totals 40-[illegible] 105.

WASHINGTON (103): Pierce [illegible], Nene [illegible] 24, Gortat [illegible], Wall [illegible], Beal 5-21 [illegible], Humphries [illegible], Butler [illegible], Porter [illegible], Seraphin [illegible], Miller [illegible]. Totals 38-[illegible] 103.

Oklahoma City	26	12	28	26	13	—	105
Washington	31	19	20	22	11	—	103

3-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 6-29 (Durant [illegible], Morrow [illegible], Ibaka 1-4, Collison [illegible], Jackson [illegible], Waiters [illegible], Westbrook [illegible]), Washington [illegible] (Wall [illegible], Beal [illegible], Pierce [illegible], Butler [illegible], Porter [illegible], Nene [illegible], Gortat [illegible]). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 63 (Adams [illegible]), Washington [illegible] (Pierce [illegible]). Assists—Oklahoma City 21 (Westbrook 8), Washington [illegible] (Wall [illegible]). Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 21, Washington [illegible]. Technicals—Westbrook, Gooden. A—20,356 (20,308).





AP file photo

Gracie Gold competes in the ladies free skating at the Skate America figure skating event in Hoffman Estates, Ill., in 2014. Gold, who missed the Grand Prix Final because of a stress fracture in her foot, looks to defend her title when the U.S. Figure Skating Championships open Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, in Greensboro, N.C.

Gold, Wagner each seeking another US figure skating title

By Rachel Cohen
Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Gracie Gold practiced making eye contact with the audience. She "did so many spins it drove me nuts."

What the reigning U.S. figure skating champion couldn't do for nearly all of December was jump. She's now had 3 1/2 weeks to work on her triples to try to defend her title when nationals open Thursday.

"I still feel almost as if I'd been training the whole time," Gold said Wednesday.

Gold and Ashley Wagner were the only Americans to qualify individually for the Grand Prix Final. Gold had to pull out because of a stress fracture in her left foot, while Wagner went on to win bronze.

Wagner will be seeking her third U.S. title, winning two straight before Gold broke through last year. So both know they can thrive on the national stage. This week's competition is also a chance to show they can put together the kind of program to win a medal at the world championships. No American woman has accomplished that feat since Kimmie Meissner won gold and Sasha Cohen took bronze in 2006.

Before last year's U.S. Championships, Wagner, now 23, figured the 2014 Games would be her last chance for an Olympic medal. In Sochi, she decided she'd progressed so much in six months with coach Rafael Arutyunyan that she wanted to see what they could achieve together in four more years.

A win this week to open the cycle before the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, Wagner said, would mean "starting in the right direction to the Olympic podium."

Wagner was seventh in Sochi. Her solid performances were redemption for last year's nationals, where she fell twice in her free skate to finish a distant fourth, earning one of the three Olympic spots based on her previous successes.

Polina Edmunds was ninth in Sochi at age 15, competing in her first international competition at the senior level.

Gold, now 19, was fourth, though well out of the bronze position. She thinks she initially dislocated a bone in her foot during off-ice training this fall — an injury that's common among runners but not figure skaters — which led to the stress fracture. So Gold isn't allowed to run right now, but she can cleanly land a triple lutz-triple toe loop combination. Gold has needed to limit the number of triple toes she attempts in practice, but otherwise she's been pleasantly surprised at how quickly her jumps came back.

Now she'll try to land them in competition starting with Thursday's short program at the Greensboro Coliseum, best known for hosting college basketball during the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament. The pairs short program is earlier Thursday, with the competition wide open after two-time defending champs Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir split in the spring.

In ice dancing, which opens Friday, Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White are taking a break, leaving Madison Chock and Evan Bates as the favorites.

The men's short program follows later Friday. Jeremy Abbott won his fourth U.S. title a year ago at what was supposed to be his last nationals before retirement. Then he rethought those plans, still seeking to match his success at U.S. Championships at a major international event. The 29-year-old Abbott's father, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, died earlier this month.

Jason Brown joined Abbott as the two American men on the 2014 Olympic team. Brown, who turned 20 last month, still isn't ready to add a quad, which is all but a prerequisite to win major international medals. For the first time, Brown doesn't come into nationals as an underdog.

His frenetic "Riverdance" long program that went viral after last year's U.S. Championships has been replaced by a more somber piece, a chance to challenge himself in a new way.

Max Aaron, the 2013 U.S. champ, is back, while big-jumping 15-year-old Nathan Chen will be competing at his first senior nationals.

NHL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BLACKHAWKS 3
PENGUINS 2

PITTSBURGH — Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane beat Marc-Andre Fleury in a shootout to lift the Chicago Blackhawks over the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Toews flipped a shot between Fleury's legs in the first round, and Kane followed with a wrist shot over Fleury's glove to help the Blackhawks win in Pittsburgh for just the second time in 17 years.

David Rundblad and Marian Hossa scored in regulation for Chicago. Corey Crawford made 33 saves and held Pittsburgh's David Perron and Sidney Crosby in check in the shootout.

Zach Sill and Steve Downie scored for Pittsburgh. Fleury stopped 24 shots but the Penguins limped into the All-Star break with their fourth straight loss.

The Penguins played without defenseman Kris Letang and center Evgeni Malkin.

Malkin went through warmups before being scratched due to an undisclosed issue. Letang was held out as a precaution following a frightening collision with Philadelphia's Zac Rinaldo in a bruising overtime loss to the Flyers on Tuesday night.

The absence of two vital parts of Pittsburgh's core took some of the punch out of the game both teams hope is a Stanley Cup preview, though neither has looked like a top-flight contender the last month.

Pittsburgh has cooled recently to fall just off the pace of the first-place New York Islanders in the crowded Metropolitan Division. Chicago trails surprising Nashville and steady St. Louis in the Central.

Rundblad gave the Blackhawks a 1-0 lead 6:56 in. The defenseman took advantage of a dominant shift by the top line of Hossa, Toews and Brandon Saad. The trio kept the puck buried in Pittsburgh's zone for more than a minute, with Rundblad taking a feed from Hossa at the point and sending a shot past a well-screened Fleury for his fourth goal.

Hossa doubled Chicago's lead early in the second with his 10th goal, a wrist shot from just inside the left circle that Fleury barely saw through the sea of bodies in front of him. Yet just when it appeared the Penguins were ready to limp into the break, they responded behind some unlikely contributors.

Sill went 47 games before recording the first point of his career with an assist against Minnesota last week. He didn't wait nearly as long to earn his second, sending a wrist shot from the slot over Crawford's glove for his first NHL goal 5:21 into the second.

The fourth-line forward nearly smacked a Chicago player in the head with his stick during a giddy celebration, one that provided the spark necessary to wake the Penguins from a weeklong swoon.

Downie tied it at 12:22 of the second, stuffing a rebound past a sprawled Crawford for his first goal since Jan. 2. That set up an electric back-and-forth third period that played in stark contrast to Pittsburgh's penalty-filled meeting with the Flyers the night before.

SENATORS 4
MAPLE LEAFS 3

OTTAWA, Ontario — Erik Karlsson scored two goals to lead the Ottawa Senators to a 4-3 win over the struggling Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday night.

Mike Hoffman and Mika Zibanejad also scored for the Senators (19-18-9), and Craig Anderson stopped 37 shots.

David Clarkson, Nazem Kadri and James van Riemsdyk had goals for the Maple Leafs (22-23-3), who head into the NHL All-Star break on a six-game skid.

James Reimer made 22 saves and lost for just the second time at Ottawa (8-2).

Toronto made things interesting when Kadri's power-play goal at 2:36 of the third period cut the Maple Leafs' deficit to 3-2. Kadri took a pass from Morgan Rielly and beat a screened Anderson.

The Maple Leafs pressed for the tying goal, but they were unable to create any real solid scoring chances.

With 4:40 remaining, Karlsson scored his second of the night to make it 4-2. Milan Michalek grabbed the puck behind the net and found Karlsson just inside the blue line for a shot that beat Reimer to the glove side.

Van Riemsdyk scored with 1:23 left, but Toronto was unable to complete the comeback.

Trailing 3-0 after 20 minutes, the Maple Leafs had a better second period but were only able to beat Anderson once. Clarkson, with his second goal in 20 games, got the Leafs on the board 13:55 into the middle period.

The Senators nearly regained the three-goal lead late in the frame, but Reimer stopped a 2-on-1 to keep Toronto within reach.

The Maple Leafs had an opportunity to score in the opening minutes of the game as Phil Kessel had a breakaway, but his shot went wide of the net. Less than a minute later, Mark Stone — who extended his point streak to seven games with an assist — fed Hoffman at center ice for a shot that beat Reimer under the crossbar.

Midway through the period, Karlsson capped off a great give-and-go with Hoffman for his 10th goal of the season.

The Senators capped the period scoring on a delayed penalty call when Bobby Ryan found Zibanejad alone.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	48	30	14	4	64	156	127
Detroit	47	27	11	9	63	139	119
Montreal	45	29	13	3	61	123	106
Boston	47	25	16	6	56	124	118
Florida	44	20	14	10	50	107	122
Ottawa	46	19	18	9	47	126	128
Toronto	48	22	23	3	47	142	150
Buffalo	47	14	30	3	31	89	167

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	46	31	14	1	63	151	129
Pittsburgh	46	26	12	8	60	138	117
N.Y. Rangers	44	27	13	4	58	134	106
Washington	46	24	13	9	57	137	120
Philadelphia	48	19	22	7	45	130	146
Columbus	44	20	21	3	43	113	138
New Jersey	47	17	22	8	42	107	134
Carolina	46	16	25	5	37	98	120

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	45	30	10	5	65	137	104
St. Louis	46	29	13	4	62	148	111
Chicago	47	30	15	2	62	148	108
Winnipeg	47	25	14	8	58	131	117
Dallas	46	21	18	7	49	144	151
Colorado	47	19	18	10	48	122	135
Minnesota	46	20	20	6	46	128	137

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	46	30	10	6	66	133	121
Vancouver	45	26	16	3	55	124	114
San Jose	47	24	17	6	54	127	130
Calgary	46	25	18	3	53	133	119
Los Angeles	46	20	14	12	52	127	122
Arizona	46	16	25	5	37	105	156
Edmonton	47	12	26	9	33	109	158

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

Wednesday's Scores

Chicago 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO
Ottawa 4, Toronto 3
Columbus at Winnipeg, late
Boston at Colorado, late
Calgary at Anaheim, late
Los Angeles at San Jose, late

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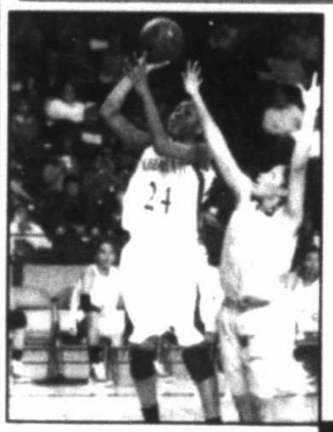
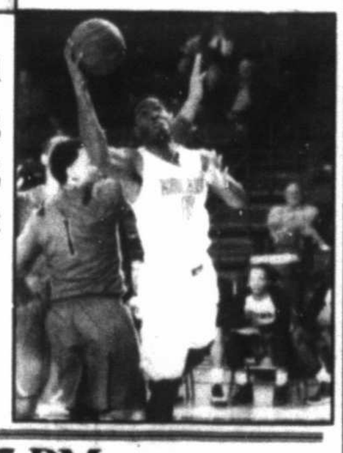


Walnetia Wright
Augusta, GA
6' 2" Freshman Post



Torren Jones
Chandler, AZ
6' 8" Sophomore Post

5:45 PM
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vs
Midland College Lady Chaps

7:30 PM
South Plains College Texans
vs
Midland College Chaparrals

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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 22, 2015

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Taste "The Finale" (SF) (N)			With Murder "Kill Me, Kill Me, Kill Me"		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel The Decemberists (N)	(:35) News Nightline
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Mom (N)	Two and Half (N)	McCarthys	Elementary "The Illustrious Client" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman	(:35) The Talk
	KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	MASH "Letters"	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Cheers	Welcome Kotter	Welcome Kotter	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Unsuitable Uncle"	McMillan and Wife
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Auditions #6" (N)		Backstrom "Dragon Slayer" (P) (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
	KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. Rik Wadge	Rocks/Manuscripts	Update News	Fruits of Zion	Light of the Southwest				Joe McGee	Matt Staver	Called Out	Biblical Israel
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Biggest Loser "End Zone" (N)		Judge (F) (N)	A to Z (F) (N)	Parenthood (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) Jimmy Fallon	(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Daytripper	Square Mile	Ultimate Restorations		Jewel in the Crown "Questions of Loyalty"		Charlie Rose (N)	Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La Gata		Mi corazón es Tuyo		Hasta el fin del mundo		Que te perdone Dios... Yo no		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	La Que No Manda	Podia
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million..	The Mentalist		The Mentalist		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H
PREMIUM	FLIX	340	65			165	(5:00) ★ A Room Wit...		★★★ Beaches ('88, Dra) Bette Midler.				(:05) ★★★ Secrets and Lies Marianne Jean-Baptiste.					Movie
	HBO	300	68	14	14		Real Sports		★ Blended ('14, Com) Adam Sandler.				Together	Looking	Real Sex		Girls	Sports
	HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(3:00) ★ Escape Plan		Movie	Together	★★★ Gravity Sandra Bullock.		Road To /(:45)		★ The Best Man Holiday			(:50) ★ 42
	HBOS	304	70	16	102		Movie	Looking	Bill Maher		★★ Identity Thief Jason Bateman.				★★ The Talented Mr. Ripley			
	MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:30) ★★ Getaway		★★ The Mexican ('01, Cri) Julia Roberts.				(:05) ★★ Blade Runner Harrison Ford.				(:05) Spring	(:40) Spring
	MAX2	382	72	18	122		★★★★ Dallas Buyers Club		★ Fast and Furious 6 ('13, Act) Vin Diesel.								(:15) Co-Ed	(:50) ★★ R.I.P.D.
	PLEX			96			(5:25) ★ Magic Kid II		★ Dumb & Dumberer: When...		★★★ Masterminds						(:20) ★★ Elvis Has Left the Building	
	SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(4:35) ★ Kill Bill Vol. 2		★★★ Four Brothers Mark Wahlberg.				Shameless		Penn &..	Lies	Episodes	Therapy
	TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:20) ★ Adult World		★ Hellion ('14, Dra) Aaron Paul.		(:40) ★ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Daw...						(:35) ★ Heartless Jim Sturgess.	
CABLE	A&E	27	32	28	35	47	The First 48 "Senior Year"		The First 48		The First 48 (N)		Nightwatch "Retaliation" (N)		Nightwatch "Retaliation"		The First 48	
	AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:00) ★ Casino Ro...		★★★ Braveheart (1995, Action) Sophie Marceau, Patrick McGoohan, Mel Gibson.								★★★ Tombstone	
	BET	58	26		40		Movie	It's a Mann's World	Game		Game	Game	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Wendy Williams	
	BRAVO	65	63		41		Millionaire		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Millionaire (N)		Watch (N)	Millionaire		Atlanta
	CNBC	46	45		39	72	American Greed		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		American Greed	
	CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Inside Man (N)		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		M. Spurlock Inside	
	DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska: Kilchers	
	DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Girl	Austin	★★★★ Hop Russell Brand.		(:40) Girl		(:05) Jessie	Liv/Mad	Dog Blog	A.N.T.	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
	ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				Winter X Games 19 (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
	ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball Arizona vs. Stanford (L)				ITF Tennis Australian Open Third Round (L)			
	FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(3:30) ★★★ Bruce Almighty		★★★ Pretty Woman ('90, Rom) Richard Gere.						The 700 Club		Boy MW	Boy MW
	FNC	45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
	FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped Canada (N)		Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Diners...	Diners...	Chopped Canada	
	FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	NCAA Basketball Xavier vs. Providence (L)				NCAA Basketball University of Texas at El Paso vs. Western Kentucky (L)				Bear Bryant Award Show (N)		ACC (N)	SportsDay OnAir
	FX	31	31	59	64	69	Movie	★★★ 21 Jump Street ('12, Act) Jonah Hill.					Archer (N)	Archer	Archer	★★★ 21 Jump Street		
	HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	Waltons "The Legacy"		The Waltons				Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab (N)	Rehab	H.Hunt	House	H.Hunt	House	Rehab	Rehab
	HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn (N)	Pawn (N)	Pawnog.	Pawnog.	(:05) Pawn	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S
	LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Project Runway "Making a Splash"		Runway "Sketching with Sharks"		Runway "Versatile Tops and Bottoms" (N)		Little Women: LA "A Little Fired Up"		Big Women "Exes and Hot Messes"		Runway "Sketching with Sharks"	
	MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	39				NCAA Basketball George Wash. vs Fordham (L)				NFL Turning Point		Mecum Auctions: Collector Cars and More (N)					
	NICK	55	34	39	34	37	WitchWay	Sam & Cat	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray
	SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(5:00) ★★ The One		★ The Man With the Iron Fists ('12, Act) Russell Crowe.						★★ Ninja Assassin ('09, Act) Kim Ki Duk, Sung Kang.			
	SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	(4:05) ★ Indiana Jo...		WWE Smackdown! (N)				★★ Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull					
	TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Sein. "The Susie"	Seinf. "The Pothole"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		The Office	Conan
	TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ Fools for S...		★★★★ Singin' in the Rain Gene Kelly.				★★★ The Catered Affair			(:45) ★★★ The Mating Game		
	TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Los miserables		Tierra de reyes		Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo	(:35) Titular	Tierra de reyes	
	TLC	51	33	32	38	52	48 Hours: Evidence "The Usual Suspect"		48 Hours: Evidence "AKA Rockefeller" (N)		48 Hours: Evidence "Last Chance" (N)		48 Hours: Hard "The Perfect Family" (N)		48 Hours: Evidence "Last Chance"		48 Hours: Evidence "The Perfect Family"	
	TNT	24	23	40	26	50	NBA Tip-Off (L)		NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Chicago Bulls Site: United Center -- Chicago, Ill. (L)				NBA Basketball Brooklyn Nets at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)					
	TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Walker, Texas Ranger		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends
	USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Perfect"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Dreams Deferred"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Beautiful Frame"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Criminal Hatred"		Modern Family	Modern "Chirp"	Modern Family	Modern Family
	WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Wrestling	Wrestling	Wrestling	Wrestling	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

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Patrick Reed set for Humana Challenge title defense

By John Nicholson
Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Patrick Reed left everyone behind last year in the Humana Challenge. This year, he's trying not to get too far ahead of himself.

