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Midland Reporter-Telegram

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Right-to-life groups split on end-of-life decision

Contentious issue prompts 2 legislative bills over terminally ill patients

By Chris Tomlinson
Associated Press

■ ANALYSIS

AUSTIN — A battle is brewing at the Texas Legislature among right-to-life groups, but rather than debating when life begins, they are fighting over the rules that govern the end of a terminally ill person's life.

The dispute revolves around what should happen when the patient's family wants to continue medical treatment when the doctors think it would only prolong the suffering.

Under current law, the doctor is required to refer the case to the hospital's ethics committee, which can either agree or overrule the doctor's recommendation. If the family still disagrees, they have 10 days to find another facility to take the patient, after which the doctor's orders take effect.

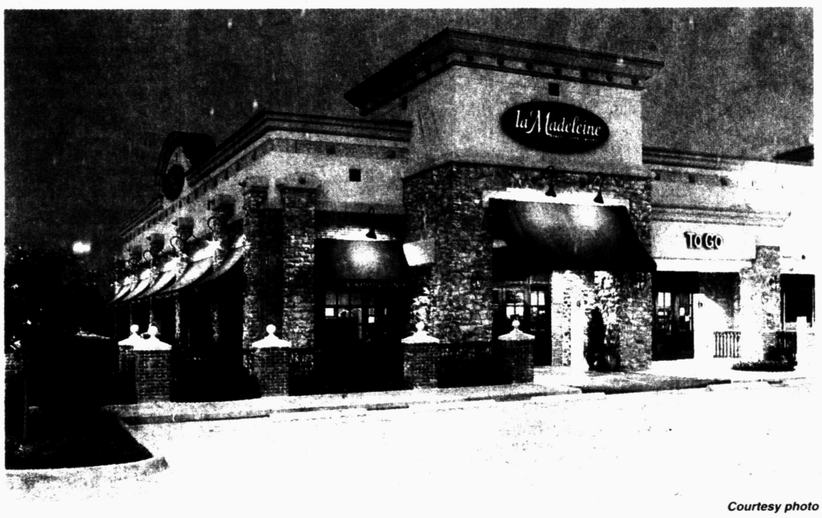
Texas Right to Life says the Texas Advance Directive Act of 1999 robs "the ailing and disabled of their civil liberties by giving power over their lives to an unelected body of hospital administrators and employees." The group is lobbying lawmakers to revise the act to require doctors and hospitals to provide indefinite treatment as long as the patient or the family desires.

The group backs House Bill 1464 by Rep. Brian Hughes, R-Mineola, which eliminates the time limit on finding another facility and requires the hospital to continue treating the patient. Critics call this "indefinite treatment" because it gives the doctor and hospital no say in deciding whether to treat the patient.

On the other side of the debate is the Texas Alliance for Life, Christian Life Commission and the Texas Catholic Conference, which are backing a bill that would extend the 10-day period to 14 days but not force doctors to keep treating patients. House Bill 1444 would only require doctors to continue feeding and hydrating patients as long as it

Please see **SPLIT**/4A

CAFÉ OPENING HITS LE SNAG



Courtesy photo

The exterior of a la Madeleine is shown in this undated photo. Officals with the chain are looking to open a Midland restaurant but say it might take up to three years to find the right location.

Process of finding ideal site could delay la Madeleine's arrival

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

A "crown jewel" location must be found before la Madeleine, a French-inspired bakery café, opens its doors in Midland.

Darren Bothe, senior director of franchise development at Dallas-based la Madeleine, cautioned that it could take one to three years for a Midland location to open.

"Midland is an attractive market in terms of income," he said, with high brand awareness and a thriving economy. In addition, he said Midland attracts visitors from all over the world because of its strong economy.

"It's great to have a location in Midland and to have that exposure to people from other parts of the country," he said.

While the area's strong economy is a positive, "it's also a challenge in that a big component of our costs is labor," he said. "With a strong economy, we expect excellent sales, but staffing becomes an issue."

The company recently signed its first franchise agreement, which will bring locations to Lubbock, Midland and Amarillo over the next three years. The first, in Lubbock at 4406 19th Street, is expected to open late this year.

Bothe said the Lubbock location is opening first because the city offers a large labor pool to draw from.

Franchisee Buddy Beach with French Twist LLC, the

Please see **DELAY**/4A

Report: Suicide a danger for Texas Guard troops

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Records show that since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began, about twice as many Texas Army National Guard soldiers have died of suicide as in combat, according to a newspaper investigation.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Sunday that the Texas Army National Guard now counts 30 suicides since 2001, with most occurring in the past five years.

Since 2008, Texas has ranked second among states in Army National Guard suicides, trailing only Minnesota, which has 25 suicides over the last five years, according to a National Guard report obtained by the newspaper. Texas, which has the nation's largest Army National Guard force with about 20,000 soldiers, has had 22 suicides over that time.

The cause-of-death data, obtained by the newspaper through a Freedom of Information Act request, includes soldiers who didn't deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those who did.

Officials didn't provide an age or gender breakdown for the deceased National Guard soldiers, making it difficult to directly compare their death rates with the overall population.

In recent years, National Guard suicides have helped drive overall Army suicides to record levels. In 2010, the overall National Guard suicide

Please see **DANGER**/4A

MIDLAND 101

By Jimmy Patterson

Pioneers traded famous city block, mineral rights in landmark deal

Dr. John Thomas was known for accomplishing much in Midland's early days. Aside from being one of the town's first physicians, he opened the city's first hospital and lobbied heavily in the 1940s for the construction of Midland Memorial Hospital.

While a medical student at Texas A&M-Galveston, he was among the survivors of the 1900 hurricane that killed between 6,000 and 12,000 people and destroyed much of the island.

Thomas had a curious aversion to people who were left-handed, according to his surviving grandsons, John Meadows and Henry Meadows. Also known for his suits and ties anchored by a diamond-stud clasp, his cigars were as ever-present as his well-known generosity and friendliness.

Thomas' best friend was Jno. P. Butler, one of Midland's foremost business leaders and community champions, and it was because of the well-known banker that Thomas stumbled onto what would become a family fortune in the oil and gas business.

When he first came to Midland and established his medical practice, Thomas bought a house on a city block that is bordered by the present-day Big Spring and Wall streets and Missouri and Colorado avenues.

"Mr. Butler was after my grandfather to sell him that city block across from the courthouse so they could build a new First National Bank building," John Meadows said. "But my grandfather never wanted to sell it."

Finally, Butler made his best and final offer: "What's it going to take?" Butler asked Thomas.

Henry Meadows said his grandfather thought for a minute and finally told Butler, "Well, I've always wanted to be in the oil business."

"Mr. Butler told our grandfather, 'We've just foreclosed on a bunch of minerals, and I'd be willing to swap you those minerals

Please see **101**/4A

Weather
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Today in Abby
A widow in her 60s seeks advice on her relationship with a plutonic friend.
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The big number
It has been one year since
20,000 people
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Today in Texas
Folks in Plainview still reeling from shutdown. Page 1B

Coming Tuesday
Report on most commonly stolen vehicles in Midland.

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Sally Reyes, AuD, CCC-A
Audiologist

Documentary looks at Rio Rancho family band

By Adrian Gomez
Albuquerque Journal

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — In the late 1960s, the Cowsills were a TV and radio staple.

With hits such as "The Rain, The Park & Other Things," "Hair" and "Indian Lake" and appearances on "The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson," "American Bandstand" and "The Ed Sullivan Show," the seven members were blazing a path for family bands.

In fact, their wholesome take on flower-power pop inspired the fictional "Partridge Family," just as the family was fading from public view.

Today, not many people remember the Cowsills, though their songs are still played on radio.

The band consisted of Bob, Susan, Paul, John, Bill, Barry and Barbara.

A new documentary, "Family Band: The Cowsills Story," premiered Wednesday on Showtime and is aiming to give an inside look to the rise and fall of the beloved band. The next airing will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Richard Cowsill, 63, is now a Rio Rancho resident.

He said he is looking forward to seeing the documentary open up some eyes about his family.

"They had a great run," he said with a smile. "But, like most musicians in that time, they got taken advantage of and really didn't make any money."

Richard is the second oldest of seven born to Bud and Barbara Cowsill, and worked backstage.

Having no musical talent himself but recognizing everyone else in the family had it in spades, Bud aggressively pushed them as a professional act. Soon the Cowsills were relocating from Rhode Island to Southern California, signed by MGM (which insisted Barbara and Susan join the group), and scoring several chart hits.

While his brothers, sister and mother found success in the band, Richard was the odd man out. But it wasn't due to not having musical talent.

"My father and I never got along," he said. "Since I was a child, we never reached agreements. While the others would perform, I would be in the background setting up their instruments."

By 18, after an argument with his father, Richard enlisted in the military and left for what would become three tours in Vietnam.

Despite being left out in the band, Richard had his lifelong dream fulfilled — he performed with the band in the family's hometown of Newport, R.I., as part of the Cowsill Marathon concert.

"This was the one and only time all seven of us performed together," he said. "It was a very special time for us and it's a special time that sticks out in my mind."

The documentary was filmed over the course of seven years. Richard's twin brother Bob said it took nearly two years for everyone to say yes to the project.

Bob said documentary producer Louise Palanker approached him after a solo performance in Woodland Hills, Calif.

"She asked about making a documentary and I kept saying no," he said during a phone interview from Las Vegas, Nev. "She was tenacious, and I told her I had to ask my brothers and sisters. After some time, we agreed and production started in 2004. What people don't understand is that when you allow a documentary to be made, it has to be an open book. It's like a psychoanalysis of the family, and we had to get down to the nitty-gritty of the history. The good, the bad and the ugly. It wasn't a piece of cake to make."

The documentary goes behind the scenes to dig up its share of private dirt and family secrets, and is chock-full of vintage clips that chronicle the clan's complicated larger story.

Richard said growing up was difficult because his father didn't let the children know one another.

"Everyone was always looking out for their own behind," he said. "We were afraid to do anything wrong. We were taught keep it simple and just make music."

"Family Band: The Cowsills Story" will be rerun more than a dozen times during March on Showtime. Check local listings for more showtimes and channel.

Death Notices

Audrey Lucille (Conner) Hughes

Audrey Lucille (Conner) Hughes, 78, of Bastrop, died March 7, 2013 in Kyle, Texas.

Visitation at Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa March 10, 2013 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Graveside services at Ector County Cemetery, Peaceful Gardens March 11, 2013 at 10 a.m.

Survivors: Husband J.D. Hughes of Bastrop; sons: Ron Lee of Odessa, Richard Lee of Midland, Eric Hughes of Odessa; daughters: Sherry Hughes Wherry of San Antonio and Reba Hughes Griffith of Bastrop, brother, Claude Conner of Odessa, fourteen grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Arrangements entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel 8115 W University Blvd. Odessa, TX.

Ina Jackson Stewart

Ina Jackson Stewart, 86, of Big Spring, died Saturday, March 9, 2013, in an Odessa hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM, Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Monday, March 11, 2013, at the funeral home.

Survivors include two sons, Howard Stewart and Jimmy Stewart both of Big Spring; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements directed by Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Jacqueline Simmers

Jacqueline "Jacki" Simmers passed away March 9, 2013. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00am at the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. Reverend Larry Long will be officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

Manuela A. Carrasco

Manuela Carrasco, 95 of Midland, passed away on Saturday, March 9, 2013.

Survived by her son Sergio Maximo Aguirre of Chihuahua, MX; daughters: Aracely Aguirre and Guadalupe Olivas both of Midland; sister: Maria Aguirre of Ojinaga, Chihuahua, MX; eighteen grandchildren, thirty six great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

Rosary Monday March 11th at 7:00 p.m. at Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Chapel. Funeral mass Tuesday, March 12th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Ector County Cemetery in Odessa, TX.

Services directed by Lewallen-Garcia-Pipkin Funeral Home.

Improv-heavy 'Drinking Buddies' premieres at SXSW

Associated Press

AUSTIN — "Drinking Buddies" is a comedy about blurring the line between work friendship and budding romance. And when you work in a brewery — and partake of your product as often as you can — that line gets even blurrier.

Writer/director Joe Swanberg premiered his movie Saturday night at the South By Southwest film festival. Known for indie flicks with minuscule budgets, he brought his eighth film to the Austin gathering.

It's also easily the biggest production, with a cast featuring Olivia Wilde, Anna Kendrick, Jake Johnson and Ron Livingston.

Walking the red carpet, Swanberg said he didn't feel extra pressure despite the more-lavish production.

"The film grew to its size really organically," he said. "There wasn't a concerted effort to make something bigger; it's just that this was a story that I wanted to tell and then, as the actors came on board, the budget grew."

Though the plot was scripted, Swanberg had the actors improvise their dialogue so that the audience could "see real people coming through."

"You're not watching famous Hollywood actors playing roles, what you're seeing is their personalities shining through," he said. "They're still playing characters, but they're bringing a lot of themselves into it."

Wilde said she so relished making her lines up as she went along that "Drinking Buddies is the highlight of her career so far.

"It's the thing I'm most proud of," she said. "I feel that I devoted myself to this in a way I've never done. Improvising the entire film meant that I was constantly creating."

FELONY ARRESTS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Felix J. Bermea Jr., 45, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on a charge of violation of parole.

Ramon T. Galan, 41, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on a charge of violation of parole.

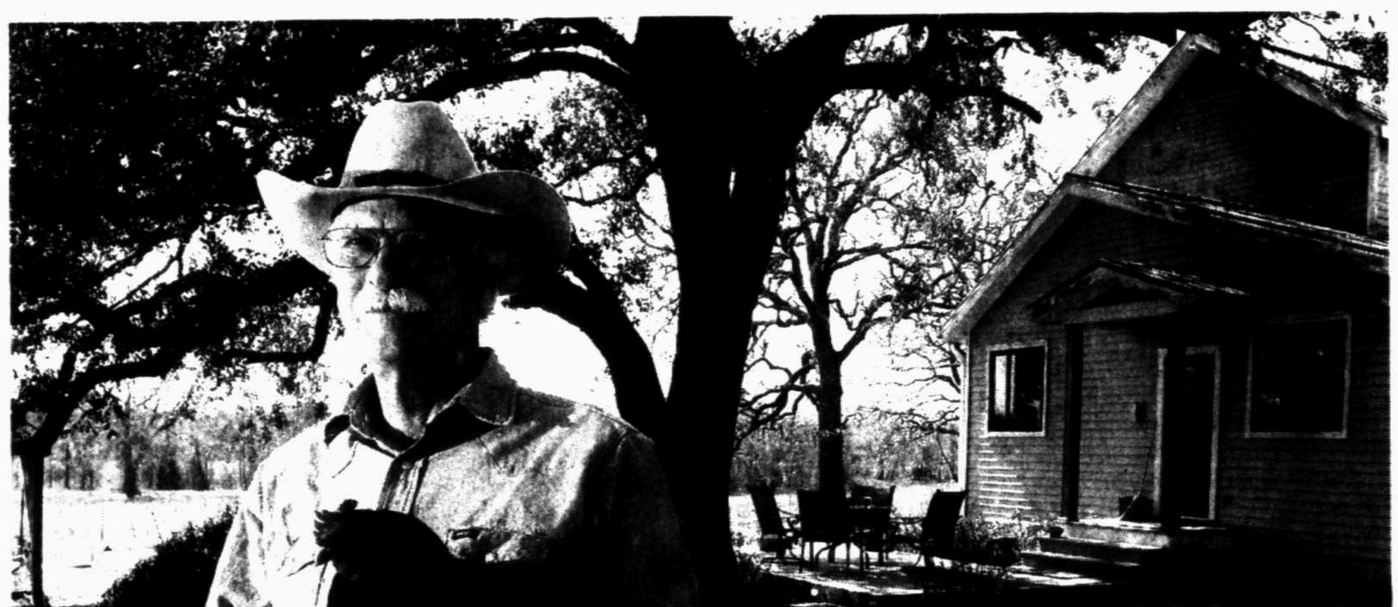
Timothy J. Hayes, 24, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

Lillie J. Jones, 52, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Roderick J. Lide Jr., 21, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and violation of probation.

Tunya L. Williams, 46, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Source: Midland County Sheriff's Office



Dave Rossman/Houston Chronicle

Jim Kearney poses at his ranch near Weimar on Feb. 25. Kearney is an amalgam, a scholar/rancher who still lives on and works the family ranch in Weimar. "I put on different hats," is how he puts it. Tall and lean, with a serious mustache, he looks like the rancher from Central Casting. But Kearney, who has his doctorate and will be teaching a course in European immigration into Texas at UT this fall, has encyclopedic knowledge of the German history of Texas.

Texas German is a vanishing tongue

By Kyrie O'Connor
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — When Kaye Langehennig Wong was a little girl in Katy in the '60s, her parents would take her to visit her grandparents in Fredericksburg. "My grandparents lived in a stone house on Main Street," she said. "I played with horny toads and walked down Main Street listening to the ladies in the shops talking in German."

Wong's father spoke only German until he went to school. "My parents spoke German to each other when they didn't want us to know what they were saying," she says. But like many parents of their generation, they didn't teach her.

The German Wong heard on Main Street was unlike German spoken anywhere else in the world. Texas German, the result of the flood of German immigrants into South Central Texas in the 19th century, is an amalgam of many of the dialects spoken in what is now Germany but was, until 1871, a collection of independent states.

When Germans settled in other parts of the U.S., they tended to cluster with people from the same original area. In Texas, they mixed freely, thus creating a unique language stew.

Hans Boas fell in love with Texas German when he was driving from Northern California to Austin in 2001 and happened to stop in Fredericksburg. It's been a topic of study for him since then. But he doesn't have time on his side.

Boas, a professor of Germanic studies and linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin, isn't trying to revive the language — it's too late for that — just to save the sound of it for posterity. He is trying to preserve the voices of as many speakers of Texas German as he can.

Only about 8,000 people speak Texas German now, down from perhaps 150,000 in the 1940s — census data is unclear — and they are almost all older than 60. Virtually no young people speak the language, and it will be dead in 30 years.

Think of Boas as a zoologist studying a nearly extinct species. Even if it dies out, "with a zoologist, you're likely to find bones to dig up, you can kind of classify it and figure out its habitat," he says. When a language dies out, if there are no documents or recordings, it's gone forever.

Jim Kearney is also an amalgam, a scholar/rancher who still lives on and works the family ranch in Weimar. "I put on different hats," is how he puts it. Tall and lean, with a serious mustache, he looks like the rancher from Central Casting. But Kearney, who has his doctorate and will be teaching a course in European immigration into Texas at UT this fall, has encyclopedic knowledge of the German history of Texas.

German immigration, a push-pull of overpopulation and lack of opportunity in the Old World and abundant land in the New, began while this was Mexico, especially in what are now Austin, Colorado and Washington counties. A married man in good standing could get a league of land, 4,428 acres — enormous by European standards.

"They were not paupers," Kearney told the Houston Chronicle. "You could not leave if you were a debtor."

They settled along the tributaries of the Brazos and Colorado rivers — not in the river valleys where the slave owners grew cotton and not in the low, wet prairies. Most of the places they settled, if you cocked your head at the right time of year, looked like Germany.

In 1842, a group of German noblemen formed the Adelsverein, whose aim was to send settlers to Texas and establish trade. The first try was a near disaster, stranding colonists in Indianola with few provisions.

Many died of cholera, but the rest made their way west and founded New Braunfels. The Germans learned how to farm Texas from friendly Mormons and established a successful (and respectful) treaty with the Comanches. "It shows how things could have been different," said Kearney.

After 1848, a wave of Freemasons and disaffected intellectuals made a beachhead in Texas. They founded towns such as Comfort, which had no church for 50 years.

Although the noblemen founded a plantation in Round Top, with slaves, the rank-and-file Germans, firm believers in human rights, were resolutely anti-slavery. In the Civil War, this caused strife, said Kearney: lynchings, martial law, gangs, culminating with the massacre by Confederates at the Nueces River of a group of German Unionists camping on the way to Mexico. All told, 28 of the 60-some Unionists were killed.

A new wave of postwar immigrants followed the coming of the railroad, barbed wire and windmills.

In general, the Germans who settled here were not like their Anglo counterparts, said Kearney. "They were completely devoid of the Puritanical," he said. They loved music, singing and dancing, joining clubs and leagues, drinking beer. They were civic-minded: proud of being Americans and proud of being Germans.

But after two World Wars and much discrimination, their language became inconvenient, and it started to die.

Boas is trying to get data on and record the voices of as many speakers as he can. Before 2008, he was recording about 10 a month. But as the economy tanked and funding dried up, he's now able to fund only one every two months.

Raising funds is slow going. Boas has theories, but no proof, about why money is so tight.

There's the memory of discrimination, and there's a lingering shame. "Their teachers said 'You speak bad German,'?" he said. "Scientifically speaking, there's said like a bad language. Every dialect is a purely functional system." But the stigma lingers.

He has recorded 400 speakers so far. No two have spoken exactly the same way, not even siblings. It depends who their peer group was, what exposure to English they had, what clubs they joined. And the Texas German spoken near the coast is not the same as that of the Hill Country.

As Kearney points out, one of the wonders of Texas German is that the original settlers had to invent words that didn't exist in traditional German.

Skunk, for example. They settled on "Stinkkatze" — "stink cat." And sometimes the existing English word worked its way in.

But the language is disappearing.

"You can still hear it if you find places where the speakers hang out," said Boas. "But it's more and more difficult."

Princess whose forbidden love gripped Sweden dies

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — She was one of the better kept secrets of Sweden's royal household: a commoner and divorcee whose relationship with Prince Bertil was seen as a threat to the Bernadotte dynasty.

In a touching royal romance, Welsh-born Princess Lilian and her Bertil kept their love unofficial for decades and were both in their 60s when they finally received the king's blessing to get married.

Lilian died in her Stockholm home on Sunday at age 97. The Royal Palace didn't give a cause of death, but Lilian suffered from Alzheimer's disease and had been in poor health for several years.

She met Sweden's Prince Bertil in 1943, but his obligations to the throne and Lilian's status as a divorced commoner prevented them from making their love public. The couple's sacrifices and lifelong dedication to one another gripped the hearts of Swedes.

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AP file photo

Colton Payne fills a jug with mineral water from a well at Famous Water Co. in Mineral Wells on Nov. 14, 2012. The 109-year-old company sells Crazy Water in three varieties: No. 2 with the least mineral content and taste, No. 3 with a bit more and No. 4 with the highest content.

MINERAL WELLS

Water company boosts town's heritage

Associated Press

MINERAL WELLS — Legendary in the early 1900s for its rumored powers to cure a host of ailments, this tiny Texas community's mineral baths and well water once attracted tens of thousands of tourists, including the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, Clark Gable and a future president, Lyndon B. Johnson.

Mineral Wells was thriving in the 1920s-40s, with about a dozen water companies and several hotels providing mineral baths to treat everything from arthritis to mental illnesses. One company even named its product Crazy Water after an elderly woman's "mania" allegedly was cured after she drank from a well in the late 1800s.

Then everything began to change after World War II. Such remedies became less popular as penicillin and other antibiotics became readily available. People stopped coming and most hotels closed. The town's namesake lost its relevance as Mineral Wells began focusing on manufacturing and aviation industries.

More than a half century later, a water company that survived the town's economic facelift has boosted sales of Crazy Water to several states and is again offering mineral baths — helping revive Mineral Wells' long-dormant roots across Texas and beyond.

"It's always been our goal to make it a part of the living history so the heritage of the town didn't die," said Carol Elder, who bought the 109-year-old Famous Water Co. with her husband 14 years ago and expanded mineral water sales beyond the town. "It's very unique. You'd be hard-pressed to find as much history as this town has."

While water likely will never return as Mineral Wells' main industry, those who live and work in this quiet community of 17,000 residents still embrace its heritage. Some 10,000 people attend the annual Crazy Water Festival in October that features a beer brewed with the special water, described as having a more robust flavor than regular beer. "Keep Mineral Wells Crazy" banners line the main downtown street that features antique shops, eateries and other businesses.

Towering over these buildings is the iconic 450-room Baker Hotel, Mineral Wells' faded jewel that once attracted the rich and famous but now sits unoccupied with shuttered and broken windows across its worn facade. The hotel closed in 1972 after operating about 40 years, but a development company is trying to secure financing to renovate the Baker into an upscale hotel for conventions and weddings.

"Water is such an integral part of our community," said Beth Watson, president of the Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our economy is based on several industries, but the Baker is still one of the most asked-about points of interest here."

The town 75 miles west of Dallas was founded in 1881 and named for the unusual wells. Although other cities in Texas and elsewhere had similar wells and springs with nearby resorts, Mineral Wells was among the more popular destinations in the early 1900s, with some 150,000 visitors annually. One company shipped just the minerals in packets called Crazy Water Crystals for customers to mix into their water — making is possible "for people everywhere to 'Drink their way to Health,'" according to a 1930s newspaper ad.

While those early ads proclaimed that the water cured constipation, nervous indigestion, high blood pressure, bad complexion, liver trouble, acid stomach, arthritis and neuritis, the Federal Drug Administration doesn't allow health claims for mineral water.

The water contains sulfate, which health experts say helps in digestion; sodium bicarbonate, which maintains the body's pH balance; silica, which helps repair tissues; as well as calcium, potassium, zinc and magnesium.

Brian A. Johnson, a personal trainer and holistic nutrition coach in Dallas, said he recommends Crazy Water because the high levels of electrolytes help people hydrate faster, and the sodium bicarbonate flushes out lactic acid produced during exercise that leads to muscle soreness. But he's not calling it a cure.

"If you're deficient in trace minerals, your body's ability to function as normal is limited," he said.

Last fall, Elder decided to start offering the once-coveted mineral baths of yesteryear. So far the company only has one bathtub — mostly frequented by locals within an hour's drive — but it could add a half dozen tubs if the mineral bath demand continues to rise, Elder said.

Local resident Christy McKamey, who has taken several mineral baths at Famous Water, says they are relaxing. The company's small bathroom is adorned with antique furniture and old Famous Water advertising signs — resembling a room at a hotel where people took baths in the early 1900s.

Crazy Water initially was sold by a competing company, and when it went out of business in the 1970s, Famous Water took over the trademark and has been selling it under that brand ever since.

When Elder and her husband bought Famous Water in 1999, water sales were only local and about $30 a day. She said the company just ended the year with a 45 percent growth increase and sells Crazy Water in about 500 health food stores and supermarkets across Texas and some health food stores in six other western states. Elder credits the expansion to word of mouth from runners, cyclists and other customers.

"Some people in a store see our label and buy Crazy Water because they think it's cool, but the majority of people trying it have had exposure to it," Elder said. "People are looking at simple, easy ways to get more minerals in their diet."

STATEBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

PORT ARANSAS

Authorities using technology during spring break

Technology is helping South Texas authorities keep a handle on spring breakers this year.

Five Corpus Christi magistrate judges will issue warrants and set bail through an online video conferencing system for people arrested in the Port Aransas area during this spring break. Port Aransas, a popular destination, is located about 40 miles east of Corpus Christi.

"Law enforcement technology is evolving," Port Aransas Police Chief Scott Burroughs said. "It makes perfect sense to not have a judge here all night. They can keep doing their regular duties and officers don't have to drive all the way to Corpus Christi for magistration."

In the past, judges would work out of the Port Aransas Police Department during the peak hours of 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Port Aransas officers arrested 111 people during spring break last year, Burroughs said.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Sunday that the system will also allow judges and officers to speed up the process for getting approval to draw blood samples from suspected drunken drivers. For a medical technician to get a blood draw, an officer must first obtain a warrant from a municipal court judge.

EL PASO

West Texas school district accused of cheating

A state audit has accused some educators at a West Texas school district of cheating on federal accountability standards.

The El Paso Times reported Sunday that auditors from the Texas Education Agency have concluded that the number of limited English-proficient, or LEP, students at the high school in the Canutillo Independent School District was manipulated during the 2010 and 2011 school years.

The Canutillo school district, with 6,000 students, is located just northwest of El Paso.

According to the audit, the number of LEP students at Canutillo High School for 2010, 2011 or 2012 did not meet the minimum size to be considered a subgroup and evaluated through federal adequate yearly progress measures.

The audit accuses Jim Fry, the former Canutillo high school principal, of directing the English-language facilitator at the high school not to reclassify 13 foreign transfer ninth-grade students "who were going to be moved to 10th grade" to avoid creating a LEP subgroup.

Responses that Fry gave auditors in the TEA report indicate that Damon Murphy, the former Canutillo superintendent who resigned under pressure in December, wanted to avoid a LEP subgroup.

"In October of 2010, Dr. Murphy texted me about our LEP subpopulation graduation rate," Fry told auditors according to the report. "He stated that we needed to fix this either finding more ways for LEP students to earn credits through LUCHA (sic) or to exit them from LEP so that they wouldn't hurt our graduation rate."

CORPUS CHRISTI

Bird missing from Texas State Aquarium

A bird from the Texas State Aquarium has apparently flown the coop.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported that aquarium officials on Sunday continued looking for Piper, a trumpeter hornbill. Piper was last spotted flying around the Port of Corpus Christi in South Texas on Saturday.

The female bird is recognizable by its disproportionately large beak, with a gray, hornlike projection on top.

Trumpeter hornbills are common in warm, coastal forests in southern Africa, said aquarium spokesman Richard Glover.

Anyone who sees Piper is asked to call 361-881-1215.

EL PASO

Nothing vanilla about discovery in ice cream truck

A West Texas ice cream truck was apparently carrying something more associated with giving you the munchies than satisfying your sweet tooth.

El Paso County Sheriff's deputies have arrested two men on drug charges after two plastic bowls containing a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana was found in a purple ice cream truck they were in.

The El Paso Times reported that deputies pulled over the vehicle on Saturday after seeing it had a cracked windshield and an expired registration sticker. The two occupants — 19-year-old Elijah Sanchez and 29-year-old Anthony Arellano — have been charged with possession of marijuana under 2 ounces. Sanchez was also charged with evading arrest and detention after leading deputies on a brief chase.

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TODAY IN MIDLAND

Meetings today

County commissioners
9 a.m.
Midland County Courthouse auxiliary courtroom.
500 N. Loraine St.

Community calendar

■ U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway is planning a town hall meeting 2-3 p.m. today at Polo Park Estates.
The public is invited to attend.

■ Midland Quilters Guild is to meet 7 p.m. Tuesday and 1 p.m. Wednesday at Alamo Heights Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The program is on quilting tips.
For more information, call 694-0561.

■ A job fair for people 55 and older is planned for 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesdays at Workforce Solutions of the Permian Basin, 3510 N. 'A' St. People attending should inquire about the Experience Works Program. For more information contact Liz Cox at 325-641-1319 or iz_cox@experience-works.org.

Support groups, club meetings today

■ PFLAG Odessa (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays), 7 p.m., (except on holidays), Alternative Life Solutions Counseling, 2458 E. 11th St., Odessa; 559-5909 or 432-337-3684, pflagodessa@yahoo.com or www.pflagodessa.weebly.com.