"That's one thing I'm going to do, hopefully, different this time than I did last time defending," said Reed, set to begin his title defense Thursday.

In his first career defense, Reed tied for 24th in the Wyndham Championship in August.

Last year in the desert, Reed shot three 63s to open a seven-shot lead and closed with a 71 for a two-stroke victory. He admitted he was too conservative in the final round after breaking the PGA Tour record for relation to par for the first 54 holes at 27 under, and becoming the first player to open with three rounds of 63 or better.

"Instead of attacking flags like I did the first three days, I started to play to the middle of greens," Reed said. "You need to stick to your game plan and keep firing hard."

The 24-year-old Reed is coming off a playoff victory over Jimmy Walker two weeks ago in Hawaii in the Tournament of Champions. Reed has four victories in his last 35 tour starts.

"The confidence is growing and growing," Reed said. "If I have a bad round or if I'm struggling, I still have that confidence level to keep going and turn a 75 into a 72 or a 71."

He and wife Justine stayed at Kapalua last week for a vacation.

"Worked on my forehead tan," Reed joked. "Seemed like that got more attention than the actual golf game. ... Played like 13 holes, that's it — through the whole week."

Phil Mickelson is back, too, after skipping the event last year.

Making his first start since the Ryder Cup in September, Lefty stayed away from the three tournament courses before the first round and wasn't available for comment. He played in Ben Crane's charity event Tuesday at the nearby Madison Club and practiced there Wednesday.

Mickelson worked with trainer Sean Cochran during his long offseason.

"I'm getting lighter, developing more core strength and speed and increasing my ball speed," Mickelson said on his website.

The 44-year-old Mickelson, the 2002 and 2004 champion, is winless in 27 PGA Tour starts since the 2013 British Open.

"Not winning made it the worst year of my career," Mickelson said on his website. "It was a bad year statistically in all areas."

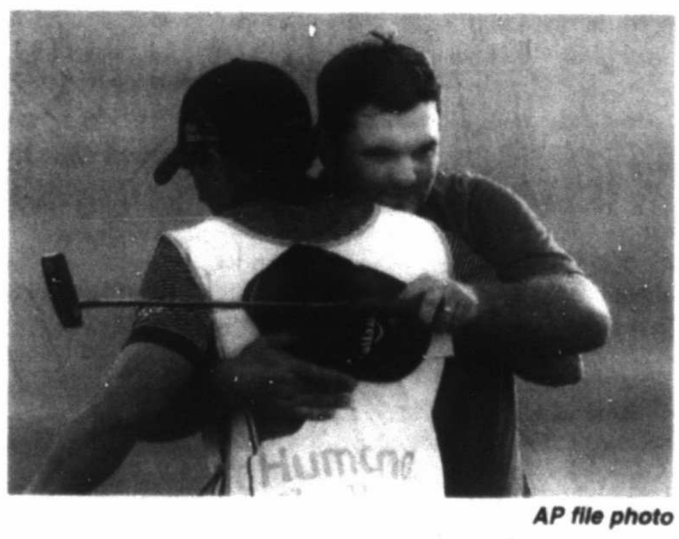
The tournament, long known as the Bob Hope Classic, is in the midst of more sweeping changes. Humana is in its final year as the title sponsor and PGA West's Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus private layouts also are dropping out after the event.

"That's a bummer," Keegan Bradley said. "There's a lot of history on those two courses."

The tournament was shortened from 90 to 72 holes in 2012 and the celebrity portion of the pro-am field was dropped last year, with only a few "special guests" left.

The perfect conditions, mountain views and low scores remain, though wind could be a factor.

Temperatures are expected to reach 73 the first two days, with wind at 7-15 mph Thursday and 5-10 mph Friday. Forecasters expect a high of 80 on Saturday with wind gusts of 20 mph, and a high of 83 on Sunday with wind at 7-15 mph. Morning frost is a slight possibility Friday and Saturday.



AP file photo

Patrick Reed, right, hugs his caddie Kessler Karain after winning the Humana Challenge golf tournament on the Palmer Private course at PGA West in La Quinta, Calif., in 2014. Reed left everyone behind last year in the Humana Challenge. This year, he's trying not to get too far ahead of himself.

BANANAGRAMS!

LEVEL

For each of the three words below, change one letter to an **R**, and then rearrange the letters to spell a type of political title.

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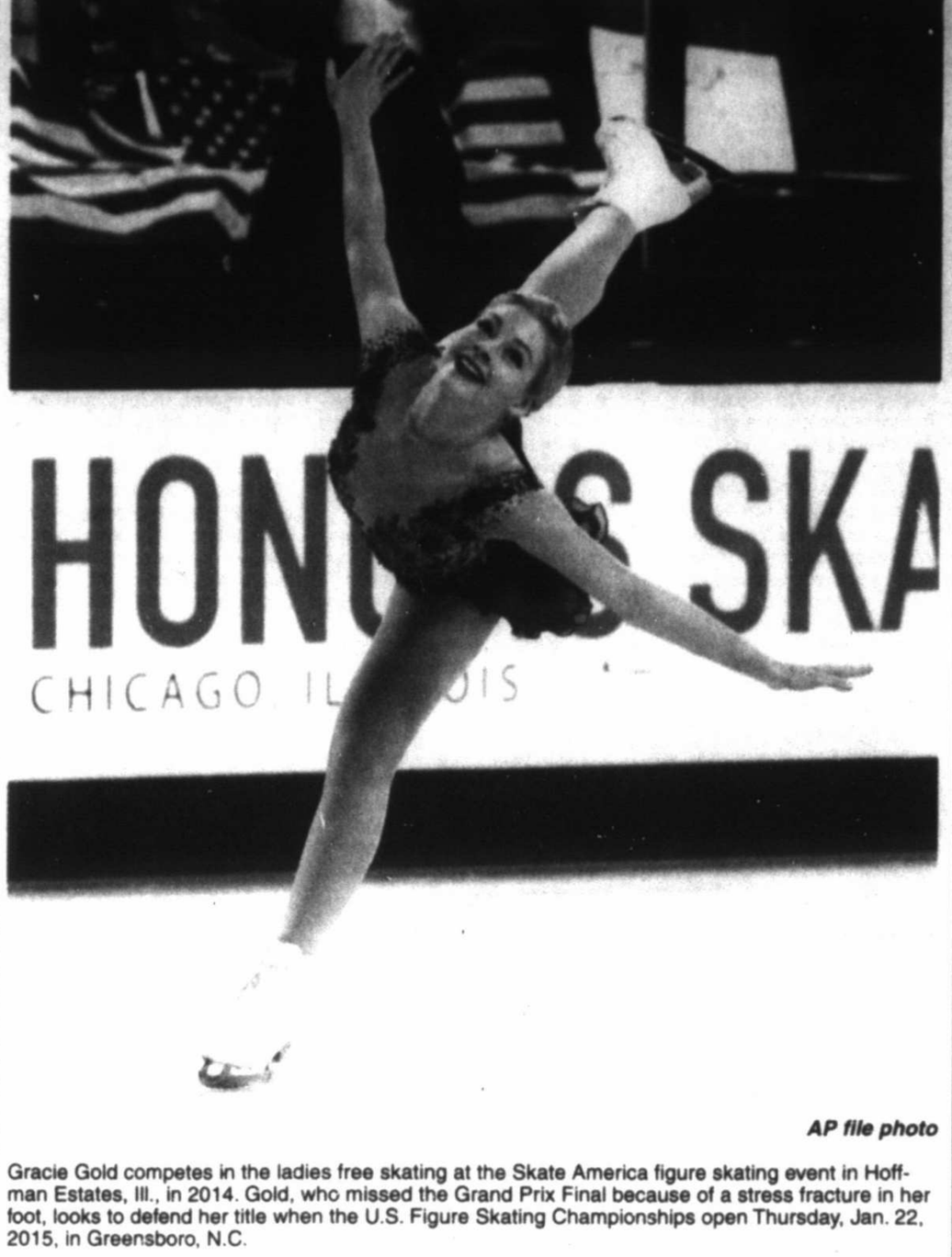
Yesterday's Answer: Common C; ABSCESS, ENACTED, GRIMACE, ANCIENT

1.22



AP file photo

Gracie Gold competes in the ladies free skating at the Skate America figure skating event in Hoffman Estates, Ill., in 2014. Gold, who missed the Grand Prix Final because of a stress fracture in her foot, looks to defend her title when the U.S. Figure Skating Championships open Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, in Greensboro, N.C.

Gold, Wagner each seeking another US figure skating title

By Rachel Cohen
Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Gracie Gold practiced making eye contact with the audience. She "did so many spins it drove me nuts."

What the reigning U.S. figure skating champion couldn't do for nearly all of December was jump. She's now had 3 1/2 weeks to work on her triples to try to defend her title when nationals open Thursday.

"I still feel almost as if I'd been training the whole time," Gold said Wednesday.

Gold and Ashley Wagner were the only Americans to qualify individually for the Grand Prix Final. Gold had to pull out because of a stress fracture in her left foot, while Wagner went on to win bronze.

Wagner will be seeking her third U.S. title, winning two straight before Gold broke through last year. So both know they can thrive on the national stage. This week's competition is also a chance to show they can put together the kind of program to win a medal at the world championships. No American woman has accomplished that feat since Kimmie Meissner won gold and Sasha Cohen took bronze in 2006.

Before last year's U.S. Championships, Wagner, now 23, figured the 2014 Games would be her last chance for an Olympic medal. In Sochi, she decided she'd progressed so much in six months with coach Rafael Arutyunyan that she wanted to see what they could achieve together in four more years.

A win this week to open the cycle before the 2018 Pyeongchang Games, Wagner said, would mean "starting in the right direction to the Olympic podium."

Wagner was seventh in Sochi. Her solid performances were redemption for last year's nationals, where she fell twice in her free skate to finish a distant fourth, earning one of the three Olympic spots based on her previous successes.

Polina Edmunds was ninth in Sochi at age 15; competing in her first international competition at the senior level.

Gold, now 19, was fourth, though well out of the bronze position. She thinks she initially dislocated a bone in her foot during off-ice training this fall — an injury that's common among runners but not figure skaters — which led to the stress fracture. So Gold isn't allowed to run right now, but she can cleanly land a triple lutz-triple toe loop combination. Gold has needed to limit the number of triple toes she attempts in practice, but otherwise she's been pleasantly surprised at how quickly her jumps came back.

Now she'll try to land them in competition starting with Thursday's short program at the Greensboro Coliseum, best known for hosting college basketball during the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament. The pairs short program is earlier Thursday, with the competition wide open after two-time defending champs Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir split in the spring.

In ice dancing, which opens Friday, Olympic gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White are taking a break, leaving Madison Chock and Evan Bates as the favorites.

The men's short program follows later Friday. Jeremy Abbott won his fourth U.S. title a year ago at what was supposed to be his last nationals before retirement. Then he rethought those plans, still seeking to match his success at U.S. Championships at a major international event. The 29-year-old Abbott's father, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, died earlier this month.

Jason Brown joined Abbott as the two American men on the 2014 Olympic team. Brown, who turned 20 last month, still isn't ready to add a quad, which is all but a prerequisite to win major international medals. For the first time, Brown doesn't come into nationals as an underdog.

His frenetic "Riverdance" long program that went viral after last year's U.S. Championships has been replaced by a more somber piece, a chance to challenge himself in a new way.

Max Aaron, the 2013 U.S. champ, is back, while big-jumping 15-year-old Nathan Chen will be competing at his first senior nationals.

NHL ROUNDUP

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BLACKHAWKS 3
PENGUINS 2

PITTSBURGH — Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane beat Marc-Andre Fleury in a shootout to lift the Chicago Blackhawks over the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Toews flipped a shot between Fleury's legs in the first round, and Kane followed with a wrist shot over Fleury's glove to help the Blackhawks win in Pittsburgh for just the second time in 17 years.

David Rundblad and Marian Hossa scored in regulation for Chicago. Corey Crawford made 33 saves and held Pittsburgh's David Perron and Sidney Crosby in check in the shootout.

Zach Sill and Steve Downie scored for Pittsburgh. Fleury stopped 24 shots but the Penguins limped into the All-Star break with their fourth straight loss.

The Penguins played without defenseman Kris Letang and center Evgeni Malkin.

Malkin went through warmups before being scratched due to an undisclosed issue. Letang was held out as a precaution following a frightening collision with Philadelphia's Zac Rinaldo in a bruising overtime loss to the Flyers on Tuesday night.

The absence of two vital parts of Pittsburgh's core took some of the punch out of the game both teams hope is a Stanley Cup preview, though neither has looked like a top-flight contender the last month.

Pittsburgh has cooled recently to fall just off the pace of the first-place New York Islanders in the crowded Metropolitan Division. Chicago trails surprising Nashville and steady St. Louis in the Central.

Rundblad gave the Blackhawks a 1-0 lead 6:56 in. The defenseman took advantage of a dominant shift by the top line of Hossa, Toews and Brandon Saad. The trio kept the puck buried in Pittsburgh's zone for more than a minute, with Rundblad taking a feed from Hossa at the point and sending a shot past a well-screened Fleury for his fourth goal.

Hossa doubled Chicago's lead early in the second with his 10th goal, a wrist shot from just inside the left circle that Fleury barely saw through the sea of bodies in front of him. Yet just when it appeared the Penguins were ready to limp into the break, they responded behind some unlikely contributors.

Sill went 47 games before recording the first point of his career with an assist against Minnesota last week. He didn't wait nearly as long to earn his second, sending a wrist shot from the slot over Crawford's glove for his first NHL goal 5:21 into the second.

The fourth-line forward nearly smacked a Chicago player in the head with his stick during a giddy celebration, one that provided the spark necessary to wake the Penguins from a weeklong swoon.

Downie tied it at 12:22 of the second, stuffing a rebound past a sprawled Crawford for his first goal since Jan. 2. That set up an electric back-and-forth third period that played in stark contrast to Pittsburgh's penalty-filled meeting with the Flyers the night before.

SENATORS 4
MAPLE LEAFS 3

OTTAWA, Ontario — Erik Karlsson scored two goals to lead the Ottawa Senators to a 4-3 win over the struggling Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday night.

Mike Hoffman and Mika Zibanejad also scored for the Senators (19-18-9), and Craig Anderson stopped 37 shots.

David Clarkson, Nazem Kadri and James van Riemsdyk had goals for the Maple Leafs (22-23-3), who head into the NHL All-Star break on a six-game skid.

James Reimer made 22 saves and lost for just the second time at Ottawa (8-2).

Toronto made things interesting when Kadri's power-play goal at 2:36 of the third period cut the Maple Leafs' deficit to 3-2. Kadri took a pass from Morgan Rielly and beat a screened Anderson.

The Maple Leafs pressed for the tying goal, but they were unable to create any real solid scoring chances.

With 4:40 remaining, Karlsson scored his second of the night to make it 4-2. Milan Michalek grabbed the puck behind the net and found Karlsson just inside the blue line for a shot that beat Reimer to the glove side.

Van Riemsdyk scored with 1:23 left, but Toronto was unable to complete the comeback.

Trailing 3-0 after 20 minutes, the Maple Leafs had a better second period but were only able to beat Anderson once. Clarkson, with his second goal in 20 games, got the Leafs on the board 13:55 into the middle period.

The Senators nearly regained the three-goal lead late in the frame, but Reimer stopped a 2-on-1 to keep Toronto within reach.

The Maple Leafs had an opportunity to score in the opening minutes of the game as Phil Kessel had a breakaway, but his shot went wide of the net. Less than a minute later, Mark Stone — who extended his point streak to seven games with an assist — fed Hoffman at center ice for a shot that beat Reimer under the crossbar.

Midway through the period, Karlsson capped off a great give-and-go with Hoffman for his 10th goal of the season.

The Senators capped the period scoring on a delayed penalty call when Bobby Ryan found Zibanejad alone.

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Tampa Bay	48	30	14	4	64	156	127
Detroit	47	27	11	9	63	139	119
Montreal	45	29	13	3	61	123	106
Boston	47	25	16	6	56	124	118
Florida	44	20	14	10	50	107	122
Ottawa	46	19	18	9	47	126	128
Toronto	48	22	23	3	47	142	150
Buffalo	47	14	30	3	31	89	167
Metropolitan Division							
N.Y. Islanders	46	31	14	1	63	151	129
Pittsburgh	46	26	12	8	60	138	117
N.Y. Rangers	44	27	13	4	58	134	106
Washington	46	24	13	9	57	137	120
Philadelphia	48	19	22	7	45	130	146
Columbus	44	20	21	3	43	113	138
New Jersey	47	17	22	8	42	107	134
Carolina	46	16	25	5	37	98	120
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Nashville	45	30	10	5	65	137	104
St. Louis	46	29	13	4	62	148	111
Chicago	47	30	15	2	62	148	108
Winnipeg	47	25	14	8	58	131	117
Dallas	46	21	18	7	49	144	151
Colorado	47	19	18	10	48	122	135
Minnesota	46	20	20	6	46	128	137
Pacific Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Anaheim	46	30	10	6	66	133	121
Vancouver	45	26	16	3	55	124	114
San Jose	47	24	17	6	54	127	130
Calgary	46	25	18	3	53	133	119
Los Angeles	46	20	14	12	52	127	122
Arizona	46	16	25	5	37	105	156
Edmonton	47	12	26	9	33	109	158

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

Wednesday's Scores
Chicago 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO
Ottawa 4, Toronto 3
Columbus at Winnipeg, late
Boston at Colorado, late
Calgary at Anaheim, late
Los Angeles at San Jose, late

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Thursday, January 22, 2015

Walnetia Wright
Augusta, GA
6' 2" Freshman Post

Torren Jones
Chandler, AZ
6' 8" Sophomore Post

5:45 PM
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vs
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vs
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THURSDAY PRIME TIME — JANUARY 22, 2015

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

		G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
BROADCAST	KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Taste "The Finale" (SF) (N)				With Murder "Kill Me, Kill Me, Kill Me"		KMID News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel	The Decemberists (N)	(:35) News Nightline
	KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Mom (N)	Two and Half (N)	McCarthys	Elementary "The Illustrious Client" (N)		CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman		(:35) The Talk
	KWWT CW	5	14			5	MASH "Letters"	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Hogan's Heroes	Cheers	Welcome Kotter	Welcome Kotter	Carol Burnett	Mason "The Case of the Unsuitable Uncle"		McMillan and Wife
	KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Auditions #6" (N)		Backstrom "Dragon Slayer" (P) (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family	Hot in Cleveland	Hot in Cleveland	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother
	KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. Rik Wadge	Rocks/Manuscripts	Update News	Fruits of Zion	Light of the Southwest				Joe McGee	Matt Staver	Called Out	Biblical Israel
	KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	NewsWest 9 at 6 p.m.		The Biggest Loser "End Zone" (N)		Judge (P) (N)	A to Z (P) (N)	Parenthood (N)		NewsWest 9 at 10	(:35) Jimmy Fallon		(:35) Seth Meyers
	KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Daytripper	Square Mile	Ultimate Restorations		Jewel in the Crown "Questions of Loyalty"		Charlie Rose (N)		Tavis Smiley (N)	Tavis Smiley
	KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La Gata		Mi corazón es Tuyo		Hasta el fin del mundo		Que te perdone Dios... Yo no		Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	La Que No Podia Amar	
	KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Fam.Feud	Million...	The Mentalist		The Mentalist		My News	Million..	Anger M.	M&M	Office	Access H.
PRISM-IUM	FLIX	340	65		165		(5:00) ★ A Room Wit...		★★★ Beaches ('88, Dra) Bette Midler.				(:05) ★★★ Secrets and Lies Marianne Jean-Baptiste.					Movie
	HBO	300	68	14	14		Real Sports		★ Blended ('14, Com) Adam Sandler.				Together	Looking	Real Sex		Girls	Sports
	HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	(3:00) ★ Escape Plan		Movie	Together	★★★ Gravity Sandra Bullock.		Road To /(:45)		★ The Best Man Holiday			(:50) ★ 42
	HBOS	304	70	16	102		Movie	Looking	Bill Maher		★★ Identity Thief Jason Bateman.				★★ The Talented Mr. Ripley			
	MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:30) ★★ Getaway		★★ The Mexican ('01, Cri) Julia Roberts.				(:05) ★★ Blade Runner Harrison Ford.				(:05) Spring	(:40) Spring
	MAX2	382	72	18	122		★★★★ Dallas Buyers Club		★ Fast and Furious 6 ('13, Act) Vin Diesel.						(:15) Co-Ed	(:50) ★★ R.I.P.D.		
	PLEX			96			(5:25) ★ Magic Kid II		★ Dumb & Dumberer: When...		★★★ Masterminds				(:20) ★★ Elvis Has Left the Building			
	SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(4:35) ★ Kill Bill Vol. 2		★★★ Four Brothers Mark Wahlberg.				Shameless		Penn &..	Lies	Episodes	Therapy
	TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:20) ★ Adult World		★ Hellion ('14, Dra) Aaron Paul.		(:40) ★ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Daw...				(:35) ★ Heartless Jim Sturgess.			
CABLE	A&E	27	32	28	35	47	The First 48 "Senior Year"		The First 48		The First 48 (N)		Nightwatch "Retaliation" (N)		Nightwatch "Retaliation"		The First 48	
	AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:00) ★ Casino Ro...		★★★ Braveheart (1995, Action) Sophie Marceau, Patrick McGoohan, Mel Gibson.								★★★ Tombstone	
	BET	58	26		40		Movie	It's a Mann's World	Game	Game	Game		Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Husbands	Wendy Williams	
	BRAVO	65	63		41		Millionaire		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Millionaire (N)		Watch (N)	Millionaire		Atlanta
	CNBC	46	45		39	72	American Greed		Shark Tank		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		American Greed	
	CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Inside Man (N)		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		M. Spurlock Inside	
	DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska: Kilchers	
	DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Girl	Austin	★★★ Hop Russell Brand.		(:40) Girl		(:05) Jessie	Liv/Mad	Dog Blog	A.N.T.	GoodLuck	GoodLuck
	ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball (L)				Winter X Games 19 (L)				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
	ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball (L)				NCAA Basketball Arizona vs. Stanford (L)				ITF Tennis Australian Open Third Round (L)			
	FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	(5:30) ★★★ Bruce Almighty		★★★ Pretty Woman ('90, Rom) Richard Gere.						The 700 Club		Boy MW	Boy MW
	FNC	45	58	53	23	55	On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File	
	FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped Canada (N)		Beat Flay	Beat Flay	Diners...	Diners...	Chopped Canada	
	FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	NCAA Basketball Xavier vs. Providence (L)				NCAA Basketball University of Texas at El Paso vs. Western Kentucky (L)				Bear Bryant Award Show (N)		ACC (N)	SportsDay OnAir
	FX	31	31	59	64	69	Movie	★★★ 21 Jump Street ('12, Act) Jonah Hill.					Archer (N)	Archer	Archer	★★★ 21 Jump Street		
	HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	Waltons	"The Legacy"	The Waltons		Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	Rehab	Rehab	Rehab (N)	Rehab	H.Hunt	House	H.Hunt	House	Rehab	Rehab
	HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pawn S.	Pawn Star	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn (N)	Pawn (N)	Pawnog.	Pawnog.	(:05) Pawn	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.
	LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	Project Runway "Making a Splash"		Runway "Sketching with Sharks"		Runway "Versatile Tops and Bottoms" (N)		Little Women: LA "A Little Fired Up"		Big Women "Exes and Hot Messes"		Runway "Sketching with Sharks"	
	MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word		All in With C. Hayes		Rachel Maddow	
	NBCSN	38	39				NCAA Basketball George Wash. vs Fordham (L)				NFL Turning Point		Mecum Auctions: Collector Cars and More (N)					
	NICK	55	34	39	34	37	WitchWay	Sam & Cat	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends	(:10) Ray	(:50) Ray
	SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	(5:00) ★★★ The One		★ The Man With the Iron Fists ('12, Act) Russell Crowe.				★★ Ninja Assassin ('09, Act) Kim Ki Duk, Sung Kang.					
	SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	(4:05) ★ Indiana Jo...		WWE Smackdown! (N)				★★ Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull					
	TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Sein. "The Susie"	Seinf. "The Pothole"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan (N)		The Office	Conan
	TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(5:30) ★ Fools for S...		★★★★ Singin' in the Rain Gene Kelly.				★★★ The Catered Affair		(:45) ★★★ The Mating Game			
	TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Los miserables		Tierra de reyes		Dueños del paraiso		Al rojo (N)	Titular.	Tierra de reyes	
	TLC	51	33	32	38	52	48 Hours: Evidence "The Usual Suspect"		48 Hours: Evidence "AKA Rockefeller" (N)		48 Hours: Evidence "Last Chance" (N)		48 Hours: Hard "The Perfect Family" (N)		48 Hours: Evidence "Last Chance"		48 Hours: Evidence "The Perfect Family"	
	TNT	24	23	40	26	50	NBA Tip-Off (L)		NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Chicago Bulls Site: United Center -- Chicago, Ill. (L)				NBA Basketball Brooklyn Nets at Los Angeles Clippers Site: Staples Center -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)					
	TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Walker, Texas Ranger		Fam.Feud	Fam.Feud	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends
	USA	26	30	42	27	49	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Perfect"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Dreams Deferred"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Beautiful Frame"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Criminal Hatred"		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family "Chim"	Modern Family
	WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Wrestling	Wrestling	Wrestling	Wrestling	Rules of Engage.	Rules of Engage.

Patrick Reed set for Humana Challenge title defense

By John Nicholson
Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Patrick Reed left everyone behind last year in the Humana Challenge. This year, he's trying not to get too far ahead of himself.

"That's one thing I'm going to do, hopefully, different this time than I did last time defending," said Reed, set to begin his title defense Thursday.

In his first career defense, Reed tied for 24th in the Wyndham Championship in August.

Last year in the desert, Reed shot three 63s to open a seven-shot lead and closed with a 71 for a two-stroke victory. He admitted he was too conservative in the final round after breaking the PGA Tour record for relation to par for the first 54 holes at 27 under, and becoming the first player to open with three rounds of 63 or better.

"Instead of attacking flags like I did the first three days, I started to play to the middle of greens," Reed said. "You need to stick to your game plan and keep firing hard."

The 24-year-old Reed is coming off a playoff victory over Jimmy Walker two weeks ago in Hawaii in the Tournament of Champions. Reed has four victories in his last 35 tour starts.

"The confidence is growing and growing," Reed said. "If I have a bad round or if I'm struggling, I still have that confidence level to keep going and turn a 75 into a 72 or a 71."

He and wife Justine stayed at Kapalua last week for a vacation.

"Worked on my forehead tan," Reed joked. "Seemed like that got more attention than the actual golf game. ... Played like 13 holes, that's it — through the whole week."

Phil Mickelson is back, too, after skipping the event last year.

Making his first start since the Ryder Cup in September, Lefty stayed away from the three tournament courses before the first round and wasn't available for comment. He played in Ben Crane's charity event Tuesday at the nearby Madison Club and practiced there Wednesday.

Mickelson worked with trainer Sean Cochran during his long offseason.

"I'm getting lighter, developing more core strength and speed and increasing my ball speed," Mickelson said on his website.

The 44-year-old Mickelson, the 2002 and 2004 champion, is winless in 27 PGA Tour starts since the 2013 British Open.

"Not winning made it the worst year of my career," Mickelson said on his website. "It was a bad year statistically in all areas."

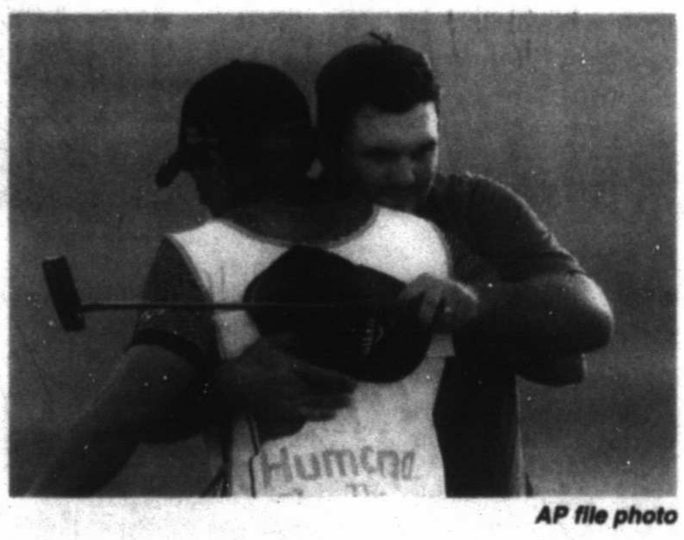
The tournament, long known as the Bob Hope Classic, is in the midst of more sweeping changes. Humana is in its final year as the title sponsor and PGA West's Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus private layouts also are dropping out after the event.

"That's a bummer," Keegan Bradley said. "There's a lot of history on those two courses."

The tournament was shortened from 90 to 72 holes in 2012 and the celebrity portion of the pro-am field was dropped last year, with only a few "special guests" left.

The perfect conditions, mountain views and low scores remain, though wind could be a factor.

Temperatures are expected to reach 73 the first two days, with wind at 7-15 mph Thursday and 5-10 mph Friday. Forecasters expect a high of 80 on Saturday with wind gusts of 20 mph, and a high of 83 on Sunday with wind at 7-15 mph. Morning frost is a slight possibility Friday and Saturday.



AP file photo

Patrick Reed, right, hugs his caddie Kessler Karain after winning the Humana Challenge golf tournament on the Palmer Private course at PGA West in La Quinta, Calif., in 2014. Reed left everyone behind last year in the Humana Challenge. This year, he's trying not to get too far ahead of himself.

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1.22

How Pats ball boy became America's Most Wanted

JIM LITKE
Associated Press

The most wanted rule-breaker in America today is a New England Patriots ball boy.

So whether you think "Deflategate" is a big deal or not, consider this: If the allegations are true, the fall guy won't be the quarterback married to a supermodel or the multimillionaire coach.

Just like the last time the Patriots were caught cheating, a more expendable member of the family will take the blame.

Last time, that was Matt Walsh, the only guy fired after "Spygate," when the Patriots videotaped other teams' coaches to steal hand signals. Coach Bill Belichick said he interpreted the rules wrongly, claimed he couldn't pick video staffer Walsh out of a lineup, paid his fine and continued coaching as if nothing had happened.

Now, the Patriots are accused of deflating footballs to make them easier to throw and catch. Once again, the organization has gone hush-hush from top to bottom, including how the footballs are handled.

But somewhere, locked inside a janitor's closet somewhere deep in the bowels of Gillette Stadium, there's probably another young staffer waiting to be sacrificed. He's the ball boy the Patriots are sure to single out as the mastermind behind it all. You can imagine him, texting his parents.

"Won't see you for dinner tonight — or maybe ever. We got caught. Somebody's got to take the fall. Can you tell Dad and write a note to school and explain I won't be back?"

He probably thought catching passes from Tom Brady would be all fun and games. But when there's trouble, the Patriots circle the wagons. Ball boys don't get invited inside. The best he can hope for at this point is a new identity.

Think about it: Where else have you seen a bunch of guys with lots of rings kissing the boss and each other as much as the Patriots do? Like the Corleones, it's just business, from owner Robert Kraft on down.

Ball boys are expendable, and when the Patriots blame one -— as Southern Cal did when the Trojans were caught doing the same thing in 2012 — take it with an industrial-sized dose of salt.

Would a ball boy deflate balls illegally after they were approved by the referees without asking Belichick or Brady for permission?

Well, Brady apparently likes his footballs on the soft side, particularly in rainy conditions like those from Sunday's AFC title game 45-7 victory over the Colts. So if the reports are correct, and if the NFL found 11 of the 12 Patriots' footballs were under-inflated, the only thing Belichick would be mad about — at least at first — is how the kid got that 12th ball wrong.

Belichick and Brady likely were careful enough never to ask anyone directly to take air out of balls. Maybe they learned about buffers from the Corleones, too. Maybe that wish was relayed through nothing more damning than winks and nods.

But plausible deniability won't fly in in this case. They knew the rules, and if opponents thought the footballs they were intercepting seemed flat, what are the chances the Patriots didn't?

Never fear. Now that the NFL's crack security team is on the case, the mystery will be solved any day now. Those guys, after all, never get anything wrong.

Remember how quickly they found the Ray Rice videotape? Or how they took care of bounty accusations in New Orleans without a hiccup?

OK, so the game was over Sunday, and they still haven't finished examining 12 footballs. But now Commissioner Roger Goodell is on the case, and he's known for getting rid of a crisis quickly and efficiently, just as he has handled every crisis this season.

Or not.

Now imagine the ball boy's mother promising to go all the way up the food chain if necessary to get her son — whom we'll call Dave — out of trouble.

"But first, David, tell me where your baby pictures are. One of the guys from the news trucks parked on the lawn is asking."

"That's the last thing, mom. Don't call me David anymore. My new name is Drew."

"Drew."

"Drew Bledsoe. Coach Belichick told me nobody would remember that name."

In his 12th season, Williams finally gets Super Bowl trip

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

AP file photo

Seattle Seahawks defensive tackle Kevin Williams reacts to a play against the St. Louis Rams in the second half of an NFL football game on Dec. 28 in Seattle. After 12 seasons, former All-Pro Kevin Williams is finally headed to the Super Bowl with the Seattle Seahawks. When Williams was making his offseason decision on where to play, his final two choices were Seattle and New England.

RENTON, Wash. — Because he had never experienced the moment before, Kevin Williams was at a loss for what to do.

Teammate Michael Bennett was riding around on a borrowed police bicycle. Other Seahawks were all piling around Jermaine Kearse, who had just caught the winning touchdown in overtime to send Seattle to a second straight Super Bowl.

Williams decided his celebration for finally making the Super Bowl in his 12th NFL season was simply to run around like a kid.

"I was still kind of in awe and soaking it in and to get the win in the NFC championship and be headed to the Super Bowl, that's a long time coming for me," Williams said Wednesday. "A lot of guys don't understand the playoffs. If you went to a San Francisco or a Seattle you might think that's an every year thing, but I was just soaking it all in."

Williams is the elder statesman on this Super Bowl-bound Seahawks roster. He's the oldest and longest-tenured player, but after 11 seasons in Minnesota and only making one NFC championship game with the Vikings, Williams is finally getting a trip to the title game.

"Right after the game I seen him and I started yelling at him, 'This is what you came here for,'" Seattle defensive end Cliff Avril said. "It was just awesome to be able to help a veteran like him who has done so much but hasn't been able to get here thus far. It's awesome that we could help and be a part of something so special for him."

Williams' role has changed significantly from when he signed with the Seahawks in the offseason. Williams was supposed to be part of a rotation at defensive tackle. That all changed when Brandon Mebane was lost for the season to a torn hamstring and Williams became Seattle's option at nose tackle.

It was an unfamiliar position, but a challenge Williams was willing to take on. And his improvement as a nose tackle, especially stopping the run, was evident on two key plays late in the fourth quarter of Seattle's rally against Green Bay. After Russell Wilson's fourth interception, the Seahawks immediately forced a three-and-out. Williams and Bennett stuffed Eddie Lacy on the first two plays for negative gains and the Seahawks were able to get the ball back with enough time to stage their rally.

"You could see the guys on the sideline they wanted the clock to move fast," Williams said. "You cannot flinch in this game and I think that's what happened."

Of course, this NFC championship game had Williams flashing back to the only other one he played, in January 2010 with the Vikings against New Orleans. Minnesota was in position to win the game in regulation before a late interception forced overtime, where the Saints won.

There was no turnover this time. Seattle had already scored twice, including recovering an onside kick, and led 22-19 with 1:24 left. But the Packers were able to get a tying field goal and force OT.

"Once we got that onside kick I was like, 'We're going to win this game,'" Williams said. "That was everybody's kind of thought. We never gave up on thinking we could win the game."

Jon Kitna leaving Tacoma alma mater to coach in Texas

Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — Former NFL quarterback Jon Kitna who returned to Tacoma, Washington, to coach football at his old high school is leaving.

The News Tribune reported the 42-year-old resigned Wednesday after three seasons at Lincoln High School.

KING reported Kitna will be the next head coach at Waxahachie High School in Waxahachie, Texas, a 5A school near Dallas.

The Central Washington University graduate played for the Cowboys during his 16-year career that also included stops at Seattle, Cincinnati and Detroit.

The News Tribune reports Kitna is taking some Lincoln assistant coaches with him, as well as his son, Jordan, who led the state in passing touchdowns for the Abes with 55. He will be a senior quarterback next fall.

Small-school prospects angling for NFL jobs at Senior Bowl

Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Players from schools like tiny Hobart College are competing against major-college players at the Senior Bowl.

All have the same goal: NFL careers.