■ Midland Amateur Radio Club, 7:30 p.m., clubhouse, Loop 250 and Lamesa Road; 561-9729.

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

Talk show schedules

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

KWEL (AM 1070, FM 107.1)
6-10 a.m. Morning Show with Craig Anderson
10 a.m.-noon, Neal Boortz (till Jan 21, then Herman Cain)
Noon-2 p.m. Glenn Beck
2-5 p.m. Sean Hannity
5-6 p.m. Jason Moore
6-8 p.m., Jerry Doyle
8-11 p.m. Mike Savage.
11 p.m.-6 a.m. The Music of Your Life
Web: http://www.kwel.com

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

Other options
Contemporary Christian: KFRI (FM 88.7), KLVW (FM 90.5)
NPR: KOCV (FM 91.3)

How to submit

■ Births. Have information and a picture about a newborn son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter you want in the paper? Call Managing Editor Mary Dearen at 687-8852.

■ Engagement, wedding anniversary or quinceanera announcements: email write-up and photo to weddings@mrt.com. For more information, call 682-6222.

■ Education news: email information and photo to Mary Dearen at mdearen@mrt.dom or Meredith Moriak at mmoriak@mrt.com. For more information, call 687-8852.

■ Religion news: email information and photo to Features Editor Megan Buck at mbuck@mrt.com. For more information, call 687-8871.

■ Items for "Names & Faces," a roundup of community and society events: email information and photo to Managing Editor Mary Dearen at mdearen@mrt.com or Editor Stewart Doreen at sdoreen@mrt.com. For more information, call 687-8852.

■ For "Have You Heard" call Marilyn Harrison at 682-3080 or 685-1823 or email information to texachem@clearwire.net. Photos also can be submitted; email photos to mdearen@mrt.com.

■ Business and oil industry news: contact Oil Editor Mella McEwen at 687-8860 or mmcewen@mrt.com.

■ Items of local interest: contact Editor Stewart Doreen at 687-8856 or sdoreen@mrt.com.

■ Letters to the editor: email to letters@mrt.com or mail to 201 E. Illinois Ave., 79701. For more information call 687-8852.

Today in history

Today is Monday, March 11, the 70th day of 2013. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's highlight:
On March 11, 1888, the Blizzard of '88, also known as the "Great White Hurricane," began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

On this date:
In 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station.

Today's birthdays: ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 79. Musician Flaco Jimenez is 74. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 68. Actor Mark Metcalf is 67. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 66. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 63. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 63. Actress Susan Richardson is 61. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine is 60. Singer Nina Hagen is 58. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 58. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 56. Actor Elias Koteas is 52. Actor-director Peter Berg is 51.
Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 51.

SPLIT

From 1A

doesn't cause them pain.

The Texas Medical Association and the Texas Hospital Association also support the bill, filed by Rep. Susan King, R-Abilene.

"Requiring physicians and hospitals to continue to provide non-beneficial treatment that they rightly believe is unethical and inappropriate violates their freedom of conscience," the Texas Catholic Conference said.

Changing the law has created a rare division among the highly influential right-to-life lobby, which is capable of mobilizing Republican primary voters. The frantic debate over the law also reflects how right-to-life groups have moved beyond opposing abortion to expand their political portfolio.

These groups have tried to change the law every session since 2007, sparking hours of emotional testimony and hyperbolic debate. These bills and many similar ones will likely bring more of the same when they come up at committee hearings.

Yet, the Texas Advance Directive Act is rarely ever used. The Texas Hospital Association surveyed 202 hospitals across the state of all sizes and found that between 2007 and 2011, doctors and the families disagreed in 30 cases out of 3.7 million patients admitted. The Ethics Committee agreed with the doctor's conclusion 70 percent of the time.

In those cases, the patient had been in the hospital an average of 47 days and almost six days elapsed between when the doctor wanted to withdraw treatment and when the ethics committee met. In eight cases the patient died while awaiting transfer, six were transferred, four patients continued to receive treatment, two families changed their minds and two patients died before the committee could make a decision.

For people who must rely on the process, though, it is traumatic to hear that a doctor wants to allow your loved one to die, and that the only recourse is a committee made up of social workers, doctors, chaplains and community leaders. King's bill would allow family members to participate in the meetings, something not now guaranteed under the law.

Doctors, though, describe the trauma on the patient when they undergo treatments that will do nothing to save them from the inevitable. Even feeding a patient through a tube can cause them incredible abdominal pain, or placing them on a ventilator can break their ribs and bring pain with very breath.

Professionals also point out that the vast majority of money spent on health care goes to treating the elderly, and that science is now capable of prolonging the life of people with terminally illnesses far longer than ever before. Many question if this is the wisest way to spend federal Medicare dollars when they do little to improve the patient's life.

Conservative Republicans are listening to both sides, and in the weeks ahead, will have to decide who will ultimately make the life or death decision when a family and a doctor disagree.

DANGER

From 1A

rate eclipsed that of active-duty soldiers and the civilian population; last year, about 1 in 3 Army suicides were of a National Guard soldier. Officials said about half of National Guard suicide victims nationally had never deployed, a trend that appears to hold in Texas.

Paula Brown-Nichols said she began seeing changes in her son, Spc. Cory Brown, when he came back for a mid-tour leave in the spring of 2009 and had a panic attack while they watched a musical.

Things got worse when he permanently returned from Iraq with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder. Brown had become angry and aggressive, his mother said.

Brown began to abuse his prescription drugs as well as illegal substances in an effort, his mother says, to self-medicate his pain. Brown-Nichols said she tried desperately to get him into a residential PTSD and substance abuse treatment program through Veteran Affairs, but no beds were available. Instead, he saw a VA counselor once a month, receiving more prescriptions.

Brown-Nichols said she tried to enlist the help of his National Guard supervisors and told them that her son was suicidal, but said her pleas were not answered.

"He was just dropped through the cracks, that's all there is to it," she said.

In September 2011, Brown killed himself with a gunshot to the head. It happened shortly after an argument with his new wife, who was then seven months pregnant, and about a week after his mother says his medication through the VA was changed. His son, Elijah, was born two months later.

A National Guard investigation into Brown's suicide concluded that his command "acted properly in its dealings with SPC Brown" but suggested there were structural problems.

"There is no mechanism in place at (Brown's unit) to positively account for and/or track a soldier that may show signs of mental health issues," the report stated. "While SPC Brown's first-line leaders were aware of sporadic issues, because no one individual possessed all the information about SPC Brown's behavior over time, then no definitive action was taken."

Texas National Guard officials said a number of changes have been implemented since Brown's death, including more intensive suicide prevention training for supervisors and behavioral health case managers who act as liaisons between soldiers and available mental health help.

Army officials and veterans advocates said the nature of National Guard duty back home makes it more difficult for soldiers to get the mental health care they need.

"In active duty, their front-line supervisor can look them in the eye and sense that something's not right," said Dave Lewis, a retired Air Force colonel and president of the Veterans Resource Coordination Group, a Lubbock organization that seeks to connect rural veterans with services.

Such interaction is more difficult in the National Guard.

"Our challenge is that we see our soldiers one weekend a month, and you have just a few minutes to touch base with them," said Lt. Col. Alba Villanueva, director of joint family support services for the Texas Military Forces, speaking in general about suicide in the Texas National Guard.

Researchers also are looking into the role that identity plays in the growing number of suicides, especially among the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard. Unlike active-duty troops, who return to military installations and live in communities long accustomed to war, National Guard soldiers return to the civilian world where the transition from war is far more abrupt.

Disney's 'Oz' bewitches box office with $80M debut

By Derrick J. Lang
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Oz the Great and the Powerful" clicked with moviegoers.

Disney's 3-D prequel to the classic L. Frank Baum tale "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" debuted in first place and earned $80.3 million at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

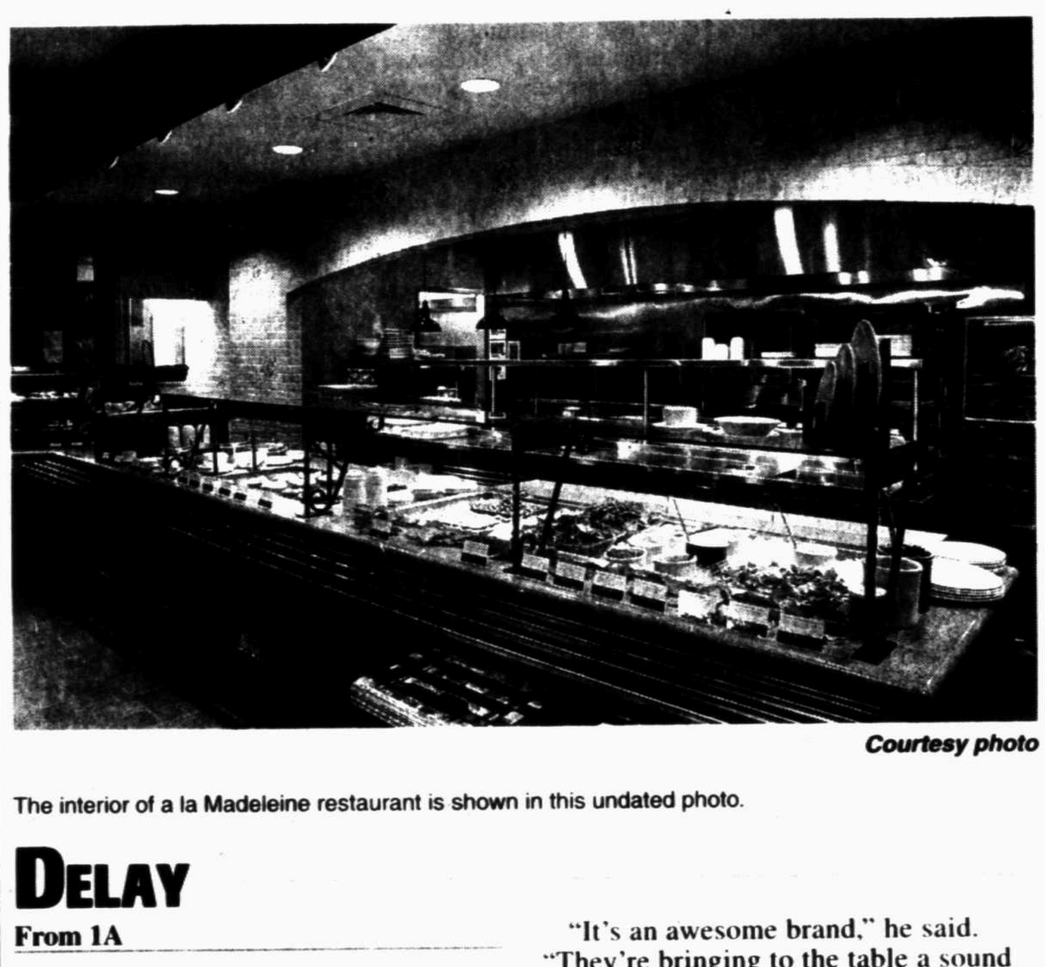
"Oz" tells the origin of James Franco as the wizard with Mila Kunis, Michelle Williams and Rachel Weisz as the trio of witches he encounters after landing in the mystical realm of Oz.

The updated take on "Oz," which was directed by original "Spider-Man" trilogy mastermind Sami Raimi, was a gamble that looks like it will pay off for Disney. The film reportedly cost $200 million and opened a week after "Jack the Giant Slayer," another big-budget 3-D extravaganza that reimagines a classic tale, flopped in its opening weekend, debuting with $28 million at the box office.

"'Oz' is the shot in the arm that the industry needed," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "We had six consecutive weekends where the box office was down. As a result, we're at a 12-and-a-half percent deficit year-to-date on box office revenues versus last year. Not a lot of movies have worked. There have been several underperformers."

In its second weekend, "Jack" stomped out second place behind "Oz" with $10 million, dropping 62 percent since its opening weekend. "Jack," based on the Jack and the Beanstalk fable, was directed by Bryan Singer and stars Nicholas Hoult and Ewan McGregor.

The only other new release this weekend, the FilmDistrict revenge drama "Dead Man Down" starring Colin Farrell and Noomi Rapace, opened in fourth place with $5.3 million.



Courtesy photo

The interior of a la Madeleine restaurant is shown in this undated photo.

DELAY

From 1A

partnership that is bringing la Madeleine to West Texas, acknowledged that staffing a new Midland location is a concern. As the labor market levels off, he said, "then we'll pull the trigger" on a Midland location.

Beach, 49, is from Big Spring, and his wife, former KMID-TV news anchor Becky Nabors, is from Andrews, so the couple is excited about the partnership with la Madeleine.

"We're still local folks bringing a national brand to Midland," he said. "We're super excited; we're from the area so it's like coming home."

Having earned a degree in restaurant and hotel institutional management, Beach is familiar with the industry. In addition to dabbling in oil and gas, he operates several Red Mango frozen yogurt stores. He is honored, he said, to be la Madeleine's first franchisee.

"It's an awesome brand," he said. "They're bringing to the table a sound management team."

Bothe said the company, along with Beach and his partners, will take a strong look at the Midland market, seeking what he calls a "crown jewel" location to help offset any staffing challenges.

"The Midland site won't come together quickly," he said. "We think within 12 to 36 months it's very, very conceivable we can find a suitable site, but it will take a little more time."

Beach is hopeful a site could be found sooner.

"As we're going through the process, if a nice 'Grade A' location comes up, that time frame could speed up," he said.

"Maybe someone will read this and email me." He even supplied his email address: b.beach@suddenlink.net.

900 dead pigs found floating in Shanghai river

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese officials say they have fished out 900 dead pigs from a Shanghai river that is a water source for city residents.

Officials are investigating where the pigs came from. A statement posted Saturday on the city's Agriculture Committee's website said they haven't found any evidence that the pigs were dumped into the river or of any animal epidemic.

The statement said the city and Songjiang district governments started retrieving the pigs on Friday night. By late Saturday afternoon they had recovered and disposed of more than 900.

The statement said the water and environmental protection bureaus are ramping up monitoring of the river's water quality.

101

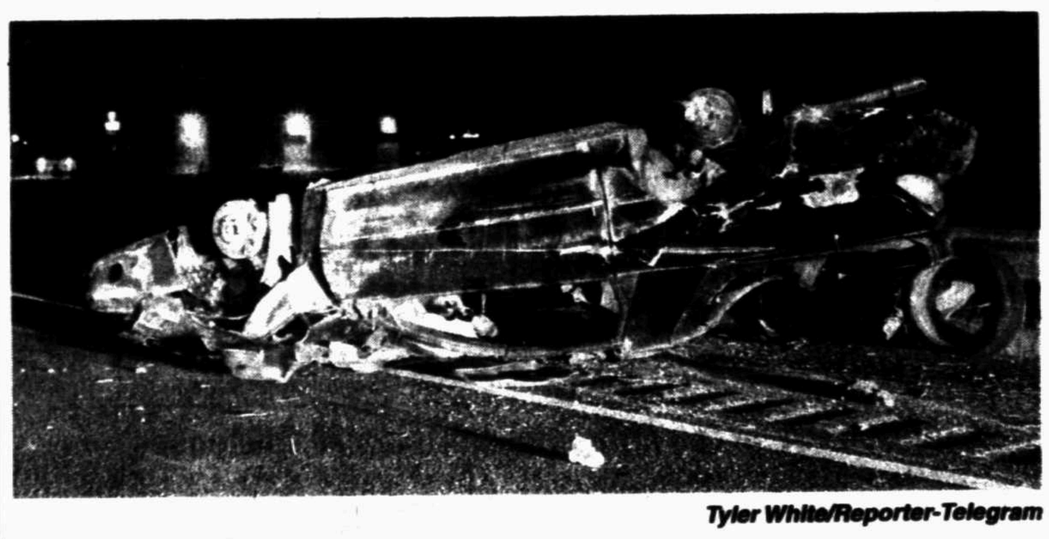
From 1A

for that city block. That's how Mr. Butler and First National Bank ended up with that block. And that's how Dr. Thomas ended up in the oil business."

Henry Meadows said the rights traded to his grandfather are still in the family and still paying royalties to this day.

"Mr. Butler would roll over in his grave if he knew what those minerals were worth today," Henry Meadows said.

Patterson's book, "A History of Character: The Story of Midland, Texas," will be finished this year. You can email him at Jimmyleepatterson@gmail.com.



Tyler White/Reporter-Telegram

The driver of this 2001 Chevrolet Camaro suffered minor injuries in a rollover crash on Highway 191 on Sunday night.

MPD: Man suffers minor injuries in rollover

From staff reports

One man was transported to Midland Memorial Hospital Sunday night with minor injuries after a one-car rollover on Highway 191 in Midland County.

Midland police responded to the crash at 8:43 p.m. on Highway 191 about half a mile past the Farm-to-Market Road 1788 exit.

A car was westbound on Highway 191 when the driver lost control, causing the vehicle to roll over and stop on a guard rail, according to an officer at the scene.

The driver was transported to MMH. A passenger suffered minor cuts and bruises, the officer said.

Speed likely was the cause of the crash and alcohol was not a factor, the officer said. Citations are pending against the driver.

NATION BRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MASSACHUSETTS

Reports: Harvard secretly searched deans' emails

CAMBRIDGE— Harvard University administrators secretly searched the emails of 16 deans last fall, looking for a leak to reporters about a case of cheating, two newspapers reported.

The email accounts belonged to deans on the Administrative Board, a committee addressing the cheating, The Boston Globe and The New York Times reported, citing school officials. The deans were not warned about the email access and only one was told of the search afterward.

Harvard will not comment on personnel matters or provide additional information about the board cases that were concluded during the fall term, Michael Smith, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, said in an email Sunday. If the committee's work were compromised, Harvard College would protect the process, he said.

CALIFORNIA

Animal park reopens after fatal lion attack

DUNLAP — A California animal sanctuary where an African lion killed a 24-year-old intern reopened to the public Sunday with the support of the victim's family.

Cat Haven, a private zoo run by the nonprofit Project Survival, observed a moment of silence at noon for Dianna Hanson, who was fatally attacked by the 550-pound male lion Wednesday.

Cat Haven founder Dale Anderson said the park was returning to normal operations so the staff could focus on taking care of its remaining 29 wild cats, but "we continue to mourn the loss of two family members."

"Dianna would want the work that we are doing to continue and we are re-opening to the public with consent from Dianna's parents," Anderson said at Sunday's news conference. "Her passion for working with these animals was contagious."

Investigators believe the lion, known as Cous Cous, lifted the door of a partially closed feeding cage with its paw and attacked Hanson as she cleaned a larger enclosure area, according to Fresno County Coroner David Haden.

Nuclear chief: US plants safer after Japan crisis

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two years after the nuclear crisis in Japan, the top U.S. regulator says American nuclear power plants are safer than ever, though not trouble-free. A watchdog group calls that assessment overly rosy.

"The performance is quite good," Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Allison Macfarlane said in an interview with The Associated Press.

All but five of the nation's 104 nuclear reactors were performing at acceptable safety levels at the end of 2012, Macfarlane said, citing a recent NRC report. "You can't engage that many reactors and not have a few that are going to have difficulty," she said.

But the watchdog group, the Union of Concerned Scientists, has issued a scathing report saying nearly one in six U.S. nuclear reactors experienced safety breaches last year, due in part to weak oversight. The group accused the NRC of "tolerating the intolerable."

Using the agency's own data, the scientists group said 14 serious incidents, ranging from broken or impaired safety equipment to a cooling water leak, were reported last year. Over the past three years, 40 of the 104 U.S. reactors experienced one or more serious safety-related incidents that required additional action by the NRC, the report said.

"The NRC has repeatedly failed to enforce essential safety regulations," wrote David Lochbaum, director of the group's Nuclear Safety Project and author of the study. "Failing to enforce existing safety regulations is literally a gamble that places lives at stake."

NRC officials disputed the report and said none of the reported incidents harmed workers or the public. Today marks the two-year anniversary of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that crippled Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. U.S. regulators, safety advocates and the industry are now debating whether safety changes imposed after the disaster have made the nation's 65 nuclear plants safer.

AP file photo

Alison Macfarlane, second from right, the chairwoman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, listens to Richard St. Onge, director of Nuclear Regulatory Affairs for Southern Cal Edison, third from right, speak during a tour of the troubled San Onofre Nuclear Power Station in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Jan. 14.

New rules imposed by the NRC require plant operators to install or improve venting systems to limit core damage in a serious accident and set up sophisticated equipment to monitor water levels in pools of spent nuclear fuel.

The plants also must improve protection of safety equipment installed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and make sure they can handle damage to multiple reactors at the same time.

Macfarlane, who took over as NRC chairwoman last July, said U.S. plants are operating safely and are making progress on the new rules, which impose a deadline for completion of 2016 — five years after the Fukushima disaster. "So far, industry seems to be cooperating," she said.

The NRC has been working closely with plant operators "to make sure they understand what we are requiring and that we understand about their situation as well," Macfarlane said.

Even so, the U.S. industry faces a range of difficulties. Problem-plagued plants in Florida and Wisconsin are slated for closure, and four other reactors remain offline because of safety concerns. Shut-down reactors include two at the beleaguered San Onofre nuclear power plant in southern California, which hasn't produced electricity since January 2012, when a tiny radiation leak led to the discovery of damage to hundreds of tubes that carry radioactive water.

Macfarlane said the agency won't let the San Onofre plant reopen until regulators are certain it can operate safely, which may take several months.

Joseph Pollock, vice president of Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry trade association, said plant operators are "working aggressively" to meet the 2016 timeline set by the NRC and have already spent upwards of $40 million on safety efforts. Utilities have bought more than 1,500 pieces of equipment, from emergency diesel generators to sump pumps and satellite phones, Pollock said, and the industry is setting up two regional response centers in Memphis and Phoenix.

The industry expects to meet the 2016 timeline "with the current understood requirements," Pollock said. If the requirements change or new regulations are added, "then obviously we would have to review that," he said.

Even before the new rules are completely in place, the NRC is considering a new regulation related to the Japan disaster: requiring nuclear operators to spend tens of millions of dollars to install filtered vents at two dozen reactors.

NRC staff recommended the filters as a way to prevent radioactive particles from escaping into the atmosphere after a core meltdown. The filters are required in Japan and throughout much of Europe, but U.S. utilities say they are unnecessary and expensive.

The Nuclear Energy Institute said filters may work in some situations, but not all. The group is calling for a "performance-based approach" that allows a case-by-case determination of whether filtering is the best approach to protect public safety and the environment.

"We're not against filtering. It's how you achieve it," said Marvin Fertel, the group's president and CEO.

The filter issue has ignited a debate on Capitol Hill. Lawmakers from both parties have sent out a flurry of dueling letters for and against the proposal. Twenty-eight Republicans in the House and Senate, joined by more than two dozen House Democrats, have sent letters opposing the requirement as hasty and unnecessary.

A dozen Democratic senators and five House members have written letters backing the requirement, which they say will ensure public safety in the event of a Japan-style accident. The five-member commission is expected to vote on the issue in the next few weeks.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who chairs the committee, said the filters were needed to protect the 31 U.S. nuclear reactors that have similar designs to the ones that melted down in Japan.

The filters "world reduce the amount of radioactive material released into the environment" in a severe nuclear accident, Boxer wrote in a letter signed by 11 fellow Democrats. "These technologies have been demonstrated in nuclear plants around the world."

"It is vital that U.S. nuclear power plants fully incorporate the lessons learned from this disaster," she said.

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School panics over boy's 'Pop-Tart' pistol

■ Government adds to the ways it fails us on a daily basis.

GEORGE WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

Rodney Francis is insufficiently ambitious. The pastor of the Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church in St. Louis has entered the fray over guns, violence and humanity's fallen nature with a plan for a "buyback" of children's toy guns. And toy swords and other make-believe weapons. There is, however, a loophole in the pastor's panacea. He neglects the problem of ominously nibbled and menacingly brandished breakfast pastries.

Joshua Welch — a boy, wouldn't you know; no good can come of these turbulent creatures — who is 7, was suspended from second grade in Maryland's Anne Arundel County last week because of his "Pop-Tart pistol." While eating a rectangular fruit-filled sugary something — nutritionist Michelle Obama probably disapproves of it, and don't let Michael Bloomberg get started — Joshua tried biting it into the shape of a mountain, but decided it looked more like a gun. So with gender-specific perversity he did the natural thing. He said, "Bang, bang."

But is this really natural? Or is nature taking a back seat to nurture, yet again? Is Joshua's "bang, bang" a manifestation of some prompting in our defective social atmosphere, and therefore something society could and should stamp out?

While some might enjoy dogpaddling around in this deep philosophic water, Joshua's school, taking its cue from Hamlet, did not allow its resolve to be "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." More eager to act than to think, the school suspended Joshua and sent a letter to all the pupils' parents, urging them to discuss the "incident" — which the school includes in the category "classroom disruptions" — with their children "in a manner you deem most appropriate."

Ah, yes. The all-purpose adjective "appropriate." The letter said "one of our students used food to make inappropriate gestures" and although "no physical threats were made and no one was harmed" the code of student conduct stipulates "appropriate consequences." The letter, suffused with the therapeutic ethic, suggested that parents help their children "share their feelings" about all this. It also said the school counselor is available, presumably to cope with Post-Pastry Trauma Syndrome.

By now, Americans may be numb to such imbecilities committed by the government institutions to which they entrust their children for instruction. Nothing surprises after that 5-year-old Pennsylvania girl was labeled a "terroristic threat," suspended from school and ordered to undergo a psychological evaluation because she talked about shooting herself and others with her Hello Kitty gun that shoots bubbles. But looking on the bright side, perhaps we should welcome these multiplying episodes as tutorials about the nature of the regulatory state that swaddles us ever more snuggly with its caring. If so, give thanks for the four Minnesota state legislators whose bill would ban "bullying" at school.

They define this as the use of words, images or actions that interfere with an individual's ability "to participate in a safe and supportive learning environment." Bullying may include, among many other things, conduct that has a "detrimental effect" on a student's "emotional health." Or conduct that "creates or exacerbates a real or perceived imbalance of power between students." Or violates a student's "reasonable expectation of privacy." Or conduct that "does not rise to the level of harassment" but "relates to" — yes, *relates to* — "the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, age, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, academic status, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined" in another Minnesota statute.

If this becomes law, it will further empower the kind of relentless improvers and mindless protectors who panic over Pop-Tart pistols and discern terrorism in Hello Kitty bubble guns. Such people in Minnesota will be deciding what behavior — speech, usually — damages a "supportive learning environment." They will be sniffing out how students' speech or other behavior has real or perceived — by whom? — effects on the balance of "power" between other students. And school bureaucracies will ponder whether what Sally told Eleanor about Brad's behavior with Pam after the prom violated Brad's, or perhaps Pam's, "reasonable expectation of privacy."

Government is failing spectacularly at its core functions, such as budgeting and educating. Yet it continues to multiply its peripheral and esoteric responsibilities, tasks that require it to do things for which it has no aptitude, such as thinking and making common-sense judgments. Government nowadays is not just embarrassing, it is — let us not mince words —*inappropriate*.

OUR VIEW

Conaway measures up well with country's top conservatives

It was interesting to see last week that Midland Republican Congressman Mike Conaway was listed by the National Journal to be tied for fifth place among the most conservative members of the House during 2012.

Conaway is the representative of Texas District 11, which includes Midland. Conaway was in the fifth place tie with John Fleming (R-La.), Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), Steve Scalise (R-La.) and Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas).

Hensarling represents District 5, which includes part of Dallas County.

Other members of the Texas delegation to crack the Top 25 were No. 17 Pete Olson, District 22 (Houston area); No. 18 Bill Flores, District 17 (Bryan, Waco); and No. 24 Sam Johnson, District 3 (Plano area).

The National Journal had a rather shocking pick for the No. 1 slot, which went to Todd Akin, R-Mo. Akin definitely left his mark on the national political scene, but not because of his conservative views. He is now gone from national politics after making a misguided comment about "legitimate rape" during his campaign for the Senate. He lost his re-election bid to Democrat Claire McCaskill, who — following Akin's remarks — charged Republicans were tone deaf on women's issues. It was a band of flawed Republican candidates such as Akin, who we believe set the party back signficantly, if not cost the party control of both the House and Senate.

Following Akin was Austin Scott (R-Ga.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and Jeff Landry (R-La.). Louisiana had three of the 10 most conservative House members.

For the past three decades, the National Journal has rated members of Congress based on selected roll-call votes from the previous year to see how they compared with each other on an ideological scale. Unlike interest groups that rate lawmakers, National Journal does not attempt to say how members should have voted but describes how they voted in comparison with one another.

For years, Midland County has been noted as one of the most conservative counties in the state. It is known for giving Republican candidates on the national scale more than 70 percent of the vote. In fact, Conaway has enjoyed this kind of margin within the county.

It is good to know that Conaway's voting record in Washington continues to reflect the attitudes of the voters back home. We would expect his name to be high on such a list. We continue to want our conservative values represented on Capitol Hill.

We don't want our congressmen trying to make this list. We want representatives who are carrying conservative values forward in a time when government needs to cut spending, fix our future entitlement system and create jobs.

K. Michael Conaway (R), Phone: 202-225-3605; Local officé address: 6 Desta Drive, Suite 2000, Midland, TX 79705; Phone: 687-2390; Website: www.house.gov/conaway

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Sadly, Hugo Chavez will be missed

■ There were plenty on the left, even a former president, who offered kind words for the Venezuelan leader after his death.

RICH LOWRY

King Features Syndicate

Let us pause and reflect. The left's favorite self-aggrandizing thug has shed this mortal coil. Hugo Chavez, R.I.P.

All the country's least-reflective and most-reflexive ideologues of the left immediately issued warm farewells — Sean Penn, Michael Moore, Oliver Stone and, of course, the nation's 39th president, Jimmy Carter.

Carter praised Chavez for his commitment "to bring profound changes to his country," which, by installing himself as the effective president for life, he certainly did. Carter noted his "formidable communications skills," a quality that is not unusual in successful populist demagogues. In the gentle tone of someone who regrets that his good friend sometimes cheats at bridge, Carter allowed that he did not agree "with all of the methods followed by his government."

New York Rep. Jose Serrano rushed to praise Chavez: "He understood democracy and basic human desires for a dignified life." As a technical matter, Serrano is right: Chavez understood democracy exceedingly well, if by that you mean he understood how to exploit its forms while hollowing out its institutions to entrench himself in power in perpetuity.

He displaced a corrupt, conscienceless oligarchy when he took power in 1999 with his own corrupt, conscienceless rule. In a recent report, Human Rights Watch detailed how "the accumulation of power in the executive and the erosion of human rights protections have allowed the Chavez government to intimidate, censor, and prosecute critics and perceived opponents."

Fidel Castro was his mentor, and he propped up the Castro regime with Venezuela's ample oil. He praised every heinous dictator around the planet as a brother-in-arms. He was hell on the plutocrats, and also on the Jews. "Don't let yourselves be poisoned by those wandering Jews," he warned his countrymen, in a sentiment worthy of the 15th century.

All of this should make Chavez an unsympathetic figure for everyone in America. Not so, sadly. For some, all is forgiven if you hate the rich with a white-hot passion and talk the language of populist redistribution, while wrapping your program in a bow of rancid anti-Americanism. Then, every allowance will be made for your thuggery. Everyone will obsess about your colorful and charming personality. And praise you when you're gone.

Chavez's American admirers apparently consider his program as being SCHIP with teeth. They must envy that while we endlessly debate ending "tax breaks for oil companies," Chavez got to run a state-owned oil company and nationalize other industries besides. They must rue that someone here in the U.S. who speaks the truth about the noxiousness of American power merely gets a tenure-track position, while down in Venezuela he gets to run a country by decree.

During Chavez's time in office — blessed by high oil prices — poverty fell in Venezuela. But it fell in other countries in the region as well, according to The Economist, thanks to a commodity boom. Chavez left his country crime-ridden, wracked by inflation and beset by a shortage of goods.

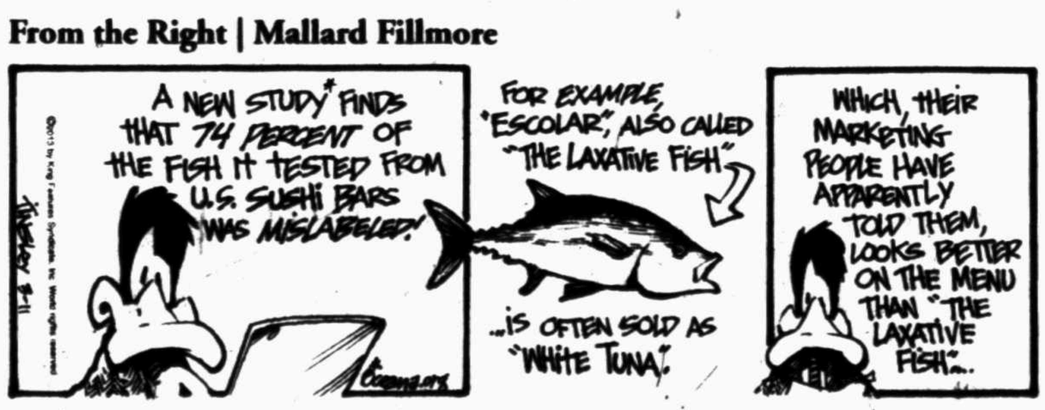
The night of his death, Rachel Maddow had Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson on her program to discuss him. She asked Robinson in a voice heavy with sarcasm whether Hugo Chavez was really "the monster" he was made out to be. Robinson explained that Chavez bonded with the poor and had lots of popular support. Maddow gently prodded Robinson to address criticisms of Chavez for not advancing freedom.

Unable to muster any of the denunciatory venom he lavishes on Republicans once or twice a week, Robinson issued forth with a strangely tortured construction: "He was not what we would call a lover of democracy as we would like to see it practiced." Robinson noted that Chavez gerrymandered electoral districts, but, hey, "that happens elsewhere as well." All in all, he was "a man of contradictions." You know, like Disraeli or Gladstone.

Goodbye, Hugo Chavez. All your friends who got to admire your authoritarian savvy and gross economic mismanagement from a safe distance will miss you very much.

From the Left | Doonesbury

From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



Congress wants role as Obama pushes trade agenda

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration has embarked on an aggressive trade agenda that could lower barriers and increase U.S. exports to many of the economic giants of Asia and Europe. To make that a reality, though, it may first have to negotiate future trade policy a little closer to home — with Congress.

The administration hopes to complete talks by October on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would reduce duties on a wide range of goods and services in the world's most vibrant trading area. Eleven countries, including Australia, Peru, Malaysia, Vietnam, Mexico and Canada, are participating, and Japan has expressed interest in joining.

In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama announced plans for a second deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which would link the United States and the European Union, the world's two largest economies.

Departing U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk added to the agenda in January when he notified Congress of plans to start negotiations for a new trade agreement on international trade in services. The talks will include a group of 20 trading partners representing nearly two-thirds of global trade in services.

Obama has set a goal of doubling exports by the end of next year, after drawing criticism from free-trade advocates during his first term for moving too slowly on trade issues.

"The Obama administration suddenly has this highly ambitious trade agenda that they've laid out," said John Murphy, vice president for international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "Now the challenge is going to be executing."

First, Obama must nominate a successor to Kirk, who in January announced plans to step down. Then, he has to work with lawmakers to restore a procedure called trade promotion authority that is regarded as key to getting trade treaties finalized and approved by Congress.

TPA, also known as "fast track," has a history going back to the 1930s and was formalized in a 1974 trade law. Under TPA, Congress and the White House agree on the objectives of trade negotiations, and Congress affirms that it will vote on any trade treaty without offering amendments that would force the administration to go back to the negotiating table.

The last TPA law expired in 2007, and up to now, the Obama White House hasn't pushed for its renewal. Without TPA on the books, trade partners are reluctant to sign off on deals that could later be amended.

That could be fatal to some complex trade deals, such as the future talks with the EU where success hinges on reaching delicate compromises on such issues as European agriculture subsidies and Europe's restrictions on genetically engineered crops.

A strong trade agenda, said Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, requires close cooperation and consultation with Congress, and "trade promotion authority is the linchpin that brings these elements together."

Members of Obama's Democratic Party tend to oppose TPA, arguing that trade pacts negotiated by past administrations have resulted in job losses in America and given short shrift to environmental and labor and human rights issues. The last TPA law was passed in 2002 by the slimmest of margins, with House votes of 215-214 and 215-212.

More than 300 labor and environmental groups, in a letter last week opposing the Trans-Pacific talks, said no TPA legislation should be considered without a thorough assessment of how a trade deal will affect job creation, environmental and labor rights, food sovereignty, access to medicine and other issues.

POLITICSBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON

AP source: Obama poised to pick Perez for Labor

President Barack Obama is close to naming Thomas Perez, a civil rights official in the Justice Department, as his choice to head the Department of Labor, two people familiar with the process say.

His nomination could come as early as today, the people familiar with the process said Saturday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak before the official announcement.

If confirmed, Perez would replace Hilda Solis, who resigned in January.

White House spokesman Matt Lehrich declined to comment.

Perez, 51, has led the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division since 2009 and previously served as Maryland's labor secretary. He is expected to have solid support from organized labor, as well as the Hispanic community, which is eager to have representation in Obama's second-term Cabinet.

Solis was the first Hispanic woman to head an agency at the Cabinet level. Perez was the first Latino elected to the Montgomery County Council in Maryland, where he served from 2002 to 2006.

Perez would come to the Labor Department as Obama pushes a major immigration overhaul, which could include changes in how employers hire guest workers. Labor Department officials have also taken a prominent role in supporting Obama's effort to raise the federal minimum wage from $7.25 to $9 an hour.

WASHINGTON

Library of Congress to display Gettysburg Address

The Library of Congress plans to display a copy of the Gettysburg Address over a six-week period starting later this month.

The John Hay copy is one of five known manuscript drafts of President Abraham Lincoln's famous 1863 address, which began with the words, "Four score and seven years ago."

It will be on display in the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building from March 22 to May 4 as part of the "Civil War in America" exhibition.

That exhibition, which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, will be extended until Jan. 4.

The Hay copy is believed to be the second draft of the speech. Lincoln gave it to Hay, one of his two secretaries.

WASHINGTON

Jeb Bush: Political reporters are 'crack addicts'

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush on Sunday likened political reporters to "crack addicts" and "heroin addicts" during a tour of morning talk shows that drew repeated questions about the still-distant 2016 presidential election.

Bush, capping a media-heavy week that sparked chatter about a presidential campaign for a third member of his family, tried to keep the conversation focused on his book "Immigration Wars." But as Bush wrapped up a conversation with NBC's David Gregory," he likened journalists and their questions about the 2016 campaign to drug addicts.

"Who's the hottest Florida politician right now? Is it you or Marco Rubio?" Gregory asked, referring to Rubio, a senator who is also a potential GOP contender. "Who are we more likely to see in the White House?"

"Man, you guys are crack addicts. You really are obsessed with all this politics," Bush replied.

The "Meet the Press" host interrupted, saying he'd been called a lot of things, but never a crack addict.

"OK, heroin addict. Is that better?" shot back Bush, the son of former President George H.W. Bush and brother of former President George W. Bush.

WASHINGTON

Lawmakers: Obama wooing might break budget logjam

Republican lawmakers said Sunday they welcome President Barack Obama's courtship and suggested the fresh engagement between the White House and Congress might help yield solutions to the stubborn budget battle that puts Americans' jobs at risk.

Yet the lawmakers cautioned that years of hurt feelings were unlikely to heal simply because Obama dined last week with Republican lawmakers. They also said they would not to rush too quickly into Obama's embrace during three scheduled, and unusual, visits to Capitol Hill next week to win them over.

"He is moving in the right direction. I'm proud of him for doing it. I think it's a great thing," Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said. "I'm welcoming (him) with open arms. I think the president is tremendously sincere. I don't think this is just a political change in tactic. I think he would actually like to solve the problems of this country."

The White House charm offensive comes as automatic spending cuts have begun to take hold, and if Washington does not block them, they could cut jobs as varied as air traffic controllers, meat inspectors and Head Start teachers.

"I hope that this is sincere," said Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee, who lunched with Obama at the White House last week. "We had a very good, frank exchange. But the proof will be in the coming weeks as to whether or not it's a real, sincere outreach to find common ground."

His close friend, Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said lawmakers were unlikely to become fast friends with Obama after four years of being vilified in private and, in some cases, public. "I hope that he's genuine. But I don't think we're going to be doing the Harlem Shake any time soon together," Gardner said.

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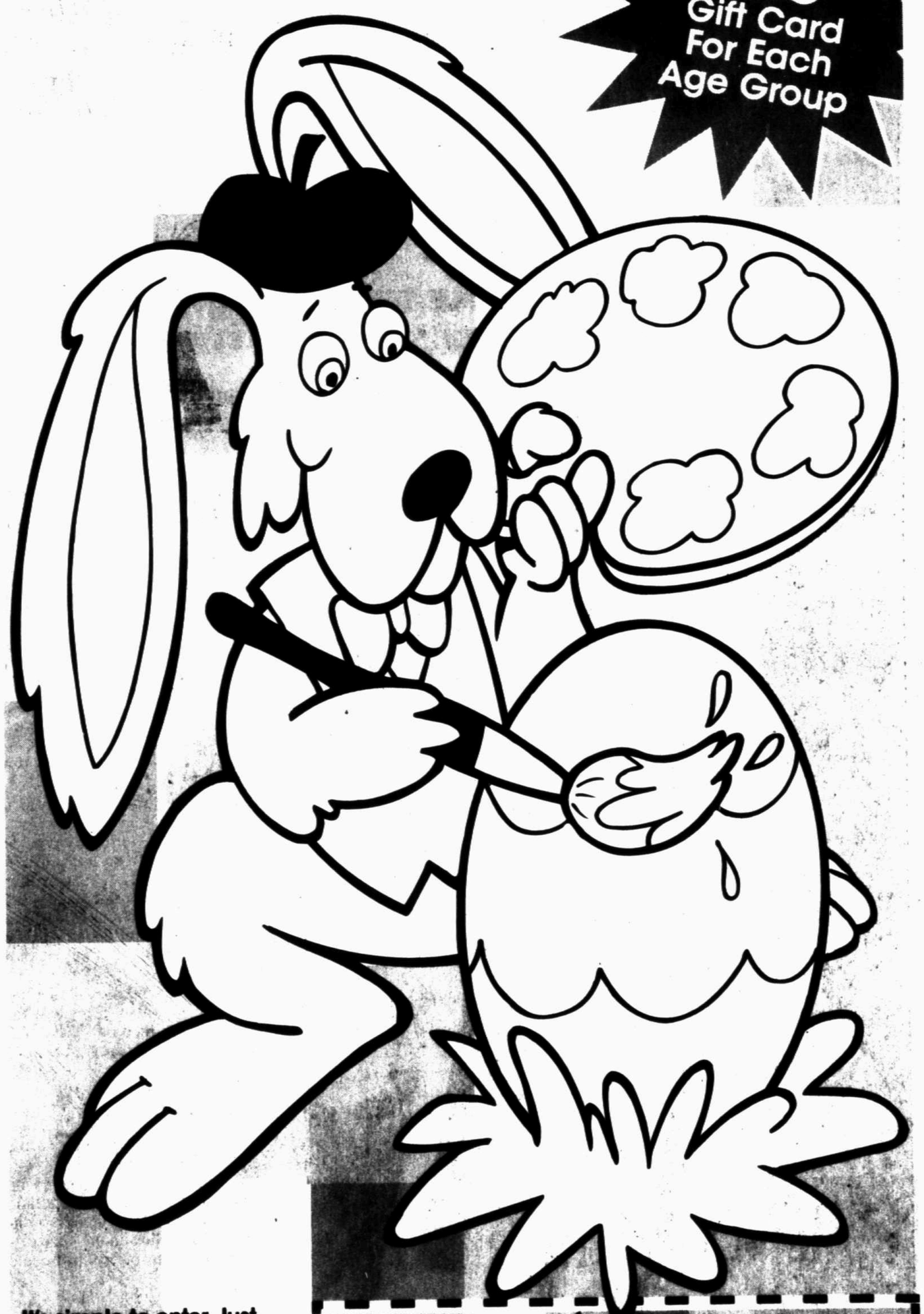

It's simple to enter. Just color the picture, fill out the entry form and submit both to the newspaper by 5 p.m., Monday, March 25th. Submissions will be divided into 3 age groups: 4-7 — 7-9 — 10-12. A panel of judges will select a winner from each group based on neatness and originality.

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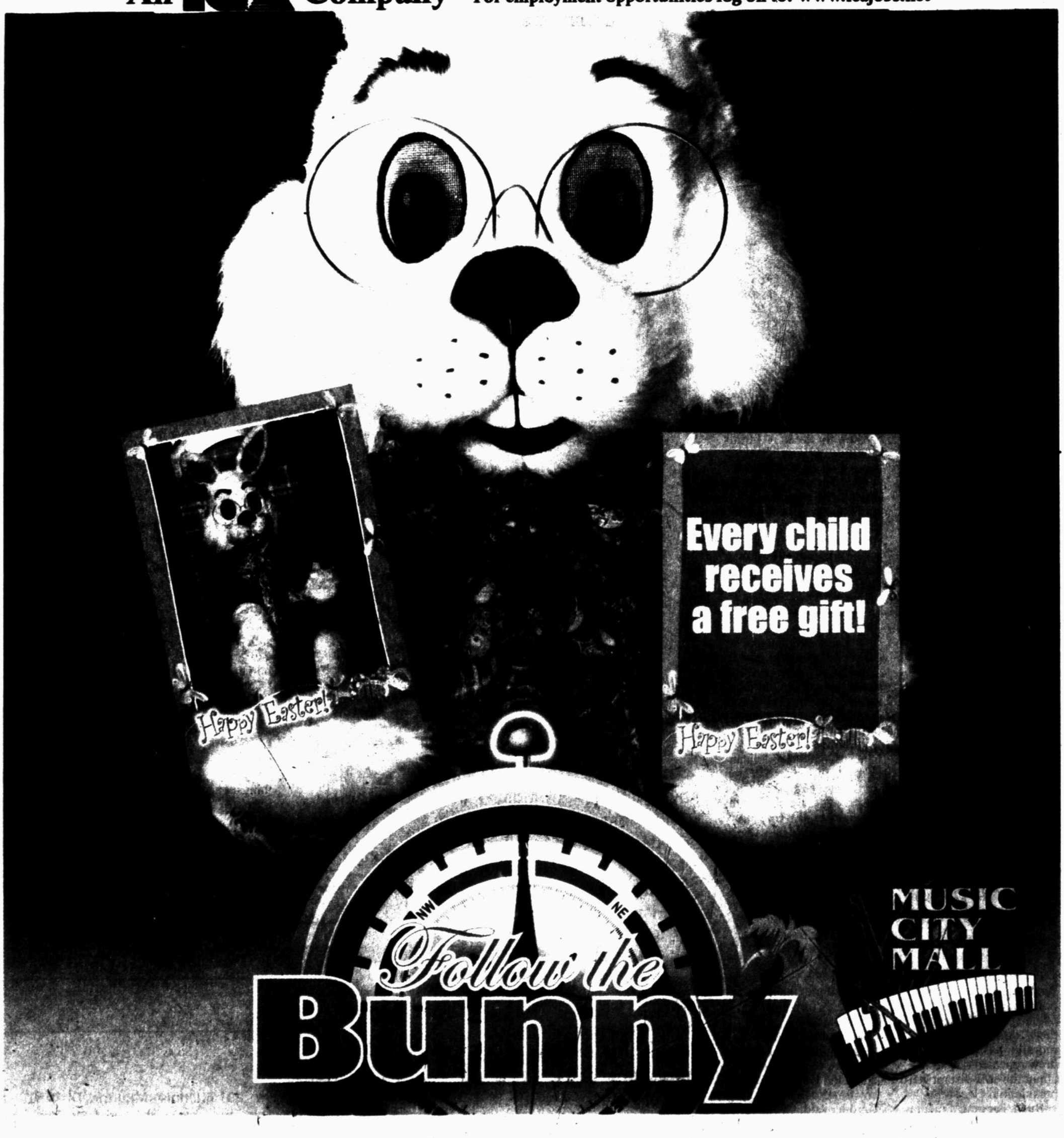


Drought takes its toll on a town's business, families

By Manny Fernandez
N.Y. Times News Service

PLAINVIEW — After two years of drought, people are starting to leave this parched West Texas town.

The lack of significant rainfall has slowed the rush of cattle that came to the largest employer here, a beef processing plant that employed 2,300 people in a town of 22,343. When the plant shut this month, it took with it an annual payroll of $15.5 million.

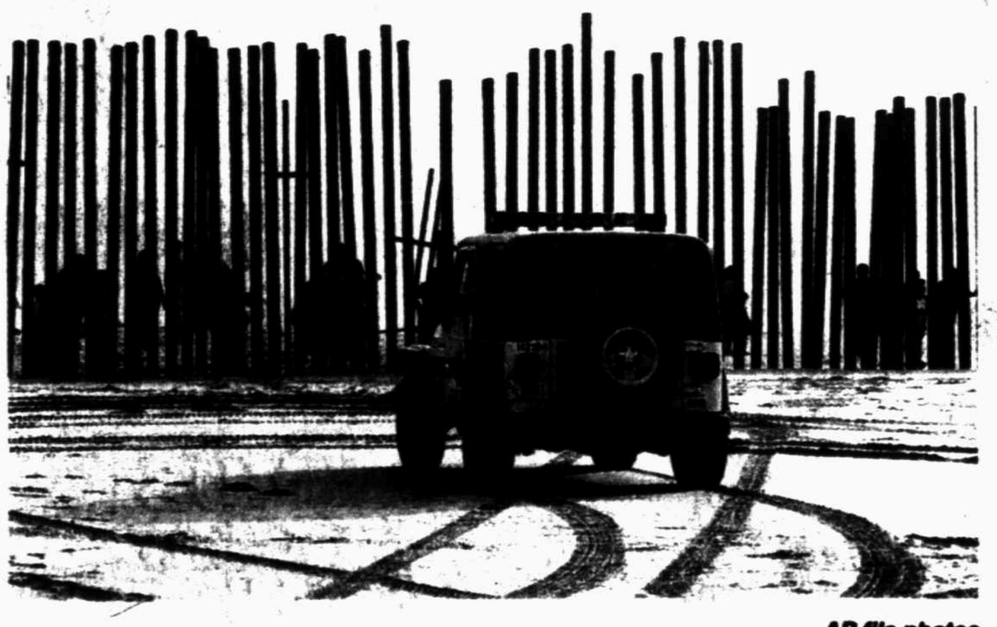
The closing has challenged families who had worked at the plant off Interstate 27 for generations. Sons and daughters stood alongside their fathers and mothers, husbands next to wives. Many are Mexican-Americans whose families have long called Texas home. They spent decades rising into the middle class on an average hourly pay of $14.27 and becoming highly skilled

Please see DROUGHT3B

Don Long sits on a high and dry marina at Benbrook Lake in Benbrook in 2011. Facing intensifying scrutiny from lawmakers, the state's water agency has privately ranked 25 projects that Texas should prioritize if an unprecedented $2 billion is approved to fight a growing supply crisis highlighted by a historic drought, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

Beaumont Enterprise

CROSSING OVER



AP file photos

TOP: A man rests his hands on a fence looking out to the United States from a Mexican customs station after being detained by U.S. Border Patrol in Arizona and returned to Mexico in Nogales, Mexico, in 2006. **MIDDLE LEFT:** A group of illegal Mexican immigrants jump from a border fence to enter the United States, near Tijuana, Mexico, in 1991. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** A U.S. Border Patrol agent peers through a section of fence in San Diego that is part of the "Smuggler's Gulch" area along the U.S.-Mexico border in 2009. **BOTTOM:** A U.S. Border Patrol vehicle sits parked in front of a crowd of people peering through the U.S.-Mexico border fence at Border Field State Park in San Diego in 2009.

What does a 'secure' border look like?

Associated Press

Once, the barren mesas and shrub-covered canyons that extend east of the Pacific Ocean held the most popular routes for illegal immigrants heading into the U.S. Dozens at a time sprinted to waiting cars or a trolley stop in San Diego, passing border agents who were too busy herding others to give pause.

Now, 20 years after that onslaught, crossing would mean scaling two fences (one topped with coiled razor wire), passing a phalanx of agents and eluding cameras positioned to capture every incursion.

The difference, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said on a recent tour, is like "a rocket ship and a horse and buggy."

In pure numbers it is this: Where border agents made some 530,000 arrests in San Diego in fiscal year 1993, they had fewer than 30,000 in 2012.

There is no simple yardstick to measure border security. And yet, as the debate over immigration reform ramps back up, many will try.

"Secure the border first" has become not just a popular mantra whenever talk turns to reform but a litmus test for many upon which a broader overhaul is contingent.

"We need a responsible, permanent solution" to illegal immigration, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican who is working to develop a reform plan, said in his State of the Union response this month.

"But first," he added, "we must follow through on the broken promises of the past to secure our borders and enforce our laws."

In fact, the 1,954-mile border with Mexico is more difficult to breach than ever. San Diego is but one example.

Two decades ago, fewer than 4,000 Border Patrol agents manned the entire Southwest border. Today there are 18,500. Some 651 miles of fence have been built, most of that since 2005.

Apprehensions, meantime, have plummeted to levels not seen since the early 1970s — with 356,873 in FY2012. Compare that to 1.2 million apprehensions in 1993, when new strategies began bringing officers and technology to border communities in California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Now sensors have been planted, cameras erected, and drones monitor the borderlands from above.

But for those who live and work in communities along the international boundary, "secure" means different things. In Arizona, ranchers scoff at the idea.

In New Mexico, locals worry about what's heading south in addition to flowing north. And in Texas, residents firmly believe that reform itself would finally help steady the flow of people and drugs.

These places have been transformed. Sealed? No. But as one border mayor asked: "How secure is secure?"

EL PASO: STEEL BARS STILL UP; CROSSINGS AND CRIME DOWN

Burglar bars still protect many a home in the Chihuahuita neighborhood near downtown El Paso, a reminder of a time when immigrant crossers would break in

Please see BORDER/2B

Ginger Nielsen, right, talks with ranchers John Ladd, left, and Ben Bell in April 2010 as they join other ranchers, state legislators and protestors at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix following the shooting death of Arizona rancher Robert Krentz. Krentz was gunned down while checking water lines on his property near the border where ranchers scoff at the word "secure" fence to enter the United States, near Tijuana, Mexico. With new fencing and tougher enforcement the 1,954-mile border with Mexico is more difficult to breach than ever.

AP file photo

BORDER

From 1B

looking for food or trying to duck the Border Patrol. Carmen Silva recalls those days. At 90, she tells of migrants hiding under cars and in backyards. Now, she says: "Nobody comes through anymore."

Patricia Rayjosa has lived in the same neighborhood as Silva for the past 18 years. Once, she said, migrants crossed 30, 40, 50 at a time to overwhelm agents standing watch. Others swam across the Rio Grande or waded north on tire tubes.

"One morning, as I went out to feed my dogs, I found ... wire cutters. I didn't see them but I could tell they went across my backyard," said Rayjosa, 53. But she agrees with Silva's assessment. Now, "It's not easy to cross."

In the early 1990s, El Paso ran second to San Diego in the number of illegal immigrants coming north. Then, in 1993, the Border Patrol launched "Operation Hold the Line," the first of a series of enforcement actions intended to gain "operational control" of the Southwest border.

It was a shift in strategy from apprehending migrants already in the U.S. to preventing entry in the first place, and the effect was almost immediate: Within months, illegal crossings in El Paso went from up to 10,000 a day to 500, according to a Government Accountability Office report in 1994 called "BORDER CONTROL: Revised Strategy Is Showing Some Positive Results."

Burglaries in neighborhoods like Chihuahuita decreased. Car thefts went down. And, as happened later in San Diego, apprehensions plunged: from nearly 286,000 in 1993 to about 9,700 last fiscal year in the El Paso Border Patrol sector, which encompasses 268 miles from West Texas across New Mexico. (Border Patrol staffing in the sector went from 608 agents in 1993 to more than 2,700 today.)

To El Paso Mayor John Cook, hinging reform to continued calls for a "secure border" seems absurd given the changes in his city.

"It is as secure as it has ever been. How secure is secure?" he said. "Some people who come with these ideas have no idea.

But you don't have to drive too far into the New Mexico desert to see problems. Marcus Martinez, the police chief in Lordsburg, N.M., recalled an incident in January where a local hotel manager stepped out to have a cigarette and saw a convoy of vehicles speeding through town. Four cars were eventually stopped — 80 miles north of the border — and 6 tons of marijuana were seized.

Patrick Green of the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office in Lordsburg, said northbound traffic is only part of the problem. Even as people and drugs are smuggled north, guns and money are flowing back south. He deals with constant reports by homeowners and ranchers about break-ins.

The area has seen a huge influx of Border Patrol agents, but officers like Green fear the government will always be behind the curve in dealing with sophisticated smuggling operations.

"If the Border Patrol puts more people in the ground, they will take to the mountains," Green said. "We are always playing catch up."

MCALLEN: RESIDENTS ROOT FOR REFORM

Some 800 miles southeast of El Paso is the Rio Grande Valley, where rapid growth has overtaken sugar cane and cotton fields and sleepy hamlets are now thriving cities. More than 1.2 million people live in the two border counties on the U.S. side of this southernmost tip of Texas, and a similar number are directly across the border anchored by the sprawling cities of Matamoros and Reynosa.

Here, illegal crossers can quickly slip into communities without being forced to trek for days through wide-open spaces.

Part of the solution was the border fence, and 400 landowners — most of them in this part of Texas — had property seized to build it. The fence divided people from swaths of their own land, but also struck many as an offensive gesture in this bicultural, bilingual region that views itself as one community with its Mexican sister cities.

More effective, locals said, has been the influx of Border Patrol agents — 2,546 in the Rio Grande Valley today, almost seven times more than 20 years ago.

And while some agents still patrol on horseback, others are aided now by night-vision goggles and unmanned Predator drones watching from 19,000 feet overhead with high-powered infrared cameras.

Definitions of a secure border vary here, but there's agreement that the premise should not stand in the way of immigration reform.

Tony Garza remembers watching the flow of pedestrian traffic between Brownsville and Matamoros from his father's filling station just steps from the international bridge. He recalls migrant workers crossing the fairway on the 11th hole of a golf course — northbound in the morning, southbound in the afternoon. And during an annual celebration between the sister cities, no one was asked for their papers at the bridge. People were just expected to go home.

Garza, a Republican who served as the U.S. ambassador to Mexico from 2002 to 2009, said it's easy to become nostalgic for those times, but he reminds himself that he grew up in a border town of fewer than 50,000 people that has grown into a city of more than 200,000.

The border here is more secure for the massive investment in recent years but feels less safe because the crime has changed, he said. Some of that has to do with transnational criminal organizations in Mexico and some of it is just the crime of a larger city.

Reform, he said, "would allow you to focus your resources on those activities that truly make the border less safe today."

Monica Weisberg-Stewart was born and raised an hour upriver in McAllen. Her father ran a store downtown that she runs today, filled with socks, underwear and jewelry. She echoes Garza's assessment that things feel less safe now but says that has more to do with the area's growth than with what's happening in Mexico.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino points out that drug, gun and human smuggling is nothing new to the border. The difference is the attention that the drug-related violence in Mexico has drawn to the region in recent years.

He insists his county, which includes McAllen, is safe. The crime rate is falling, and illegal immigrants account for small numbers in his jail. But asked if the border is "secure," Trevino doesn't hesitate. "Absolutely not."

"When you're busting human trafficking stash houses with 60 to 100 people that are stashed in a two, three-bedroom home for weeks at a time, how can you say you've secured the border?" he said.

Trevino's view, however, is that those people might not be there if they had a legal path to work in the U.S.

"Immigration reform is the first thing we have to accomplish before we can say that we have secured the border," he said.

SAN DIEGO: FROM 'BANZAI RUNS' TO BROOKS BROTHERS

Don McDermott spent most of his 21 years in the Border Patrol working the San Diego sector. He remembers the "banzai runs," when hordes of immigrants would storm inspection booths at one international crossing, scattering as they ran past startled motorists.

Back then, migrants crossed with audacity — even played soccer on U.S. soil as vendors hawked tamales and tacos. The "soccer field" was too dangerous to patrol, so agents positioned themselves a half-mile out, waiting for nightfall when groups would make a run for freedom.

"Hopefully you would catch more people that you saw going past you," said McDermott, who retired in 2008. "You caught who you could and knew they would be back before the night was over."

The tide turned when the U.S. government launched "Operation Gatekeeper" in 1994, modeled on a crackdown the previous year in El Paso. The effort brought 1,000 additional agents to San Diego. They parked their trucks against a rusting 8-foot-high fence made of Army surplus landing mats, and refused to yield an inch. They called it "marking the X."

As apprehension numbers fell, home values skyrocketed. In 2001, an outlet mall opened right along the border. It now counts Brooks Brothers, Polo Ralph Lauren and Coach as tenants.

More than manpower helped to shut down the path into San Diego. An 18-foot-high steel mesh fence extending roughly 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean was completed in 2009, with razor wire topping about half of it. A dirt road traversing an area known as "Smugglers Gulch," which border agents had to navigate slowly, was transformed into a flatter, all-weather artery at a cost of $57 million.