Hobart offensive lineman Ali Marpet came from the private liberal arts college in upstate New York to Alabama to try to enhance his draft prospects.

Marpet says it's great to be there "but I do want to show that I can dominate this level of competition."

There are 14 players from levels below FBS, including Southeastern Louisiana quarterback Bryan Bennett. The Oregon transfer joined the South Wednesday to replace Auburn's Nick Marshall, who moved to defensive back.

Norfolk State linebacker/defensive end Lynden Trail says that, "Yes, I am a small-school guy but at the same time I am able to play with major D-1 prospects as well."

Colts' Luck, Cowboys' Romo top picks in Pro Bowl draft

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Like sandlot players when they were kids, Hall of Famers Chris Carter and Michael Irvin chose sides on Wednesday night.

This time, they were drafting some of the best football players in the game for Team Carter and Team Irvin in their Pro Bowl matchup on Sunday.

Quarterback Andrew Luck of Indianapolis went No. 1 to Team Carter. Irvin chose Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo as No. 2.

They were the only two quarterbacks left from the original Pro Bowl roster. The other six bowed out.

The NFL scrapped its AFC vs. NFC format and went to the current system a year ago. The game is being played for one year in Glendale, Arizona, site of next week's Super Bowl, and will return to Hawaii next season.

Jets' new era takes flight as Bowles, Maccagnan introduced

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — No bold statements. No wild guarantees.

Just two serious football guys from New Jersey aiming to turn the New York Jets' fortunes around.

Coach Todd Bowles and general manager Mike Maccagnan presented a united front as a new era took flight for the Jets on Wednesday during a packed and mostly low-key news conference that formally introduced the pair.

"Going forward," Bowles said with a big smile, "it's going to be a dream working with this guy."

Maccagnan was hired last Tuesday to replace the fired John Idzik. Bowles was signed a day later to replace Rex Ryan.

And unlike Ryan's first brash, headline-making news conference with the Jets in 2009, the more understated Bowles offered no Super Bowl guarantees but rather modest goals focused on restoring a winning approach to a franchise that has missed the playoffs for four straight seasons.

"We're going to be a tough team," Bowles promised, "an intelligent team. We're going to do things the right way. We're going to try to build a championship team here, and that's my only job."

A few months into his tenure, Ryan declared that he didn't come to New York to "kiss (Bill) Belichick's rings." Bowles was asked about those same rings, and managed to not provide the New England Patriots with any bulletin board material.

"I'm going to work on getting my own rings," he said. "They're at the top of the division. That's why they're in the Super Bowl. That's something that you're striving to get to, and that's what we're going to work toward."

The former Arizona Cardinals defensive coordinator also insisted that he will bring a new attitude to his players, a winning approach that's sorely needed after a 4-12 season.

"We have to teach them our culture," Bowles said. "Not that the other culture was bad, but it didn't win."

This is a homecoming of sorts for both Bowles, who grew up in Elizabeth, about 19 miles southeast of the facility and was the Jets' secondary coach in 2000, and Maccagnan, who's from Hightstown, about 50 miles south of team headquarters. They both know the history of the franchise, from Broadway Joe making good on his Super Bowl guarantee in 1969 to the Jets' failure to make the big game since.

Both Bowles and Maccagnan used the word "dream" when they described their opportunity, and owner Woody Johnson declared that his two big hires were the perfect hires to get things turned around.

"These gentlemen, in my estimation," Johnson said, "are the people."

Maccagnan, Houston's former director of college scouting, said there's "a good foundation in place" on the Jets' roster, and he typically would like to build through the draft but indicated the team is still formulating its offseason approach.

All three men sat at a table in front of the team's auditorium — appropriately decked out in green ties — and preached the value of being on the same page. Johnson also made it clear that he likes the idea that Bowles will be focused on all three phases of the team — defense, offense and special teams — something that the defensive-minded Ryan was often criticized for not doing.

Bowles, who spent the last two seasons running Arizona's defense, won't be calling the plays on defense; that'll be up to his still-unnamed coordinator, but he'll have input. Same for the offense, which will be run by Chan Gailey, who was hired Tuesday after being a "priority" for Bowles because of his ability to "get the most out of" his players.

Bowles seemed to loosen up as the news conference went along, cracking a few jokes along the way and showing off some of his personality. When asked to describe himself, Bowles had the room laughing.

"There's a sarcastic side," he said, smiling. "There's a comedy side. There's a serious side. I'm sort of the male Sybil, so to speak."

Maccagnan was mostly soft-spoken and all business when he took questions. He reminisced about when he and Bowles met while they were with the Redskins in the late-1980s, back when Maccagnan was an intern in the front office, and Bowles was a safety.

BELICHICK

From 1C

England before being cut and re-signing with the Dolphins.

Belichick also likes to tweak the NFL on injury reports. For years, he listed Tom Brady as "probable" even though he didn't miss practice and played the games. And he's been known to list close to 20 players on the report, most with minor ailments.

And one week before questions of air pressure, some people questioned whether Belichick was bending the rules in a playoff win against Baltimore by using a four-man offensive linemen formation for three plays on a touchdown drive that helped the Patriots rally from a 14-point deficit. The formation — a backup tight end lined up as a tackle-eligible and a running back lined up as an ineligible receiver split wide — wasn't illegal, only creative and intentionally deceptive.

The NFL continued its investigation Wednesday into whether the Patriots snuck underinflated footballs into their 45-7 win against the Colts. Underinflated balls are considered easier to throw and catch, and the league has strict protocols for air pressure and who can handle footballs before and during games. Each team provides its own footballs for use on offense, which are inspected. Tampering or switching footballs can result in $25,000 fines, or worse.

"We are continuing our review and will provide information as soon as possible," league spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

ESPN reported Tuesday night, citing anonymous sources, that the NFL found 11 of 12 footballs provided by the Patriots were not properly inflated, while balls used by the Colts on offense met league standards.

The issue has drawn strong reaction from players, league executives and other NFL personalities who are debating whether the issue affected the Pats-Colts matchup and the sport itself.

Colts linebacker Erik Walden said on Twitter: "patriots motto 'if u ain't cheating then u ain't tryin'" before following up by saying the Patriots deserved credit for the win.

His teammate Dwayne Allen tweeted, in part: "They could have played with soap for balls and beat us. Simply the better team."

Pittsburgh Steelers President Art Rooney said he wouldn't consider this matter "serious," saying kickers used to manipulate footballs.

TODAY: Cloudy High: 34 Low: 26

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny High: 44 Low: 26

SATURDAY: Mostly sunny High: 54 Low: 32

SUNDAY: Sunny High: 61 Low: 36

MONDAY: Sunny High: 64 Low: 40

TUESDAY: Sunny High: 65 Low: 41

Local forecast

Expect cloudy skies today with a high around 34 and northeast winds about 15 mph. There is a 90 percent chance of snow tonight. Tonight's forecast also calls for a low around 26 and northeast winds between 5-15 mph.

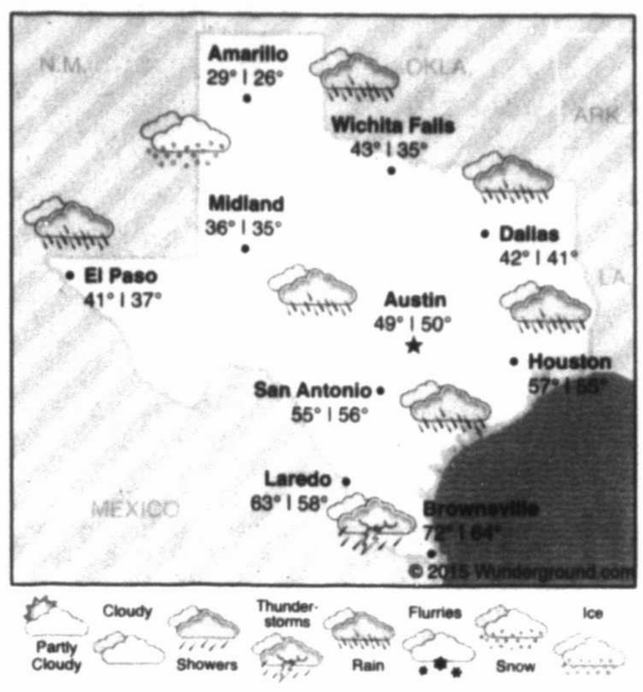
On Friday, look for mostly sunny skies with a high near 44 and west winds 5 mph. There is a 20 percent chance of snow before noon. Friday night skies will be mostly clear with a low around 26 and a 20 percent chance of rain before 7 p.m.

The high on Wednesday reached 46, while the low dropped to 34. The record high for Jan. 21 is 83 set in 1950. The record low is 2 set in 1966.

National forecast

Spotty flurries will occur in southeastern New England today as a recent Alberta Clipper storm moves away. Spotty snow showers are forecast to affect areas from the lower Great Lakes to the central Appalachians, with a northwest air flow in the wake of the storm.

Much of the area from the northern Plains to the middle and southern Atlantic Coast will have sunshine and seasonable temperatures. A trend of cooling temperatures will continue in the South.



Precipitation

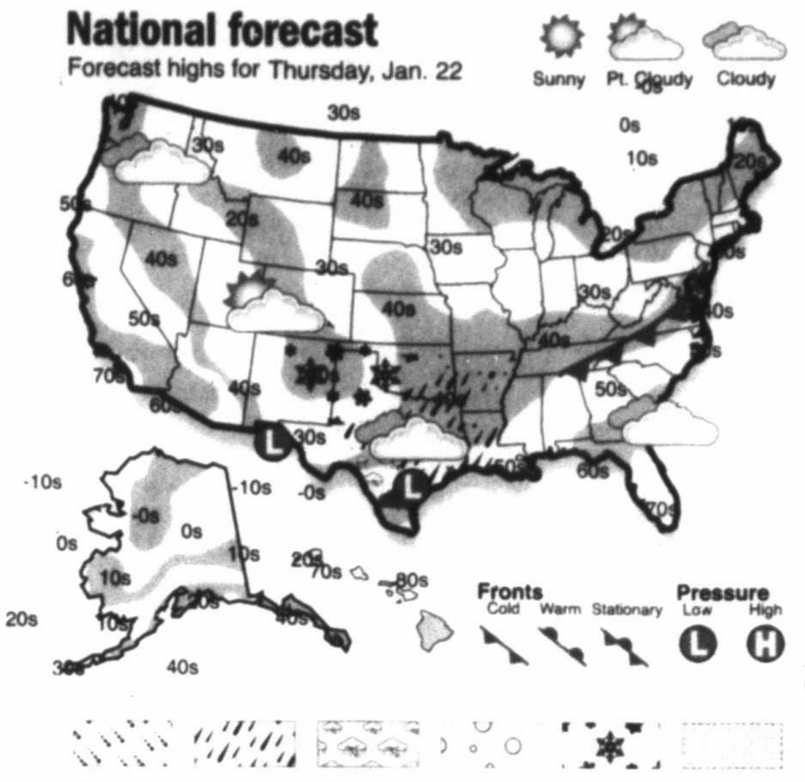
Saturday	0.00 in.
Sunday	0.00 in.
Month total	1.53 in.
Year total	1.53 in.
Normal total (year to date)	0.24 in.

Wednesday's temperatures

High	46
Low	34
Normal high	58
Normal low	31
Sunrise	7:47 a.m.
Sunset	6:13 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, Jan. 22



Readers share many reasons for choosing to be cremated

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: I just finished the letter from "Plotting and Planning in Arizona" (Oct. 5), regarding why cremation is so popular. There are also other reasons.

My father, a WWII veteran, had planned to be buried in a national veterans' cemetery. After his death we were informed that the only option currently available was interment in the veterans' wall of honor columbarium, because the cemetery had run out of space for traditional burials. — PROUD DAUGHTER OF WWII VET

DEAR PROUD DAUGHTER: "Plotting and Planning" guessed one reason was cost, while another might be that we live in a more mobile society. Readers agreed, but offered additional input:

DEAR ABBY: Several people I know prefer cremation because they are claustrophobic. Even the thought of being shut up in a casket gives them the heebie-jeebies. — DAVID IN EAST MOLINE, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: Rather than be buried in a cemetery ($$$) or be cremated (my kids objected), I'm donating my body to medical science. I have degenerative arthritis, asthma and other minor conditions. Perhaps by doing this, I can help one of my own or someone else, contribute to medical science and prolong a few lives. — CAROL IN LONG BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: A few reasons why I have requested cremation: First, due to modern technology, it is now possible to take a portion of one's cremains and turn them into diamondlike gems, one of which I'd like to leave to my dear mother-in-law to be.

Second, because of the proliferation of fine miniurns — which may be used as jewelry — I intend to have a portion of my ashes distributed to a few of the women who have touched my life in various ways over the years. I feel it is not only my right but also my duty to avoid saddling others with the exorbitant costs of today's funeral extravaganzas. — KIFFIN, THE PRAGMATIST

DEAR ABBY: Cremation has a lot going for it. "Green burials" are becoming more popular. You can be wrapped in a shroud and buried in the ground. No chemicals, everything is biodegradable — ashes to ashes, dust to dust. — KEEP IT NATURAL

DEAR ABBY: Being an avid scuba diver, I have instructed my family that I wish to be cremated and my ashes turned into part of the memorial reef by the Neptune Society. This will help to create an underwater reef system not only for fish, but for divers to enjoy. That way, I'll be able to return to nature, give divers a place to enjoy and forever be back in the water that I have always loved. — SCUBA SHELL

DEAR ABBY: I'm opting for cremation when my time comes. I don't want to be dug up in the future for someone's science project, grave robbers or archaeologists. I have "urned" my rest. — RALPHEE IN ALABAMA

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Larry's foresight

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 5
♡ Q J
♢ A K 10 7 2
♣ 10 5 4

WEST
♠ J 4
♡ K 9 5 3
♢ J 8 4
♣ K J 9 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 3
♡ 8 6 4
♢ 9 6 5
♣ A 8 6 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 7 6 2
♡ A 10 7 2
♢ Q 3
♣ Q 7

The bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3	Pass
4♠	All pass		

Opening lead: Three of ♣

The usual gang was battling it out in the club's Saturday night duplicate. When Hard Luck Louie played this deal, the defense started with three rounds of clubs. Louie ruffed the third round low, cashed the ace and king of trumps, then started on the diamonds. He was temporarily delighted when diamonds split 3-3, but East ruffed the fourth diamond and shifted to a low heart. There was a good diamond sitting there in dummy, but there was no entry to it. Louie took the heart finesse and finished down one.

"I thought my luck had changed when the diamonds split 3-3," said Louie. "I should have known better. Couldn't West have held the last trump?"

Lucky Larry played the same hand against a defense that also started with three rounds of clubs. Larry saw the danger, however, and he was careful to ruff the third club with the six of trumps. He cashed dummy's ace and king of trumps, playing the seven and eight from his hand. East also ruffed the fourth round of diamonds and shifted to a heart, but Larry's foresight paid off! He rose with his ace of hearts and crossed to dummy by leading the two of trumps to dummy's five. The last diamond took care of his last heart and the contract came home.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015:

This year you often need to regroup and reassess what is going on around you. Clarify and confirm messages, agreements and meetings in order to avoid misunderstandings. Be careful with spending, as you are prone to go overboard when you are upset or angry. If you are single, the next 12 months will introduce you to someone quite special and unique. You will know when you meet this person. If you are attached, the two of you tend to go off on wild goose chases, and have a great time doing it. What you want as a couple can be manifested this year. PISCES adds to your creativity.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ You might be holding back some strong feelings that you normally would be uncomfortable sitting on. A serious discussion with a friend who offers a fresh perspective will help you focus on what would be the best way to handle this whirlwind of emotions. Tonight: Play it low-key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ A friend will play a strong role in your plans. Be careful, as this person could be unusually pushy. You might wonder which way to turn. A partner who seems closed off probably won't encourage a discussion, even if it involves him or her directly. Tonight: Do what you want to do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Take the lead, and you are likely to have more say in the outcome. You might have a lot of ideas that you want to throw into the mix. Look at what will bring you the greatest sense of well-being. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You have a vision that many people can't seem to understand. You know what you want and how to create it. Those around you might not have the ability to conjure up such a vision. Make a call, but do not stand on ceremony. Tonight: Don't push beyond your normal limits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Make it a point to deal with someone directly. You will get a strong reaction, no matter what you say to this person. Understand that this belligerent behavior has nothing to do with you. Tonight: Talk through recent events over dinner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Make it your pleasure to defer to someone else. This person is likely to be eager to want to help. Try to stay out of this process. A family member or a situation involving property could limit or substantially curb your options. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You might have a strong idea about how to proceed in a situation that affects your daily life. Allow your imagination to find the right path. Ask yourself some questions, especially involving a project and your involvement. Tonight: Put up your feet and relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Work with a creative idea. You will see the difference when you don't hold yourself back so much. You might not want to invest too much money in this project. Know when to step back and become less involved. Establish limits. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Tension could build between you and a family member because of certain demands. Practice saying "no!" At the same time, note that this person can be unusually creative and is likely to come up with several good ideas. Tonight: Lie low.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ You'll want to share some ideas you have kept to yourself once you discover that you have a receptive audience. You might trigger a brainstorming session and get important feedback. Your intuition will guide you with a money matter. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Be conscious of your spending habits. It will be almost too easy to say "yes" to any proposal that heads your way. You might want to put the kibosh on some wild purchases or investments right now. A friend will support you in nixing a risk. Tonight: Pay bills first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You'll have a lot of energy invested in finishing up a project. You might be very busy and somewhat demanding. You want the situation to be exactly the way you want. Be aware of your reaction when you don't get what you want! Tonight: Be nice.

BORN TODAY

Statesman Francis Bacon (1561), self-proclaimed "holy man" Grigori Rasputin (1869), actor Bill Bixby (1934)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Modern "Keep in touch!"
7 Ann's sister
11 Extras may comprise one
14 Tennis star Gibson
15 The real thing, so to speak
17 Riddles
18 Regretting a wild night, maybe
19 "Beginning
21 Field of study
24 "We __ Family": 1979 hit
25 Tamper
26 "They carry remainders
31 Org. where weight matters
32 Without __: riskily
33 On a streak
36 Capp and Capone
37 Syr. neighbor
38 Jueves, por ejemplo
39 Natural resource
40 Tease
42 Vibrater in a wind
43 Like Gen. Powell
44 "Bike safety device
47 __ Men: "Who Let the Dogs Out" band
49 Edible Asian shoot
50 Greek mount
51 "The rest
56 Burns poem that starts, "Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie"
57 Time of your life
61 Marching band instrument
62 Mill around
63 Passing stat.
64 Egyptian symbols of royalty
65 Both words in each answer to a starred clue begin and end with the same one

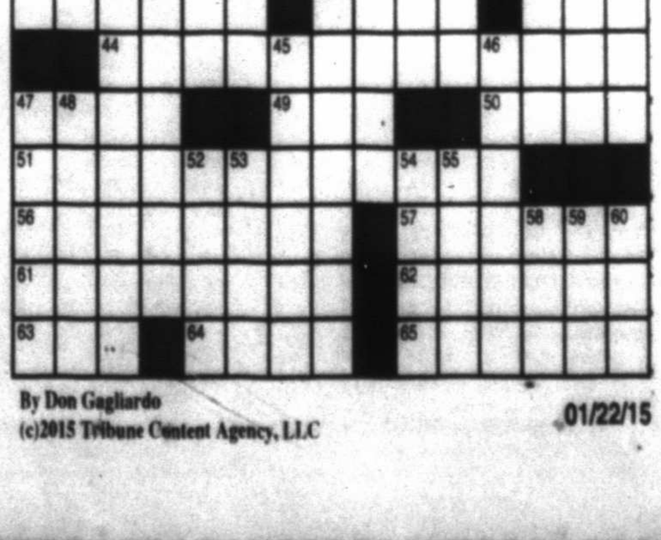
DOWN

1 Keep time, in a way
2 Symphonic rock gp.
3 Cadillac sedan
4 Store to "fall into," in old ads
5 Scant
6 First word of the chorus of "The Sidewalks of New York"
7 Parched
8 Dark-haired guy
9 Cask stopper
10 Safecracker
11 Some Cannes films
12 They have hoods and racks
13 Cold-water hazards
16 Was impending
20 Perp subduer
21 Egyptian dam
22 100 kopecks
23 Parts opposite points
27 First name in women's boxing
28 Racing family name
29 Bay window
30 Aptly named novelist
34 Easily crumbled cookies
35 Betta tankmate
38 "Colonel Jack" novelist
41 "Oh, my!"
42 Uses, as credit card rewards
45 Amasses
46 Work on together, in a way
47 LPGA great Rawls
48 Stay clear of
52 "The boy you __ trained, gone he is" speaker
53 Shaving word
54 Relax
55 Blackthorn fruit
58 QB's stat
59 Turn right
60 Go wrong

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/22/15



By Don Gagliardo
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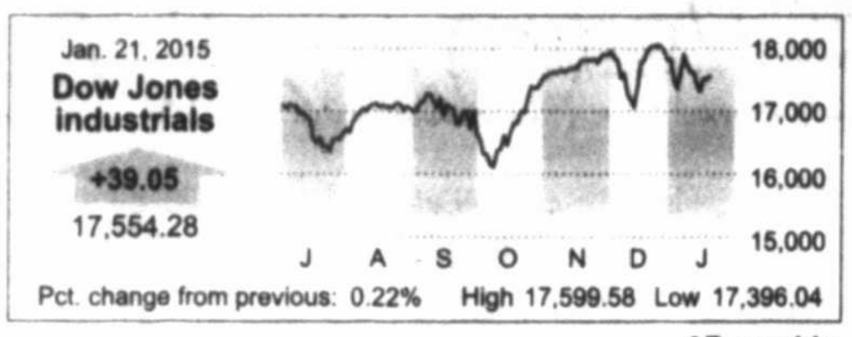
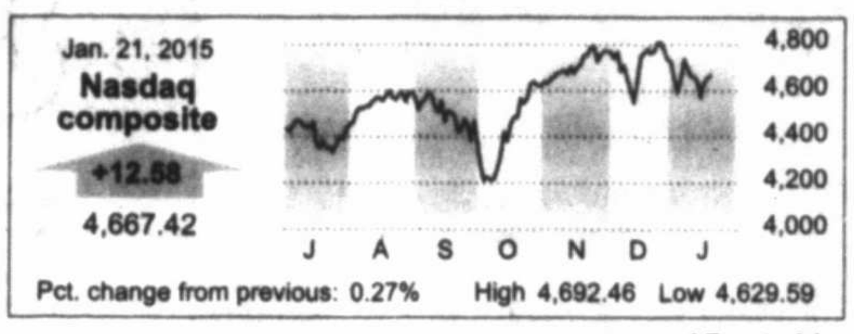
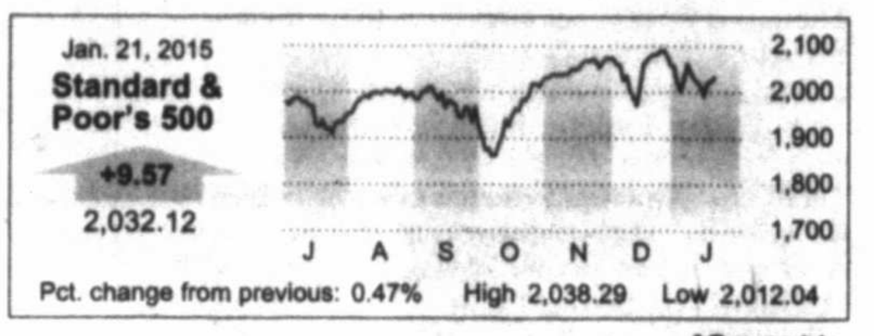
A DAY ON WALL STREET



AP graphic



AP graphic



AP graphic

OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Wednesday: $47.78
Previous: $46.39

POSTED
Wednesday: $44.25
Previous: $42.50

WEST TEXAS SOUR
Wednesday: $40.30
Previous: $38.55

NATURAL GAS
Wednesday: $2.974
Previous: $2.831

Microsoft shows off Windows 10 along with its 'HoloLens'

Associated Press

REDMOND, Wash. — Microsoft on Wednesday took the wraps off a new version of Windows — and a new wearable 3D gadget it calls the HoloLens.

The company showed the new headset, which lets users view and interact with three-dimensional images, at an event where it also revealed new features coming to the company's flagship operating software.

Executives said Windows 10 is designed to embrace the way people use computers today — offering a familiar experience as they switch back and forth from personal computers to tablets, smartphones and other gadgets such as gaming consoles or even holographic projectors.

While it's designed to let apps work in similar fashion on all those devices, Windows 10 will also come with a new Web browser that will be closely integrated with Cortana, the company's voice-activated answer to Siri. Microsoft is expanding Cortana to serve as a search engine and personal assistant, capable of answering questions and responding to commands such as "Play music" on desktop and laptop computers, as well as mobile devices.

And in a break from past practice, Microsoft announced that Windows 10 will be released later this year as a free upgrade for anyone owning a computer or gadget that's currently running Windows 8.1 or 7, the two previous versions of the software.

Microsoft is making a big bet that Windows 10 will help it regain ground the company has lost to the mobile computing boom. Windows has long been the dominating operating software for desktop and laptop computers, but that business has suffered as more people have begun using smartphones and tablets. Microsoft tried to reach those users by emphasizing touch-screen features in its last update, Windows 8, but many traditional PC users found it jarring and difficult to navigate.

Hoping to win back a larger audience, Microsoft is promising Windows 10 will provide a familiar experience to users on across devices, and a common platform for software developers to create apps that work on all of them.

"Windows 10 is built for a world in which there are going to be more devices on the planet than people," CEO Satya Nadella told reporters and industry analysts at Microsoft's headquarters. He said Microsoft wants to "enable that seamless cross-over, across devices as you move around at home and at work."

S&P settles with SEC

Standard & Poor's agreed on Wednesday to pay the U.S. government and two states more than $77 million to settle charges tied to its ratings of mortgage-backed securities.

In its first enforcement action against a major rating agency, the Securities and Exchange Commission accused S&P of fraudulent misconduct, saying the company loosened standards to drum up business in recent years. The agreement requires S&P to pay more than $58 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission, $12 million to New York and $7 million to Massachusetts.

"These settlements involve findings of intentional fraud in 2011 and 2012, well after the financial crisis," said Andrew Ceresney, director of the SEC's enforcement division, on a call with reporters. "The financial crisis may be behind us, but these cases are an important reminder that the race-to-the-bottom behavior exists even though the financial crisis has ended."

S&P said in a statement that it did not admit or deny any of the charges.

It's likely the first in a line of settlements between S&P and government agencies. In 2013, the Justice Department and attorneys general from other states filed civil lawsuits against the company for misrepresenting risks in the years leading up to the financial crisis.

NYSE

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
S&P500ETF	1119720	203.08	+1.03
BkofAm	994333	15.41	+.15
FXCM	925178	2.33	+.73
iShEMkts	715111	40.30	+.87
MktVGold	568242	22.54	-.40

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
FXCM	2.33	+.73	+45.6
RhinoRes	2.29	+.42	+22.5
Oi SA C wi	2.68	+.45	+20.2
Oi SA s	2.44	+.38	+18.4
Insperity	41.24	+4.90	+13.5

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
EldorGld g	6.21	-1.57	-20.2
Frontline	2.97	-.57	-16.1
MFC Indi	4.37	-.80	-15.5
Intrexon	28.40	-3.99	-12.3
PumaBiotc	191.90	-25.07	-11.6

Diary

Advanced	1,996
Declined	1,131
Unchanged	112
Total issues	3,239
New Highs	145
New Lows	60
Volume	3,631,966,890

Amex

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BiP Cmdty	83623	29.10	+.20
CFCda g	67776	13.57	+.34
AlldNevG	53722	1.30	-.05
NwGold g	50583	4.71	-.03
B2gold g	48909	2.20	-.11

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Tofutti	6.14	+.64	+11.5
GastarExp	2.23	+.20	+9.9
TriangPet	5.27	+.39	+8.0
Innsuites	2.86	+.21	+7.9
VoltInfoSci	12.05	+.75	+6.6

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
IssuerDir	9.40	-1.03	-9.9
Medgen wt	2.40	-.20	-7.7
SynergyRs	11.93	-.91	-7.1
Can-Fite	3.38	-.24	-6.6
MagHR pfD	23.35	-1.59	-6.4

Diary

Advanced	197
Declined	203
Unchanged	27
Total issues	427
New Highs	13
New Lows	18
Volume	114,920,521

Nasdaq

Most Active ($1 or more)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Apple Inc s	474268	109.55	+.83
SiriusXM	374308	3.57	+.08
Microsoft	361932	45.92	-.47
PwShs QQQ	342854	102.14	+.52
FifthThird	279763	17.53	-.55

Gainers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Nxt-ID	3.41	+.66	+24.0
MidConEn	5.70	+1.05	+22.7
Trnsgno rs	2.12	+.34	+19.1
Netflix	409.28	+60.48	+17.3
Altisrce n	24.71	+3.45	+16.2

Losers ($2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Advaxis wt	4.11	-3.16	-43.5
Advaxis	8.37	-3.39	-28.8
AcaciaTc	13.39	-2.59	-16.2
InglesMk h	40.10	-7.45	-15.7
Bellicum n	22.92	-3.51	-13.3

Diary

Advanced	1,146
Declined	1,581
Unchanged	129
Total issues	2,856
New Highs	46
New Lows	103
Volume	1,789,333,355

EBay to cut 2,400 jobs, spin off or sell its enterprise unit

Associated Press

NEW YORK — EBay plans to cut 2,400 jobs, or 7 percent of its staff, in the first quarter to simplify its structure and boost profit ahead of a planned separation of its business.

The e-commerce company on Wednesday also reported that its fourth-quarter net income rose 10 percent on continued strength of its PayPal payments business, which it expects to spin off in the second half of the year. Shares rose 2.4 percent in aftermarket trading.

The e-commerce company said Wednesday that the job cuts fall across its marketplaces, PayPal and enterprise businesses. The San Jose, California-based company announced plans Wednesday to spin off or sell the enterprise unit, which develops online shopping sites for brick-and-mortar retailers.

EBay has been under pressure to improve profitability from its largest activist investor, Carl Icahn, who has a nearly 8 percent stake in the company. On Wednesday eBay said it agreed to name an executive from Icahn's investment firm, Jonathan Christodoro, to its board.

Icahn has pushed eBay to sell off PayPal, which is eBay's best-performing unit. Total payment volume grew 24 percent in the fourth quarter and revenue rose to $2.2 billion, about 45 percent of total revenue for the quarter.

PayPal services $1 of every $6 dollars spent online. It collects fees from over 162 million users who use the online service to send money to other users and pay for goods and services in more than 200 markets.

Meanwhile, eBay said its net income in the October to December quarter came to $936 million, or 75 cents per share, from $850 million, or 65 cents per share in same quarter the year before. Earnings, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to 90 cents per share, beating the average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research of 89 cents per share.

Revenue rose 9 percent, to $4.92 billion from $4.53 billion. Analysts expected $4.93 billion, according to Zacks.

For the current quarter ending in March, eBay expects its per-share earnings to range from 68 cents to 71 cents and revenue of $4.35 billion to $4.45 billion.

MIDLAND STOCKS

Midland-Headquartered Publicly Traded Companies

Clayton Williams Energy (CWEI)
Closing Price $55.12 Up 1.37

Concho Resources (CXO)
Closing Price $108.49 Up 2.82

Dawson Geophysical (DWSN)
Closing Price $11.38 Up 0.27

Diamondback Energy (FANG)
Closing Price $68.54 Up 5.73

Legacy Reserves (LGCY)
Closing Price $8.81 Up 0.63

Mexco Energy (MXC)
Closing Price $4.52 Down 0.05

Natural Gas Services Group (NGS)
Closing Price $21.13 Up 0.51

RSP Permian (RSPP)
Closing Price $28.20 Up 2.05

Ring Energy (REI)
Closing Price $8.77 Up 0.33

Viper Energy Partners (VNOM)
Closing Price $16.99 Up 0.24

HOW STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST FARED

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	1.88f	10	34.00	+.05	+1.2
Abraxas	...	10	2.86	+.17	-2.7
AdamsEx	1.18e	...	13.56	+.04	-.9
AMD			2.45	+.21	-8.2
Alcoa	.12	84	15.92	+.37	+.8
Alibaba n			103.29	+3.25	-.6
AlonUSA	.40a	47	11.29	+.13	-10.9
Amgen	3.16f	25	157.38	-.22	-1.2
Anadarko	1.08	...	80.74	+2.97	-2.1
Apache	1.00	...	62.32	+2.16	-.6
Apple Inc s	1.88	17	109.55	+.83	-.8
ApldMatl	.40	27	24.32	+.69	-2.4
ArenaPhm	...	...	4.71	-.58	+35.7
ATMOS	1.56f	19	58.61	+.39	+5.1
AutoData	1.96f	28	84.56	-.41	+1.4
BP PLC	2.40f	6	38.82	+1.13	+1.8
BabsCCInv	1.20	...	16.08	-.31	+1.2
BakrHu	.68	14	58.33	+1.07	+4.0
BcoSantSA	.81e	...	7.04	-.02	-15.5
BkofAm	.20	44	15.41	+.15	-13.9
B iPVixST	...	...	33.45	-1.67	+6.2
BarrickG	.20	31	12.74	+.21	+18.5
BasicEnSv	...	89	6.22	+.56	-11.3
BerkHa A	...	17	220895.00	-1741.00	-2.3
BlkHillsCp	1.56	20	51.74	+.34	-2.5
BlackBerry	...	...	9.93	-.10	-9.6
BrMySq	1.48f	38	61.95	-.50	+4.9
BrownFA	1.26f	30	92.23	+.69	+5.1
BrownFB	1.26f	30	91.76	+.71	+4.5
CVS Health	1.40f	26	99.50	+1.13	+3.3
Cameron	...	12	44.45	+.71	-11.0
Caterpillar	2.80	14	85.37	+1.40	-6.7
Celestic g	...	12	11.27	-.04	-4.0
CntryLink	2.16	28	38.63	-.11	-2.4
ChesEng	.35	22	19.87	+.79	+1.5
Chevron	4.28	10	108.16	+1.69	-3.6
Chicos	.30	26	16.38	+.25	+1.0
Cimarex	.64	17	102.82	+4.20	-3.0
Cisco	.76	19	27.84	-.23	+.8
Citigroup	.04	22	47.74	+.48	-11.8
ClayEng	...	12	55.12	+1.37	-13.6
CocaCola	1.22	23	43.36	+.20	+2.7
ColgPalm	1.44	30	68.35	-.25	-1.2
ConAgra	1.00	...	36.24	-.03	-.1