This past year the Border Patrol's San Diego sector, which covers 60 miles of land border, made fewer arrests than in any year since 1968. Agents averaged 11 arrests each, a change that marvels veterans. Agents today may even pursue just one crosser over several shifts.

After Gatekeeper, smugglers tried new tactics. They pelted agents with rocks, hoping to create an opening for a mad dash when other agents rushed to help. Or one group would jump the fence to draw agents' attention long enough for another to try its luck.

Now, other threats have emerged. U.S. authorities identified 210 human and drug smuggling attempts at sea during FY2012, up from 45 four years earlier. A Coast Guardsman died in December when a suspected smuggling vessel struck him.

And nearly all of more than 70 drug smuggling tunnels found along the border since October 2008 have been discovered in the clay-like soil of San Diego and Tijuana, some complete with hydraulic lifts and rail cars. They've produced some of the largest marijuana seizures in U.S. history.

Still, few attempt to cross what was once the nation's busiest corridor for illegal immigration. As he waited for breakfast at a Tijuana migrant shelter, Jose de Jesus Scott nodded toward a roommate who did. He was caught within seconds and badly injured his legs jumping the fence.

Scott, who crossed the border with relative ease until 2006, said he and a cousin tried a three-day mountain trek to San Diego in January and were caught twice. "You need a lot of smarts and a lot of luck," he said. "Mostly luck.

"It's a new world."

NOGALES, ARIZ.: RANCHERS SCOFF AT 'SECURE' IN BUSIEST ILLEGAL CORRIDOR

Everywhere he goes on his cattle ranch, Jim Chilton has a gun at the ready. He has guns at his front door, guns in his pickup, guns on his horse's saddle. His fear? Coming across a bandit or a smuggler on his land northwest of Nogales, Ariz.

Cattleman Gary Thrasher frequently encounters immigrants and smugglers running through his property. Some have showered in his barn. He and his family live in constant dread.

"They really have secured the towns right along the border, but what that does is it drives all the traffic out into the rural areas around here," said Thrasher, a rancher and veterinarian for more than 40 years on the border east of Douglas, Ariz. "It sends the traffic right into our backyards."

The question of border security hits close to home to those who work the land in southern Arizona. It was here, in 2010, that cattle rancher Robert Krentz was gunned down while checking water lines on his property near Douglas. Local authorities have said they believe the killer was involved in smuggling either humans or drugs.

That same year, Border Patrol agent Brian Terry was killed in a shootout near Nogales with Mexican gunmen that brought attention to the federal government's botched weapons-trafficking probe called "Fast and Furious."

In Nogales, Sheriff Tony Estrada has a unique perspective on both border security and more comprehensive immigration reform. Born in Nogales, Mexico, Estrada grew up in Nogales, Ariz., after migrating to the U.S. with his parents.

He blames border security issues not only on the cartels but on the American demand for drugs. Until that wanes, he said, nothing will change. And securing the border, he added, must be a constant, ever-changing effort that blends security and political support — because the effort will never end.

"The drugs are going to keep coming. The people are going to keep coming. The only thing you can do is contain it as much as possible.

"I say the border is as safe and secure as it can be, but I think people are asking for us to seal the border, and that's unrealistic," he said.

Asked why, he said simply: "That's the nature of the border."

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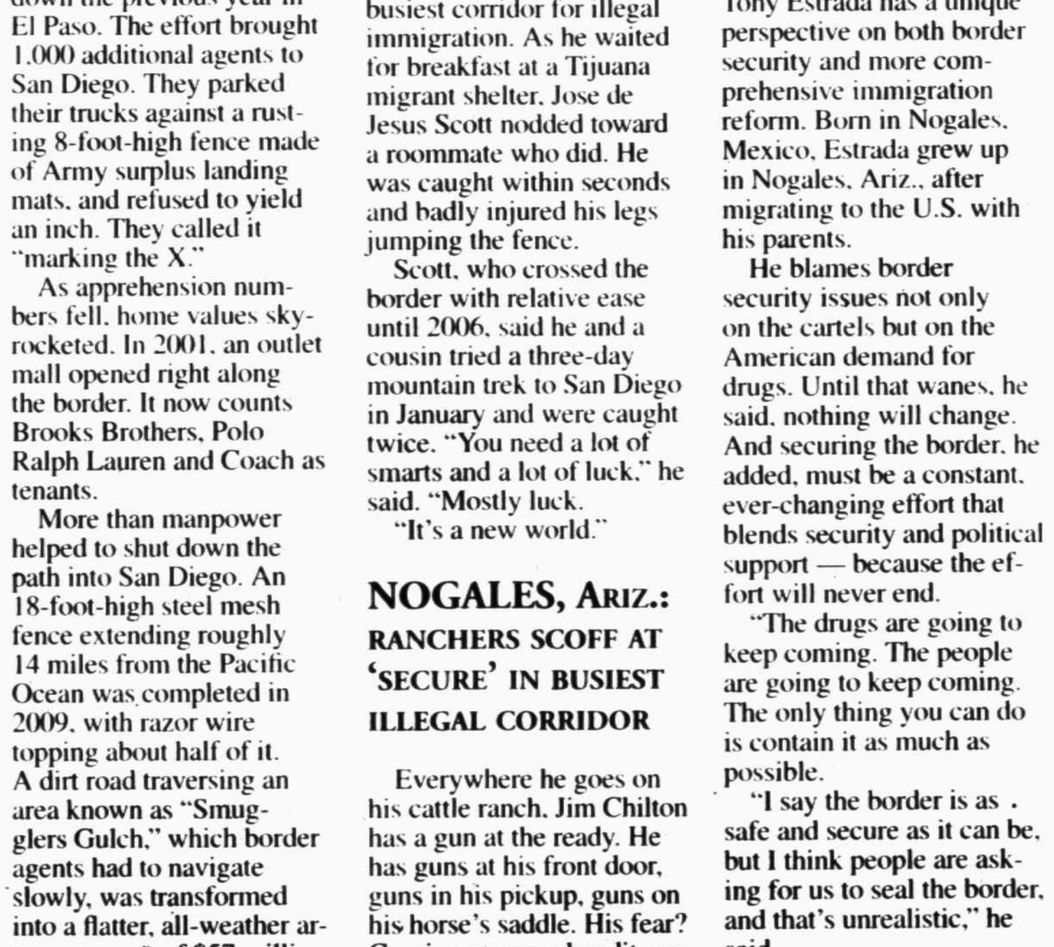

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AP file photo

A truck leaves the Cargill beef processing plant in Plainview on Jan. 17. Cargill announced on Thursday that it will idle the plant and lay off all 2,000 workers because of a tight cattle supply following years of drought.

DROUGHT

From 1B

at the grisly process of turning slaughtered cattle into beef products, though many lacked high school diplomas. Their Spanish had a Texas twang, and they formed the blue-collar heart of a windswept town 47 miles from Lubbock.

Now those families have been fractured as some relatives stay in Plainview and others leave. Dozens of former plant workers have already moved, finding new jobs with the plant's owner, Cargill, or other companies outside Plainview or outside the state, many pulling their children out of the town's 12 public schools. When workers receive their last paychecks in three weeks, the question is whether they will stick around. And then, the more existential question, can the town survive without those who leave?

The drought — the third-worst in Texas since 1895 — has dried up pastures and increased the costs of hay and feed, forcing some ranchers to sell off their herds to reduce expenses.

Cargill executives said they were idling the plant and not permanently closing it, and could reopen if the drought breaks and the cattle herd rebounds, a process that would take years.

Other towns and cities in Texas have been affected by the drought, including those limiting residential water usage. But none have been as hurt on such a widespread — and traumatic — a scale as Plainview. Nine days after the plant closed on Feb. 1, a 16-year-old girl attempted suicide, after her mother, a former plant worker, told her they might move. The girl swallowed 34 sleeping pills because she did not want to leave her boyfriend, according to the police report.

One recent afternoon, Louis Torres, 52, pulled a U-Haul truck up to his house, where stacks of boxes crowded the porch and the living room. Torres was leaving the town where he had lived all his life, and would be driving more than five hours to a new house and a new job at a Cargill plant in Dodge City, Kan.

In this one move, Plainview was losing 13 children and adults in the extended Torres family, including Torres, his wife, his 21-year-old daughter and his son-in-law, all of whom worked at Cargill and were offered jobs in Dodge City. His son, Jessie, 32, was staying behind: He worked at the plant, but has not been called to Dodge City.

"I didn't want to leave my town, but there ain't nothing here for us," said Torres, a trainer who worked at the plant for 33 years. "God opened the door right there for me and said, 'Here, for all of your family, go.'"

Amid the bustle of the move, somebody asked if they could take the mailbox. Torres fought back tears, as did his youngest daughter, Julie, 11. She was wearing a purple tiara, a gift from her teacher on her last day of school. "They said goodbye and they gave me a ton of hugs," Julie said of her classmates.

In the two weeks following Cargill's announcement on Jan. 17 that the plant would close, about 20 students whose parents worked at the plant left the school district, a number that has steadily climbed since then.

Ronald Miller, the recently retired schools superintendent, said nearly 1,000 of the district's 5,700 students had at least one parent at Cargill, and that if half of those 1,000 students left, the district would lose more than $2 million in state and local financing. He said closing a school or laying off teachers were options on the table.

"We don't know how long it's going to take for the full effect to kick in," said the mayor, Wendell Dunlap. "I think with 2,000 people laid off, there's no way that many people can find work around here. We're going to lose population. We're going to have businesses that are going to have a hard time making it."

A Cargill spokesman, Michael Martin, said 2,098 workers were laid off, in addition to more than 200 people who worked at the plant for other companies and agencies providing sanitation and other services. Of the Cargill employees, about 400 expressed an interest in relocating, Martin said.

Droughts, unlike hurricanes or tornadoes, are slow-motion disasters with indirect effects, and as a result some in town are skeptical it is to blame, believing other issues were involved. The weather itself has fueled disbelief: West Texas was hit with a winter storm that shut the Lubbock airport on Monday.

Martin said that the company idled the plant primarily because of the drought and the tight cattle supply. The day the plant closed, federal officials released new data showing the number of cattle in Texas at its lowest point since 1967.

"We would have preferred to have not had to idle any beef plant, but we cannot process cattle that do not exist," Martin said in a statement.

Plainview gets its name from the West Texas topography — flat, big-sky country surrounded by acres of cotton. It is a slow-paced town that cherishes its old-fashioned feel — its hometown hero is sausage king Jimmy Dean — and its place in the top cattle-producing state in the country. Fiberglass statues of cattle peek out from the downtown rooftops and sidewalks.

The majority of the Cargill workers lived in Plainview, and many of them wore cowboy boots and drove pickups, but it was not a man's world ("I was the first girl to start dropping heads in second shift," one of Torres' daughters, Lynda, 26, said). Their ties to Plainview, and the plant, ran deep.

Cruz Castillo, 65, was laid off after working in maintenance at the plant for 42 years — he helped build the plant in 1971 when it was under different ownership — and he worries about finding new health insurance for his wife, who has diabetes. The day he lost his job, so did his son, his brother and two of his nephews. He will stay in Plainview, but he thinks his son might eventually move.

Every Saturday morning, a group of residents and laid-off workers gather outside the plant to walk four miles around the perimeter. They do it not as a protest, and not strictly for the exercise. They encircle the plant with prayers.

"It's going to have to be a miracle," said Manuel Balderas, a police captain who organizes the walks. "That's what we're praying for."

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		6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelor (5F) (N)		The Bachelor "After the Final Rose" (N)		KOSA News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live	(:35) News Nightline
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	7 News	Ext. Tonight	Mother "Nannies"	Rules of Eng (N)	2 Broke Girls	Mike & Molly	Hawaii Five-0 "Pupikia"	CBS 7 News	(:35) David Letterman Michael Bloomberg	(:35) Late Late (N)
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Seinfeld	Rules "Run Run"	Carrie Diaries "The Great Unknown" (N)	90210 "Dude, Where's My Husband" (N)	Cops	Sein. "The Finale"	Rules of Engage.	That '70s Show	King of Queens	"Til Death
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Bones "The Future in the Past"	The Following "Welcome Home" (N)	The Simpsons	Met Your Mother	Met Your Mother	Loves Ray	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
KMLM IND	11	11	12	11	11	Dr. William	Joe McGee	Update News	Jonathan Hansen	Light of the Southwest		House Calls	Mani Erfan	Rabbi Rantz	Y.Salamanca
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	News-West 9	Be Millionaire	The Biggest Loser "Down to the Wire" The contestants pull sleds up a mountain. (N)		Deception "You're the Bad Guy" (N)		News-West 9	(:35) Jay Leno Hallie Berry, Ashley Monroe	(:35) LateNight	
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	PBS NewsHour		Johnny Cash A celebration of Johnny Cash's musical legacy.		Younger Next Year: The New Science of Aging		Charlie Rose		BBC News	Tavis Smiley
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Corona de lagrimas		Porque el Amor Manda (SP)		Amores Verdaderos	Amor Bravio	Noticias Tejas	Noticiero noctu.	Al Diablo con los Guapos	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Office	30 Rock	SVU "Starved"		Law&O.:SVU "Storm"	My News	Baggage	30 Rock	Sunny	Scrubs	Access H.
FLIX	340	65		165		(5:05) ★ The Others		★★★★ The Deer Hunter ('78, War) Christopher Walken.					(:05) ★★★ Sophie's Choice Meryl Streep.		
HBO	300	68	14	14		(5:30) ★ Beyonce: Lif...		Bill Maher		Kings (N)	★★★ Tower Heist		(:15) Parade's End 1/5	(:20) Parade's End 2/5	
HBO2	302	69	15	101	23	★★★ The Eagle	Channing Tatum.			Girls	★★★ The Lucky One		(:15) ★★★ Fast Five ('11, Act) Vin Diesel.		
HBO5	304	70	16	102		(5:00) ★ Game Chan...		The Sopranos		★ The Rite ('11, Dra) Colin O'Donoghue.			★★ Love and Other Drugs		
MAX	380	71	17	120	24	(5:45) ★★ Paul Nick Frost.			★★ Office Space			★★ Final Destination 5		Banshee	(:20) Life on Top
MAX2	382	72	18	122		(:15) ★ Anacondas: The Hunt for the Bloo...		★★ Something Borrowed					In Bed	SinCity	(:05) ★ Meet the F...
PLEX			96			Movie	(:35) ★ All Dogs Go to Heaven II		★★ Beethoven's 2nd			★★ Made in Heaven			(:15) ★★ Feds
SHOW	320	66	19	140	25	(5:00) ★ October Sky		Homeland		Califor.	Lies	Shameless		Comedy	Lies	Califor.	Shame.
TMC	336	67	22	155	26	(5:15) ★ The Chape...		★★★ Sex, Lies and Videotape				★ Perfect Sense Eva Green.			(:35) ★ The Constant Gardener
A&E	27	32	28	35	47	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty	Duck Dynasty
AMC	40	21	23	42	51	(4:30) ★ Footloose		★★★ The Breakfast Club Judd Nelson.				(:15) ★★★ Sixteen Candles			(:15) ★ The Breakf...
BET	58	26		40		1068&Park	★★ Doing Hard Time Boris Kodjoe.				★★ Lakeview Terrace ('08, Thril) Samuel L. Jackson.			Wendy Williams	
BRAVO	65	63		41		Atlanta "Strip is a Trip"		Beverly Hills (N)		L.A. Shrinks (N)		Vanderpump R. (N)	Watch (N)	Beverly Hills	VanderR
CNBC	46	45		39	72	The Kudlow Report		60 Minutes		Treasure Detectives		The Car Chasers	Mad Money		Treasure Detectives
CNN	43	24	51	30	56	OutFront		A. Cooper 360		Piers Morgan		A. Cooper 360	OutFront		Piers Morgan
DISC	50	20	31	24	42	Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		DevilRde "Bad Blood"	Fast N' Loud		DevilRde "Bad Blood"
DISNEY	56	27	36	25	36	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	★ Another Cinderella Story			(:10) Jessie	(:35) GoodL	Jessie	A.N.T.	Wizards	Wizards
ESPN	32	29	48	31	30	NCAA Basketball SBC Tournament (L)				NCAA Basketball WCC Tournament (L)				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	34	28	49	32	31	NCAA Basketball				NCAA Basketball MAAC Tournament				Basketb.	NFL Live (N)	NBA
FAMILY	53	54	34	42	33	SwitchBirth "Uprising"		Switched at Birth (N)		★★ When in Rome Kristen Bell.				The 700 Club	Fresh P.	Fresh P.
FNC	45	58	53	23	55	FOX Report		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor	Hannity	
FOOD	64	59	27	68	54	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners (N)	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FSSW	37	43	50	45	29	SportsDay OnAir	Spotlight	NCAA Basketball Big 12 Tournament Women's Championship (L)				WPT Poker Parx Open Classic		RodeoRec ap/H.Fame	Champio. and Diving	"Swimming"
FX	31	31	59	64	69	2½Men	Two 1/2...	★★ Grown Ups ('10, Com) Adam Sandler.				★★ Grown Ups ('10, Com) Adam Sandler.				
HALLMARK	54	49	58		34	BradyB.	BradyB.	Numb3 "Black Swan"		Numb3r "End Game"	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	G. Girls	G. Girls
HGTV	63	50	26	48	44	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It	HouseH	House	Love It or List It, Too		Love It or List It	
HISTORY	71	62	29	50	43	Pwn Star	Pawn Star	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	Pickers "Cheap Pick"	Pwn Star	Pwn Star	American Pickers		Pwn Star	Pwn Star
LIFETIME	28	25	25	28	48	(5:00) The Bible		The Bible Tells the Bible's stories through live action and CGI.			To Be Announced				The Bible	
MSNBC	47	51		49	73	Hardball		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow	The Last Word		The Ed Show		Rachel Maddow	
NBCSN	38	39				NCAA Basketball CAA Tournament (L)				Fight Night 36		Crossover	FB Talk	Overtime	USSA Ski & Board	
NICK	55	34	39	34	37	Dora	Drake	F.House	F.House	F.House	F.House	Nanny	Nanny	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	22	55	53	58	Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Res. "Tiki Curse"		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue		Bar Rescue	
SYFY	66	64	41	57	67	(5:00) ★ Daybreakers		Continuum (N)		Being Human (N)		Lost Girl (N)		Continuum		Being Human	
TBS	25	11	44	66	41	Seinfeld "The Trip"	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Conan Guests Snoop Lion, Rorke Denver (N)		The Office	Conan
TCM	41	61	24	63	66	(4:15) ★ Cheyenne ...		★★★ Mrs. Miniver ('42, War) Greer Garson.				★★★★ Random Harvest				Movie	
TELE	20	8	10	20		Caso cerrado		Pasion Prohibida		La patrona		El Rostro de la		Al rojo	Victorinos	Decision	
TLC	51	33	32	38	52	Undercover Boss "Hooters"		Under Boss "Philly Pretzel Company"		Undercover Boss "Chicago Cubs"		Under Boss "Purdy's Chocolates" (N)		Undercover Boss "Chicago Cubs"		Undercover Boss "Purdy's Chocolates"	
TNT	24	23	40	26	50	Castle "Flowers for Your Grave"		Castle		Dallas "JR's Masterpiece" (N)		Monday Mornings "Communion"		(:05) Dallas "JR's Masterpiece"		(:05) Monday Morn "Communion"	
TVLAND	49	48	35	54	35	Cosby	Cosby	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	30	42	27	49	NCIS "Capitol Offense"		WWE Monday Night Raw		WWE Monday Night Raw		WWE Monday Night Raw		(:05) NCIS: Los Angeles "Familia"		(:05) CSI: Crime "Willows in the Wind"	
WGN	19	18				America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		America's Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		America's Funniest Home Videos		Rules of Engage.	Rules "A Big Bust"

Medicaid expansion is possible

■ Devil is in the details, but Texans just might get a plan that works for its residents.

PEGGY FIKAC
San Antonio Express-News

The president of the Texas Hospital Association had to look 1,700 miles northeast recently to find a governor to praise on Medicaid expansion.

Dan Stultz heaped the love on New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for becoming the eighth Republican governor to embrace the idea, even as Gov. Rick Perry kept digging in his heels against it.

Perry repeated his call for more flexibility, such as a block grant approach that federal officials say is a non-starter, as my Houston Chronicle colleague Todd Ackerman reported earlier.

Perry scoffed at the federal government's resistance to giving up control of "that almighty free money." He declared, "You're not going to see Texas join in an effort that is broken."

In short, he was Rick Perry. But wheels may be turning behind the scenes even as Perry publicly stands tall for Texas' freedom to turn down billions of dollars if they come with too many strings preventing change.

Senate Finance Chairman Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, has laid out potential elements to a "Texas solution" that include co-pays and deductibles, managed-care expansion, and more incentives for patients to use "routine health-care services" to fend off costly emergency-room visits.

Williams floated the idea of requiring individuals to enroll in available private or employer plans, and of scrapping what he described as a "complicated federal approval process" for small Medicaid changes. He said Texas' participation would have to be contingent on the federal government keeping its funding commitment.

The state's only leverage, Williams said in an op-ed, is to resist expansion until it can design its own plan.

Some see hope in another recent development — the federal government's decision to give Arkansas the freedom to use Medicaid money to buy private health insurance for poor people.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is expecting legislation this session that will direct it to submit a major Medicaid waiver request to the federal government seeking flexibility, said commission spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman. Whether it includes expansion will be the Legislature's decision.

That waiver request "will be the starting point for discussions with Washington," Goodman said.

In the meantime, a new poll from the Texas Hospital Association shows a majority of Texans support Medicaid expansion. Local officials are expressing bipartisan support for expansion.

Hospitals, doctors, faith groups and advocates for the poor are begging state leaders to take the opportunity to cover the million-plus poor people who may otherwise have to wait until they're sick enough to go to an emergency room for care. Stultz have emphasized the relief that billions of Medicaid dollars would bring to Texas hospitals, employers and insured people who now subsidize uncompensated care.

The devil, as always, is in the details. But if state leaders can find a way to reform Medicaid that advocates can accept — and if the federal government proves as flexible with Texas as with Arkansas — Stultz eventually may be praising a governor closer to home.

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Each of the following seven-letter sets can be rearranged to spell out a common word that starts with A N T or E N T and/or ends with I N E or I O N.

A E G I I M N

C I N O S T U

E E I N N T W

A A C D I N T

Yesterday's Answer: COAUTHOR, MANIFOLD

3.11

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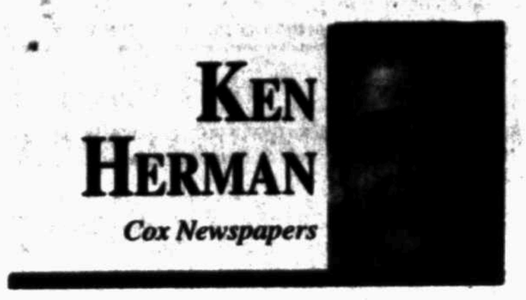
Since when are we all economically disadvantaged?

■ Declaring everyone disadvantaged will not equal the playing field for businesses.



KEN HERMAN
Cox Newspapers

In general, I've found that Republicans favor prosperity. I like that about them because prosperity is among my life goals, one I should have pondered before becoming a journalism major largely because it didn't require much math or foreign language.

With the GOP/prosperity link in mind, it's odd that a GOP legislator wants to declare everybody in Texas "economically disadvantaged." That means you, me, Michael Dell, the squeegee guy at the red light, everybody.

This legislation comes from state Rep. Drew Springer, R-Muenster. I introduced you to freshman Springer this week as sponsor of legislation to overturn Austin's bag ban.

I'm not stalking this guy, really. But it's easy to keep an eye on the stuff Springer files because he issues press releases about it, which is very thoughtful.

In Wednesday's release ("Rep. Springer Files Several Bills to Benefit District 68"), he listed seven bills "for the benefit of rural Texans," including measures about school start dates, notification of controlled burns, burn violation fines, libraries in unincorporated areas, juror compensation and housing projects.

And then there's his HB 2522, which would deem all of us economically disadvantaged.

The fact is many of us are not as economically advantaged as we'd like to be. But I'm not sure it's accurate to say we're all economically disadvantaged. I, for example, have a 73-inch TV.

You also probably have some nice things (though perhaps nothing as life-changingly important as a 73-inch TV).

Springer wants state law to say we're all economically disadvantaged. It's part of his effort to erase the "historically underutilized business," or HUB, process that helps minority- and women-owned businesses get government contracts.

A key to getting HUB designation is meeting the state law definition of "economically disadvantaged person."

Here's the current standard: "Economically disadvantaged person means a person who is economically disadvantaged because of a person's identification as a member of a certain group, including Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, women, Asian Pacific Americans, and Native Americans, and who has suffered the effects of discriminatory practices or other similar insidious circumstances over which the person has no control."

That's pretty much everybody other than plain ol' white guys, pretty much the only demographic you can still make jokes about without earning a trip to the human resources department.

Springer, a plain ol' white guy, wants to simplify the definition of economically disadvantaged person to a "person who is a member of a racial or ethnic group that comprises less than 50 percent of the state's population."

According to the U.S. census, that's everybody. The 2011 stats say 44.8 percent of Texans are non-Hispanic whites, 38.1 per;cent are Hispanic, 12.2 percent are black, and 4 percent are Asian.

Springer's statement said the bill reflects "the shifting demographics in the state of Texas" and would "level the playing field for all businesses, regardless of the race of the owner, to compete for state contracts."

On the House floor Thursday, despite battling laryngitis, Springer was nice enough to briefly speak with me about his bill.

It's simple, he said. "We've got to that point now. Everybody in the state is a minority now."

True, but counter to what his bill said, we're not all economically disadvantaged.

Programs like HUB contracting and affirmative action are valuable as we work toward the goal of a discrimination-free world.

My question, perhaps a rhetorical one, always has revolved around what we'll do if we ever reach that goal. Are these programs here in perpetuity? I've got to tell you that, selfish idiot that I can be, I'd be for keeping them around forever if I benefited from them.

My attempted point is I have no problem with periodic review of programs like HUB contracting. I'm sure there is room for discussion about how it works and if it achieves what it's supposed to achieve. I'm equally sure the way to do that does not include declaring all of us economically disadvantaged, regardless of the size of our TVs.

Smoking restrictions face long odds in Texas Legislature

By Chuck Lindell
Cox Newspapers

AUSTIN — For the fourth consecutive legislative session, a Democratic state senator from San Antonio is trying to raise the legal age for buying or possessing cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Despite falling short in his previous attempts to boost the legal age from 18 to 19, Sen. Carlos Uresti is upping the ante this time with a bill outlawing tobacco products for Texans under 21 years old.

It would be the highest legal smoking age in America, where 46 states place the tobacco limit at 18 and the rest — Alabama, Alaska, New Jersey and Utah — opted for 19.

Uresti hopes to light a fire under his colleagues by stressing the lives and money his bill would save.

"Smoking-related illnesses cause more deaths than alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, suicides, homicides, driving while intoxicated and fire — combined," he told members of a Senate committee last month. "The annual health care cost in Texas directly caused by smoking is $5.83 billion, and $1.6 billion of that is covered by Medicaid."

Uresti's bill, however, faces an uphill climb — as does separate legislation to ban smoking in most public places across Texas.

Partisan ideals about the proper role of government, combined with a deep Texas tradition of respect for personal choices, often trump the promise of lives and money saved.

For example, in the 2011 legislative session, efforts to ban Texans from buying junk food with food stamps drew opposition from Democrats who said government should not tell low-income people how to feed their families. A separate attempt to limit consumption of sugary sodas by adding a penny-per-ounce tax was quashed by Republicans who oppose taxes and generally distrust government intrusion into household choices.

Both efforts would have saved lives and large amounts of tax money by improving the health of Texans on Medicaid, supporters argued. But even in a session hobbled by a budget crisis, neither effort went far in 2011.

This session, Uresti said he hopes a series of eye-opening numbers will keep his tobacco-age bill from getting snuffed out again. In Texas, according to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids:

■ 17.4 percent of youths smoke, with 29,100 new young smokers added every year.

■ 503,000 children alive today will die of smoking-related causes.

■ About $850 million of the state's annual budget is spent on smoking-related health costs.

"By raising the age for the purchase and possession of tobacco products, we can help keep cigarettes out of high schools and help prevent these children from creating a lifelong addiction that will cut short their lives," Uresti said.

Opposition in the past has come from lawmakers, particularly Republicans, who believe that 18-year-olds are adults capable of taking personal responsibility for their actions, Uresti said.

But Texas routinely places higher age restrictions on its citizens, he said, noting that Texans under 21 cannot purchase alcohol, practice medicine, become a police officer, acquire a concealed handgun license under most conditions or qualify for a license to pilot a party boat or become a pyrotechnics operator.

Groups as diverse as the Texas Medical Association and the Texas PTA have signed up to support Uresti's Senate Bill 313, but it was recently sidetracked by financial considerations.

Citing a state comptroller estimate that the higher age limit would cut smoking and tobacco use by 33 percent among 18- to 20-year-olds, the Legislative Budget Board determined that Uresti's bill would subtract almost $40 million in tobacco taxes from the 2014-15 budget.

Knowing it is far more difficult to gain support for a bill that cuts revenue, Uresti has asked the board to reconsider its estimate, arguing that the long-term savings in health costs would more than pay for the lost taxes. In the meantime, the bill remains pending in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Supporters of a statewide smoking ban also will try again this session.

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MIDLAND FAMILY CARE

Study asks: Can you stand to be healthier?

By Lyden Odukwu, M.D.

LYDEN ODUKWU, M.D.

Most people who work in an office or who drive a truck or a taxi for a living spend hours and hours a day sitting. According to a recent study by researchers from Australia and Kansas State University suggest that too much sitting could lead to chronic health problems such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

The study, involving 63,000 men in New South Wales ranging in age from 45 to 65, found that those who sat for four hours or less each day were much less likely to have conditions like cancer, diabetes, heart disease or high blood pressure than were those who sat for more than four hours daily.

The more hours of sitting, the greater the amount of chronic diseases, even when accounting for a person's age, weight and other variables.

While this study does not address the "chicken or egg" issue of whether the sitting contributed to the disease or the disease caused the sitting, other studies have shown that the majority of us need more exercise than we're getting.

To combat this, some companies have redesigned workspaces so workers can stand up most of the time. Where this is not practical, it is probably a good idea to stand up regularly and do some moving about. Please note, this should not be an excuse to spend more time at the water cooler.

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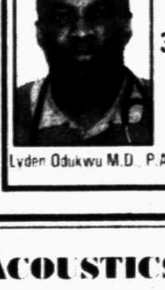

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Bone, Texas A&M top Kentucky in SEC final

John Bazemore/AP

Kentucky's Azia Bishop, left, and Texas A&M's Kelsey Bone (3) fight for the ball during the first half of the in SEC championship game Sunday in Duluth, Ga.