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
ConchoRes	...	23	108.49	+2.82	+8.8
ConocoPhil	2.92	11	64.54	+1.35	-6.5
CrackerB	4.00	23	131.43	-1.29	-6.6
CSVLgNGs	...	...	3.74	+.23	-6.0
CSVLgCrde	...	...	3.06	+.13	-37.4
CSVelIVST	...	...	28.76	+1.27	-7.6
CSVixSht	...	...	3.07	-.30	+11.2
CrosTim	2.60e	7	19.97	+.80	+15.3
DCP Mid	3.08f	32	41.36	+1.71	-9.0
DTE	2.76	21	90.87	+.79	+5.2
Dataram	...	...	1.81	+.11	+6.5
Dawson	.32	...	11.38	+.27	-7.0
DeltaAir	.36	21	49.18	+.01	...
DevonE	.96	11	61.60	+1.96	+.6
DxGldBull	...	...	19.62	-1.02	+75.8
Disney	1.15f	22	94.17	-.57	...
DowChm	1.68f	15	44.74	+.61	-1.9
EOG Res s	.67	16	90.54	+1.21	-1.7
EldorGld g	.06e	41	6.21	-1.57	+2.1
EmpDist	1.04f	19	30.83	+.05	+3.7
Energen	.08m	25	65.70	+1.27	+3.0
EngyTsfr	3.90f	...	64.15	+1.53	-1.3
EnPro	.80	53	61.10	-1.07	-2.6
EntPrdPt s	1.48f	24	35.70	+1.47	-1.2
Ericsson	.46e	...	12.18	-.16	+.7
ExterranH	.60	19	28.59	+.41	-12.2
ExxonMbl	2.76	12	91.87	+.78	-.6
FXCM	.24	15	2.33	+.73	-85.9
Facebook	...	73	76.74	+.50	-1.6
FifthThird	.52	11	17.53	-.55	-14.0
FordM	.60f	10	14.97	-.04	-3.4
FrptMcM	1.25	9	19.85	+.58	-15.0
GATX	1.32	13	54.19	+.73	-6.8
GabMultT	1.05e	...	9.94	+.11	-.7
GAInv	3.50e	...	34.07	+.10	-2.7
GenElec	.92f	17	24.04	+.19	-4.9
GenMotors	1.20	22	33.89	-.04	-2.9
Goldcrp g	.60	...	24.44	+.20	+32.0
GtPlainEn	.98f	19	29.62	+.38	+4.3
HalconRes	...	...	1.22	+.13	-31.5
Hallibrtn	.72f	10	40.69	+.86	+3.5
HuntBncsh	.24f	14	9.76	-.01	-7.2
iShBrazil	1.38e	...	37.31	+1.20	+2.0
iShJapan	.15e	...	11.45	+.02	+1.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
iShChinaLC	1.04e	...	43.09	+1.33	+3.5
iShEMkts	.88e	...	40.30	+.87	+2.6
iS Eafe	2.26e	...	61.48	+.48	+1.1
iShR2K	1.51e	...	115.84	-.37	-3.2
IntegrysE	2.72	21	81.98	+.89	+5.3
Intel	.96f	16	36.48	+.39	+.5
InterDig	.80	...	51.45	-.39	-2.8
JPMorgCh	1.60	11	55.89	+.18	-10.1
JohnJn	2.80	18	101.90	+.61	-2.6
Keycorp	.26	12	12.33	+.07	-11.3
KimbClk	3.36	21	117.59	+.06	+1.8
Kinross g	...	...	3.54	-.08	+25.5
LegacyRes	2.44	...	8.81	+.63	-22.9
Lubys	...	...	4.43	-.06	-2.6
MVJrGold	...	...	29.65	-.45	+23.9
MktVGold	.12e	...	22.54	-.40	+22.6
MktVRus	.64e	...	15.42	+.53	+5.4
McDnlds	3.40f	18	90.34	-.46	-3.6
Merck	1.80f	34	62.16	-.45	+9.5
MeritMed	...	32	15.91	-.09	-8.2
MexcoEn	...	50	4.52	-.05	-16.8
MicronT	...	10	30.49	+.82	-12.9
Microsoft	1.24	18	45.92	-.47	-1.1
MorgStan	.40	12	34.73	-.02	-10.5
Nabors	.24	9	10.86	+.64	-16.3
NatGrid	3.48e	...	70.79	+.22	+.2
NOilVarco	1.84	10	59.73	+1.42	-8.9
NewmtM	.10	18	24.32	+.75	+28.7
NvMAd	.80a	...	14.07	-.04	+3.0
NvPMI	.86a	...	14.13	-.06	+1.1
NuvPI	.82a	...	14.05	-.13	+1.4
NSTFI3	.81a	...	14.51	+.02	+1.9
NTXQI	.85a	...	14.55	-.04	+.6
OcciPet	2.88	11	79.24	+1.23	-1.7
Oi SA s	...	...	2.44	+.38	-23.5
Oracle	.48	18	43.49	-.41	-3.3
ParTech	...	...	5.85	-.19	-4.9
ParkDrl	...	8	2.84	+.01	-14.0
PattUTI	.40	19	15.79	+.99	-4.8
PennaRE	.80	...	24.50	-.06	+4.4
Prmian	1.02e	9	9.89	+.30	+3.6
Petrobras	.46e	...	7.35	+.54	+.7
Pfizer	1.12f	17	32.84	-.46	+4.8
PioNtrl	.08	...	152.94	+5.56	+2.7
PlainsAAP	2.70f	21	51.78	+1.33	+.9

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
PwShs QQQ	1.34e	...	102.14	+.52	-1.1
Praxair	2.60	21	125.67	+.76	-3.0
PrmEgy	...	11	63.34	-.47	-12.9
PUVixST rs	...	...	27.78	-2.91	+10.5
ProctGam	2.57	25	90.73	+.18	-.4
Qualcom	1.68	15	71.59	-.89	-3.7
RangeRs	.16	22	49.76	+1.43	-6.9
RegionsFn	.20	11	8.71	-.03	-17.5
RiteAid	...	22	7.32	...	-2.7
Rowan	.40	13	22.11	+.29	-5.2
RoyDShllA	3.76	13	65.62	+1.03	-2.0
SpdrDJIA	3.47e	...	175.35	+.45	-1.4
S&P500ETF	3.83e	...	203.08	+1.03	-1.2
SabnR	4.01e	9	39.07	+.18	+9.2
SanderFm	.88f	8	81.69	-.73	-2.8
SandRdge	...	25	1.23	+.05	-32.4
Sapient	...	39	24.84	...	-.2
Schlmbrg	2.00f	20	82.21	+1.73	-3.7
SigmaAld	.92	33	137.44	+.08	+.1
SiriusXM	...	51	3.57	+.08	+2.0
Smucker	2.56	19	106.04	+1.85	+5.0
Sprint	...	...	4.39	+.23	+5.8
SP Engy	1.85e	...	76.85	+1.53	-2.9
SPDR Fncl	.40e	...	23.45	+.06	-5.2
SunEdison	...	...	18.70	+.14	-4.2
SunocoL s	1.53f	25	41.68	+.68	-.2

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
TaiwSemi	.50e	...	23.21	+.12	+3.7
TalismE g	.27	21	7.49	-.03	-4.3
TelefEsp	.97e	...	14.46	+.15	+1.8
Tesoro	1.20	13	74.08	+1.93	-.4
3M Co	4.10f	22	162.54	+.60	-1.1
Torchmrk s	.51	13	51.43	+.07	-5.1
TriContl	.75e	...	21.10	+.06	-1.4
TylerTech	...	70	106.90	-1.64	-2.3
UBWV	1.28	19	34.33	-.39	-8.3
US OilFd	...	...	17.77	+.29	-12.7
Vale SA	.55e	...	8.60	+.23	+5.1
ValeroE	1.10	7	47.19	+.68	-4.7
VangEmg	1.17e	...	41.15	+.90	+2.8
VerizonCm	2.20	10	48.25	+.07	+3.1
VulcanM	.24	49	67.98	+.99	+3.4
WalgBoots	1.35	35	75.59	-.46	-.8
WellsFargo	1.40	13	52.10	+.10	-5.0
WstnRefin	1.20f	9	33.79	+.42	-10.6
WhitingPet	...	6	28.05	+1.57	-15.0
WmsCos	2.28f	59	42.77	+.68	-4.8
XcelEngy	1.20	19	37.58	+.31	+4.6
Xerox	.25	14	13.58	+.08	-2.0
Yahoo	...	6	48.18	+.55	-4.6
Yamana g	.06m	...	4.32	-.20	+7.5
Zynga	...	...	2.59	-.04	-2.6

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INDEXES

52-Week High	52-Week Low	Name	Last	Chg	Net %Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
18,103.45	15,340.69	Dow Jones Industrials	17,554.28	+39.05	+.22	-1.51	+7.21
9,310.22	7,009.98	Dow Jones Transportation	8,888.64	+40.09	+.45	-2.75	+17.75
645.74	491.27	Dow Jones Utilities	649.12	+5.95	+.93	+5.02	+30.42
11,108.39	9,732.47	NYSE Composite	10,720.40	+61.78	+.58	-1.10	+3.39
4,814.95	3,946.03	Nasdaq Composite	4,667.42	+12.57	+.27	-1.45	+10.00
2,093.55	1,737.92	S&P 500	2,032.12	+9.57	+.47	-1.30	+10.15
1,478.22	1,264.57	S&P Midcap	1,435.72	+8.70	+.61	-1.15	+5.61
22,004.68	18,575.20	Wilshire 5000	21,352.67	+94.53	+.44	-1.46	+8.08
1,221.44	1,040.47	Russell 2000	1,166.25	-4.00	-.34	-3.19	-1.27

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GENERAL INFO

To ensure the integrity of our newspaper, for the benefit of our readers and advertisers, the Midland Reporter-Telegram reserves the right to revise, reclassify, edit or refuse any advertising. We also reserve the right to convert all advertising into digital and/or print formats within our other products and services.

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Monday	5p.m. Friday

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PUBLISHES ON:	DEADLINE IS:
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Thursday	3p.m. Tuesday
Friday, Saturday	3p.m. Wednesday
Sunday, Monday	3p.m. Thursday
Tuesday	3p.m. Friday

HAPPY ADS

Surprise your child, parent, or special friend with a Happy Ad!

Happy Birthday! Congratulations! Welcome Home! Graduation Day!

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Publish a special memorial to mark the passing of a loved one with an "In Memory Of" ad. Include a poem, prayer, and/or the names of all who care. Also, express your appreciation to everyone who brought food, sent flowers, or was there for you when you needed them most with a "Card of Thanks." We'll help you design a respectful, thoughtful ad.

Ads containing art or photos need to be in our office 2 working days before the ad is to be published and we ask that you pay in advance.

Midland Reporter-Telegram • The People To People Marketplace • 201 E. Illinois

Events and Notices

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Ministering for Christ.
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FOUND DRONE vicinity of Stonegate Church. Call Kristen 432-230-7462 or Karen 432-425-9514 to identify.

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EARN 10% interest on money paying you only 3% interest. Loan secured by prime real estate. For additional information, write to PO Box 4101, Midland, TX 79704

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

2012 FORD Mustang Boss 302. 14K miles. $36,000. 432-335-3026

BUICK 1997 Lesabre, 60k miles, great condition, $2,900. call 432 556 1910

Fax it.. 682-6999

Legal & Public Notices

Notice Of Application
For Fluid Injection Well Permit

XTO Energy, Inc., Opr. No. 945936, 200 N. Loraine Street, Suite 800, Midland, Texas 79701 applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas to convert an existing producing well to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of these fluids into the Clear Fork Formation in the Goldsmith C. A., Et al Lease, well number: 2329. The proposed injection well is located 3.2 miles from the city of Goldsmith in the Goldsmith Field, in Ector County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 4969' - 7867' feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792)

Legal & Public Notices

NOTICE TO Physicians and Providers

The following healthcare organizations are accepting applications for physicians and providers who wish to become contracted physicians and providers during the period of **February 1, 2015 through February 20, 2015.** UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, offered by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Texas, L.L.C. is a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) located at 14141 Southwest Freeway, Suite 800, Sugar Land, TX 77478, offers Medicaid Managed Care (STAR and STAR+PLUS) and Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). UnitedHealthcare of Texas, Inc. and UnitedHealthcare Benefits of Texas, Inc. both located at 5800 Granite Parkway, Ste. 900, Plano, Texas 75024 offer basic health care service Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans. United HealthCare Insurance Company and PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company offer Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) and Exclusive Provider Organizations (EPOs). Applicants must meet practice standards, qualifications and other participatory criteria established by the HMO and/or PPO/EPO's. To initiate the application process, have your tax ID number available and please call 1-877-842-3210. Select the following prompt: 4) Credentialing.

Passenger Cars

FORD 2005 Mustang convertible, very clean, one owner. 40th anniversary edition. Asking $12,500 Call 432-352-4509

FORD 2010 Mustang Coupe, V6, 42K miles, leather & power seats, super clean, $15,900 Call Stacy @ 432-967-0080.

HONDA 2012 Civic LX 4 door Sedan. Super clean, no problems, 38 mpg, 32K miles; $14,500. 432-967-3110.

JAGUAR 2010 XF. 58K miles, white with black interior, 4 dr, great condition, well maintained, new tires & wheels. Beautiful car. Asking $26K final price. 432-664-7492 or text.

WANTED!
Will buy wrecked & unwanted cars, trucks & RVs. FREE pick-up. 432-685-4078

Pickup Trucks

CHEVY 2004 Silverado, 1500, Pickup, V8-Auto, 79,858 miles, loaded, maintained with records, garaged, like new, very clean, good tires, new battery, tool box, bed mat, $11,000. (432) 694-8460.

DODGE 2005 RAM 1500 HEMI. 66K miles. Front and rear end replacement. Glass pacs, tool box, clean. $10,500 Call 432-682-1709

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Pickup Trucks

DODGE 2014 3500 RAM 6.7 Cummings 32k miles, 100k warranty Asking $39,000, without the machine. The machine is a Miller PipePro 304 with 3800 Hours, for $7,000 Call 870-500-9065

GMC 2007 Sierra Z71 4WD,Nagivation, loaded, always garaged, one owner, 87K miles. Bed cover. $17,000 Call 432-413-6167

TOYOTA 2011 Tundra 5.7 engine, 4wd crewmax. Tow pkg, New black tires and wheels. Red $19,500 432-438-5609

Vans & Minivans

PLYMOUTH 1988 Voyager 4cyl, new paint, new tires, new interior, only 50k original miles, $2800. Call 432-770-7982

4WD & SUV

CHEVY 2002 Suburban 4x4. Well maintained $5200 OBO. 432-413-2744

LINCOLN 2009 Black Navigator, 4X4. All power including running boards, third row seats, sunroof, liftgate, Sirius and Bluetooth connectivity. 54K miles New Michelin tires Extended warranty. Excellent condition $19,500 684-4407 or 260-0010

TOYOTA 2011 Tundra 5.7 engine, 4wd crewmax. Tow pkg, New black tires and wheels. Red $19,500 432-438-5609

TAHOE 2005, Z71 122K miles, fully loaded, new tires, great condition $9,400 432-557-8220 text only.

NEW TODAY!
TOYOTA 2002 Sequoia, good condition V8, 127K miles, leather interior, sunroof. Well maintained. Asking $10,000 OBO. 432-853-5305

Motorcycles

WANTED ALL MOTORCYCLES before 1980 running or not! Japanese, British, European, American. Top $cash$ paid. Free appraisals! Call Now 315-569-8094 email 1stkickcycles70@gmail.com

RVs

2000 DUTCHSTAR deisel One slide, sleeps 6. New batteries, washer, dryer and 2 flat screen TVs Ice maker. Includes tow package. $46,900 Call 806-470-6485

Recreational Vehicles

13 NOMAD 34' 2 14' living room slideouts. 15,000 BTU air, awning, excellent condition. In OKC $21,000. 309-269-1738

2002 29.5' Montana 5th wheel. $18,000 OBO. 432-557-2257

2012 KEYSTONE/ Outback 27ft bumper pull trailer 2 slides, one person part-time use. Trailer located in South Midland. Contact Bill at 214-755-7804

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
720 W.KANSAS
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FRIDAY/SATURDAY 10-4 SUNDAY 2-4
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3211 W Wadley, #13 (Imperial Shopping Center) (Midland)
Thursday/Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Lots of great quality items in this sale, including: Waterford, Royal Doulton, American Fostoria, Roseville, Fenton, Wedgewood, silver plate, painted china, Austin sculptures, Lamps, lg urns, Seth Thomas mantle clock, pottery, Indian pots, Mirrors, artwork including G Harvey/Pat Renick/Robert Summers/Windberg/Dennis Schmidt and more, costume jewelry, Danish Mid Century Modern table & chairs/coffee table/china cabinet/dresser & mirror/king bed/night stands, rocker recliners, gun cabinet, office desks/chairs, claw foot table/chairs, lamp tables, sewing machines, entertainment unit, antique curio, antique bedroom set, cedar chests, washer/dryer, tools, much more. For pictures go to...
http://www.estatesales.net/estate-sales/TX/Midland/79705/802296

Estate Sales

ESTATE SALE
3625 SINCLAIR
THURS, FRI & SAT 9-2

THIS HOUSE IS PACKED.
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.
QVC Jewelry, 2 full beds, 2 twin beds, roll top child's desk, chests of drawers, vanities, secretary, nite stand, antique rocker, child's rocker, curio cabinet, china cabinet, dining room table & chairs, ladder back chairs, book shelves, pie safe, lamps, mirrors, tables, guns, knives, coins, Fenton, American Fostoria, Fiesta, Jim Shore, cup & saucer collection, music box collection, vintage toys, Gilbert train, Circus, Castle, Doll house, doll house furniture, Terri Lee doll clothes, candles, books, children's, cookbooks, Texas, Political, and lots more, vintage Christmas, McCoy pottery, Tova fragrances, Wen hair products, Phytosophy skin care products, size 3X clothing including Quaker Factory, luggage, purses, wallets, travel bags, jewelry boxes, kitchen gadgets, flatware, Rogers flatware set, Chantilly sterling flatware set, pots, pans, Frigidaire stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, window air conditioner units, Pyrex, Corningware, Lock n Lock containers, brass, candles, Eastlake marble top tables, Prayer bench, framed art, Windberg, Hallmark ornaments, vintage hats, clothing, quilts, tablecloths, linens, old fans, carved wood figures, cameras, projectors, typewriters, clocks, electronics, radios, West Texas Electric memorabilia, Lions club, Boy Scouts, old phones, theater seats, chuck wagon kitchen, camping equipment, records, fishing equipment, cleaning supplies, trunks, tool chests, tool boxes, tools, yard tools, file cabinets, industrial lights, doors, air horns, hub caps, cast iron, large insulators, rosette, saddle, paper ephermeris, postcards, magazines, match books, men's boots, light bulbs, sealers, drill press, grinder, milk crates, anvil, house jack, Tri Tike, and so much more!
This is house is small so please be patient.
Thank you!
View full details at EstateSales.NET:
http://www.EstateSales.NET/estate-sales/TX/Midland/79703/803443

Business
Computers
Employment
Merchandise
Personals
Automobiles
Lodge Notices
Electronics
Financial
Health & Fitness
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Real Estate
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Notices
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Everything You Need Is Just A Click Away
In The Midland Reporter-Telegram Classified

Midland Reporter-Telegram mrt.com

Call: 432-682-6222
Email: mrtclassified@mrt.com

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

			1			7		
						6	2	
			4		5		8	1
	3	8		5			9	
		7	2		6	8		
	4			8		1	5	
7	6		9		3			
	8	5						
		1		6				

SOLUTION TO WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

1	7	5	8	2	6	3	9	4
6	9	2	4	3	1	8	5	7
3	4	8	9	7	5	6	2	1
4	6	9	7	1	8	2	3	5
7	5	3	2	6	9	1	4	8
2	8	1	3	5	4	7	6	9
9	1	6	5	8	2	4	7	3
5	2	7	1	4	3	9	8	6
8	3	4	6	9	7	5	1	2

1/22/15

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mrt★com/jobs

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Controller
Controller needed with strong Oil & Gas experience in Basalt, CO. Great salary + benefits. Email to: dbardy@crystalriveroil.com or fax 760-634-8248

AUTOMOTIVE

Rogers Ford is currently looking to hire employees to fill positions as fast lube technicians and as porters. Rogers offers health insurance, 401K, Paid Vacations and room for advancement. We will train on the job if needed. If interested contact **Jacob Klein at 432-694-8801**

ROGERS
Ford LINCOLN
www.rogersford.com
4200 W. Wall • Midland, TX 432-694-8801

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Assistant
Family Promise of Midland is seeking a full-time administrative assistant to enhance the services to our guests and congregations. Candidate must possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree; excellent organizational skills; be able to multi-task; excellent public speaking skills; and a desire to assist families experiencing homelessness. Please email letter of interest and resume to familypromiseofmidland@gmail.com or call 432-352-6141.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Overhead Door Installers
Accepting applications for experienced **Overhead Door Installers**. Pay based on experience. Apply in person **Affinity Overhead Door 1809 W County Rd 114. Midland,TX** Call **432-695-6287** for directions.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Experienced Oilfield Sales Person
Experienced Oilfield Sales Person needed for field sales. Must have established clientele. Salary D.O.E. Send contacts along with resume to cstdrilling1@aol.com

HEALTHCARE

Caregivers
HomeCare Plus now hiring Caregivers to assist our private clients in their home. Do not apply if you can not pass drug and back ground check. Please apply in person at 3303 W Illinois, Space 7 in Midland.