By Charles Odum
Associated Press

DULUTH, Ga. — Kelsey Bone owes coach Gary Blair an assist.

There will be time to settle that debt in the NCAA tournament.

Bone had 18 points and 15 rebounds, with most of her production coming in the second half, and Texas A&M beat Kentucky 75-67 on Sunday night to win the Southeastern Conference tournament championship in its first year in the league.

Aggies.....75
Wildcats.....67

Bone was called for her second foul and sat out the final 8:54 of the first half. She logged only eight minutes with four points in the half. After No. 7 Kentucky led only 36-34 at halftime, Bone said she saw an opportunity to make up for two regular-season losses to the Wildcats.

"It was a two-fold thing for me," Bone said. "Both times we've played Kentucky previously I've had terrible cramps going into the second half. I'm sitting on the bench and played only eight minutes in the first half. I've still got 20 minutes in my tank. It was probably a blessing in disguise.

"We were only down two points. I felt like we had taken their best shot and we had not thrown our best punch yet."

Bone led the way as the No. 19 Aggies outscored the Wildcats 41-31 in the second half. She was named tournament MVP and then helped cut down the nets. She tied a string from the net to the back of her white SEC champions cap.

Blair said one of his pregame challenges was directed to Bone, the 6-foot-4 center from Houston who played in the SEC as a freshman with South Carolina before transferring to Texas A&M.

"I said give me 15 boards, give me 10 defensive ones, five offensive ones, give me five assists and play

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

Inside

No. 1 Baylor holds off Oklahoma State in the Big 12 Tournament

Page 2C

Evaluation time

Some boys basketball teams see success not seen in years

By Jordan Mason
jmason@mrt.com

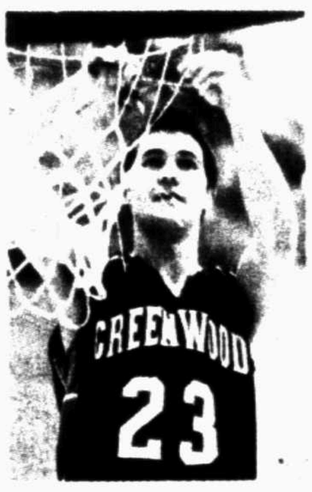
The 2012-13 boys basketball season was polarizing for county teams.

On one end of the spectrum was Greenwood, Midland Christian and Midland Classical, which rediscovered success that hadn't been seen in a while.

Greenwood advanced to its first regional tournament since a state title game appearance in 2004, while Midland Christian earned its first district runner-up spot since back-to-back state titles in 2007-2008, and Midland Classical reached the playoffs for the first time since 2010.

The two Midland ISD teams, however, did not share in that success.

Lee and Midland High experienced a season unlike any since 1992 as the Rebels and Bulldogs both missed the postseason, continuing a puzzling introduction to the new District 2-5A, which began in football.



Greenwood's Timmy Murphy cuts a piece of the net after a victory against Fabens in a regional quarterfinal game Feb. 26 at the Fort Stockton Special Events Center.

Continuing the unexpected developments of the season, Lee now finds itself without the coach who guided it to seven district titles and a state tournament appearance as coach Mark Coffman announced his retirement after the season.

■ BOYS WRAP-UP

The 2012 boys basketball season will be a memorable one for county teams, whether it is the start of a new era or a return to prominence.

Here is a look at how the season transpired for county teams.

Lee

Record: 14-18, 5-11 in District 2-5A

Playoffs: None

Key players graduating: G Grant Coffman, F Talor Nunez

Key players expected to return: G Anthony McCoy, G Ian Johnson, F Daniel Nelson, F Jordan Williams

Wrapping up 2012-13: Lee was doomed by a 1-8 start to 2-5A play as the Rebels were unable to find consistency until late in the season. The Rebels won four out of their last seven district games and were a last-second

Please see **BOYS**/5C

County, area squads make some noise this season

By Jonathan Hull
jhull@mrt.com

Notice was served to the district mates of many local girls basketball teams this season, starting with the foes of Midland High and Lee.

The Lady Bulldogs and Lady Rebels made it well known to the rest of District 2-5A that they're going to be figuring into the district title picture for the next few seasons, at least. Using rosters that featured several sophomores and freshmen, Midland High and Lee finished second and third, respectively, in 2-5A.

And while their strong finishes didn't result in a playoff victory for either team, valuable experience was gained for young, talented rosters that should be capable of making noise in their district.

As early as next season, the Lady Rebels and Lady Bulldogs could see the stakes raised in their matchups against one another. While two of their four meetings this past season figured directly into playoff seeding, next year's two district matchups between Lee and MHS should figure into the 2-5A title picture.

Midland Christian's Morgan Ashton puts a shot up against Arlington Grace Prep's Jeri Sharp on Jan. 19 at the McGraw Special Events Center at MCS.

And maybe the Lady Rebels, which turned a corner under first-year coach Morgan Fowler, can finally give this writer a different outcome to report after one of those games.

■ GIRLS WRAP-UP

But it wasn't just Lee and Midland High that left their mark on the area girls basketball scene. Greenwood reloaded after losing a talented senior class and returned to the postseason, while Midland Christian and Midland Classical each competed impressively in tough districts and made strong postseason runs.

Later in the postseason, area teams Grady — featuring possibly the area's most dynamic player in Ellyn Avery — and Garden City — featuring a roster full of Halfmanns and Schaefers — claimed the spotlight, advancing to their respective regional tournaments.

It was certainly a season filled with intriguing stories, and here's a

Please see **GIRLS**/4C

PHOTOS BY JAMES DURBIN | REPORTER-TELEGRAM

Wilfredo Lee/AP

Tiger Woods, right, and his caddie Joe Lacava congratulate each other after winning the Cadillac Championship on Sunday in Doral, Fla.

Woods wins another title at Doral

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. — That red shirt is starting to look ruthless on Sunday again.

One year after Tiger Woods hobbled off the Blue Monster, he picked up the pace in his march to the Masters. Woods delivered two quick birdies to take the drama out of Doral, and two late bogeys only made his victory in the Cadillac Championship seem closer than it really was.

Woods had full control of his game and never let anyone get closer than three shots until he had locked up his 17th World Golf Championship title. With a conservative bogey that didn't matter on the final hole, he closed with a 1-under 71.

For the first time in five years, Woods has two wins before the Masters.

And both of them were dominant.

"That's how I know I can play," Woods said. "That's the thing. To be able to bring it out a couple times so far this year — and then be able to close and get the Ws on top of that — that's nice. Any time I can win prior to Augusta, it always feels good."

And to think it was one year ago Sunday that Woods withdrew after 11 holes in the final round at Doral because of tightness in his left Achilles tendon, the same injury that had cost him to sit out most of the previous summer. It created uncertainty about his health and whether he could ever get his game back.

False alarm.

Woods now has five wins in the last year, the most of anyone in the world, and he can return to No. 1 with a win at Bay Hill in two weeks.

He won by two shots over Steve

Please see **WOODS**/4C

Texas A&M

From 1C

great defense," Blair said. "Look at what their post players did. She and (Kristi) Bellock shut them down.

"She got me 10 defensive rebounds and five offensive rebounds. She owes me an assist and I'll ask for it next time because she only got four."

Kentucky center DeNesh Stallworth made only four of 12 shots for 10 points. Power forward Samarie Walker made only one of five shots.

Thanks to poor second-half shooting, Kentucky's long wait for its second SEC title continues. The Wildcats won their only championship in 1982.

Kentucky made only four of its first 23 shots (17.4 percent) in the second half.

"We were very disappointed that we lost, but we were beaten by a very good basketball team, a very hungry basketball team," Kentucky coach Matthew Mitchell said. "Texas A&M had a very strong desire to be the champions, and that's why they're cutting down the nets."

The Aggies, the No. 4 seed, were the surprise of the tournament by beating the top two seeds. Texas A&M (24-9) beat top-seeded Tennessee in the semifinals before the championship win over No. 2 seed Kentucky (27-5).

Kentucky lost to Tennessee in the 2010 and 2011 finals.

"We've been here three out of the last four years and haven't been able to get a victory," Mitchell said. "It's just very, very disappointing."

Bellock had 15 points and eight rebounds. Courtney Walker had 14 points for the Aggies.

A'dia Mathies led Kentucky with 19 points. Jennifer O'Neill had 17. The Wildcats shot 35.5 percent from the field for the game.

"It's just disappointing because we know we had the capabilities to win this game and should have won this game," Mathies said. "We didn't come out there and play for 40 minutes like we should have. We are going to use this game to move forward because we're not going to let this game define our season. We're going to make a deep run in the NCAA tournament."

Texas A&M took the lead with an 11-0 run early in the second half and then stretched the advantage to 11 points with an 8-0 run midway through the half.

The Aggies took their big lead of 15 points at 63-48 when Kentucky tried to rally. Bria Goss sank a 3-pointer and O'Neill followed with a three-point play, pulling the Wildcats to within nine points.

A basket by Mathies with 3:12 remaining cut the Aggies' lead to 70-63, but Bone answered by scoring for the Aggies.

No. 1 Baylor holds off Oklahoma State challenge

Lady Bears 77
Cowgirls 69

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

DALLAS — With the NCAA tournament right around the corner, maybe this was just the kind of reminder defending national champion Baylor needed of how to hold on in a tight game.

Brittney Griner and the top-ranked Lady Bears might not be able to overcome these sort of mistakes as they get deeper into March.

Baylor had a series of uncharacteristic turnovers that fueled a furious late charge by Oklahoma State, but the Lady Bears never trailed in a 77-69 victory Sunday in the Big 12 tournament semifinals.

"It was good for us to a certain extent," Brooklyn Pope said.

The Lady Bears (31-1) have won 48 consecutive Big 12 regular-season and tournament games — most by a large margin. They have gone through the last two regular seasons without a league loss and now play in their third consecutive conference tournament title game Monday night against No. 2 seed Iowa State (23-7).

"We've been beating teams by 30-plus. We've been getting bored out there sometimes," point guard Odyssey Sims said. "Having a close game like this wakes us up, makes us realize that just because we're the No. 1 seed doesn't mean we can't be beat."

Griner had 30 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocks while Sims and Pope each had 12 points for Baylor, which overcame a season-high 24 turnovers — 18 in the second half that helped keep the Cowgirls (21-10) in the game.

Destiny Williams added 10 points for Baylor and Sims had seven assists.

Toni Young had 22 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma State. Liz Donohoe added 20 points and Tiffany Bias scored 19.

Oklahoma State trailed by 17 after Sims converted a nifty three-point play with 15 minutes left. The Cowgirls cut it to 72-69 with 1:34 remaining when Bias converted a steal into a breakaway layup, but those were their last points of the day.

"Very proud of our basketball team," Oklahoma State coach Jim Littell said. "We went toe-to-toe with the No. 1 team in the nation. ... It's something that's a step in the right direction for our program. We can build off this."

With the shot clock running down early in the second half, Sims made a move and pushed the ball toward the rim. The ball went in as she was fouled, prompting Baylor coach Kim Mulkey to emphatically pump her arm to go with a leg kick.

The Lady Bears led 54-37 when Sims made the free throw for a three-point play.

Baylor still had a comfortable lead with 5 1/2 minutes left after Griner scored inside to make it 69-56. But the Lady Bears committed three turnovers in less than a minute to spark seven points in a row by the Cowgirls.

After Donohoe made a free throw for Oklahoma State, Kendra Suttles had a steal that led to a layup by Bias.

Griner then committed a turnover that led to a jumper by Brittney Martin. A turnover by Sims led to a pair of free throws by Young that cut it to 69-63.

"We had some very uncharacteristic turnovers, which is a sign that I've got to do a better job of execution, making sure the right people have the ball in the hands, or there was a little bit of losing your composure," Mulkey said.

Still, that is highly unusual for a Baylor team that features five seniors, four of them starters. Sims, a junior, was an All-American last season.

"We didn't play as if we were juniors or seniors," Sims said. "We turned the ball over when it was critical. That could have lost us the game if we were playing any other team like UConn or Stanford."

Tony Gutierrez/AP

Oklahoma State forward Toni Young (15) has her shot blocked by Baylor center Brittney Griner (42) in the second half during a game in the Big 12 women's tournament Sunday in Dallas.

McCoy, Justice make District 2-5A's first team

From staff reports

Lee junior guard Anthony McCoy and Midland High junior guard Mazelle Justice were named to the District 2-5A All-District Boys Basketball first team.

The friendly rivals since childhood, both two-year starters, were the only Rebels and Bulldogs to earn first-team recognition as both teams missed the postseason.

Lee senior Grant Coffman was named to the second team as was Midland High sophomore Justin LeClear, who was the only sophomore, outside of the superlatives, to make the team.

Lubbock Coronado senior guard Christian O'Neal was named the district MVP while district champion Odessa Permian nearly swept the rest of the superlatives.

Permian senior Keouvion McCalop was named Defensive MVP while teammate and sophomore guard Robert Thomas was named Offensive MVP.

Permian coach Danny Wright earned Coach of the Year honors while Abilene Cooper sophomore Juvon Banks was named Newcomer of the Year.

Justice

McCoy

DISTRICT 2-5A ALL-DISTRICT BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
MVP — Christian O'Neal, Lubbock Coronado, Sr.
Defensive MVP — Keouvion McCalop, Odessa Permian, Sr.
Offensive MVP — Robert Thomas, Odessa Permian, Soph.
Newcomer of the year — Juvon Banks, Abilene Cooper, Soph.
Coach of the year — Danny Wright, Odessa Permian
First team
Nate Estrada, Abilene High, Sr.; Darian Bradford, Abilene High, Jr.; Dante Lowry, Abilene Cooper, Sr.; **Mazelle Justice, Midland High, Jr.; Anthony McCoy, Lee, Jr.;** Devon Phillips, Lubbock Coronado, Sr.; Devondric Meadows, Lubbock Coronado, Jr.; Aaron McMaryion, Odessa High, Sr.; Jomon Wilson, Odessa Permian, Sr.; Ke'Vann Coney, San Angelo Central, Sr.; Rey Pederson, San Angelo Central, Sr.; Conner Thompson, Amarillo Tascosa, Sr.; Ja'Quan Smith, Amarillo Tascosa, Jr.; Avery Elkins, Amarillo Tascosa, Sr.
Second team
Brock Barger, San Angelo Central, Jr.; Zach Whitlock, San Angelo Central, Sr.; Joseph Campos, Abilene High, Sr.; Gabriel Chacon, Abilene High, Sr.; Kenneth Collins, Abilene Cooper, Sr.; Lorenzo Joe, Abilene Cooper, Jr.; **Grant Coffman, Lee, Sr.;** Trey Culver, Lubbock Coronado, Jr.; Brennon Smith, Lubbock Coronado, Sr.; Isaiah Deary, Odessa High, Sr.; Tori Loud, Odessa Permian, Jr.; Juwan McGee, Odessa Permian, Sr.; **Justin LeClear, Midland High, Soph.**
Honorable Mention
Lee — Talor Nunez, Sr.; Jordan Williams, Jr.; Ian Johnson, Jr.

MCS, MCA players earn TAPPS All-State nods

From staff reports

TAPPS released its girls basketball all-state teams recently and both Midland Classical and Midland Christian were well represented.

Junior guard Morgan Ashton was named first-team TAPPS 4A All-State after a prolific season, while her senior backcourt mate Bethany Roach received honorable mention.

For Midland Classical, junior guard Kayla Beattie and senior post Karis Johnson each were named to the first-team TAPPS 3A All-State squad with senior guard Amy Hinton making the second team.

Ashton led Midland Christian with an impressive 19.1 points and 6.8 steals per game this past season. Roach averaged 10.3 points and 2.6 steals per game, wrapping up her four-year varsity stint at MCS.

Beattie led Midland Classical with 19.1 points and 3.3 assists per game, while also pulling down 3.1 rebounds and three steals per contest. Johnson was one of the top rebounders in the state, averaging 11.8 boards and 8.3 ponts per game. Hinton was good for 8.3 points and 5.9 rebounds a night.

Ashton

Beattie

Johnson

The TAPPS 1-3A All-District squad was also announced recenty with Beattie, Johnson and Hinton each representing MCA on the first-team. Freshman Alissa Beattie — the younger sister of Kayla — was also named to the first-team after averaging 8.6 points and 2.6 assists this season.

Rachel Long, Abbie Rael and Sumner Sparks each received second-team all-district honors, while Lexi Watts was given honorable mention.

Trinity also picked up some TAPPS 1-3A All-District honors with sophomore Macy Essman being named to the first-team, while senior Sarah Heck and sophomore Emma Gotcher made the second-team. Claudia Zissman received honorable mention.

WOMEN'S TOURNEY ROUNDUP

BIG 12
IOWA ST. 79, OKLAHOMA 60

DALLAS — Anna Prins scored a career-high 32 points and Iowa State advanced to its first Big 12 tournament championship game in six years, beating Oklahoma 79-60 on Sunday.

Chelsea Poppens, the other Iowa State senior starter, had 14 points and 10 rebounds.

The Cyclones (23-7) trailed only once. After Joanna McFarland's 3-pointer put Oklahoma up 10-7 less than 4 minutes into the game, Brynn Williamson's 3-pointer opened a 17-0 run when five different Iowa State players scored.

McFarland and Morgan Hook had 12 points each for Oklahoma (22-10), which overcome a 22-point second-half deficit Saturday to beat West Virginia.

Iowa State, which kept a double-digit lead after that 6-minute spurt, plays No. 1 Baylor (31-1) on Monday night.

The Cyclones were tournament champs in 2000 and 2001, and lost their last title game appearance to Oklahoma in 2007.

Big 12 Conference
At American Airlines Center
Dallas
First Round
Friday
Texas 51, Kansas State 49
Kansas 83, TCU 61
Quarterfinals
Saturday
Oklahoma State 59, Texas Tech 54
Baylor 80, Texas 47
Iowa State 77, Kansas 62
Oklahoma 65, West Virginia 64
Semifinals
Sunday
Baylor 77, Oklahoma State 69
Iowa State 79, Oklahoma 60
Championship
Today
Baylor vs. Iowa State, 7 p.m.

Southeastern Conference
At The Arena at Gwinnett Center
Duluth, Ga.
First Round
Wednesday
Alabama 63, Mississippi State 36
Second Round
Thursday, March 7
Florida 64, Arkansas 59
South Carolina 77, Alabama 35
Vanderbilt 53, Missouri 40
LSU 65, Auburn 62
Quarterfinals
Friday
Tennessee 82, Florida 73
Texas A&M 61, South Carolina 52
Kentucky 76, Vanderbilt 65
Georgia 71, LSU 53
Semifinals
Saturday
Texas A&M 66, Tennessee 62
Kentucky 60, Georgia 38
Championship
Sunday
Texas A&M 75, Kentucky 67

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Men

NO. 2 INDIANA 72
NO. 7 MICHIGAN 71

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Cody Zeller made a go-ahead layup with 13 seconds left and altered Trey Burke's shot at the other end, lifting No. 2 Indiana to a 72-71 victory over No. 7 Michigan on Sunday that gave the Hoosiers their first outright Big Ten title in two decades.

The Hoosiers (26-5, 14-4) trailed by five points in the final minute but took advantage when the Wolverines (25-6, 12-6) were unable to seal it at the foul line. Jordan Morgan had a fairly easy tip-in attempt of Burke's miss that could have won it for Michigan, but the ball rolled off the rim and Indiana grabbed the rebound with 4 seconds left.

NO. 10 MICHIGAN STATE 71
NORTHWESTERN 61

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Keith Appling scored 16 points and Gary Harris added 12 to lift Michigan State over Northwestern.

The Spartans (24-7, 13-5) were eliminated from Big Ten title contention early in their game when Indiana beat Michigan, and Michigan State struggled to put away the undermanned Wildcats. Northwestern (13-18, 4-14) rallied from a 13-point first-half deficit, tying the game at 51 before the Spartans recovered.

NO. 14 OHIO STATE 68
ILLINOIS 55

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Deshaun Thomas, playing perhaps his final home game for Ohio State, scored 19 points in a victory over Illinois.

Ohio State (23-7, 13-5) is the No. 2 seed for next week's Big Ten tournament.

TEMPLE 84
NO. 21 VCU 76

PHILADELPHIA — Khalif Wyatt scored 30 points, Jake O'Brien had 19 and Temple beat Virginia Commonwealth after rallying from a 16-point deficit.

The Owls (23-8, 11-5 Atlantic 10) clinched the No. 3 seed in the conference tournament and earned a first-round bye. Temple and VCU will both open play at the Barclays Center on Friday.

NO. 22 WISCONSIN 63
PENN STATE 60

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Traevon Jackson made a contested 3-pointer at the buzzer and finished with 15 points as Wisconsin staved off an upset bid by Penn State.

The Badgers (21-10, 12-6 Big Ten) went the length of the court with less than 4 seconds left. Jackson pulled up on the wing and made his 3 over the outstretched arm of Kevin Montminy.

Women

BIG EAST TOURNAMENT
NO. 2 NOTRE DAME 75
SOUTH FLORIDA 66

HARTFORD, Conn. — Natalie Achonwa had 20 points and 20 rebounds to help Notre Dame beat South Florida in the Big East women's tournament quarterfinals.

Skylar Diggins, the Big East player of the year, added 15 points for the Irish — who have won a school record 24 straight games. They will face No. 13 Louisville in the semifinals Monday night.

NO. 3 CONNECTICUT 94,
DEPAUL 61

HARTFORD, Conn. — Breanna Stewart scored 21 points to lead a balanced offense as Connecticut beat DePaul in the Big East tournament.

Stefanie Dolson and Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis each added 16 points for the Huskies (28-3), who have won 16 consecutive Big East tournament games. The second-seeded Huskies have made the tournament semifinals every year since 1989, a string of 25 consecutive quarterfinal wins. They've won the tournament five straight years.

NO. 13 LOUISVILLE 62
ST. JOHN'S 55

HARTFORD, Conn. — Sara Hammond had 22 points and 11 rebounds to help Louisville beat St. John's.

After trailing by three at the half, Shoni Schimmel's 3-pointer gave Louisville (24-7) a 32-30 lead with 16 minutes left. Hammond followed with a three-point play moments later to extend the advantage. St. John's hung around over the next 11 minutes and trailed 54-50 after Nadirah McKenith's free throws with 3:11 left.

ACC TOURNAMENT
NO. 6 DUKE 92
NO. 15 NORTH CAROLINA 73

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Freshman Alexis Jones scored a career-high 24 points and Duke claimed its eighth Atlantic Coast Conference tournament title by routing North Carolina in the championship game.

Elizabeth Williams also had 24 points and Haley Peters scored 17 for the top-seeded Blue Devils (30-2).

ATLANTIC 10 TOURNAMENT
SAINT JOSEPH'S 61
NO. 11 DAYTON 54

PHILADELPHIA — Chatilla van Grinsven's 19 points and 10 rebounds helped Saint Joseph's snap Dayton's 15-game winning streak in the Atlantic 10 Conference semifinals.

The Flyers (27-2) hadn't lost since Dec. 30 against Bowling Green. They had beaten 22 straight conference opponents, including last season's tournament title run, since a Feb. 11, 2012, loss to St. Bonaventure.

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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	13	3	.813	—
Baltimore	10	3	.769	1½
Seattle	11	5	.688	2
Tampa Bay	8	3	.727	2
Cleveland	11	6	.647	2
Chicago	7	5	.583	3½
Detroit	7	5	.583	3½
Minnesota	9	7	.562	4
Boston	8	6	.500	4½
Oakland	7	6	.500	4½
Texas	7	6	.500	4½
Toronto	7	6	.467	5
Houston	6	8	.429	6½
New York	4	7	.364	6½
Los Angeles	3	10	.231	8½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	9	6	.571	—
Colorado	7	5	.583	1
Los Angeles	11	6	.500	1
Atlanta	8	9	.471	2½
Philadelphia	7	8	.467	3
Miami	6	8	.429	3½
Washington	6	8	.429	3½
New York	5	8	.385	4
San Diego	7	9	.438	4
Pittsburgh	6	9	.429	4½
Milwaukee	6	9	.429	4½
San Francisco	5	7	.417	4½
Cincinnati	5	10	.375	5½
Pittsburgh	5	10	.375	5½
Cincinnati	4	11	.267	6½

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Sunday's Scores

Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2
Pittsburgh (ss) 7, Minnesota 4
Philadelphia 7, Houston 1
Detroit 2, Washington 1
N.Y. Mets 3, St. Louis 0
Miami 10, Atlanta 2
Pittsburgh (ss) 5, Baltimore 2
N.Y. Yankees 3, Toronto 0
Chicago Cubs 9, San Diego 3
Kansas City 17, L.A. Angels 11
Cincinnati 7, Chicago White Sox (ss) 3
San Francisco 6, Milwaukee 1
Oakland 7, Arizona 5
Texas 7, Cleveland 6
Chicago White Sox (ss) 11, Seattle 7
L.A. Dodgers 8, Colorado 1

Today's Games

Boston vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Washington at Viera, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz., 8:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Colorado vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 6:05 p.m.

SUNDAY'S TEXAS LINESCORES
RANGERS 7, INDIANS 6
At Goodyear, Ariz.

Texas	000	502000	—	7	11	0
Cleveland	020	120010	—	6	11	2

R.Ross, Meek (3), Beliveau (5), C.Bell (5), Grimm (7) and Pierzynski; Z.Zaneski, B.Myers, Nieve (4), Carrasco (5), R.Hill (9) and Y.Gomes; Jerotomas W—C.Bell. L—Carrasco. Sv—Grimm. HRs—Texas, Gentry (2).

PHILLIES 7, ASTROS 1
At Kissimmee, Fla.

Philadelphia	000	113110	—	7	11	0
Houston	100	000000	—	1	7	1

Hamels, Cloyd (6), Miner (7), Horst (8), De Fratus (9) and Kratz; Peacock, S.Escalona (4), J.Fields (5), Cosart (6), Ambriz (7), B.Oberholtzer (8) and Corporan. C.Perez W—Hamels L—J.Fields. HRs—Philadelphia, L.Nix (1).

WBC

FIRST ROUND
GROUP C

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Dominican Rep	3	0	1.000	—
x-Puerto Rico	2	1	.667	1
Venezuela	1	2	.333	2
Spain	0	3	.000	3

x-advanced to second round

At San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sunday.
Venezuela 11, Spain 1
Dominican Republic 4, Puerto Rico 2

GROUP D

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-United States	2	1	.667	—
x-Italy	2	1	.667	—
Canada	1	2	.333	1
Mexico	1	2	.333	1

x-advanced to second round

Sunday
At Phoenix
United States 9, Canada 4

SECOND ROUND
GROUP ONE
At Tokyo
Sunday
Japan 16, Netherlands 4
Today
Cuba vs. Netherlands, 5 a.m.
Tuesday
Game 5 winner vs. Japan, 5 a.m.

GROUP TWO
At Miami
Tuesday, March 12
Italy vs. Dominican Republic, Noon
Puerto Rico vs. United States, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 13
Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 14
Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 6 p.m.
Friday, March 15
Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 16
Game 5 winner vs. Game 4 winner, Noon

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	2	0	0	6	3	1
Columbus	1	1	0	3	4	2
Sporting KC	1	1	0	3	4	3
Philadelphia	1	1	0	3	3	4
Houston	1	0	0	3	2	0
Toronto FC	1	1	0	3	2	2
New England	1	0	0	3	1	0
D.C.	1	1	0	3	2	1
New York	0	0	1	1	3	3
Chicago	0	2	0	0	0	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	2	0	0	6	3	1
Los Angeles	1	0	0	3	4	0
Chivas USA	1	1	0	3	3	4
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	3	2	1
FC Dallas	1	1	0	3	2	3
Portland	0	1	1	1	4	5
Seattle	0	1	0	0	1	0
Colorado	0	2	0	0	1	3
San Jose	0	1	0	0	0	2

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Sunday's Scores

Philadelphia 2, Colorado 1
Chivas USA 3, FC Dallas 1
New York at San Jose, late

Saturday, March 16

D.C. United at New York, 11:30 a.m.
Chicago at Sporting Kansas City, 2 p.m.
Toronto FC at Montreal, 3 p.m.
New England at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
San Jose at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.
Colorado at Real Salt Lake, 5 p.m.
Portland at Seattle FC, 7 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Strk
New York	39	22	.639	—	7-3	W 2
Brooklyn	37	22	.627	1½	6-4	L 1
Boston	34	28	.548	5	5-5	W 1
Toronto	25	39	.391	15	3-7	L 5
Philadelphia	25	39	.391	15	3-7	L 2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Strk
x-Miami	47	14	.770	—	8-2	W 1
Atlanta	34	29	.540	13½	4-6	L 1
Washington	20	41	.328	27	2-8	L 8
Orlando	18	46	.281	30½	2-8	L 2
Charlotte	13	50	.206	35	1-9	L 10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Strk
Indiana	39	24	.619	—	7-3	L 1
Chicago	35	28	.556	4	6-4	W 1
Milwaukee	32	29	.525	6	5-5	W 1
Detroit	23	42	.354	17	3-7	L 2
Cleveland	21	42	.333	18	4-6	L 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Strk
San Antonio	46	15	.767	—	8-2	W 1
Memphis	42	19	.689	5	7-3	L 1
Houston	34	30	.531	14½	5-5	W 2
Dallas	31	33	.484	18	5-5	L 1
New Orleans	22	42	.344	26½	3-7	L 2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Strk
Oklahoma City	47	16	.746	—	8-2	W 1
Denver	42	22	.656	5½	7-3	L 1
Utah	32	31	.508	15	5-5	W 1
Portland	29	33	.468	17½	4-6	W 2
Minnesota	21	39	.350	24½	2-8	L 2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Strk
L.A. Clippers	45	20	.692	—	7-3	W 1
Golden State	35	29	.547	9½	6-4	L 1
L.A. Lakers	33	31	.516	11½	5-5	W 1
Phoenix	22	41	.349	22	2-8	L 1
Sacramento	22	41	.349	22	3-7	L 3

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Scores

Oklahoma City 91, Boston 79
L.A. Lakers 90, Chicago 81
Miami 105, Indiana 91
Toronto 100, Cleveland 96
Orlando 99, Philadelphia 91
Dallas 100, Minnesota 77
New Orleans 98, Portland 96
Milwaukee 115, Sacramento 113
L.A. Clippers 129, Detroit 97

Today's Games

Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Utah, 8 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
New York at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S BOXES
MAVERICKS 100, TIMBERWOLVES 77
DALLAS (100): Crowder 2-5 2-2 7; Nowitzki 7-13 0-0 16; Kaman 4-10 0-0 8; J.James 1-6 0-0 3; Mayo 4-9 0-0 8; Collison 3-9 3-4 9; Carter 8-15 2-2 22; Wright 6-7 1-2 13; Brand 5-10 0-0 10; Beaubois 1-2 0-0 2; B.James 0-2 0-0; Morrow 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 42-95 10-10 100.
MINNESOTA (77): Gelabale 6-10 1-1 13; Williams 7-17 4-5 18; Stiemsma 5-10 0-0 10; Rubio 3-12 0-0 7; Ridnour 3-9 0-0 7; Barea 6-15 4-4 16; Shved 0-7 0-0 0; D.Cunningham 1-5 0-0 2; Johnson 1-3 2-4 4. Totals 32-86 11-14 77.