FT Pharmacy Technician
Super Mercado Pharmacy, an independent retail pharmacy is looking to hire full time Pharmacy Technician. We offer competitive hourly pay, medical, benefits, and holidays. Hours are Monday-Friday 9am-7pm and Saturday 9am-1pm. Closed most holidays. Please contact Eric or Sokkan at **432-682-9501**.

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

Housekeepers & Laundry Attendants & Front Desk Clerks
LaQuinta Inn & Suites - Loop 250 & Hwy 191 FT/PT
Full time and part-time. Bilingual a Plus! Please Apply at LaQuinta Inn & Suites, Loop 250, Next to Kohl's

Maintenance, Front Desk & Night Audit
Holiday Inn Express
5309 N. Loop 250 W.
Midland, TX 79707
Now hiring Full Time Maintenance, Front Desk & Night Audit. Professional appearance required. Will train the right person. Serious inquiries only. Apply in person only. No phone calls. Competitive pay.

OTHER JOBS

CARETAKER
Caretaker for small ranch and animals/dogs, horses. Salary and housing provided. Non-smokers and no drinking. References required. Call **432-413-2861**

DELIVERY DRIVERS / PHONE HELP
FLOWERLAND
Valentine's Day is just around the corner.
Hiring for Seasonal Help!
Drivers (must be 21) paid per delivery using your own vehicle,
phone help - taking orders for Valentine deliveries,
general help - process flowers and help in needed areas
Smoke free environment. Fax resume to 432-682-8949, apply in person, or email resume to tomwilliams@flowerlandmidland.com, no phone calls.

FIELD SERVICE TECHNICIAN

CPI MIDLAND IS HIRING!

We are looking for a dynamic Field Service Technician who will be responsible for installation and service of compressor lubrication systems.

Candidates are required to be **Safety Conscience** and must have prior experience in the following:

- Compressor/Lubrication experience. Heavy mechanical experience considered or basic understanding of hydraulic systems in lieu of compressor industry experience.
- Must have strong commitment to safety.
- Effective written & verbal communication.
- Must be able to work independently with interpersonal skills to work in a collaborative environment that includes shared responsibilities.
- Must be able to set job priorities & possess a sense of urgency in completion.
- Will be in direct contact with the customer so professional appearance and attitude is paramount.

Additional Requirements:

- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Trade School Certification.
- Must have valid driver's license & have demonstrated safe driving habits.
- Basic knowledge of MS Office/Email.

CPI offers competitive salary and benefits along with a challenging growth environment. Must be able to pass background check, drug screen and physical.

Please send resumes to pat.cartmell@c-p-i.com or fax 432-520-6707

General Labor
General laborer needed. Oil field experience a plus. Must have a clean driving record. Send resume to admin@zephyrot.com

Immediate Openings
Available in Midland & Odessa area grocery and retail stores.

Now hiring qualified applicants for newspaper subscription sales in our growing company. We offer flexible schedule, Paid Training, excellent work environment, and stable work all year round to our Sales Representatives. Applicants must be Friendly, Professional, Organized and Reliable. Must be 18 years old with valid drivers license and cell phone. Previous sales or marketing experience is preferred, but not required. Position starts at $10/Hr with Bonuses and Commissions that can surpass $50/Hr for above average Sales Reps working part time. Paid Training provided to new new reps. Professionally sell promotional subscriptions at one of our several Kiosk locations in the Midland area. www.FrontlinePromotion.com

For an immediate opportunity, email your resume to Dustin@FrontlinePromotion.com or call 810-875-6301 to join our team."

MAIDS & JANITORS
Needed for part time janitorial work. Great jobs to supplement income, work Monday-Friday Apply at **1307 N Big Spring**, 8:30am-5:30pm, 5:30pm - 8:30pm. Apply at 1307 N. Big Spring.

SKILLED LABOR

Forklift Operator

The Midland Reporter-Telegram has an opening in its Production Department for the Position of "Fork Lift Operator" and other duties as assigned.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:
- Ability to read and write
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to bend and reach overhead
- Ability to count accurately and do simple math
- Able to operate a forklift and willing to be certified
- Be reliable, responsible and able to follow instructions
- Capable of standing and walking for extended period of time
- Able to work in various environments that include winter and summer conditions.
- Must be able to work weekends when necessary

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Accurate loading and unloading of printed materials in a safe and efficient manner
- Ensure material are efficiently/properly stacked and stored in appropriate and designated areas
- Perform other non-forklift duties when assigned

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest diversified communications companies. Its major interests include magazines, newspapers and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, Internet businesses and more. As an associate of the Midland Reporter-Telegram, you join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

Send resume and salary requirements to: **John Maddox, Director of Production/Facilities**
c/o Midland Reporter Telegram - 201 E. Illinois St - Midland, TX 79701
Email to: jmaddox@hearstnp.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

HEARST *media services* Midland Reporter-Telegram mrt★com

OTHER JOBS

Safety Representative
Wilbros T & D Services is looking to fill the position of Safety Representative. *Must have 5 years experience in Utility Construction. Responsibilities: Inspect safety and quality of crews complete audits of crews, enforce company safety policies, maintain audit and safety ecords among other duties. Knowledge of OSHA and DOT regulations a must. Must be able to work flexible hours and travel when necessary. Willbros offers competitive wages, 401K, Health, Vacation. Fax resume to: 682-233-9011 or Email: dkrazer@willbrostd.com for application. WTDD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Tire Service Tech
Wanted: **Outside tire service tech** for service truck. Will train right person. Excellent compensation package. Lots of hours. Call **432-682-1671** ask for Desmond.

TNT
CRANE & RIGGING

YOU WANT TO BE
THE BEST,
COME WORK FOR THE BEST!
CURRENT OPENING FOR A
SAFETY MANAGER @ MIDLAND

Class A CDL Preferred Not Required
Send resume to jharrison@tntcrane.com
or Fax: (432-242-4982)
Apply in Person: 9112 W CR 127 Midland TX

Want to work in a recession proof industry?
Sick & Tired of the ups and down of the oil industry?
How about a job that's always up?

We are looking for highly motivated individuals to work in a fast growing insurance and investment company, Base salary plus commission, No Prior experience is required we will train. Mon-Fri.
$40,000-80,000 a year.
Fax or email resume to ATTN: Crystal Weeks
Crystalweeks1@allstate.com
Fax # 432-848-3337

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Case Manager
Family Promise of Midland is seeking a full-time case manager/ social worker to work with guest families. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Social Science or related field, or three years of experience in a similar position. Candidate must have high energy, a positive atttitude, and a passion to help people in crisis. Please email letter of interest and resume to familypromiseofmidland@gmail.com or call 432-352-6141

Case Worker (Social Worker)
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services is seeking a Child and Family Case Worker (Social Worker) in Midland. For more information visit http://texas.pchas.org/employment/ or apply online at: http://texas.pchas.org/employment/application/

QA & QUALITY CONTROL

Quality Control Inspector
Natural Gas Services Group FT
NCSG has immediate opening for a **Quality Control Inspector** for Flares and Compressor Packages. This individual is required to have knowledge of ASME and AWS Code, will arrange and document all radiographs, manage all hydrostatic testing, perform visual inspections and dimensional checks of fabricated equipment and outsourced equipment and able to read drawings. The ability to read P&IDs is a plus. CWI certification is a plus but not required. Excellent Salary and Benefit package. For more information or to submit your resume contact employment@ngsgi.com or call (432) 262-2700.

REAL ESTATE

Leasing Agent
Midland Village & Silver Creek Apartments now hiring Leasing Agent. For appointment call 432-687-0053 or 432-683-9726

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

Available Positions
Sidekicks & Legends Restaurant now hiring. Call 432-352-0603 or 432-683-8811.

Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers
The Garlic Press is hiring Host Staff, Cooks and Dishwashers. Flexible hours. Great work environment and benefits. Apply in person at The Garlic Press in Oak Ridge Square at Wadley and Garfield. 11am-2pm only.

Manager
Little Caesars Pizza is accepting applications/resumes for store Manager in Odessa for a new store opening soon. Requires about 50 hours per week. Must work many nights and most weekends (we are closed Sundays). Involves hiring, training, product ordering, inventory control, scheduling, making pizzas and cash handling. Must be good with people! Must have experience and good references. About $50k per year + benefits (health plan + paid vacation) + performance bonuses. Email resume to eric_carr49@hotmail.com

RETAIL JOBS

Cashier
Health Food Store is taking applications for energetic and friendly part-time cashiers. Morning shifts or afternoon shifts. Pleasant work environment, friendly customers, caring management, generous employee discount and paid vacations. Apply in person Monday through Friday only 9am to 5pm at Natural Foods Market,'2311 W. Wadley, Midland.

SALES JOBS

FULL-PART TIME SALES ASSOCIATES
We are looking for **Insurance Associates** who possess these important qualities. *Cool under pressure, *Enjoy working hard, *Relate well to all kinds of people *Energetic, *Dedicated to meet customers needs. P&C license preferred. Must have customer service experience. Bilingual a plus. Please fax your resume to: **432-570-9501** or Mail to **P O Box 8830**, Midland, TX 79708. Bring by **4410 N Midkiff, Ste D1F, Midland, TX 79705.**

Route Sales
Work 4, Play 3!!! Schwan's is now hiring Route Sales Reps in Odessa. $45.5K starting salary. $70K+potential. 4 day work week. Full benefit pkg. No CDL req'd. Apply online at www.schwansjobs.com. Keyword: Midland Call: 806.290.8122. EOE.

SKILLED LABOR

Automotive Mechanic - Journeymen
Experienced Automotive Mechanic - Journeymen. UPS Midland is seeking to hire a permanent Automotive Mechanic - Min. 2 years experience, college preferred, ASC Certified. Apply at UPSJOBS.COM

Licensed Commercial Plumbers & Exp. Helpers
TMI Mechanical currently hiring **Licensed Commercial Plumbers** and **experienced Helpers** for local jobsites. We offer top pay (up to $30/hr. DOE) 100% employer paid medical, paid vacations and holidays. Must have good driving record. **Please call 432-686-0002 for interview.**

Designer
FLOWERLAND FT
Designer needed. Some experience preferred. Saturdays & holidays included. Fax resume to 432-682-8949, apply in person, or email resume to tomwilliams@flowerlandmidland.com, no phone calls please.

Electrician and Apprentices
TTG Electric Co., is hiring electricians and apprentices at high scale. Housing can be provided in Midland. Please call Felix Montoya at 254-535-3143, Joe Anderson at 254-535-0510 or our office at 254-526-7284.

Flare Service Technician Trainee
Natural Gas Services Group FT
NGSG has a great employment opportunity for a Flare Service Technician Trainee. Must have working knowledge of 110 AC and 12v DC electrical systems, trouble-shooting and excellent communication skills. Must have clean driving record and be able to pass background check. Some day travel required. Able to work at heights in excess of 100'. Will train the right person. Great pay and benefits in a stable line of work. Please send resume to employment@ngsgi.com or call 432-262-2700.

Utilities Crews
JOHN BURNS CONSTRUCTION CO. Lewisville, Texas. Hiring Utility Crews. Email work history/Resume to rkretsch@jbcco.com or contact Rich at 214-226-9672.

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Bobtail Fuel Delivery Driver Wanted:
Allstar Fuel Fred Garrison Oil Company: Gas, diesel and propane experience helpful. Local delivery driver must have a valid CDL and Hazmat endorsement. Need to have Medical Card or have the ability to obtain one. We offer a competitive wage and benefits. Apply in person at Allstar Fuel at 1107 Walter Griffin St. No calls please

Drivers
AES Drilling Fluids Permian, LLC is hiring drivers for our yards in Midland, Big Lake, and Kermit. Must have a class A CDL. Great pay and benefits for Tanker and Flatbed drivers, call Austin at 432-684-7101, 805-570-6194

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

EARN UP TO $500 PER WEEK!

Do you have a reliable car with insurance and a phone??

Become an independent contractor delivering the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Contact: Linda 687-8807

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call

432-682-6222

mrt★com/jobs

OTHER JOBS

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR PART TIME DAY ASSOCIATE

Part Time Day Associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to work Monday thru Saturday from 8am-6pm. Tuesday will be here later till about 8 or 9 pm. Need to be able to work on your feet thru 6-8 hour shift. Will work at night occasionally. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NOPHONECALLSPLEASE

Midland Reporter-Telegram HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN IT'S DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT FOR NIGHT TIME ASSOCIATE

Night time associate - MUST BE DEPENDABLE

Must be able to count at a fast pace. Be able to work between the hours of 12-6 am Sunday night thru Friday night and be able to work Saturday night 8pm -4am. Will be working inside and outside depending on the job you are doing that night. Will be 5-6 nights per week. We will train the right person

Starting pay $10.00 per hour/after 60 days pay will be $11.00 per hour

These positions require some physical lifting of 5-15 lbs. Must be able to bend and stand for at least a 6 hr. shift. No experience required we will train you. Work performed in this department includes processing and handling of newspaper bundles. Applicants must be dependable, be over 18, and have a valid ID card and social security card with dependable transportation.

Apply in person at: 201 E. Illinois, Lobby Information Desk • Monday-Friday 8-5 or email: jmaddox@hearstnp.com

NOPHONECALLSPLEASE

SALES JOBS

MRT MEDIA GROUP mrt★com
Midland Reporter-Telegram

YOU can have a rewarding career in ADVERTISING!

Do you have excellent communication skills?
Are you detail oriented?
Do you have an assertive, positive attitude?
Are you a self-starter?
Do you excel in time management and organization?
If so, then we will train you to SUCCEED!

The MRT Media Group, a Hearst Corporation company, is looking for full-time Inside and Outside Sales Multi-Media Account Executive. Duties will include selling print and digital advertising into the Midland Reporter-Telegram, mrt.com, MRT Weekly, and a variety of custom publications.

The Hearst Corporation is one of the largest, diversified communications companies, with major interests in magazine, newspaper and business publishing, cable networks, television and radio broadcasting, internet businesses and more. As an associate of the MRT Media Group, you will join more than 20,000 in the Hearst family.

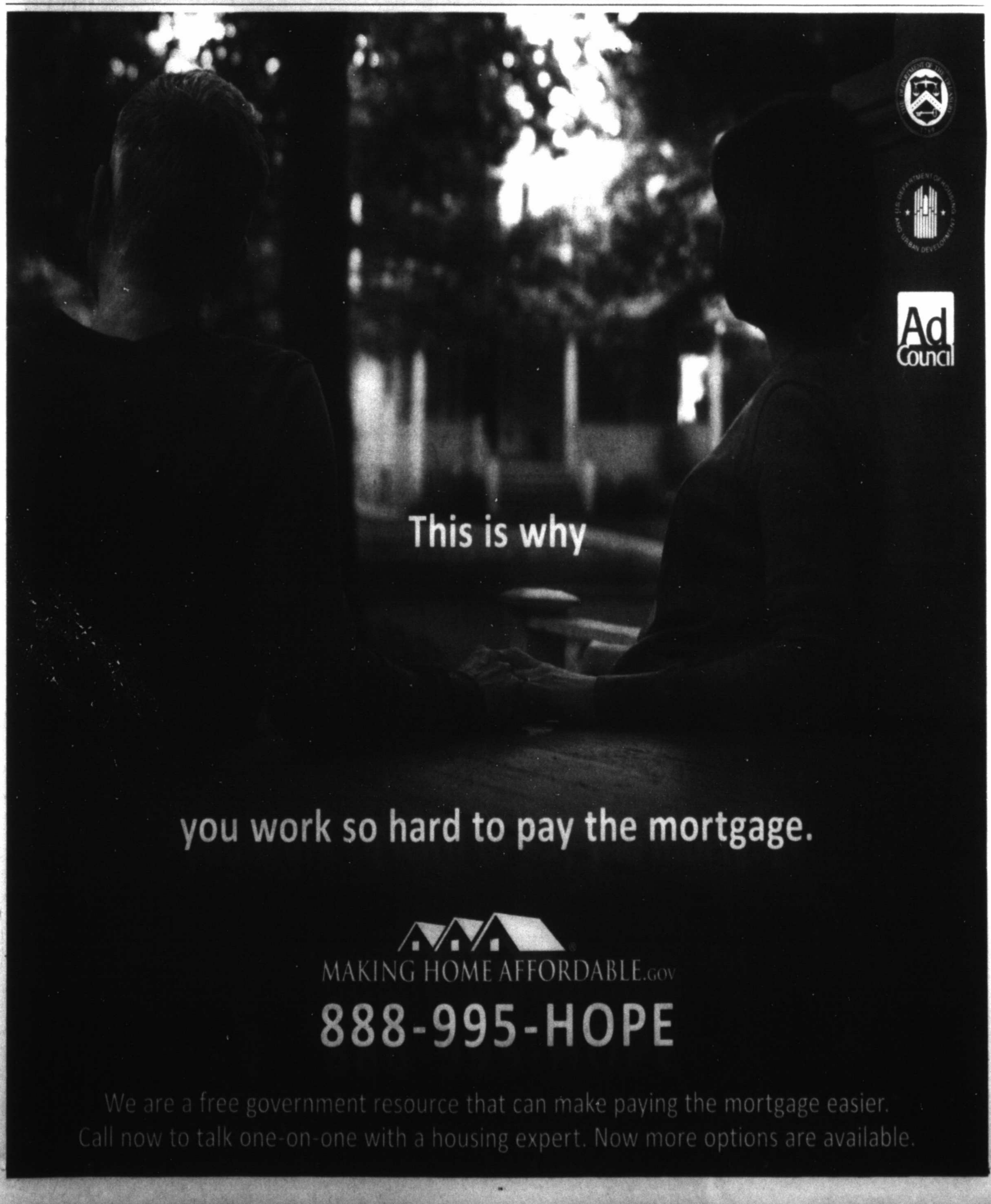
$1,000 SIGN ON BONUS!