Dallas	21	35	22	22	— 100
Minnesota	20	24	17	16	— 77

3-Point Goals—Dallas 8-21 (Carter 4-6, Mayo 1-2, Beaubois 0-1, M.James 1-4, Brand 0-1, Beaubois 0-1, Mayo 0-3), Minnesota 3-19 (Ridnour 1-3, Rubio 1-4, Gelabale 0-2, Williams 1-6, Barea 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Dallas 65 (Brand 12), Minnesota 45 (Williams 9). Assists—Dallas 26 (Beaubois 8), Minnesota 20 (Ridnour, Rubio 5). Total Fouls—Dallas 15, Minnesota 18. Technicals—Mayo, Dallas defensive three second. A—15,209 (19,356).

HORNETS 98, TRAIL BLAZERS 90
PORTLAND (90): Batum 3-8 3-3 11; Aldridge 6-14 4-4 16; Hickson 6-12 2-2 14; Lillard 9-16 0-1 20; Matthews 8-15 2-2 24; Meyers 3-5 0-0 7; Babbitt 0-1 0-0 0; Barton 2-4 0-0 4; Jeffries 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 37-76 11-12 90.

NEW ORLEANS (98): Aminu 0-6 0-0 0; Davis 8-14 2-3 18; Lopez 3-8 0-0 6; Vasquez 9-15 0-0 20; Roberts 3-13 2-2 9; Anderson 7-15 2-3 20; Mason 4-8 0-0 10; Thomas 3-4 1-1 7; Miller 3-4 0-0 8. Totals 40-88 7-9 98.

Portland	22	22	25	27	— 96
New Orleans	22	24	23	29	— 98

3-Point Goals—Portland 11-25 (Matthews 6-11, Lillard 2-5, Batum 2-6, Meyers 1-2, Babbitt 0-1), New Orleans 11-20 (Anderson 4-8, Miller 2-2, Roberts 2-3, Vasquez 2-4, Roberts 1-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 38 (Hickson 14), New Orleans 50 (Anderson 24-22, Miller 2-2, Aminu 2-2

GIRLS

From 1C

quick recap, plus some early predictions for next season, on every girls basketball team in the county as well as an area outlook:

Lee Lady Rebel

Record: 15-14, 11-5 (3rd) in 2-5A

Playoffs: lost to El Paso Franklin 79-65 in bi-district.

Key players graduating: Cindy Benavides

Key players expected to return: Daija Stanford, Shay Ray, Hannah Payne, Jackie Rivas

Wrapping up 2012-13: The Lady Rebels had a winning record to end a season for the first time since the 2007-08 season. They also made the playoffs for a third consecutive year, but still haven't won a playoff game since 1997. But for those who have watched the Lady Rebels in recent years, it was plain to see there was a different demeanor surrounding them this season. Under first-year head coach Morgan Fowler, the Lady Rebels played with more intensity, and proved to be one of the better offensive squads in the league. While they did give up their fair share of points, the Lady Rebels high pressure defense keyed by athletic guards Ray and Daija that continually forced turnovers. No deficit was too large for the Lady Rebels to overcome this season.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Lee is losing just one starter, but it is a considerable loss. Benavides, a four-year letterwinner, was the team's second leading scorer and consistently stretched opposing defenses with her strong 3-point shooting. But with Stanford, a sophomore, and Ray, a junior, back in the backcourt, and sophomore post Hannah Payne returning in the frontcourt, the Lady Rebels have a youthful combination that could have them contending for a district title as soon as next year.

Midland High

Record: 23-11, 12-4 (2nd) in 2-5A

Playoffs: lost to El Paso Eastwood 31-28 in bi-district

Key players graduating: Catarina Rendon, Rebecca Gallegos, Kristyn Wilbanks

Key players expected to return: Alexandrea Washington, Alexis Washington, Aubrie Elliott, Desare' Allen

Wrapping up 2012-13: For the second straight year, Midland High was surprisingly ousted in the opening round of the playoffs. The Lady Bulldogs can still reflect on the season as a whole as a positive, though. They managed to make the playoffs again, and won at least 20 games in a season for a fifth straight year. The Lady Dawgs were a force defensively throughout district play and came the closest to upsetting District 2-5A champion Lubbock Coronado. The Lady Dawgs allowed around 35 points a game this season, but did have moments where they couldn't get into a groove offensively, which ultimately led to their early exit from the postseason.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: There is a lot of talent returning for the Lady Dawgs, including freshman twin sisters Alexis and Alexandrea Washington, who were both part-time starters this season. Elliott, a sophomore post, started every game for the Lady Dawgs this season, and Allen, a junior forward, will be the most experienced member of the team next year. The biggest issue next year will be replacing the defensive rebounding presence of Rendon. As long as the Lady Dawgs can adequately achieve that, they will be in the mix for the district title next year.

Greenwood

Record: 17-16, 6-2 (2nd) in 4-3A

Playoffs: defeated Clint Mountain View 70-24 in bi-district; lost to Perryton 70-49 in area.

Key players graduating: Ashton Hannsz, Bailey Ray, Courtney Waters

Key players expected to return: Amanda Bell, Morgan McKee, Grace Sunderland

Wrapping up 2012-13: For a fifth consecutive year, the Rangerettes were stymied in the area round of the playoffs, but not many teams in the area can say they've advanced to at least the postseason's second round for that many consecutive years. After losing some key players from the previous season's team, the Rangerettes had to redefine themselves at multiple positions, but did so impressively. Their only two regular season losses in the second half of the season came against district opponent Abilene Wylie, which was state-ranked all season.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: The Rangerettes lose a large senior class, including starters Ray, Hannsz and Waters. But there is also plenty of talent returning. McKee, a junior, was named 4-3A's Defensive Most Valuable Player, and Bell, a sophomore, led the Rangerettes in scoring and rebounding this season. Sunderland, a junior, came on strong in the post late in the year for Greenwood, and should be a key starter next season for the Rangerettes. There's little doubt they'll get another shot at moving past the area round of the playoffs once again next season.

Midland Christian

Record: 21-15, 7-3 (3rd) in TAPPS 1-4A

Playoffs: defeated Dallas Christian 39-36 in area; lost to Fort Worth Christian 36-34 in regional

Key players graduating: Bethany Roach, Tori Watson

Key players expected to return: Morgan Ashton, Bailey Wright, Abby Needham

Wrapping up 2012-13: For the first time since 2004, the Lady Mustangs won a playoff game. They also got a win agaisnt rival Fort Worth Christian for the first time in 12 years. Unfortunately, that win didn't come in the postseason. Ultimately, Fort Worth Christian ousted MCS from the playoffs with a 36-34 victory. Fort Worth Christian went on to lose in the state semifinals to district rival Lubbock Trinity, which easily won a TAPPS 4A state title. Maybe it's a roundabout way of thinking so, but given how tightly MCS played Fort Worth Christian and competed with Lubbock Trinity this season, the Lady Mustangs have an argument to be called the third best team in TAPPS 4A this season.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: There are certainly some pieces to replace. Roach was the team's second leading scorer and the unquestioned team leader as a four-year varsity member. Watson was a defensive force inside with her length, and will be sorely missed in the paint. However, Ashton averaged 19.1 points and 6.8 steals per game, and was an all-state selection. She'll be back for her senior year along with second-team all-district selection Wright. While MCS' district is sure to remain tough, the Lady Mustangs should also remain a contender in it.

Midland Classical

Record: 25-4, 5-1 (1st) in TAPPS 1-3A

Playoffs: defeated Fort Worth Temple Christian 70-29 in bi-district; lost to Amarillo San Jacinto 52-45 in area.

Key players graduating: Amy Hinton, Karis Johnson

Key players expected to return: Kayla Beattie, Alissa Beattie

Wrapping up 2012-13: MCA had state title aspirations, but had those hopes derailed when district rival Amarillo San Jacinto upset them in the area round of the playoffs. The Lady Knights had already beaten San Jacinto twice in the regular season. District rival Lubbock Christian went on to win the TAPPS 3A state title. The Lady Knights weren't beaten often in 2012-13, but their season still ended with just their fourth loss of the year.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: With leading scorer Kayla Beattie — a TAPPS 3A All-State selection — and her younger sister Alissa each returning, the Lady Knights now just need to find the right pieces to surround the sisterly duo to contend in the playoffs again next season. They do have some rather large shoes to fill, though. Hinton was the team's leader and second leading scorer, while Johnson was a TAPPS All-State selection for her strong presence on the glass, averaging more than 11 rebounds per game last season. But MCA will always be one hot-shooting night from a Beattie away from a victory.

Trinity

Record: 0-6 (4th) in TAPPS 1-3A

Playoffs: None.

Key players graduating: Sarah Heck

Key players expected to return: Mykelti Ball, Mylyra Ball, Macy Essman

Wrapping up 2012-13: It wasn't an easy transition into TAPPS 3A for the Lady Chargers, who ended up going winless in district play. Experience counts for something, though, and a young Trinity squad that featured just one senior certainly needed experience.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Heck is the only senior gone from this year's team. With twin sisters Mykelti and Mylyra Ball, and all-district selection Essman returning next season, the Lady Chargers do have a core to build around. Expect them to be much more competitive in TAPPS 1-3A next season, although it is possibly the toughest TAPPS 3A district in the state.

Area

Playoff teams: Stanton (11-22), Forsan (23-10), Grady (29-5), Garden City (30-6)

Top players graduating: Ellyn Avery (Grady), Logan Yarbar (Big Spring), Jennifer Henley (Stanton), Cayley Oppegard (Grady)

Top players expected to return: Raegan Haggard (Forsan), Holly Halfmann (Garden City), Julianna Rodriguez (Big Spring), Brittney Hergert (Forsan), Kamie Halfmann (Garden City)

Wrapping up 2012-13: Grady and Garden City each made it to their respective regional tournaments this season, making the longest playoff run of any girls basketball team, in the Permian Basin. Grady ended up losing to eventual Class A, Division II state champion Whitharral in the regional semifinals, while Garden City fell in the regional championship to Roscoe Highland. Forsan made a lot of noise, finishing third in a tough district and even upsetting a highly ranked Smyer squad. Smyer ended up as the state runnerup, losing in the Class A, Division I state championship game to Martin's Mill. Forsan lost to Plains in the regional quarterfinal round of the playoffs. No area Class 3A team qualified for the postseason, although Big Spring finished tied for third in District 4-3A, but lost a play-in game with rival Sweetwater.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Grady will have a tough time duplicating last season's success with the loss of Ellyn Avery, but her father Jimmy Avery will remain coach, and is one of the most respected head coaches in the area. Garden City returns all but one senior, and should have a return to the regional tournament in mind. In fact, the Lady Bearkats should be considered one of the favorites to win their region next season and make a trip to the state tournament. Forsan only loses two seniors, but does compete in a tough district with Plains and Smyer. But if this season is any indication, the Lady Buffaloes could be the biggest threat in the area after Garden City to make a deep playoff run next season.

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HSTRACK

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Brownwood Bluebonnet Relays
Friday-Saturday
Gordon Wood Stadium
Brownwood
BOYS

Teams standings — 1. Temple 362. 2. Brady 282.2. 3. Abilene Cooper 191. 4. Zephyr 128.6. 5. Abilene Wylie 126. 6. Junction 104. 7. Brownwood 87. 8. Lubbock Coronado 83. 9. Midland Christian 59.2. 10. San Saba 54. 11. Richland Springs 36. 12. San Angelo Central 28. 13. Graham 23. 14. First Baptist 20. 15. Mineral Wells 19. 16. Abilene Christian 16. 17. CoolRunnings 12. 18. Ballinger 8. 19. Joshua 6. 20. Panther Creek 5.

3A-5A Division

1.600 — 1. Ryan Richardson. Lubbock Coronado 4:52.91. 2. Dylan Person. Brownwood 4:53.56. 3. Dillon Vanwinkle. Lubbock Coronado 4:53.77.

100 — 1. Jeff Carr. Temple 10.65. 2. Javonte Langham. Temple 10.78. 3. Tye Calhoun. Abilene Wylie 10.79.

3.200 — 1. Dylan Person. Brownwood 10:27. 2. Jared Lewis. Lubbock Coronado 10:38. 3. Dominic Moscoso. Lubbock Coronado10:40.

1.600 relay — 1. Temple 3:25.52. 2. Lubbock Coronado 3:26.90. 3. Abilene Cooper 3:31.31.

300 hurdles — 1. Trey Spells. Abilene Cooper 40.62. 2. Kyler Westbrook. Lubbock Coronado 40.68. 3. Demarcus Whinery. Brownwood 41.31.

800 — 1. Dillon Vanwinkle. Lubbock Coronado 1:59.54. 2. Delon Hardy. Temple 1:59.84. 3. Victor Lemons. Temple 2:04.96.

800 relay — 1. Temple 1:30.11. 2. Lubbock Coronado 1:30.46. 3. Abilene Cooper 1:31.40.

400 relay — 1. Abilene Cooper 42.84. 2. Temple 43.18. 3. Abilene Wylie 43.72.

400 — 1. Kevyn Smith. Lubbock Coronado 51.21. 2. Devonte McClennan. Temple 51.46. 3. Kalean Nealy. Temple 51.56.

200 — 1. Jamarkese Williams. Temple 21.11. 2. Fred Lawrence. Abilene Cooper 21.55. 3. Clint Cole. Temple 22.11.

110 hurdles — 1. Demarcus Whinery. Brownwood 15.02. 2. Trey Spells. Abilene Cooper 15.05. 3. Aaron Anderson. Abilene Cooper 15.59.

Triple jump — 1. Kenneth Collins. Abilene Cooper 43-3.25. 2. Clint Cole. Temple 42-6. 3. Derek Sides. Graham 41-10.

Shot put — 1. Cullen Ruth. Brownwood 49-5. 2. Devonte Moore. Temple 46-7.25. 3. Jacoby Preskwood. Mineral Wells 43-9.

Long jump — 1. Kenneth Collins. Abilene Cooper 21-6.25. 2. Clint Cole. Temple 20-2.5. 3. Kyler Westbrook. Lubbock Coronado 19-3.25.

Discus — 1. Bryson Taylor. Midland Christian 160-9. 2. Cullen RUth. Brownwood 128-7. 3. Lucas Ratley. Abilene Cooper 126-9.

Pole vault — 1. Jason Walker. San Angelo Central 13-6. 2. Aaron Dixon. Ballinger 13-6. 3. Brit Hooper. Midland Christian 13-0.

High jump — 1. Jamarkese Williams. Temple 6-0. 2. Regan Walton. Temple 6-0. 3. Seth Owen. Brownwood 5-10.

GIRLS

Team standings — 1. Lubbock Coronado 266. 2. Temple 222. 3. Brownwood 191. 4. Brady 184.5. 5. Abilene Wylie 176. 6. Midland Christian 116. 7. Junction 114. 8. Abilene cooper 90. 9. San Saba 82.5. 10. Abilene Christian 57. 11 (tie) Zephyr 46; First Baptist 46. 13. Mineral Wells 41. 14. Lohn 33. 15. (tie) Santa Anna 24; Lubbock Monterey 24. 17. Joshua 23. 18. Graham 14. 19. Event 10. 20. San Angelo Central 6. 21. CoolRunnings 2.

3A-5A Division

200 — 1. Shaunice Guyton, Lubbock Cordnad 23.96. 2. Lexie Lewis, Brownwood 24.87. 3. Leigha Puckett, Abilene Wylie 26.65.

800 — 1. Taylor Lindstrom. Lubbock Coronado 2:29.18. 2. Abby Petter, Temple 2:30.18. 3. London Weilert, Abilene Wylie 2:30.34.

1.600 relay — 1. Brownwood 4:11.87. 2. Brownwood 4:15.28. 3. Midland Christian 4:16.28.

400 relay — 1. Lubbock Coronado 49.65. 2. Abilene Cooper 50.30. 3. Abilene Wylie 50.35.

100 hurdles — 1. Kenzie Walker. Abilene Wylie 15.56. 2. Cara Cowser, Graham 16.03. 3. Brooke Shipley, Abilene Wylie 16.18.

300 hurdles — 1. Brooke Shipley, Abilene Wylie 47.43. 2. Sharday Melvin Brownwood 47.55. 3. Morgan Ashton, Midland Christian 48.09.

100 — 1. Lexie Lewis, Brownwood 11.84. 2. Cortney Savage, Joshua, 12.34. 3. Ariel Walker, Abilene Cooper 12.53.

400 — 1. Jada Clark, Lubbock Coronado 1:03.24. 2. Alyssa Greenwood, Abilene Wylie 1:04.02. 3. Savannah Cognasi, Lubbock Coronado 1:04.50.

1.600 — 1. Katy Jacobs, Brownwood 5:42.42. 2. Jasmine Hood, Brownwood 5:42.61. 3. Jacey Burks, Abilene Cooper 5:43.37.

800 relay — 1. Lubbock Coronado 1:46.34. 2. Abilene Cooper 1:48.68. 3. Midland Christian 1:49.09.

3.200 — 1. Jacey Burks, Abilene Cooper 12:15.2. Lexi Phelps, Temple 12:18. 3. Alex Pearcy, Mineral Wells 12:19.

Triple jump — 1. Alyssa Jones, Temple 35-8.2. Aliya Acuna, Abilene Cooper 33-1.5. 3. Kennedy Shelstead, Mineral Wells 32-10.25.

Shot put — 1. Victoria Henry, Brownwood 39-5.5. 2. Rosangelica Moncada, Abilene Cooper 39-3.25. 3. Tyra Jordan, Temple 34-10.75.

Discus — 1. Sydney Shelstead, Mineral Wells 121-0. 2. Emma Thompson, Midland Christian 118-2. 3. Rosangelica Moncada, Abilene Cooper 118-1.

Pole vault — 1. Kami Berryhill, Midland Christian 12-0. 2. Brooke Lindstrom, Lubbock Coronado 11-0. 3. Caroline Kirbo, Brownwood 10-0.

High jump — 1. Kanni Mitchell, Abilene Cooper 4-10. 2. Courtney Lawley, Lubbock Monterey 4-9. 3. Maddison Moad, Joshua 4-9.

Long jump — 1. Kennedy Shelstead, Mineral Wells 15-2.75. 2. Jada Clark, Lubbock Coronado 14-8.5. 3. Courtney Lawley, Lubbock Monterey 14-6.75.

Golden Tornado Relays
Lamesa
Thursday's Results
GIRLS

Team standings — 1. Andrews 199. 2. Denver City 137.5. 3. Brownfield 106.5. 4. Lubbock Roosevelt 78. 5. Lamesa 58. 6. Grady 28.

100 — 1. Kacie Whitley, Lubbock Roosevelt 13.44. 2. Alicia Munz, Andrews 13.73. 3. Victoria Castro, Brownfield 13.91.

200 — 1. Dallas Bruns, Brownfield 28.54. 2. Starmie Bennett, Lamesa 29.09. 3. Jennifer de la Rosa, Denver City 29.21.

400 — 1. Ellyn Avery, Grady 1:04.61. 2. Karen Torres, Andrews 1:05.59. 3. Marisol Ordonez, Andrews 1:06.97.

800 — 1. Karen Torres, Andrews 2:40.38. 2. Mariana Carnero, Lamesa 2:40.60. 3. Isidra Guerrero, Brownfield 2:41.71.

1.600 — 1. Desiree Gutierrez, Lubbock Roosevelt 6:11.96. 2. Isidra Guerrero, Brownfield 6:18.16. 3. Sabrina Flores, Andrews 6:29.42.

3.200 — 1. Kim Dominguez, Denver City 13:10.36. 2. Mariana Carnero, Lamesa 13:11.61. 3. Desiree Gutierrez, Lubbock Roosevelt 13:52.62.

100 hurdles — 1. Oceanna Ridge, Andrews 15.17. 2. Sarah Ives, Andrews 17.22. 3. Valerie Martinez, Denver City 17.84.

300 hurdles — 1. Oceanna Ridge, Andrews 47.39. 2. Sarah Ives, Andrews 50.19. 3. Mallorie Ellis, Brownfield 51.07.

400 relay — 1. Andrews 52.01. 2. Denver City 54.22. 3. Lubbock Roosevelt 54.77.

800 relay — 1. Andrews 1:51.18. 2. Brownfield 1:53.56. 3. Denver City 1:56.38.

1.600 relay — 1. Andrews 4:23.51. 2. Denver City 4:38.34. 3. Brownfield 4:39.76.

High jump — 1. Mallorie Ellis, Brownfield 4-11. 2. Kacie Whitley, Lubbock Roosevelt 4-10. 3. Sandy Rivera, Denver City 4-10.

Pole vault — 1. Charlsey Jividen, Denver City 7-6. 2. Wendy Vasquez, Denver City 7-0.

Long jump — 1. Oceanna Ridge, Andrews 16-11.5. 2. Ellyn Avery, Grady 15-11.25. 3. Sarah Ives, Andrews 15-9.

Triple jump — 1. Dallas Bruns, Brownfield 35-6. 2. Sarah Ives, Andrews 34-8.5. 3. Karley David 32-6.5.

Shot put — 1. Kymbra Parks, Lamesa 33-11. 2. (tie) Tiffanie Gardenhire, Andrews 31-11.5; M'Ryah Valencia, Denver City 31-11.5.

Discus — 1. Jaci Zingerman, Denver City 97-7. 2. Maggie Marquez, Andrews 81-5. 3. Christian Pilgrim, Brownfield 79-8.

BOYS

Team standings — 1. Andrews 224. 2. Denver City 147. 3. Brownfield 104. 4. Lubbock Roosevelt 81. 5. Lamesa 43. 6. Grady 1.

100 — 1. Robert Ridge, Andrews 11.53. 2. Arath Hernandez, Denver City 11.75. 3. P.J. Salazar, Lamesa 11.82.

200 — 1. Tanner Sherman, Denver City 23.52. 2. Robert Ridge, Andrews 23.63. 3. Kaleb King, Denver City 24.01.

400 — 1. Jake Robbins, Lubbock Roosevelt 54.22. 2. Cason Brownlee, Andrews 54.81. 3. Irving Osrona, Denver City 55.31.

800 — 1. Javier Ornelas, Lamesa 2:09.04. 2. Darius Jackson, Lamesa 2:09.08. 3. Cristian Cortez, Denver City 2:13.86.

1.600 — 1. Hunter Hicks, Andrews 5:04.91. 2. Daniel Espinoza, Andrews 5:11.17. 3. Xavier Fernandez, Andrew 5:13.16.

3.200 — 1. Xavier Fernandez, Andrews 10:56.99. 2. Hunter Hicks, Andrews 10:57.81. 3. Daniel Espinoza, Andrews 11:10.14.

110 hurdles — 1. Dylan Huston, Brownfield 15.75. 2. Jeremiah Mills, Denver City 17.54. 3. Johnny Mendoza, Lubbock Roosevelt 17.85.

300 hurdles — 1. John Ives, Andrews 43.45. 2. Devin Marron, Denver City 43.52. 3. Dylan Huston, Brownfield 43.67.

400 relay — 1. Andrews 43.75. 2. Brownfield 44.98. 3. Lubbock Roosevelt 46.53.

800 relay — 1. Andrews 1:31.70. 2. Denver City 1:33.78. 3. Brownfield 1:36.99.

1.600 relay — 1. Andrews 3:32.83. 2. Denver City 3:39.52. 3. Lubbock Roosevelt 3:47.30.

High jump — 1. Shacolby Hill, Brownfield 6-0. 2. (tie) Korey Noland, Brownfield 5-8; Omilson Occasent, Andrews 5-8.

Pole vault — 1. Brandon Lingneu, Andrews 11-0. 2. Justin Scott, Lubbock Roosevelt 10-6. 3. Octavio Munoz, Brownfield 10-0.

Long jump — 1. Shacolby Hill, Brownfield 21-11. 2. Tadarius Ridge, Andrews 20-3. 3. K.J. Hunter, Lamesa 19-5.

Triple jump — 1. Daniel Garcia, Denver City 40-5.5. 2. Nathaniel Olivarrieta, Lubbock Roosevelt 39-11.75. 3. Kaleb King, Denver City 39-3.

Shot put — 1. Paul Bagley, Andrews 42-10. 2. Joe Moreno, Andrews 40-10. 3. Steven DeLeon, Denver City 40-0.

Discus — 1. Joe Moreno, Andrews 126-9. 2. Rylan Ellis, Andrews 118-5. 3. Blu Brumley, Denver City 113-0.

Jones, Hosmer lead US past Canada, move up in WBC

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Running out of outs, Adam Jones and the United States suddenly broke loose and saved themselves from a humbling loss.

Now, thanks to a fast finish, its heading to Miami for the next round of the World Baseball Classic.

Jones doubled in the tying and go-ahead runs in the eighth inning. Eric Hosmer hit a three-run double in the ninth and the U.S. scored seven times in the last two innings to beat Canada, 9-4, on Sunday.

"Words can't describe it," Hosmer said, recalling how he felt standing on second after his big hit. "It is hard to hold your emotions right there. It is just an unbelievable feeling and when you hear the crowd chant 'USA' and the other crowd chanting 'Canada.' It is an unbelievable experience."

The winner of the game moved on, the loser went home. And for a long while, it didn't look good for manager Joe Torre's team.

"It would have been embarrassing," second baseman Brandon Phillips said. "I would have been embarrassed. USA this is where baseball started and we represent our country. I just feel that if we had lost we didn't do our job. We have to go out there and try to be the first American team to win the WBC. That is our goal."

The U.S. trailed 3-2 after seven innings before erupting. Team USA and Italy each went 2-1 and advanced in Group D while Canada and Mexico went 1-2 and were eliminated.

"We believed in ourselves and turned it around," Phillips said, "and that is a beautiful thing."

WOODS

From 1C

Stricker, who might want to claim a share of this trophy.

Woods ran into Stricker on the putting green Wednesday afternoon, and in a 45-minute session, Stricker helped him with his posture over putts. Woods left feeling as good as he did at Torrey Pines, where he won by four shots. And it showed. Woods made 27 birdies this week, one short of his personal best on the PGA Tour, and he took the fewest putts (100) over 72 holes in any tour event.

"Thank you to Steve for the putting lesson," Woods said at the trophy presentation. "It was one of those weeks where I felt pretty good about how I was playing, made a few putts and got it rolling."

Stricker, playing a part-time schedule, picked up his second runner-up finish in just three starts. He closed with a 68, and had no regrets about offering Woods some help.

"At times you kick yourself," Stricker said with a laugh. "He's a good friend. We talk a lot about putting. It's good to see him playing well."

Asked if he would have won without that chance meeting with Stricker, Woods hedged a little.

"I would like to say I probably would have, but ..." he said with a smile. "I've been putting at home and it just still hadn't felt right. I still was a little bit off. ... He basically got me in the same position that I was at Torrey. So once he put me in there where I felt comfortable, I said, 'Well, this is not too foreign. This is what I was a month or so ago.' And I started rolling it and it felt really, really good."

The Masters is a month away, and Woods is sure to be the favorite.

"Majors and World Golf Championships are the best because you know you are playing against the best players," Woods said. "That's what makes wins like this special. That's why I love to compete."

Carter leads Dallas to 100-77 win over T-wolves

By Jon Krawczynski
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The highlight-reel dunks and jaw-dropping athleticism have all but disappeared from Vince Carter's game. The old Vince is gone.

Now he's just Old Vince, and that's more than fine with the Dallas Mavericks.

Carter had 22 points and nine rebounds and Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 points to help the Mavericks to a 100-77 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Sunday night.

The 36-year-old Carter is no longer a featured face for the NBA, no longer soaring through the air in Toronto and New Jersey. He's reshaped his game and accepted his role as a scorer off the bench, filling it superbly for a Mavericks team clinging to relevancy in the Western Conference.

"It's not necessarily just scoring, but, in general, I understand what's going on and I just made it my business to be locked in and want to do whatever is needed," Carter said.

Brandan Wright added 13 points and seven rebounds for the Mavericks, who have won three straight and four of their last five in a last-ditch push for the playoffs. They entered the day in 11th place in the West, three games out of the eighth spot.

Derrick Williams had 18 points and nine rebounds for the lethargic Timberwolves, who had no energy on the second night of a tough back-to-back that started in Denver. J.J. Barea scored 16 points, but Minnesota's bench managed just six other points. The Wolves are 6-25 since Kevin Love broke his hand for the second time on Jan. 8.

Boys

From 1C

buzzer-beater against Odessa High from making that five of seven. It was a positive ending for just the second season in coach Mark Coffman's tenure that the Rebels missed the playoffs.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: While District 2-5A proved to be a step up in competition from the old District 3-5A, Lee will be well-equipped to compete next year with two-year starters McCoy and Williams, both juniors, returning along with first-year starter Ian Johnson, also a junior. Sophomore sixth man Nelson will be expected to fill the void left by Talor Nunez in the frontcourt, and the Rebels have high expectations for freshman point guard Daniel Venzant and junior forward Donald Ekman, junior varsity players who suited up with the varsity late in the season. Coffman may have retired at the end of the 2012 season, but he insisted that the cupboard will be far from bare for his succesor next season.

Midland High

Record: 6-28, 1-15 in District 2-5A

Playoffs: None

Key players graduating: G Jacob Makowsky

Key players expected to return: G Mazelle Justice, G Shawn Rivers, F Justin LeClear, F Blake Canis

Wrapping up 2012-13: Midland High began the district season by knocking off Lee for the first time in two years and failed to win again the rest of the district season. The Bulldogs showed signs of improvement early in the second half of district play, nearly defeating second-place Lubbock Coronado at home and holding second-half leads against Odessa High and Abilene Cooper, yet weren't able to get over the hump. The Bulldogs were by far the youngest team in District 2-5A and were subjected to a number of growing pains in most players' first varsity season.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: The Bulldogs' youth now becomes a weapon as Midland High returns four starters and most of its playing rotation. Justice, a junior and two-year starter, will be flanked by freshman Rivers in the backcourt while sophomores LeClear, a Swiss army knife of a forward, and Blake Canis, a lengthy post with a soft touch, will comprise the front court. After single-digit win seasons the last two years, the Bulldogs hope next year will mark a return to prominence.

Greenwood

Record: 20-15, 7-3 in District 4-3A

Playoffs: lost 59-38 to Wichita Falls Hirschi in Class 3A Region I semifinal

Key players graduating: F Kam Williams, G Kyle Hansard, G Taylor Hollingsworth, P Jody Lively

Key players expected to return: G Grant Franklin

Wrapping up 2012-13: Under first-year head coach Zach Boxell, Greenwood was a game below .500 entering district play before riding a wave of momentum to a second-place finish in the highly competitive District 4-3A. That momentum continued in the playoffs, as Greenwood joined district champion Abilene Wylie in the Region I tournament after advancing past the area round for the first time since 2008. The Rangers then held off Fabens in the regional quarterfinal to advance to the regional tournament for the first time since 2004. For a veteran team that expected a deep run last year only to fall in the area round again, the prolonged playoff run this year, which allowed senior Kyle Hansard to return to the lineup from a fractured wrist, was one for the memories.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Greenwood will lose one of its biggest advantages in skilled big men Williams and Lively, and also loses a majority of its backcourt in Hollingsworth and Hansard. Franklin, a junior and two-year starter, is more than capable of stepping into a leadership role, but with only fellow juniors Josh Tuala and Brandon Elliott, who saw minutes off the bench this season, returning with him, Greenwood will heavily rely on first-year varsity players to return to the postseason.

Midland Christian

Record: 18-15, 8-4 in TAPPS 1-3A

Playoffs: Lost 55-44 to Dallas Parish Episcopal in TAPPS 4A first round

Key players graduating: G Zach Gilbert, F Will Watson, G Reed Myers

Key players expected to return: G Grant Little, G Mason McClendon, F Jarrod Koym, F Nathan Rogers

Wrapping up 2012-13: Midland Christian followed up its first playoff appearance since 2008 with its most successful season since that year, earning a home playoff game thanks to a second-place finish in TAPPS 1-4A. The Mustangs fell in the first round for the second consecutive season, but with plenty of young talent returning and a smooth transition under first-year coach Marks Lanham, the Mustangs still have reason to look back on 2012 as a step forward in what it hopes is a return to the level it played at in 2007-2008, when it won consecutive state titles.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Losing four-year starter Gilbert at point will hurt, but having freshman phenom Little, whose season high was 38 points, will ease that pain. McClendon, a junior who scored 30 in a game this year, will also return to the Mustang backcourt. Koym, another junior and excellent rebounder, and sophomore Rogers, who showed significant improvement late in the season, will be expected to anchor the frontcourt as the Mustangs hope to challenge for a district title.

Midland Classical

Record: 12-15, 2-4 in TAPPS 1-3A

Playoffs: lost 58-44 to Fort Worth Calvary Christian in TAPPS 3A first round

Key players graduating: F Haydon Rogers, F Kade Wilkins, F Harrison Haest

Key players expected to return: G John Stallings, G Garrett Sparks

Wrapping up 2012: Midland Classical returned to the postseason this year after experiencing growing pains with a young team the past two years. The Knights also followed up a season where they were the only team to defeat both of its private school counterparts in Midland by sweeping new TAPPS 1-3A rival Trinity to earn a postseason berth. Despite the same result as the last time it reached the playoffs in a first-round exit, Midland Classical was still excited to continue the progress of last season when the Knights came up just short of the postseason.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Seniors Rogers and Wilkins were key cogs in the Knight frontcourt as were fellow seniors Haest and Dylan Barker. Because of that, Midland Classical will lose a lot of size next season. But the backcourt will be a good one with Sparks, a freshman, teaming with Stallings, a junior and two-year starter. The Knights will be hoping the two can lead a relatively inexperienced team to the playoffs next season.

Trinity

Record: 3-17, 0-6 in TAPPS 1-3A

Playoffs: None

Key players graduating: F Taylor Cory, F Zach Meyers, G Brett Womack

Key players expected to return: F Ethan Samuels

Wrapping up 2012: A year after winning a TCAF state title, Trinity had a hard time in its move to TAPPS, going winless in district play. The loss of seniors Thomas Schorr and Harley Davis hurt as the Chargers' roster sported eight sophomores. The senior frontcourt of Taylor Cory and Zach Meyers did impress, however, as they, and point guard Brett Womack, showed continued progression from last season.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Next season, none of the key players from the Chargers' 2012 TCAF state championship team will remain. Trinity will look to young players, who experienced the bumps that came with an inexperienced team this season, to lead a return to the postseason in 2014.

Area

Playoff teams: Forsan (20-8), Garden City (23-9), Grady (26-7)

Top players graduating: G Brandon Lucas (Grady), G Brett Glaze (Grady)

Top players expected to return: G E.J. Rodriguez (Grady), G Beau Lucas (Grady), G Corbin Davis (Garden City), G Sam Miller (Garden City)

Wrapping up 2012: The 2012 season was a successful one for Class A teams despite most falling short of where they advanced in the postseason last year. Grady rebounded from losing district co-MVPS Zeke Clay and Bransen Richards to split a district title and return to the Division II, Region I tournament, where it fell a game short of its second straight state tournament appearance. Garden City was unable to defeat Ira in the postseason for the second straight year, falling in the regional quarterfinals. Forsan lost in the area round to eventual state semifinalist El Paso Harmony.

Looking ahead to 2013-14: Grady will look to contend again with plenty of young talent led by Rodriguez and leading scorer Brandon Lucas' younger brother, Beau, returning. Davis and Miller anchored the Garden City backcourt the last two years and will be expected to do the same next season where Garden City will look to go deep in the playoffs again. Forsan will be looking to return to the postseason as well.

Follow Jordan on Twitter: @JordanMasonMRT

THE SPOTLIGHT ON EMPLOYMENT

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Experienced with AutoCad and CADWORKS P&ID/Plant required. Other requirements include: piping design/layout, BOM generation and structural detailing. Experience with electrical schematics is a plus.

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Perform service work for fleet of oil flooded screw rotary vane and reciprocating gas compression units. Knowledge of compressor unit wiring and PLC controls a plus. Must have own tools and clean driving record. Shop is located in Artesia.

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Rebuild rotary screw and rotary vane compressors. Must be able to read ID and OD micrometers. Must be available to work between 40 - 50 hours per week and some Saturdays.

WAREHOUSE PERSON

Receipt of incoming materials and equipment, receive and stock inbound parts, pull parts for bill of materials. Moving and tracking of materials and parts from the receiving area to areas designated. General PC functions. Perform parts runs in Midland/Odessa area. Must have clean driving record.

All qualified candidates should send their resume or apply in person at:
Hy-Bon Engineering Company,
2404 Commerce, Midland, Texas 79703
or email to employment@hy-bon.com.
Wages are based on experience.

BACKGROUND CHECK AND DRUG TEST MANDATORY FOR ALL POSITIONS

SENIOR CARE OF MIDLAND
NOW HIRING

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EOE

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Help wanted fast growing electrical company is seeking good people with experience.
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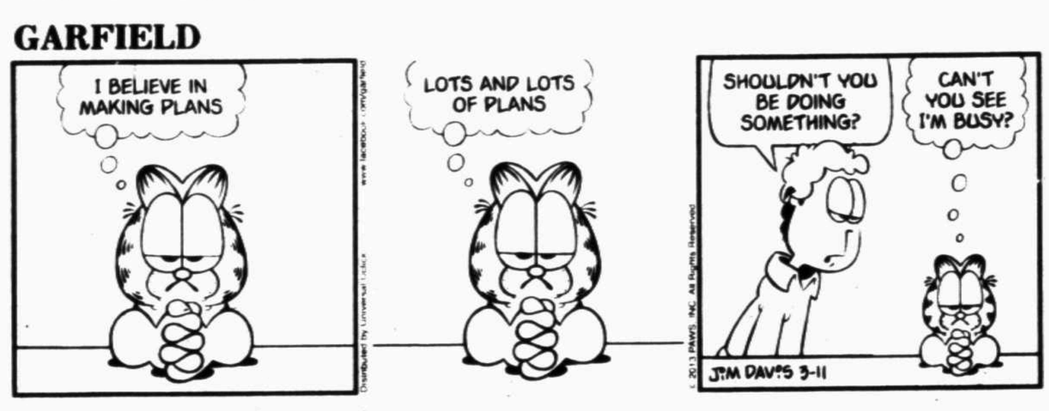
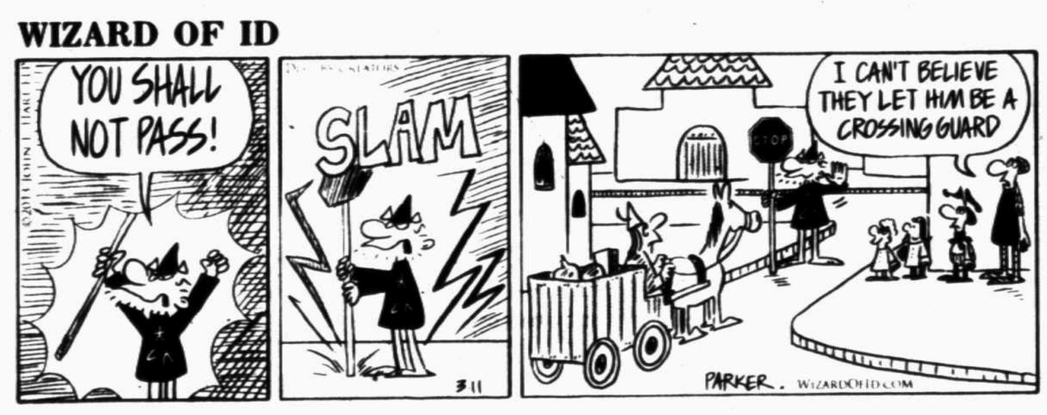
GARFIELD



DUSTIN

WIZARD OF ID



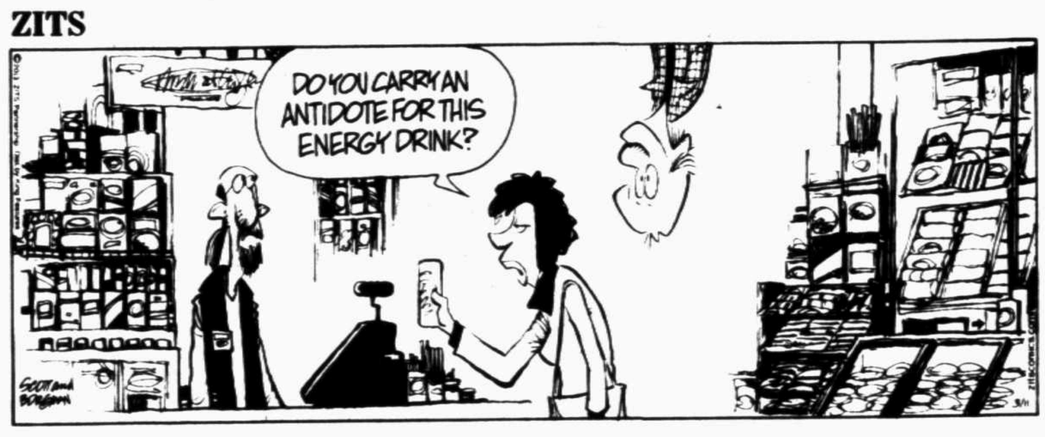
DILBERT

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

LUANN

MARY WORTH

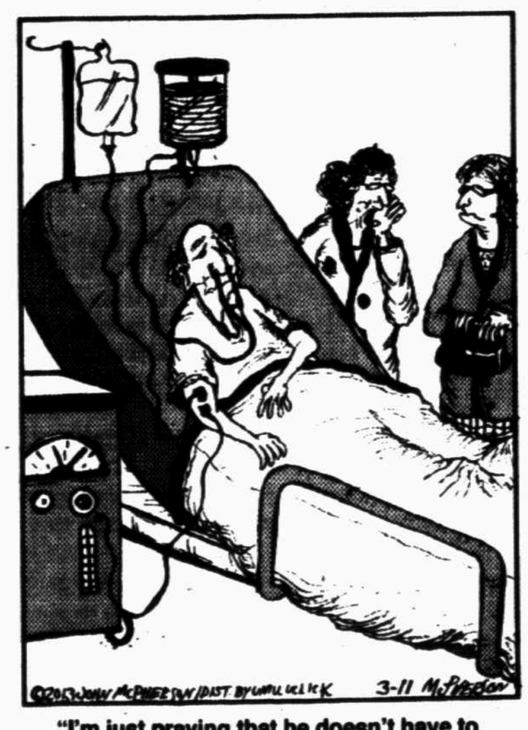
ZITS



BABY BLUES

MUTTS

CLOSE TO HOME



"I'm just praying that he doesn't have to go to Intensive Care. All of my dresses clash with the paint scheme in there."

DENNIS THE MENACE

*"EVERYTHING'S OFF THE FLOOR LIKE YOU ASKED. JUST BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU OPEN THE CLOSET."

LOCKHORNS

"OF COURSE I'M LISTENING TO YOU, LORETTA... CAN'T YOU SEE THE VEINS IN MY FOREHEAD?"

FAMILY CIRCUS

"I hope you remembered to give 'Daddy a note sayin' why he was absent from work."

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TUESDAY: Sunny High: 77 Low: 39

WEDNESDAY: Sunny High: 77 Low: 44

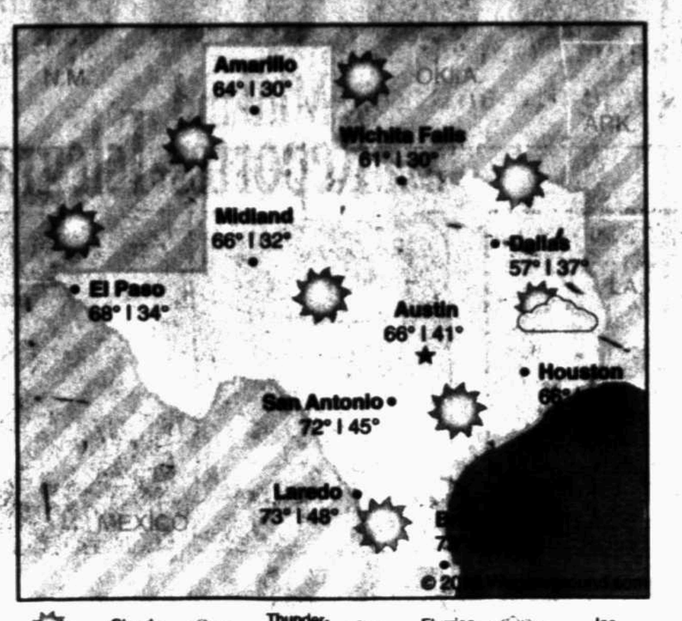
Local forecast

Expect sunny skies today with a high around 69 and west winds between 5 and 10 mph. Tonight's forecast calls for clear conditions with a low around 38 and southwest winds around 5 mph.

Tuesday, look for sunny skies with a high around 77 and southwest winds between 5 and 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Expect mostly clear conditions at night, with a low around 39 and northeast winds between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday, the forecast calls for sunny skies during the day, mostly clear skies at night, with a high around 77 and a low around 44.

The high on Sunday reached 56, while the low dropped to 36. The record high for March 10 is 88 set in 1954. The record low is 14 set in 1948.



Partly Cloudy · Cloudy · Showers · Thunderstorms · Rain · Flurries · Snow · Ice

State weather

HOUSTON — Overnight storms that rolled through parts of Texas have left several thousand people without electricity and caused some travel delays.

Nearly 2,500 customers of Dallas-based Oncor lost power. CenterPoint Energy had about 1,300 customers without electricity in the Houston area and Central Texas.

Precipitation

Saturday	0.00 in.
Sunday	0.00 in.
Month total	trace
Year total	1.53 in.
Normal total (year to date)	1.46 in.

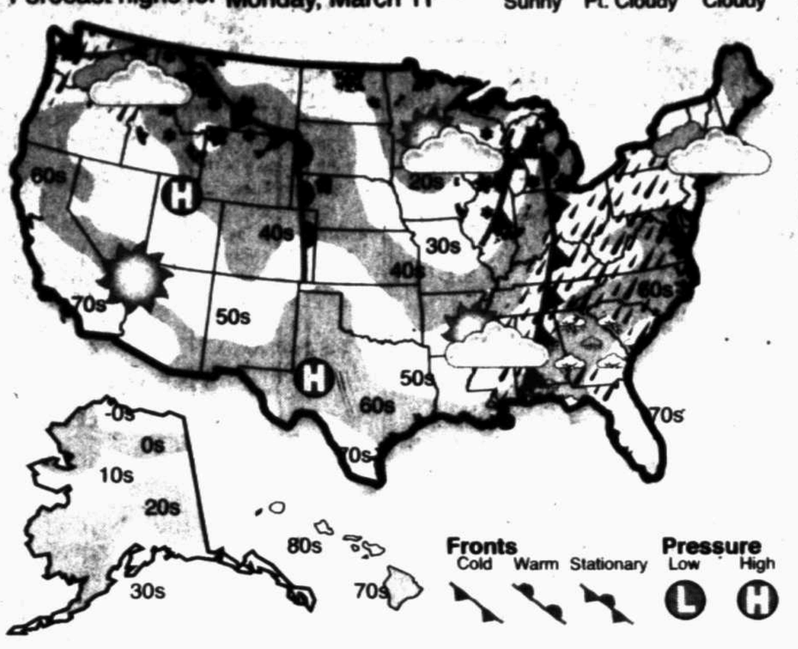
Sunday's temperatures

High	56
Low	36
Normal high	69
Normal low	40
Sunrise	8:04 a.m.
Sunset	7:54 p.m.

National forecast

Forecast highs for Monday, March 11

Sunny · Pt. Cloudy · Cloudy



Showers · Rain · T-storms · Flurries · Snow · Ice

Older friends sharing time are sharing kisses, as well

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 am a semi-retired widow in my 60s. A few months ago I started spending time with a man I work with. We would see each other once or twice a month, strictly as friends. Our "dates" ended with a platonic hug.

About a month ago, a hug turned into an embrace. A week later, the embrace became a passionate kiss. Since then, whenever we get together — now once or twice a week — we spend a good portion of our time together "making out." We love the way each other kisses.

The problem is, we're still just friends. There is no desire on the part of either of us to take the relationship up a notch. What do we do? We should not be kissing a friend the way we do, but we can't seem to stop.

We're not hurting anyone. We have tried meeting only in public places, but there is still the goodnight kiss. I never thought I'd need this kind of advice at my age. Must we stop spending time together? — FLABBERGASTED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR FLABBERGASTED: Not in my opinion. I assume you're both eligible. This is the way relationships develop, and you would be foolish not to see where it leads. As of now, a kiss is still a kiss. Let me hear from you in a month.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing on behalf of hairstylists. We are busy people. Our time is money. We rarely even stop for lunch. Clients who come in talking on their cellphones are a real problem for us because they slow us down.

I have had clients jump up from my chair to answer their cellphone in the middle of a haircut — hair flying everywhere. I have had to do a haircut AROUND a cellphone, with the client switching the phone from ear to ear! These are not even important calls — just casual conversations.

The lack of courtesy is ridiculous, and it seems to be getting worse. I would like people who do this to think twice before subjecting their stylist to it. They should put their phones on silent, get their hair cut or colored, and talk on their own time! — FED UP IN NEBRASKA

DEAR FED UP: You are not helpless. This is happening because you have allowed it. If you can't find the gumption to tell your customers you don't want them using their cellphones while they're in your chair, then post a sign on your mirror that reads "Cellphones Not Allowed."

DEAR ABBY: I am a new bride. I love my husband very much, but I've encountered a problem I don't know how to handle. My husband and I were together for six years before we got married and were engaged for three. We eloped to Las Vegas (it wasn't planned) and had a "proper" celebration with friends and family later.

My husband makes comments that suggest I dragged him and tricked him into marrying me. I know he's only kidding, but it's very hurtful. I don't know how to let him know his comments really hurt my feelings. It makes me feel like he's ashamed of our marriage. — NEWLYWED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NEWLYWED: The squeaky wheel gets the grease. The next time your husband does it, speak up. Explain that his attempts at humor are hurtful, not to mention insulting. Ask him if he regrets marrying you. (If the answer is yes, it's important that you know it NOW.) Clear communication is the key to a strong marriage, and so is respect for one's partner, which he appears to be lacking.

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Bidding Quiz

Q 1 — Playing a 15-17 range for one no-trump, you hold:
♠ A 9 7 ♥ K Q 10 7 6 ♦ A J ♣ A Q 6
What is your opening bid?
A — Should you open one heart, you might find it impossible to describe your hand as the auction progresses. Despite your five-card major, you have a balanced 20 points and the ideal way to describe your hand is to open two no-trump.

Q 2 — Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ Q 6 3 ♥ J 6 ♦ Q J 9 4 ♣ Q J 5 4
The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	?	

What action do you take?
A — Don't let your collection of "quacks" lure you into bidding three no-trump. If there is a game, it is most likely in the suit where partner has made his jump rebid. Despite your doubleton, bid four hearts.

Q 3 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ J 9 ♥ A J 9 7 5 4 2 ♦ 6 ♣ K J 5
The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	Dbl	Rdbl	1 ♠
Pass	Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠
Dbl	2NT	?	

What action do you take?
A — Beware of bidding three hearts. First, it is not forcing. Secondly, partner's double of two spades suggests he would rather not hear you rebid hearts. It sounds as though the opponents are floundering. Double.

Q 4 — Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:
♠ A K J 9 4 ♥ 6 ♦ A K Q 7 3 ♣ 8 4
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A — These days, a jump shift response to partner's opening bid promises either a self-sustaining suit or a fit for partner's suit. Since you have neither, simply bid one spade, then make a forcing bid in diamonds at your next turn.

Today's Crossword Puzzle brought to you by Quiroz Custom Home Builders
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, March 11, 2013:

This year your creativity flourishes and evolves. Others look to you for resolutions to their problems. Your dynamic mental perspective translates into high energy. Choose where you would like to focus your emotional and intellectual assets. You have a lot going for you, and many people admire your style. If you are single, you can afford to be discriminating when it comes to romantic suitors. If you are attached, your passion comes through in many ways, especially toward your sweetie. PISCES always wants to help or be helped.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Take some time to reflect on an important decision. You might have mixed feelings when someone comes to you and shares a personal matter. Think carefully before you react. You are about to greet a new beginning in your life; embrace it positively. Tonight: Get some zzz's.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ A meeting could indirectly trigger a decision that points to a new path. You might find that others seem unusually supportive. Don't be surprised if you receive a touching compliment or two. Conversations will go in the direction you choose. Tonight: Meet up with pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ A long-desired fresh start finally becomes possible. You might care a lot about a superior or a parent and want to share your feelings with this person. Opportunities will arise — most likely involving your work — because of your positive energy. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with a friend or loved one. Talk to someone you respect to get feedback about a decision. The more information you have, the surer you will be about the course you want to take. Tonight: Let your imagination lead the way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Deal with others directly on matters involving money and/or relationships. New beginnings become possible when brainstorming with others. You even might reverse a stance and approach a matter quite differently as a result. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Others come forward and have a lot to share. Don't think that someone's decision is a given, if it involves you. Lighten up about a change. A new beginning will become possible if you do. Indulge a loved one — he or she will appreciate the attention. Tonight: Go with the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Recognize that a loved one might have a lot going on right now. Do your best to chip in and help, yet honor your limits. Be clear about what you expect from someone. If you want to proceed with some offbeat diet, check in with your doctor first. Tonight: Time to relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Your solutions, though perhaps dynamic and workable, might evoke trepidation in someone. You have the ability to help this person work through his or her fear of risk-taking. He or she will be grateful for your efforts. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Stay close to home if possible. You might want to instrument a change in your household, or maybe you just need some more downtime. Someone genuinely admires your work ethic. You can't replace this person's appreciation for your efforts. Tonight: Happy at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Verbalize your wishes in such a way that others will "get" your message. You might decide to take a workshop to improve your communication style — not because you have a problem, but because you care about others. Tonight: Chat over a meal and clear up a problem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Follow a suggestion involving your budget. Buy a token of affection or a card for a loved one. You don't need a reason. Be open to approaching a financial situation in a new way, especially if what you are doing now is not working. Tonight: Hold off on making a purchase.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You express unusual grace and caring. Use this gift well to clear up an awkward situation. Resolutions and commitments made today are likely to succeed. Start a diet, or choose a different area that you would like to transform. Tonight: Respond to a friend's request for help.

***

BORN TODAY

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch (1931), film director Peter Borg (1962), lawyer David Boies (1941)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Money under a mattress, e.g.
6 Poses a question
10 Hired rides
14 Singer Lena
15 Apt name for a windstorm?
16 Hollywood celeb
17 Cyclone center
20 Spotted
21 Pitcher's mistake
22 Feral no more
23 Adds highlights at the salon
25 Sources of storage chest wood
26 Roy Orbison hit featured in a Gere/Roberts film
31 By surface area, second-largest Great Lake
32 Rent-a-car choice
33 Apply daintily
36 Ladder rung
37 Taj __
39 Gospel singer Winans
40 Needing no Rx
41 Late-night Jay
42 Coffees, in slang
43 Exerciser's motto
47 Shipping container
49 Inaugural pledge
50 Sarandon of "Thelma & Louise"
51 Channel for business types
53 Magna __ laude
56 Debtors' documents suggested by the sequence of the first words of 17-, 26- and 43-Across
60 50-and-over org.
61 1,000 meters, briefly
62 Hindu guru
63 Loch of legend
64 "By Jove!"
65 Extremely pale

DOWN
1 Her, subjectively
2 Hot Wheels and hula hoops
3 Region
4 Flower that usually blooms in winter
5 Playboy founder, for short
6 Thunderstruck
7 Bellow in a library?
8 Spock's captain
9 Photog's camera choice
10 Large, noisy insect
11 Starters of the first race?
12 Silly mistake
13 Winter coasters
18 Help illegally
19 List components
24 Japanese money
25 Spiral shape
26 Too-too
27 Sci-fi's Jabba the __
28 Forerunners
29 Search engine name
30 Appalachian state: Abbr.
34 Berry in modern diet supplements
35 Oscar category word
37 Chow __
38 Picnic pest
39 Reliable moneymakers
41 Tea of "Tower Heist"
42 Scribble (down)
44 Postal purchases
45 Drink named for a Scottish hero
46 Like some nighties
47 Channel for political types
48 Psychic glows
51 Forensics team members: Abbr.
52 The Big Easy acronym
54 The Beehive State
55 Kid's enthusiastic "I do!"
57 Compete in a slalom
58 Clandestine govt. org.
59 Admission in a confessional

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

C	H	E	S	S	C	L	O	C	K		T	W	A	S
T	I	D	A	L	B	A	S	I	N		S	A	P	P
R	H	I	N	E	S	T	O	N	E		A	L	P	O
L	O	T	T	A		S	C	A	B		L	E	O	
			E	Z	R	A		O	D	E	S	S	A	N
J	O	B		E	O	N	S		S	E	T	T	L	E
D	R	U	M	S	T	I	C	K		R	A	R	E	R
S	I	L	O		C	O	H	A	N		R	E	D	I
A	G	L	O	W		N	E	T	A	S	S	E	T	S
L	I	E	L	O	W		D	I	S	H		T	O	M
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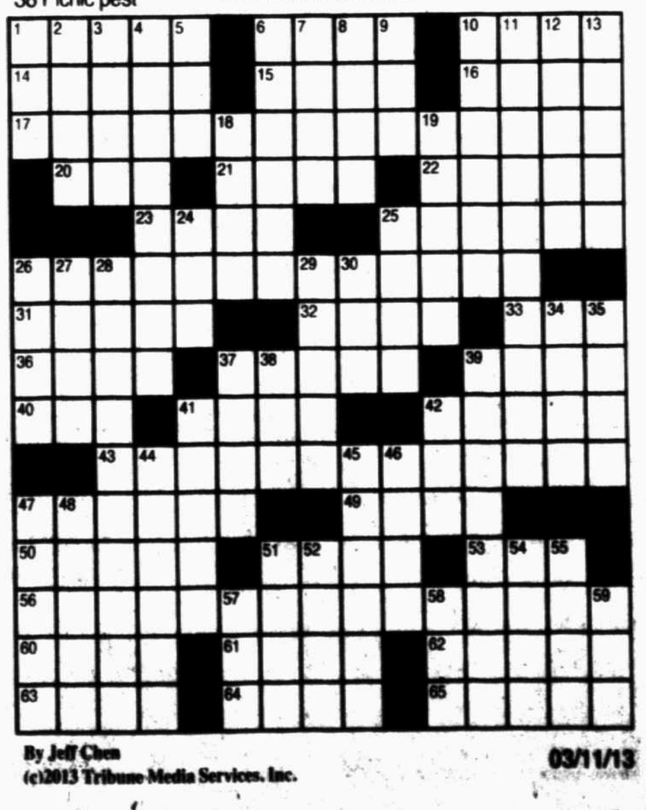
xwordeditor@aol.com 03/11/13



By Jeff Chen
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03/11/13

Midland Reporter-Telegram Classifieds

Events and Notices

General Announcements

HAVE YOU READ? MarkBerryhill.com Ministering for Christ.

Lost & Found

BLACK SCHNAUZER mixed found, near Andrews Highway and Cuthbert. Call 432-352-5728

FOUND BEFORE Thanksgiving a ladies engagement ring. Call to identify. 432-312-4373.

FOUND LOST male dog Corkie mixed corsel coat with white paws white spot on shoulder and white spot of face found downtown Midland. 432-934-6263

FOUND MALE and Female Blue Heelers. Call to identify. 432-687-8061.

FOUND MALE black dog in the vicinity of Thomason Dr & Thornridge. 689-0702.

FOUND MALE Boston Terrier in the vicinity of Burnett Elementary. Call 432-416-1617.

FOUND MALE Boxer puppy near Midland Memorial Hospital on 3/05/13. 432-528-5217

FOUND MP3 player in North Midland. Call to identify 432-813-4590.

FOUND POMERANIAN on North C St off Golf Course Rd. No tags. 432-684-6978.

FOUND POODLE Mix-female in season, khaki/tan color, 13 inches at shoulder. Call 694-2139

FOUND PUPPY on Old Lamesa Rd (SCR 1180) and ECR 123. Possibly a yellow black mouth cur. Please call 575-602-1874

FOUND PUPPY on Wadley/Midland Dr., male, brown/white, 432-770-7070.

FOUND RED male Husky at Hogan Park. Call to identify 432-683-5522.

FOUND: TAN male terrier adult dog, in north Midland. Looks to have been missing a while. Call to identify: 432 559-8206

$1000 CASH REWARD! ROCKY WAS lost out in Greenwood on Saturday the 16th of Feburary. He is a male liver and white Springer Spaniel. Please call Allen- 806-292-1850 if you spot him.

LOST GOLDEN Retriever in the vacinitty of Soloman Lane and A Street. Dark Red male, blue collar. $100 reward. Call 432-559-5282

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Masonic Lodges

Communications 1600 W. Wall 432-853-1273 Stated Meetings Acacia Lodge #1414 1st & 3rd Tues. @ 7:30pm, Midland Lodge #623 2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:30pm Centennial Lodge #1448 1st & 3rd Sat. 8:30am

Did you know George Washington was a Master Mason?