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package, guaranteed commission for three months, mileage and cell phone allowances, and the opportunity to advance your career in an exciting, progressive and innovative organization in one of the fastest growing markets in Texas.

If you are ready to SUCCEED, please send a resume to:

Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager
MRT Media Group
201 E. Illinois, Midland, TX 79701
jhouston@mrt.com

Equal Opportunity Employer



HURRY IN TODAY - SALE ENDS JANUARY 25TH!

ALL AMERICAN CHEVROLET OF MIDLAND

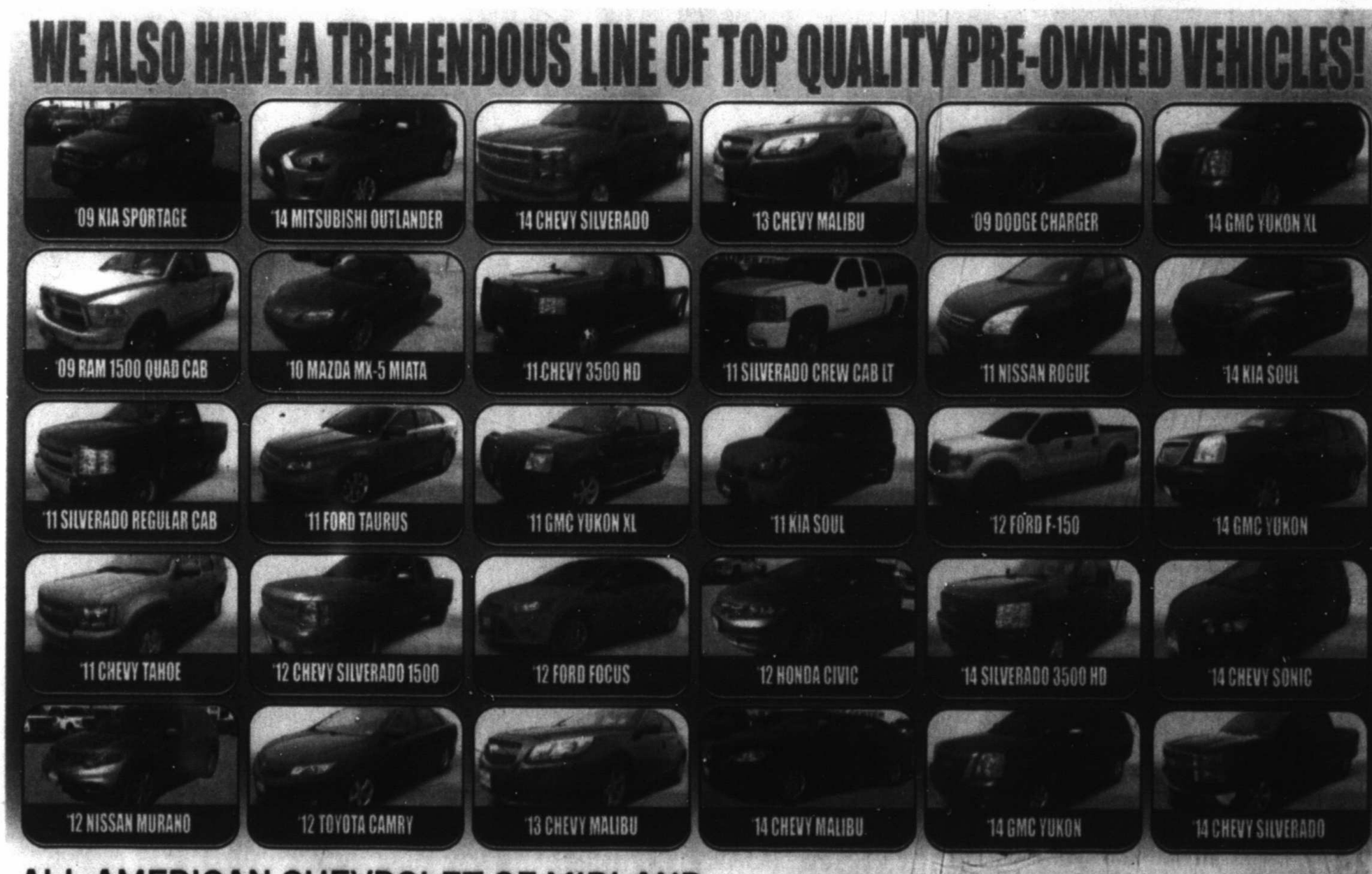
SUPERSTORE

FOR A LIMITED TIME! WE ARE BRINGING BACK THE CASH FOR CLUNKERS SALES EVENT!

We are announcing our plans to bring back the most successful promotion in the history of the automobile industry. For a limited time, CASH FOR CLUNKERS is back! Any working 1990 or newer vehicle automatically qualifies for Lithia's CASH FOR CLUNKERS! Call for your guaranteed trade value then find the Chevy car or truck of your dreams!

CHECK OUT THESE BRAND NEW 2015 MODELS!

WE ALSO HAVE A TREMENDOUS LINE OF TOP QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!



ALL AMERICAN CHEVROLET OF MIDLAND

SUPERSTORE

4100 West Wall Street

432-218-4114

MidlandChevy.com

FIND NEW ROADS

LITHIA AUTO STORES

NOW HIRING APPLY ONLINE: LITHIAJOBS.COM

Prices + TT&L and fees. Financing with approved credit. Offers Expire 1/31/15.

Who's Who For Service

What a GREAT place to advertise your business!

Call 682-6222 for details.

Services & Professionals

Computer Services — Repair & Replacement

COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES
Repairs, upgrades, troubleshooting, and installs. Virus/spyware removal. Over 20 years experience. Reasonable rates. 432-238-9664 432-694-3915

Hauling

CLEARAWAY
FOR all your REMOVAL needs and light construction, trash, & tree limbs, residential & commercial clean-out, Tired of higher prices? Give us a call for affordable prices. 432-235-9999

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ADVANCED BRICK DOCTOR, brick & mortar repair, All types of new construction specializing in block and brick fence. Steve Rickey. 432-853-2859.

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

MASONRY WORKS
Mortar Replacement, Brick Replacement & Commercial Grade Sealer. Free Estimates. 432-425-3111.

Cabinetry & Finishing

CUSTOM KITCHEN
Cabinets, Formica Countertops, Beveled Edges. References. Work Guaranteed. Free Estimates. Call Luis, 432-664-0224.

Carpet & Flooring

ALEMAN Stamp Concrete Plain or Decorative concrete for slabs, driveways, patios, pool decks, etc. For Estimates, call Ed (432) 6310211

INSTALLS & Repairs Carpet, Tile, Wood, Paint, Electrical, Plumbing and Much More. 432-924-3260.

Fax Your Ad 24/7 682-6999

Computer Services — Repair & Replacement

TJ'S COMPUTER REPAIR. Repair/Upgrades. New Computer Setup. Virus and Spyware Removal. Wireless Networking. Reasonable Rates. Work on site or pickup. 432-686-0831

Home Services & Home Improvement — Concrete

Amh Fencing. Quick Response. All types! No job too big or small. Foundations, driveways, patios sidewalks, footings, and flower beds. Free estimates. 432-661-1594 432-661-7627

CABALLERO MASONRY. Brick/block/stone, stucco, driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds. Insurance. Bonded. Residential & Commercial. Free estimates. 432-631-8781

CONCRETE SPECIALTIES
Design, drives, patios, staining, flagstone, brick planters, outdoor kitchens and fire places. 35 years experience! Book Early for Spring! 432-934-8102.

JS Concrete
Slabs,curbs,driveways, patios, Stamp concrete. Free Estimates. Bonded & Insured. Juan Sanchez, owner. 432-413-0924

QUALITY CONCRETE & METAL BUILDINGS
Work of all types. Driveways, patios, sidewalks, house/metal buildings, foundations. Call 432-816-6839 / 432-263-5272.

Contractors & Builders

AVID General Construction, remodeling additions, metal and wood fencing, cabinets, stucco, roofing, painting, tile, showers and counter tops and masonry work, landscaping and hardscaping. Small jobs welcome. Call 432-813-8552

LANDER HOME IMPROVEMENTS LLC, family-run business 25yrs experience in interior/exterior painting, repairs, remodeling, masonry, pathway and patio repairs, carpentry and sheetrock work, replacement windows and doors. Clean and reliable. Free estimates, call 432-260-7119

Electrical

ALL YOUR electrical needs met. Call G&S Electric. 32 Years experience. 432-685-0859. Tecl # 22541

Fax Your Classified Ad In Today! 682-6999

Home Services & Home Improvement — Electrical

JOHNSTON ELECTRIC is now providing residential & commercial electrical service work with reasonable rates. Dependable and honest. Licensed and insured. Please call 432-279-1235 for an appointment

Fences

A1 QUALITY
Best Prices
Repair or replace.
Serving Midland over 40 years.
Free estimates.
Jackie Cooper
432-813-2638.

ABC FENCE, Native Midlander doing Professional quality work since 1979. Gates are my specialty. Repair and small jobs welcome. Call Lonnie 432-638-7950

AMH FENCING. Residential fence builder & repair. Reliable professional & quick response. 432-661-1594 432-661-7627

ARMSTONG FENCE & Welding. We do all types of fencing, new or repair. Call 432-978-8497

STABILITY FENCING & Construction. Repair or rebuild wood, sheet metal, cinder block, brick, rod iron. For any size job call 978-9990

Fireplaces & Firewood

ERIC'S FIREWOOD Oak/Mesquite or Mix 1/4-$100, 1/2 $200, Full $400. Call 432-934-6198. Thank you!

TERRY'S FIREWOOD- Oak - Mesquite - Pecan. Full & 1/2 cords. Free local delivery & stacking. Cheaper price if picked up. 432-488-7695.

Handyman Services

24 HR Handyman. For any type of job, big or small. Repair or rebuild, flat rate, 432-978-9990.

HANDYMAN LIGHT & Ceiling Fan repair, leaky faucet, minor home repair, clean up, trash hauling & more. Raul 432-288-8998 Reasonable.

Heating & Air Conditioning

At your service
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*565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill ... $3,550/ac
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RV FOR rent $800 month + deposit, bills paid in Midland. 806-292-2695 Hablo Espanol

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2014 SINGLE Wide Clayton Mobile Home, 1216 Sq/ft, 3-Bedroom/2-bath. Includes Skirting, Axels, Tires & Wheels. $46,000. Call Richard 631-1011

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FOR SALE: 2008 Fleetwood mobile home; 4br / 2bath / 2LR, 2300sf, Excellent condition. 2 large decks included. Must be moved. $90k Call: 432.238.7895

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Gentle Giants in Danger

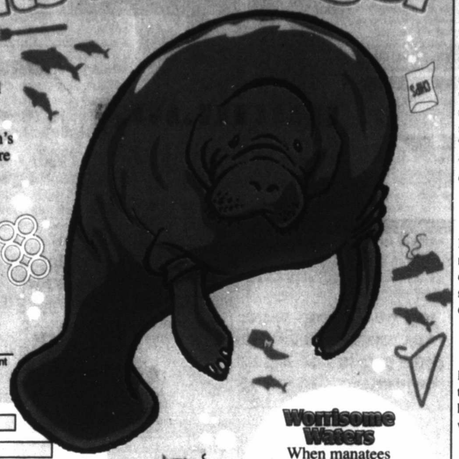
In shallow salty waters and rivers, a large, slow-moving creature swims and grazes. It is called a manatee. A shy and very gentle herbivore, it is completely harmless.

For almost 50 million years, manatees have grazed the earth's tropical lagoons, rivers and bays. In Florida alone, there were once thousands of manatees. But now there are less than 3,000 in Florida. They are in danger of becoming extinct.

Yardage All too often the people who like to go boating in these same waters ignore the *Caution* signs. Manatees get cut by the sharp propellers and many die from these run-ins.

The warm, shallow waters where manatees live are disappearing or becoming polluted. This loss of habitat is another reason manatees are endangered.

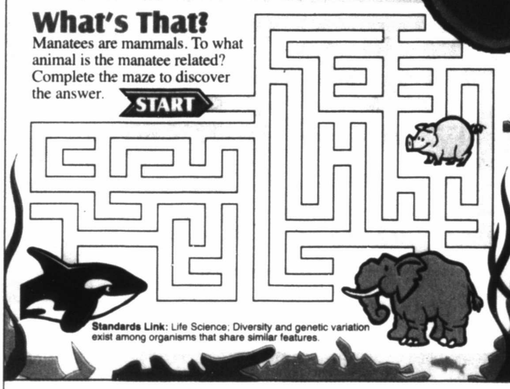
Standards Link: Life Science; Living things depend on one another and the environment for survival; the physical conditions of the environment can change and these changes can be detrimental.



What's That?

Manatees are mammals. To what animal is the manatee related? Complete the maze to discover the answer.

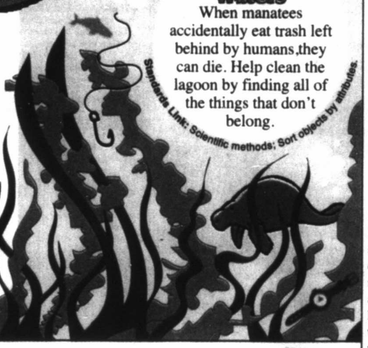
START



Standards Link: Life Science; Diversity and genetic variation exist among organisms that share similar features.

Wornsome Waters

When manatees accidentally eat trash left behind by humans,they can die. Help clean the lagoon by finding all of the things that don't belong.



Standards Link: Scientific methods; Sort objects by attributes.

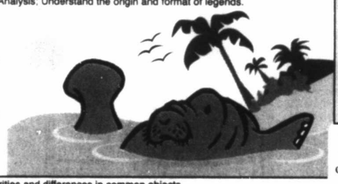
The Mermaid Legend

Long ago, sailors told tales of lovely sea creatures called mermaids. When early European explorers first saw manatees, they thought they were mermaids. Christopher Columbus wrote in his log book that they were not as beautiful as he had thought they would be.

"They are not as beautiful as they are painted, to some extent they have a human appearance in the face."

Standards Link: Literary Analysis; Understand the origin and format of legends.

Find at least five differences between what Pirate Pete ***thinks*** he sees and what is ***really*** there.



Standards Link: Visual discrimination; Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Extra! Extra!

Manatee Math

Look through the newspaper for numbers that add up to the length and weight of manatee calves and adults.

Standards Link: Math; Compute sums.

FACE FACTS: When manatees greet each other they nuzzle each other on the face.

Manatee Facts

Manatees come up for air every 7 to 20 minutes.

Adult manatees eat over 100 pounds of water plants each day.

Manatee calves are 4 feet (1 meter) long when they are born and weigh about 60 pounds. They grow to be about 10-feet-long and weigh about 1,000 pounds.

THE MANATEE SECRET CODE

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Standards Link: Life Science; When the environment changes because of natural or man-made forces some animals struggle to survive or become extinct.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

MANATEE
GENTLE
GIANTS
DANGER
MERMAIDS
CALVES
TRASH
WARM
WATERS
SWIMS
SALTY
TEAM
CLEAN
FACE
TALES

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

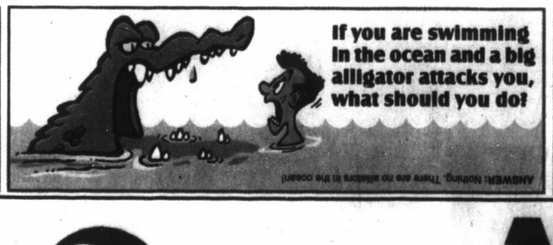
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Animals in Sports

Look at the sports pages of your newspaper. How many teams are named for animals? Why do you think each team chose that animal name? If you were to name a team the Manatees, what kind of sport would they play?

Standards Link: Social science; Connecting current events to students' lives.



Weekly Writing Corner

I Met a Mermaid

Kid Scoop readers finish this story.

When I was on my summer vacation with my friend Cody, we went to explore some caves on the beach. It was dark inside the cave but we saw something glitter at the back of the cave. It was a mermaid. She said she had been pushed into the cave by the tide and was waiting until she could swim back into the ocean. She made us swear that we would not tell our parents The next day we checked the cave and she was gone. I'm still not sure if that was real or if it was really a dream.

Sam,
4th grade

I once met a mermaid and she granted me three wishes. I said I wanted a ton of money, a trip to Hawaii and no more school. I'm still waiting for my wishes to come true.

Matthew,
5th grade

I have never met a mermaid. I'm not sure they are real. But if I did, I would ask her how she managed to live under water and what was her favorite food.

Sierra,
3rd grade

I met a mermaid and she took me to her cave under the sea. It was beautiful and bright. She told me all about her friends in the ocean and she gave me a pearl from her collection. Then she brought me back to the beach and my parents. I will never forget the day I met a mermaid.

Evie,
2nd grade

I met a mermaid and she asked me to help her find her treasure that had been stolen by a manta ray. Together we swam quietly across the ocean floor. Then we saw the manta ray and we followed him to a hole in a rock. It was my job to distract him so I waved my arms and swam fast to the surface while the mermaid got her treasure. I managed to swim faster and get away but just in time. The mermaid caught up with me and thanked me. She said we would be friends forever and that I could visit her anytime. But I don't want to ever see that manta ray again.

Dylan,
5th grade

I met a mermaid and she gave me a starfish. When I took it home, it changed into a beautiful star full of jewels. When I wear it around my neck, everyone says it is so beautiful. I will never forget the day I met a mermaid.

Emily,
4th grade

One day when I was sailing across the bay, I spied a mermaid sitting on a rock. I couldn't believe my eyes. So I sailed on over but when I got there, there was no sign. All I could see was a huge, fat seal slowly eating a fish and grunting. Maybe I need to get my eyes tested.

Theo,
4th grade

I have never met a mermaid but if I did, I would ask her how it feels to have such a big tail and what is feels like to be like a fish.

Amy,
2nd grade

Write On!

Spring Poem

Write a poem about spring in your community.

Deadline: February 15
Published: Week of Mar. 15
Send your story to:

Newspaper In Education
201 E. Illinois
Midland, TX 79701
ljdiaz@mrt.com

Please include your school and grade.

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