Business Center

Business Opportunity

Booth rentals available for hair salon. Call 432-889-3432

CREW WITH machinery looking for work in oil field or private clients. Experience: Site construction, grinder, mulcher, heavy duty mowing, installation/maintenance of pipelines, power lines, cathodic protection, water storage, water cleaning (reuse), spill clean-up, tank cleaning. Will fund and build workforce housing and/or Executive accommodations. Contact Michael Durden 678-429-4284

Fax it.. 682-6999

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Autos For Sale or Lease

Passenger Cars

BMW 2001 X5, 140K miles, heated seats, leather, moon roof, etc. $6,750 call 432-288-2188 for more info.

BMW 2004 530, garaged, 110k miles, leather, good condition, $14,000. Call 432-684-6406.

BMW 2007 750LI 48,000 miles Very Clean Call 432-770-6288

CADILLAC 2009 CTS-V. Less than 9k miles, $44,000. Serious inquiries only. Call 432-520-2992.

CHEVROLET 2011 IMPALA, gray metallic, Grandma's car, garage kept, 17k miles, $16,000 OBO, 432-638-0874.

CHRYSLER 2007 300C, 5.7 Hemi, We finance. B&B Auto Sales 432-683-6222

FORD 2003 Thunderbird 007, Limited edition #69 out of #700, power soft top & hard top, leather, 53k miles, $25,000 OBO. Call 432-978-7946

FORD 2006 Mustang GT V8 auto. We finance. B&B Auto Sales 432-683-6222

HONDA 2005 Civic, 94k miles, 2 door. We finance. B&B Auto Sales 432-683-6222.

LINCOLN 2011 MKS (4D Sedan). REDUCED. Power sunroof, Navigation system, THX stereo system, transferable Certified Pre-Owned warranty. In excellent condition with 29K miles. $24,800. 432-684-4407 or 432-260-0010

Mercedes 1981 Blue 380 SEL Beautiful Classic 54,000 Miles Excellent Condition Well Maintained Highly Coveted Hard Top Sporty 2 Door Model From Proverbial Estate of a "Little old Lady" $12,000 Firm 432-770-8616.

MERCURY 2001 Grand Marquis LS. V8, 4 door Sedan, in excellent condition. Leather interior, lots of new upgrades plus HITCH & all new A.C. Well maintained with all maintenance records. Must see. $6,200. O.B.O. Call 432-563-0675.

MITSUBISHI 2007 Eclipse, 52k miles, auto. We finance. B&B Auto 432-683-6222

Legal & Public Notices

CARR CITY AND RURAL RIDES

Central Texas Rural Transit District
Request for Qualifications
Professional Services Consultant
Early Texas Terminal Facility
Administrative, Conceptual Design, Engineering, Architecture, and Construction Phase Services
March 4, 2013

Notice of Invitation: The Central Texas Rural Transit Distnct (CTRTD) is requesting qualifications statements from professional service teams to assist with conceptual design, advanced planning, final design, construction documents, bid phase, and construction phase related services, to modifying an existing building into an multimodal transit terminal in Early-Texas to serve rural transit customers in Brown County and the surrounding area. Needed services include surveying, geotechnical analysis, architecture, structural engineering, civil engineering, mechanical/electrical/plumbing (MEP) engineering, landscape design and construction phase services. The facility is located at 1031 Early Blvd. (US Hwy 377/67) in Early, Texas. The selected consultant team will be required to comply with the attached Special Provisions in accordance with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements. All construction documents and other documentation produced by the selected team must meet and address all TxDOT and FTA requirements. The selected team will be required to have extensive knowledge and experience with federal and state procurement, design, and construction management and administration services, and compliance requirements associated with the expenditure of federal and state transit funding. The project team should evidence extensive experience in the management of design and construction related activity.

CTRTD hereby notifies all proposers that in regard to any contracts entered into pursuant to this request for proposal, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response and will not be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, sex, national origin, or any other characteristic protected by law. For more information and or to obtain a copy of the complete Request for Proposal please visit http://www.cityandruralrides.com/Procurement.htm or contact Joe Guajardo, Assistant General Manager at 1(800)710-2277 ext 229. Submittals shall be received until 5:00 p.m. CST on April 8, 2013.

Legal & Public Notices

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Feb 15, 2013
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Mar 22, 2013
Address: Railroad Commission of Texas
ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit
P. O. Box 12967
Austin, Texas 78711-2967
Fax: (512) 463-6780
Email: SWR37@RRC.STATE.TX.US

Rule 38 Case No. 08-0280798
Status/Permit No. 756276

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY-GIVEN that the PIONEER NATURAL RES. USA, INC., [RRC Operator No. 665748] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 36, Blk. 36 T2N, T&P RR CO/JACKSON, D Y Survey, A-757, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, MARTIN County, being 13.2 miles NW direction from STANTON, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at **(512) 463-6848.**

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Mar. 22, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name :	HOPPER '36'
Lease/Unit Well No. :	3
Lease/Unit Acres :	323.6
Nearest Lease Line (ft) :	660.0
Nearest Well on Lease (ft) :	1514.0

Lease Lines :	2173.0 F NORTH L.	660.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines :	2173.0 F NORTH L.	660.0 F EAST L

As part of this application, applicant also seeks permit authority in 3 additional fields: (1) HILL RANCH (MISS), (2) MON BAK (STRAWN), (3) PAUL PAGE (ATOKA). No rule exception is necessary pursuant to the field rules for these fields.

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) :	Special Rules 467/0, 80.0 acres.
HILL RANCH (MISS) :	Special Rules 467/933, 80.0 acres.
MON BAK (STRAWN) :	OIL Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.
PAUL PAGE (ATOKA) :	Statewide rules 467/1200, 40.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 11800 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, JEAN TILLERY, at (972) 969-3963.

WIN BIG

Sponsored In Part By:

March Mania Sponsorship Available!

$1,500 Promo Package includes branding on all Midland Reporter-Telegram, mywesttexas.com & Facebook advertising.

Buy a Business Card ad on our March Mania NCAA Basketball page & become eligible to receive up to 256 column inches, including a full page, full color ad!*

Limited Space Offer

ONLY $250

Up to $7,440 Value!

*Full Page Ad Voucher must publish before October 31, 2013. Not Valid with any other discounts or offers. Advertisement may be subject to approval for scheduling and content by Midland Reporter-Telegram prior to publication.

Your ad will be matched (Random Drawing) to a NCAA Basketball Tournament team on March 18th. You will be notified by your Account Executive what team you have been assigned.

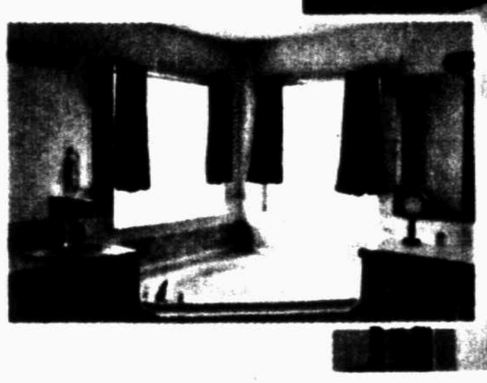
As your team advances throughout the tournament, your ad will increase in size at no extra cost!

Tournament champion will receive a Full Page, Full Color ad voucher! All ads are scheduled to run in the Sports section following each tournament round on Wednesday & Sunday issues.

For more information call your Account Executive or Midland Reporter-Telegram Advertising Department at 432-682-5311.

10515 E. County Road 109

Who could ask for more? This fabulous Greenwood property is located on a private cul-de-sac in Windmill Ridge. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, home office, 2 car garage, & formal dining. Grand living room is open to kitchen with breakfast bar & breakfast room, which overlooks the incredible backyard. Large utility room with sink, recessed lighting, and gleaming wood floors, ceiling fans & plantation shutters. Resort-style back yard with dazzling in-ground pool, complete with spa, covered party patio with built-in gas fireplace, recessed lighting, ceiling fans, cabana with half bath, custom pool table, pub table & chairs! But wait, there is much, much more,…A 2-story insulated shop with indoor RV parking capabilities, built-in work cabinets & counters; plus electric saw, riding lawn mower, heated & cooled bonus room with built-in TV. A Huge game/ media room with wet bar, refrigerator, instant hot water & under counter lighting. 4 high back bar stools plus an incredible complete theatre system with 100" Drop-Down movie screen & 4 "oh so very" comfortable electric lounge chair recliners. Walkout the back garage door (1 of the 3 workshop Garage Doors), to the tack room & 2 inside/outside horse stalls with water misters! You will love the relaxed feeling of country charm that this home provides in an atmosphere of security and privacy. What a wonderful place for family & friends to gather. Please call Deborah Pierce, Re/Max 1st Choice to make an appointment to view this unbelievable home! $475,000.



Deborah Pierce
Realtor-Associate®

3319 Caldera Blvd.
Midland, Texas 79707
Office: (432) 68-REMAX
Cell: (432) 889-2469
Fax: (877) 29-REMAX
debpierce123@gmail.com

RE/MAX®
1st Choice

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

mywesttexasjobs.com

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Teller / Account Services Representative
Local Credit Union has an opening for Teller/Account Services Representative. Fax 214-651-7323 or Send resume to VP Operations, 1415 Main St., Ste. 116, Dallas, TX 75202 or call 800-325-4014 ext. 4071

CLERICAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Assistant
Confidential FT
Full-Time Administrative Assistant needed in our engineering department. Must be proficient in Excel. Able to multi task and have good typing skills. Oil & Gas and RRC of Texas experience is a plus. M- 39 Midland Reporter-Telegram 201 E. Illinois Midland, TX 79701.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES

Carpenters & Laborers
Campbell Construction Co. FT
Campbell Construction Company seeking **Carpenters and Laborers.**
Pre-employment drug test required
Good Benefits Salary DOE
Apply at 241-A Spring Park Drive, Midland or send resume to
PO Box 11293, Midland, TX 79702 or fax to (432) 683-5943

EDUCATION & TRAINING

CHILD CARE TEACHERS
Mrs. Irene's Child Care FT/PT
Child Care Teachers needed. Above average wages for Full and Part-time positions. Call 432-520-8888.

ENERGY & UTILITIES

HSE Manager
TitanLiner, Inc. is looking to fill the position of **H.S.E. Manager**. Position will be based in our Corporate Office in Midland, TX. Responsibilities include the development & implementation of HSE & DOT program for our company, ensure compliance with OSHA & DOT, investigate work place incidents, conduct new hire safety orientations, & perform regular HSE/DOT site audits to ensure compliance. 5 or more years of work experience in the HSE discipline (preferred in Oil & Gas Industry). Safety degree and/or related certifications required. Must be able to travel 50% of the time. Must have a valid US driver's license & pass standard background check & drug test. Compensation DOE. Qualified applicants may submit resumes to **hr@titanliner.com**. No phone calls pls.

Laboratory Technician
Growing oilfield company looking for a Laboratory Technician. Laboratory experience is not required but preferred. Fax all resumes to: 432-563-0764 or email justin.disney@catalystoilfield.com

OILFIELD JOB FAIR
MCM Elegante Hotel. 5200 E. University Odessa. TX 79762
Time: **Wednesday March 13 from 1-7 & Thursday March 14 from 10-4**
Positions: **Coil Tubing Operators & Crew, CDL Truck Drivers, Mechanics**

HEALTHCARE

Clinic Nurse LVN- Addiction Treatment Center
Midland/Odessa
Monday-Friday 5:15am-12:15pm weekdays & 6am to 9:30am on Saturdays. Travel required between Midland & Odessa clinics. Assessments, TBs, dispense meds. Paid holidays, CEU days & personal days. Fax: 800-671-8364.

Coordinator
Su Casa Home Health
Su Casa Home Health has an opening for Primary Home Care Coordinator must enjoy working with elderly have good organizational skills. Bilingual a plus. Fax resume to. 432-620-8250 or call 432-685-1705

LPC/LCDC/License Counselor
Midland/Odessa Addiction Treatment Center PT
Monday-Friday 6:00am-10:30am
Treatment planning/Case management. Personal days/CEU days. Paid holidays. Fax resume to 800-671-8364.

LVN or MA
LVN or MA needed for busy Physician's Office. Great Benefit Package. Please fax resumes to 682-2284 or mail to Premier Physicians, Attn: Arita Routh, PO Box 5291, Midland, Texas 79704. No phone calls please.
PO# BEL-7003

RN or LVN
RN or LVN Full Time 8am-4pm. Clinic experience and heavy computer skills. Email resume to pdority@martinch.org. Contact # 432-607-3227

HOSPITALITY & TRAVEL

All Positions
Hampon Inn FT
5011 N. Loop 250
Midland, TX 79707
Now hiring all positons. Flexible schedule, great pay, hotel discounts & advancement opportunities. Apply within or email
cody.overturff@platinumhotel.com

OTHER JOBS

All Positions
The Midland RockHounds PT
The Midland RockHounds are accepting applications for part-time seasonal positions including Concessions, Ushers, Picnics and Others. Apply in person at Citibank Ballpark, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

Available Openings
Midtown Hotel: Front Desk, Housekeeping, Maintenance, Food & Beverage Manager, Restaurant needs Cooks, Servers, Bussers. Full/ Part time will train the right person. Pay based upon experience. Email resume to gpoamantur@jylhotels.com or bring resume to 3100 W. Wall Street

Available Positions
New MICROTEL Inn & Suites By Wyndham Odessa is now accepting applications for the following positions • Front Desk Clerks • Audit • Housekeepers • Breakfast Host. Apply in person at 4300 E. 50th St., Odessa, Tx. 79762

CDL Bus Driver/Youth Worker
The Boys & Girls Club of Midland seeking afternoon CDL Bus Driver. Approximately 2 hours per day @ $25 per hour and Youth Worker approximately 20 hours per week, $8.50 - $10.50 per hour. Must pass background & drug test. Call Michael 683-0050 only between 1 & 3 or 6 to 8.

Cindy Clean hiring for day, evening & weekends
PT, $11/hr. Plus bonuses. Must be over 18, non-smoker, available 8am to 5pm, have a car, and a cell phone. Call (800) 914-4670 ext. 5, leave message and mention Midland or online at www.cindyclean.net.

Detailers
UNISEAL FT
Looking for experienced detailers at local Midland & Odessa dealerships. Can make up to $15 to $18 an hour. Please call 832-499-9574.

Custodian II
Texas Department of Public Safety Odessa Office
Please apply online at www.dps.texas.gov no telephone calls please.

Draftsman
Topographic Land Surveyors FT
Midland, TX 79705
Excellent opportunity available with Topographic's Midland office. The drafting department has an immediate Full-time Drafter position available. Must have high school diploma. College background preferred, but not required. Prefer someone with AutoCad & basic computer skills. **Excellent** benefit package available upon completion of 90 day probationary period. Salary DOE. Interested candidates must apply in person & must be able to successfully complete background & drug screening. Apply at: 2903 North Big Spring St., Midland, Tx 79705.

Garage Door Installer
Custom Sound and Security FT
Immediate opening for garage door installer. 8-5, Monday-Friday and some extended hours. Experienced preferred, but not necessary. Will train. Call 432-260-0854.

Housekeeper
Villa Chateau Apartments PT
Part time Temporary Housekeeper needed. Drug Screen/Background check done. Apply in person at Villa Chateau Apts 1603 N. Midkiff rd. Midland, TX 79701 No phone call please.

Instructors
COM Aquatics PT
Instructors needed to teach swim lessons. Training Available. Part-Time. Please contact Kalea in the Learn to Swim Program at COM Aquatics, 3003 North A Street, Midland, TX. 432-684-7755.

Janitorial Help & Floor Tech
Part-time janitorial help needed in the evening. Also, part-time & full- time janitorial floor tech needed. Please call 570-9903. Midland/Odessa Are.

Lawn Maintenance Professional
Preferred experience & working knowledge of lawn equipment. Pay DOE. Call 432-661-6618.

Lumber Yard and Shop
Builders & Homeowners Supply FT
Builders & Homeowners now hiring for openings in lumber yard and door shop. Apply at 1701 West Industrial, Midland, TX.

Manager
COM Aquatics PT
Manager Needed. Seasonal Position, March - August. Competitive Salary. Looking for a strong leader who is organized, motivated, and flexible during summer months. Great position for teachers/former leaders/retired police or fireman. Fill out application at COM Aquatics, 3003 North A Street, Midland, TX.

Multiple Positions
Land Surveying office seeking applicants for Survey Tech, GIS Tech, Land/Title Secretary, Rodman. Email resumes to www.windearthater.com or mail to P.O. Box 8510, Midland, Texas 79708

Progressive Pump Cavity Division
Quinn Pumps-Midland FT
Midland, TX 79701
Quinn is offering a career opportunity in our Progressive Pump Cavity Division. We are looking for someone that is willing to share their knowledge in this field such as experience with VFD's. Salary DOE. Quinn offers a great benefit package including paid vacation time and 401K. If you are interested in this position please stop by 3611 East Hwy 158 Midland and fill out an application. Or send resume to P.O. Box 672 Midland, TX. 79702. 432-682-5945

General

NEWSPAPER STREET CORNER SALES
Midland Reporter-Telegram

Selling Newspapers On The Street Corners
(avg. income $50.00 - $100.00/day)
MUST BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD
SUNDAYS ONLY
IF INTERESTED CALL
TOMMY 967-2267

Warehouse/Delivery Person
Dinette Designs & Barstools F/T
Warehouse/Delivery man. Will recieve, assemble, lift and deliver furniture. Valid TDL and must pass drug/background test. Non-smoking environment. Apply in person 1025 N. Midkiff. No phone calls.

Yard Hand
UV Logistics is looking for Yard Hand(s) to work at the Pipe Yard in Midland, TX. Please apply online at www.uvlogistics.com under General Applications. You may also apply in person at 4200 N FM 1788, Midland TX. Ask for JD

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Full Time Manager Trainee
RNO FINANCE CO. FT
2209 N BIG SPRING ST **MIDLAND, TX 79705**
WE ARE SEEKING A FULL TIME, SELF-MOTIVATED PERSON FOR A FULL TIME MANAGER
- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT
- COLLECTION EXPERIENCE A PLUS
- CLEAN DRIVING RECORD & DRUG FREE
- BILINGUAL A PLUS

Come by 2209 N Big Spring St. to apply

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

All Positions
Firehouse Subs FT
Midland, TX 79701
Firehouse Subs is now hiring for our new West Tx. training restaurant at 2900 West Loop 250 North (across Loop 250 from Best Buy). Positions include Cashiers, Catering Asst., Slicers, Crew Leaders. Apply in person 9am-3pm Mon-Sat or call 806-786-9031 for appointment.

Cooks
Cattle Baron FT
Cattle Baron Restaurant now hiring experienced cooks. Starting wage $11.00 - $15.00 per hour depending on experience. Please apply daily 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm 418 Wadley Ave., Midland, TX. No phone calls please!! EOE

COOKS, SERVERS & BUSSERS
Sedona Grill , 2101 W. Wadley
COOKS earn up to $15/ hr DOE. Please apply in person

DOMINO'S PIZZA NOW HIRING!
•Drivers: Make cash everyday. Great part time & full time shifts. Starting wage of $7.50 an hour (no split tip/wage here) plus delivery reimbursement, plus tips. **•CSRs:** Great part time & full time shifts. Starting wage of $8.25 an hour. Bright & Friendly people only! **•Shift Leaders:** Great part time & full time shifts. Starting wage of $9 an hour. Flexible Schedules. Apply at any **Domino's Pizza** Midland or Odessa or send resume: **cassie@clearwire.net**. Senior citizens & stay at home moms always welcome. EOE

Multiple Positions
The Garlic Press FT
Midland, TX 79705
The Garlic Press is hiring for Multiple Positions. Apply in person at: Oakridge Square, Wadley and Garfield, between 11am and 2pm or 5:30 and 7pm.

RETAIL JOBS

Sales
Health food store is taking applications for an energetic and friendly full-time sales person. Knowledge of supplements, herbs, and healthy diet a plus, but will consider someone eager to learn. Shifts will include evenings, and most Saturdays. Five day work week. Apply in person Monday through Friday only, 9am to 5pm at Natural Foods Market, 2311 W. Wadley.

SALES JOBS

Multiple Sales Positions
Growing OilField Environmental Service company expanding sales staff. Must have legitimate oilfield sales experience, and be currently employed. Excellent pay, benefits, & expenses paid. Serious inquiries only. Email resumes to **Jeremy Smith, jsmith@titanliner.com. No phone calls please.**

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Midland Reporter-Telegram Advertising Department is looking for an Outside Sales Representative.
The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of personal sales successes, preferably in a newspaper/media environment. Some knowledge of the advertising industry would be helpful, but not required.

Duties for this position will include, but is not limited to selling advertising for all print publications of the Midland Reporter-Telegram and all online products, including my-texas.com.

The right individual will enjoy an excellent compensation and full benefits package.
If you feel this is an opportunity for you, please send resume to:

We're Raising the Bar!

Desirable Qualifications & Skills:
- **Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline oriented environment**
- **Excellent customer service and time management skills**
- **Highly organized with the ability to work independently with minimal supervision**
- **Detail-oriented with good communication, spelling and math skills**

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Jeri Houston, Advertising Sales Manager
Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Avenue, Midland, TX 79701
or email to: jhouston@mrt.com

SALES JOBS

STORE MANAGERS and CASHIERS
Smoker's Outlet is looking for Store Managers and Cashiers in the Midland area. We offer competitive wages and a good work environment. Paid is weekly plus tips. Go by your nearest Smoker's Outlet to apply.

SKILLED TRADES

Electrician Apprentice
Immediate opening for an Electrician Apprentice. Call 432-697-4439 or email resume to: hiatoc@suddenlink.net

General Help
Helper needed mechanical knowledge helpful. No DUIs or felonies, pass drug screen requirement. Apply at 4501 W. Industrial, Monday-Friday 8a.m.-5p.m.

HVAC Tech
Salary based on experience, paid holidays, paid vacation. Insurance and retirement plan available. Must have valid driver's license, no Dui's or felonies, and pass drug screen testing. Apply in person at 4501 W. Industrial.

Lead Shop Hand
Lee-Co Cooling Enterprises FT
Now accepting application for full-time Lead Shop Hand. Must be self motivated, reliable and prompt with some mechanicle and electrical knowledge. The position will also require, strong leadership skills and problem solving skills. Will train if proper requirements are met. Call 432-570-6283 for application or email resume to: lede@suddenlinkmail.com.

LUBE/TIRE/DIESEL TECH
JOB FAIR
TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CTR
3510 North Ave A, Bldg "A" • Midland, TX
Tuesday, March 12th & Thursday, March 14th
10am-3pm both days

SIGN ON BONUS
MINIMUM STARTING PAY $15/HR

Wingfoot Truck Care Center has immediate openings. Qualified applicants must have a good work history. Selected candidates must undergo a pre-employment drug screen and criminal background check as a condition of employment. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must be willing to work a flexible work schedule. Excellent pay and benefits package offered.

Applicants apply online @
www.wingfootct.com/careers

WINGFOOT Truck Care Center
Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer

Now Accepting Applications
Foreman's, Laborers, Operators & Superintendent. Must have Pipeline or Facility experience. Apply online at advancedpipeline.com or email resumes to jobs@advancedpipeline.com. For inquiries call 361-364-9718

Service Technician
A major coffee company seeks full-time Service Technician in the Midland/Odessa area to install and maintain commercial coffee and tea equipment. Food/coffee related experience preferred, but not required. Must be dependable, self-motivated, and have clean driving record. Send resumes to Human Resources, P.O. Box 3758, San Angelo, Texas 76902 or FAX (800) 248-8537

SURVEYING
Experienced Crew Chief, Draftsman, SIT and Rodman (will train). Positions available at **Watson Professional Group Inc.** Email resume to **pwatson@wpg-us.com** or mail **P.O. Box 11186 , Midland, TX 79702**.

JW POWERLINE

• WANTED EXPERIENCED VOLUMETRIC MIXER OPERATORS/ DRIVERS
(Certification as well as CDL- A license required)

• & QUALIFIED HELPERS

Help wanted fast growing electrical company is seeking good people with experience.
Midland and Outside Areas
Experience required

Competitive pay, Blue Cross Blue Shield provided with 401K.

Please send resume to
gerald@jwpwr.com
or call 432-425-0871
or apply in person at
700 S. Fairgrounds Road,
Midland, TX. 79701

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS

Class A CDL Truck Drivers
Prefer drivers with Pneumatic Tanker experience. Benefits include: driver $2,000 sign-on bonus, medical, life & dental insurance, paid vacation, & 401k. Applicants having experience hauling sand and/or dry cement helpful. Good driving record, DOT, drug & alcohol testing required. Apply in person, call **432-563-1894** for interview or online @ **www.silverlinetx.com**

Drivers
X-CHEM FT

IMMEDIATE DRIVER OPENINGS

Founded in 1982, X-Chem offers leading-edge solutions for the maintenance, production, completion and stimulation of oil wells, gas wells and pipelines.

X-Chem is looking for strong Treater Truck and Delivery Drivers to join our Midland team!

Qualified drivers must have 1-3 years experience, a high school diploma (or equivalent), and a current Class A CDL with Hazmat and Tanker endorsements.

We offer competitive salary and outstanding benefits including 401(k) with matching funds, major medical, dental, vision, life, long and short term disability. Additionally, we offer tuition reimbursement, paid vacation and holidays, and much more!

Qualified candidates, please contact **Jenny Johnson** in Human Resources at 972-721-6712 or jenny.johnson@nch.com

Let Classifieds Work for You! Call
432-682-6222

Marty's Marketplace

... leading you to the best bargains in the Permian Basin

Merchandise

Appliances

1- AAA Appliance 1 hour free pickup. Call 556-0104 / 528-3046.

REFRIGERATOR $200, Washer $160, Dryer, $125, Gas dryer, $150. Please call 432-352-7988.

Free Stuff

FREE WOODEN PALLETS! Midland Reporter-Telegram (on dock side)

If You Have Items You Are Giving Away For FREE, Your Ad Is On Us! CALL 432-682-6222 TODAY!

LADIES BELTS and pillows. For info call 432-694-9491.

LARGE SATELLITE tv disk mounted on a 10' 8" metal pipe. You must haul off. Call 432-682-3331.

MALE BLACK black Lab 1 1/2 years old. To good family. Has shots, sweet nature. Call 432-269-0120.

Furniture

CHERRY WOOD, Broyhill bedroom suit. 4 poster king size bed, Dresser, mirror and night stand, $850. Call 432-697-6583.

LIKE NEW but half price, two Martin 2-drawer legal/letter Oak file cabinets, one Martin 2- drawer letter/legal lateral Oak file cabinet, one Martin Oak Student desk, one 5-shelf Oak bookshelf, steno chairs, draftsman chair. 432-664-9009

MOVING SALE -must sell: Drexel Heritage dining room table with 2 leaves, 8 chairs & lighted hutch $1500, Wallhan Milwaukee Baby Grand Piano & Bench $500, cherry wood dresser $100, like new ping pong table $100, blue leather chair & ottoman $50, 432-638-6566.

TAN & BROWN plaid with royal blue & burgandy stripe sleeper sofa 76" with Memory Foam mattress & new cover, excellent condition $350, La-Z-Boy straddle lounger, excellent condition, royal blue, with automatic foot rest, $200, 432-699-5814.

Real Wheel Deals! only $35 w/Photo Call for Information 432-682-6222

KENS FURNITURE
• GOOD REPAIR SERVICE
• HITCH INSTALLATION
• HITCH SERVICE ESTIMATES
• ALL TYPES W/ REPAIRS
• PROPANE
Sales • Service • Rentals
3401 W. Wall
Mon. Fri. 9am-5:30pm
Sat. 9am-3pm
Fax: 432-682-8617
432-556-7602

BANK FINANCING
• NEW SOURCES
• LOW CREDIT SCORES
• NON-RESIDENTS
$SAVE$ 1000's on Quality Used Cars
Mon. Fri. 9am 5:30pm
Sat. 9am-3pm
Fax: 432-682-8617
432-556-7602

LOOKING FOR a 1955 Midland High School annual called Calico. My Uncle had passed away and this was his senior year annual. Call 432-385-5953

NEON BEER signs & lighted Beer signs for sale. 432-269-5758.

New 2002 Nissan Frontier bedliner cover $150 OBO. 432-349-8793. Front end mask for 2006 Infinity G35 like new $75. OBO 432-889-0389.

PACKS OF briefs for sale for men and women sizes small, medium to large. 432-416-0966

RESTHAVEN CEMETERY plots, 4 in the Garden of Prayer. $2,000 below current price. 432-682-5851, or 432-352-2356

WASHER & dryer, front loaders, white, Kimball piano. All in excellent condition. 432-413-3489

Looking for a New Career?
Find it at:

Oil & Gas Equipment

1980 WILSON WELL SERVICING UNIT
Model: Mogul 42-B-0-0 BI Winchmobile.
Mast: 102 ft.-250,000lbs.
Engine: Detroit 12 V71.
Transmission: Allison 5860.
Double Drum: 1" Tubing Line, 9/16 sandline approx 12000 feet.
Hydro Brake: Parmac 22" hYdromatic.
Comments: Rig is fully equipped to handle 23/8" or 2 7/8" tubing and 5/8"-1" rods. Foster tongs, BJ hood tongs, Cavin slips, hand tools, accessories, and doghouse included.
Contact: Tex
432-682-2727 or 432-238-4372
Price: $400,000.

Musical Instruments

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Homes for Sale

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*563 ac. Pecan Creek, approx 200 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill, minerals. $2,095/ac
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Alpine wht/Tan
Prem, sat, nav hi fi, heated seats
61k

2012 X6 50i
Silver/Beige
Sport pkg.
Prem sound
20" wheels, 18k miles

2012 BMW 328i
Mojave/Blk
Prem pkg, sta., heated seats
4,200 miles

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Prem. tech pkg, tinted windows
Custom 20" wheels 6k miles

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Blk/Blk, Nav, cold weather, prem pkg CPO
24k miles

2010 BMW X5 35d
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Prem, sport, 3rd row, sat, comfort access, 26k miles

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Space Gray/Gray
Heated Seats, Xenon, Sunroof, CPO Warr
45k miles

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Night Vision, NAV, Lux Seats
24k miles

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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

	3	5					4	
	9		2	6	5			
	1				4	2	6	
	5	9				4	3	
	8	2	9				1	
			7	5	1		2	
	6			2		9	8	

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO SATURDAY'S PUZZLE

1	9	3	7	6	8	2	4	5
8	2	7	5	4	1	3	6	9
4	5	6	9	2	3	8	1	7
9	7	8	3	1	4	5	2	6
2	6	5	8	7	9	4	3	1
3	4	1	6	5	2	9	7	8
7	8	9	2	3	6	1	5	4
6	3	4	1	9	5	7	8	2
5	1	2	4	8	7	6	9	3

3/11/13

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Lawn & Garden

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